

Persistent Faith in Witchcraft.

From The Pall Mail Gazette.

New York Times (1857-1922); Apr 7, 1895;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The New York Times with Index

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The faith in witchcraft is persistent and unconquerable, as we have shown from time to time in this column. Two men and a woman have just been arrested for the murder of another woman at Baltyvadhan, a village on the slopes of Slieve-naman. The woman had influenza, and her friends mistook the symptoms for signs of witchcraft, imagining that her real self had been carried off by the fairies. Therefore, they set about to exorcise the spirit in possession, by the help of a herbalist—such a white witch as the man we mentioned yesterday as having tried to cure foot-and-mouth disease by incantations at Exeter. They gave her foul potions to drink, and, having bound her, they singed her flesh with a red-hot poker, as Strickland singed the leper in "The Mark of the Beast," and all the time they cried, "Come back, Bridget Bolland." A week afterward Bridget Bolland's body was found in a ditch, but the doctors said that she must have died on the fire. The story is sickening; but much more sickening is the fact that Bridget Bolland's tormentors probably acted in good faith for the behoof of her soul.