

**THE TRIAL OF ROBERT McCONAGHY FOR
THE MURDER OF ROSANNA BROWN AND
HER FIVE CHILDREN: JOHN, ELIZABETH,
GEORGE, JACOB AND DAVID. HUNT-
INGDON, PENNSYLVANIA, 1840.**

THE NARRATIVE.

When Farmer John Brown of Cromwell Township, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, left home to do a week's plowing some distance away, he said good-bye to his wife Rosanna and his five children, for all the family lived with him except two married daughters, one of whom was the wife of Robert McConaghy. On Saturday afternoon when he got back he was surprised to see the handle of the front door missing, and, looking towards the barn, he saw the flames of two shots, one of which slightly wounded him, and as the man who had fired at him, fled from the barn to the woods he recognized his son-in-law, McConaghy. He found the door-handle in the barn, and gaining entrance to his house, discovered the dead bodies of his wife and his eldest son, and the alarm being given and a search instituted by the neighbors, the corpses of the other four children were found at different places on the farm.

McConaghy was arrested, tried and sentenced to be hanged. The drop fell with him protesting his innocence, but the rope broke and while the executioner was obtaining a new one he made a full confession. He said that he did not like Brown and that he made up his mind to murder the family and obtain the money he knew there was in the home. Going over to Brown's farm that morning he met George (16) first; he struck him with a flail and then choked him; then he took little David (10) into the woods and choked him to death; he went back to the house and told Jacob (14) that