

# WITCH-HUNT IN FULL SWING

By our religious affairs correspondent

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**S**HOCKING events have taken place in Salem, where 20 men and women have been executed for witchcraft.

Despite professing their innocence, 19 have been hanged, and one man has been horribly crushed to death with stones. Only those who confessed have been spared.

Their accusers have included an enslaved woman called “Tituba” and children gripped by fits. Doctors have examined them but found nothing wrong.

In much of Europe, witchcraft is a heresy tried by the church, but English law considers it a crime to be tried in a court. The accused have been sent to the gallows based on little more than “spectral evidence”—the dreams and “visions” of the accusers.

Salem is not the only town in New England to be gripped by witchhunt



hysteria, but nowhere else have suspected witches been punished on such a terrible scale.

Many are suspicious of “spectral evidence,”

and hope that the people of Salem will come to their senses and recognize that innocent people are dying.