

THE ESCURIAL.

The Escorial Palace in Spain, a small part of which has been destroyed by a fire ascribed to lightning, is situated twenty miles north-west of Madrid. It was originally a monastery, and at the time of its erection (A.D. 1563-84) surpassed all buildings of its kind in size and magnificence. According to the national tradition, the Escorial owed its existence to a vow made by Philip II., during the battle of St. Quentin, which was fought August 10, 1557. On that occasion, like William the Conqueror at Hastings, the King vowed that if the victory should be granted to him he would build and dedicate a monastery to St. Lorenzo, whose festival that day was. The full title of the building is "El Real Sitio de San Lorenzo el Real de Escorial." It is built in the form of a gridiron, in allusion to the instrument of St. Lawrence's martyrdom. Some idea of the size of the Escorial may be formed when we state that it is composed of a rectangular parallelogram 744 ft. from north to south, and 580 ft. from east to west; in other words, it covers nearly the same space as Somerset House or Russell-square. It is divided throughout into long courts, which indicate the interstices of the bars. At each angle of this parallelogram are towers, representing the feet of the gridiron, which is supposed to be lying upside down; and from the centre of one of the sides springs a range of buildings forming the residence of the Sovereign and representing the handle. Originally the building was intended to serve the triple purpose of a monastery, a palace, and a Royal mausoleum. It contains a splendid chapel with a triple nave, 320 ft. in length and upwards of 300 ft. in height to the top of the cupola. The Royal tomb, strangely called the Pantheon, is a magnificent octagon chamber, 36 ft. in diameter and 38 ft. in height, very richly decorated, and containing black marble sarcophagi in its eight sides. No members even of the Royal family were buried in it except actual Kings and their mothers. It has been stated that the Escorial numbered no less than 14,000 doors and 11,000 windows, and its cost was six millions of Spanish ducats. Previous to the sacking of the Escorial by the French, in 1808, it contained a library of 30,000 printed volumes and 4,300 manuscripts, mainly treasures of Arabic literature. They were at that time forwarded to Madrid for safety, but on being sent back to the Escorial when the danger of the war was passed, it was discovered that the library did not exceed 20,000 volumes: the rest, amounting to a third of the whole, were lost. The French troops, too, pillaged the place of its valuable collection of coins, medals, and pictures, which, of course, have never been replaced. The Escorial is mentioned in terms of admiration by almost every traveller who has written upon Spain. Mr. Ford, however, speaks of it as being in his day "a mere shadow of the past," and saved from utter ruin only by the grants of public money which were voted by the State for the express purpose of keeping it in repair. The fire broke out near midnight on the first ult., spreading from the gallery called the Patio de los Reyes, the roof of which had been struck by lightning in the great thunderstorm on that night, to the adjacent library. All the books and manuscripts were saved: and the ceiling of the Biblioteca, with its noble frescoes, is uninjured. The cost of repairing the damage will be £40,000, which the King will pay out of his own private purse.

MGR. BOURGET'S "NOCES D'OR"

The *Noces d'Or*, or golden wedding, of Mgr. Bourget, the R. C. Bishop of Montreal, were celebrated in this city with great éclat on Tuesday the 29th ult. The fête was held in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the right reverend prelate's admission to the priesthood, and was very generally observed by the Catholic community in this city and in the neighborhood. For several weeks past preparations have been made on all sides to celebrate the event with becoming rejoicings, and in the week preceding the day appointed for the celebration, these preparations were all but completed. Within the week addresses and presents poured in; all of the former breathing sentiments of respectful esteem and affection for one who for so many years has occupied the post of the chief pastor of the diocese, and the latter being costly and valuable. On the Sunday there was special High Mass in the churches and a plenary indulgence to all on the usual conditions. On Monday several more addresses and gifts were given to his Lordship, and on Tuesday the excitement reached its height. Early in the morning the clang of bells announced that the long looked-for day had arrived. The streets were crowded with people, dressed in their best attire, and the *façades* of many of the houses were decorated for the occasion with flags, festoons and banners.

The proceedings were appropriately commenced by service in the French Church, where were collected a vast number of people, and a perfect army of ecclesiastics. After mass a dinner was given at the City Hall, and in the evening several of the Catholic institutions were illuminated. At nine in the morning the procession started from the Palace to the parish church of Notre-Dame. The following is the order of the procession:

Mgr. Bourget, accompanied by the Grand Vicar Truteau and the Rev. Canon Lamarche, in the beautiful carriage presented to Monseigneur by the parishioners of St. Henri of the Tanneries;

His Grace the Archbishop of Quebec, Mgr. of St. Hyacinthe, and His Honor the Mayor;

The Bishops of Ogdensburgh and of Birtha, with R. M. Toupin;

The Bishops of Three Rivers and Rimouski, with Dr. Trudel.

A long train of pedestrians completed the procession which filed down St. Antoine St., along Craig, across Victoria Square to St. James, and round the Place d'Armes.

At the Seminary gate, the Bishop was received by the Very Rev. Dr. Bayle, the Superior, while the great *bourdon* tolled, and the band of Montreal College played a march of welcome. Inside the church the spectacle was very imposing. The vestibule was festooned with evergreens, and over the principal entrance were read the words: *Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini*. From central points of the roof long streamers of white and red described fanciful curves to the galleries where they were attached. Along the wainscoting of the high galleries wreaths of greenery were set at intervals, decked here and there with shields and medallions, bearing such inscriptions as these: *Heureux le peuple dont le Seigneur est son Dieu; C'est le péché qui rend les peuples malheureux; Honneur au peuple Chrétien*. The pulpit bore the motto: *Plenus dierum in Domino*; and the tabernacle was inscribed with: *Tu es sacerdos in eternum*; on the high altar, resplendent with many-

colored lights, gleamed the words: *Elegit eum Dominus sacrificandum sibi*; underneath, a shield bore this inscription: *Noces d'Or, 50 ans*, and around these in golden letters we read: *Deus dedit honorem senectutibus*. The vast edifice was thronged to its utmost capacity by an eager throng. Delegates from the different parishes of the diocese, as well as Presidents of all charitable, national and other institutions, occupied reserved seats.

High Mass was sung by Mgr. Larocque, Bishop of St. Hyacinthe, after which a sermon was preached by the Rev. Father Braun, S. J., who took for his text from Acts x, 38, "*Pertransiit beneficiendo*." After mass a solemn *Te Deum* was sung, thus concluding the religious services of the day.

The procession then re-formed and proceeded to the City Hall, where a sumptuous banquet was served by Mr. Geriken, of the St. Lawrence Hall. The hall was gorgeously decorated with evergreens, banners, mottoes, a special feature being the magnificent dais of cloth of gold reserved for the Bishop, the same used by Charles X at his coronation in the cathedral of Rheims. Eight hundred guests, of whom there were eleven prelates and 400 clergymen, sat down to table. Mgr. Bourget had at his right the Archbishop of Quebec, Dr. Trudel, vice-president of the St. Jean Baptiste Society, Mgr. Rapp, late bishop of Cleveland, Judge Drummond, the Hon. Mr. Archambault, Mgr. Larocque, bishop of St. Hyacinthe, Mgr. Farel, bishop of Hamilton, and Judge Monk. On his left were His Honour the Mayor of Montreal, Mgr. Lynch, archbishop of Toronto, Mr. Howley, President of the St. Patrick's Society, Mgr. Guigues, bishop of Ottawa, Judge Badgely, Mgr. Lafèche, bishop of Three Rivers, the Hon. Mr. de Boucherville, the bishop of Ogdensburgh, Mr. Cherrier, Q. C., and the Rev. Dr. Bayle, Superior of the Seminary. During the course of the banquet some pieces of music were well executed by the choir in attendance. At its close Mr. C. S. Cherrier proposed, in an eloquent speech, the health of the "Canadian Clergy and Episcopate." At this stage of the proceedings a telegram was received from His Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface, couched in the following terms:—

"To His Lordship, Mgr. I. Bourget, Bishop of Montreal:—

"Respect, love, and gratitude, in my own name, and in that of the Clergy, of the Religious Communities, and the Faithful.

"ARCHBISHOP TACHE."

The Bishop of Montreal rising made a few graceful remarks in acknowledgment, after which the assembly broke up.

In the evening portions of the city were illuminated. The Bishop's Palace was one blaze of light; the Seminary of St. Sulpice, the College St. Mary, the Academy St. Antoine, under the charge of the Ladies of the Congregation, in fact all the public Catholic buildings were beautifully decorated; whilst the houses of the Catholic citizens generally were also brilliantly lit up in honour of the festive occasion. The streets were thronged with spectators; and the general effect was very fine indeed. In the course of the evening His Lordship of Montreal, received the following telegram from Rome:—

"The Reverend Canon Paré, Montreal:—

"The Sovereign Pontiff gives to the Bishop of Montreal, Priest for Fifty years, His Apostolic Benediction. He offers His vows that God may multiply faith in his virtues, and may grant him fortunate years. DESAUTELS.

"Rome, 29th October, 1872."

Illustrations of the dinner and the procession on this occasion will be found elsewhere.

FAIRBANKS SCALE MANUFACTORY.

On page 317 we give a view of the warehouse of Fairbanks & Co., No. 403 St. Paul Street, in charge of Ora P. Patten, Esq. Below will be found extracts from an account of a visit by the Hon. B. G. Northrop to the famous manufactory of the firm at St. Johnsbury, Vermont. Mr. Patten, who is well-known and highly appreciated in this community, has furnished us the following list of some of the agencies and branches of the firm on this continent:—

Fairbanks & Co., 403 St. Paul Street, Montreal; Fairbanks, Brown & Co., 118 Milk Street, Boston; Fairbanks & Co., 311 Broadway, New York; Fairbanks & Co., London, England.

Speaking of this manufactory Mr. Northrop says in the *Christi Union*:—

Here is a great manufactory of scales, by far the largest establishment of the kind in the world, employing about six hundred men, and nearly four hundred in branch departments elsewhere.

It has long been a marvel how such a concern could be made a permanent success for nearly fifty years in this remote corner of the State, so far from tide-water. Notwithstanding great disadvantages, the business has steadily grown and become a success which, in view of the difficulties overcome, is unparalleled in this country.

This company maintains the highest reputation for integrity. It has fairly earned and gained the confidence of their men and of this entire community, and a good name at home naturally follows them everywhere. The thoroughness of the work and the severity of the test is the explanation of the world-wide reputation of the Fairbanks scales for accuracy.

There is a superior class of workmen in this establishment. More than half of them are settled here as permanent residents, interested in the schools and in all that relates to the prosperity of the place. Many of them own their houses. These houses are pleasing in their exterior, neatly furnished.

I examined the pay-roll and found the wages very liberal. The workmen seem well satisfied on that score. The worth of labour depends on its products. This plan stimulates industry, promotes skill, and fosters inventiveness. No "Labour League" or Union has ever existed—no strike ever been suggested. This would be a poor place for the Internationals to preach the gospel of idleness or agrarianism. The owners take an interest in the men. They are liberal and public spirited and are doing a great deal for the place, and the operatives feel an interest in the success of the concern which has been the making of St. Johnsbury.

Governor Fairbanks was a conspicuous example at once of strict economy and princely liberality. His benefactions were munificent both at home and abroad. The worth and dignity of work is here illustrated in theory and practice. The notion that labour was menial, or that the tools of trade or farm, were badges of servility, is despised. There is still the fullest and happiest conciliation between labour and capital. It is not strange that the workmen "hold on." Their permanency is a striking fact. Many have been here from twenty to forty years. I conversed with one man over seventy years of age—a foreman—who has worked here from "the start,"

forty-three years. A few months since he tendered his resignation on account of the infirmities of age. "I can't earn my salary now." Mr. Franklin Fairbanks replied to him, "No, sir; we cannot accept your resignation. Work more or less, as you are able. Rest when you please. I learned my trade of you, and wish you to continue in our service as long as you live."

Years ago the men were aided in forming and sustaining a Lyceum, and liberal prizes were offered for the best essays read. Recently Horace Fairbanks has founded a library, and opened a large reading-room free to all. In the reading room, besides a good supply of American periodicals, daily, weekly and quarterly, I noticed on the tables many European journals, including four English quarterlies, six London weeklies, and ten monthlies. I have nowhere found in a village of this size an Athenæum so costly, a reading-room so inviting, and a library so choice and excellent as this.

Thaddeus Fairbanks, one of the three founders of the scale factory, and who still survives, has liberally endowed an academy which already has over one hundred pupils. A new academic hall and a large dormitory are now building.

The various provisions for the improvement, happiness and prosperity of this people, coupled with liberality and fairness in daily business intercourse, explain the absence of discontent and the uniform sympathy, good feeling and harmony which prevail.

I have nowhere seen a better practical solution of the Labour Question.

Mr. F. M. Bell Smith supplies us with an illustration of the scene in the Chamber of the Ontario Legislative Assembly at the time of

THE GREAT SALE OF TIMBER LIMITS

at Toronto.

Miscellaneous.

Mr. John B. Gough is endeavouring to raise a sum sufficient for a testimonial to the celebrated artist Cruikshank for his philanthropic aid to the temperance cause in England. He has subscribed \$500 himself.

The Empress of Russia will shortly proceed with Prince Nicholas to Jerusalem, and will probably stay there during the winter. They will pass through Constantinople, where the Sultan is preparing a solemn reception.

Prince Napoleon has instituted legal proceedings to test the legality of his recent forced expulsion from France. He has appealed to the Procureur-Général for redress against the Minister of the Interior, Chief of Police, and others who assisted in running him out of the country. He claims that, being a citizen of the republic, the manoeuvre was not only impolite, but illegal.

The Paris *Figaro* has attempted to lower Gambetta in the eyes of his countrymen. It has discovered that the "Young Dictator" is of German origin. His grandfather, says the *Figaro*, was named Gemperle. He came to France in the time of Napoleon I., and married an Italian Jewess. Upon that occasion he changed his name to Gambetta, who is, nevertheless, a true French name.

Twenty-two thousand pounds for a ceiling! The statement, fabulous as it looks, is true. The Marquis of Westminster has just been furnished by Messrs. Cubitt, builders and contractors, with a ceiling costing the enormous sum of £22,000. It consists of the best Spanish mahogany, which is two feet in thickness, a foot deep of which is elaborately carved around with the letters W. G. The cornice to the ceiling is of polished ebony of the finest description, and is three feet wide. Upon this are magnificent paintings, copies from the great masters.

The very newest thing out in advertising is the employment of transparent india-rubber balloons, having the name of the shop, etc., printed thereon in colours. On entering the draper's establishment the children are presented with the balloon, uninflated, in a handsome perfumed box. On blowing the balloon the advertisement is "tastefully displayed." All the children in Paris are flocking to buy something in the "monster house," which has invented the plan; yesterday, it is asserted, the establishment sold £23,000 worth of goods in one day—not bad.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* is assured that the following story is true:—The visiting justices of a certain inland county were inspecting a lunatic asylum. A female patient handed to one of them a paper to read in vindication of her sanity; after perusing a part of the document on the spot, the justices put it aside for the time being, coming to the conclusion that the very phraseology of the writer was conclusive proof of her lunacy. Upon a subsequent and more careful analysis of the petition it was discovered that the sentences which had so struck the justices as conclusive of lunacy were taken verbatim from a leading article in the *Daily Telegraph*.

The Prussian *Cross Gazette* states that of the five places in Germany where gaming-tables have hitherto been allowed, Ems has already closed the doors of its kursaal for the last time, and that the bank's profits this year amount to upwards of 400,000 thalers (£65,000). A letter from Ems says that the closing of the bank in that town took place on the 29th ultimo, without any special formalities. The Royal decree was read in the midst of a profoundly silent auditory, and, after "le dernier coup," one of the players placed his hat over the roulette, and all was over. Baden-Baden and Nauheim close upon Oct. 31, Wiesbaden and Homburg upon Dec. 31.

Here are some curious facts respecting the sale of "magic" herbs in Paris. It seems to be one of the most profitable industries extant, the stock in trade consisting of little more than a few bundles of azederach, mandrake, and moss, and a dozen or two of toads, all of which can be bought in the market for a few sous. Once in the hands of the herbalist their value becomes golden. The mandrake plant "gathered at the midnight of the full moon" is worth £2 10s.; a leaf of azederach, "on which has been pronounced the great cabalistic formula of Solomon," fetches £4; a packet of moss "boiled with toads and dead men's bones by a centenarian," £2 10s.; and so on *ad infinitum*. The number of both male and female customers is very large, the ladies affecting the mandrake, as introduced in a person's coffee it is "warranted" an infallible love potion, and the stronger sex the moss and toads, which are supposed to inspire obnoxious persons with a desire to travel.