

## GENERAL NOTES.

WITHIN less than three-quarters of a century the manufacturing industries of Ireland have declined 90 per cent, that is to say, where before the Union there were ten factories with their corresponding number of employees, there is now but one. Restore the Irish parliament and the industries of Ireland will revive.

THE Brooklyn *Catholic Review* proposes an American Pilgrimage to the Vatican as a step towards an "adequate expression of lay Catholic opinion, in protest against the gross outrages on the Holy See." The press of America might commend this proposition to their readers, whose circumstances would permit such an undertaking. Numerous and frequent pilgrimages to Rome would console the Pope, and convince the son of the robber king that the oppressions of his usurping government find no favor beyond the circle of political bandits.

THE recent elevation of Cardinal Howard to the dignified position of head of the College of Cardinals, calls to mind his noble ancestry. He belongs to the illustrious house of Norfolk, and being of the Plantagenet race, has royal blood in his veins. This noble family has always ranked highest in the land—next to that of the sovereign—the Duke of Norfolk being the premier duke of England. It is the only ducal house whose Catholic faith withstood the trials and the storms of religious persecution down to the present day. Its members have distinguished themselves for their learning, their patriotism, their devotion to religion even to the extent of suffering martyrdom for its sake, and its representatives of to-day are every way worthy of their ancestral fame.

ACCORDING to the latest census, the area of the United States, including Alaska, is about 3,600,000 square miles, and its population about 50,000,000. The area of the Dominion of Canada is about 4,000,000 square miles, and its population nearly 5,000,000.

THE shepherds of the West have discovered that the goat is an excellent protector of sheep. The strong, sharp horns and "butting" propensities of the goat are too powerful for predatory dogs and wolves, who fly from the sheepfold before his attack.

THE latest novelty in American inventions is the "Cattle Restaurant." It is proposed to build at regular intervals along railway lines properly fitted up establishments for the due entertainment of hungry and weary cattle, hogs and horses. It is a project of the Humane Live Stock Express Company.

SOME of the English papers are discussing "The Relation of Art to Morals." Every æsthetic man must acknowledge that art appears in its highest form when associated with morality. In the Middle Ages, when faith was stronger and morality purer than at the present day, and when men sought for their subjects among holy things, and for nobler purposes, the grandest works of art were produced by the greatest painters and architects whom the world ever saw.

THE *Catholic Shield* for January administers a fitting rebuke to the zealots of Natick, Mass., who in a very un-Catholic manner attacked Father Walsh for not participating in the ill-regulated "No Rent" agitation. Referring to their "resolution" to pay "no more pew rent" until Father Walsh be removed, the *Shield* remarks, "Pews! Their fathers—God rest their honest, faithful souls—would have died thanking God for the privilege of attending Mass, barefoot, on their knees in the open air!"

THE bigots are becoming alarmed over the rapid growth of Catholicity in England. It galls them to think that the Catholic population has been doubled within a quarter of a century, that churches, schools, monasteries and convents are springing up in all directions, that Catholics number among their ranks some of the noblest, wealthiest and most learned men and women of the land, and that scores of the same are yearly entering the Church. This is a sort of *renaissance* whose occurrence they fondly hoped would never be witnessed within the limits of the "bulwark of Protestantism."

THE gross acts of injustice practised on the Pope by the Italian government are at length beginning to excite the disapproval of several European States, and it is likely that at least a modification of the present condition of things