

CATHOLIC INTELLIGENCE.

PAPAL BLESSING.—The following despatch has been received by cable from Rome by the Archbishop of Quebec:—"The Sovereign Pontiff returns thanks, and grants, with deep affection, the Apostolic benediction to you and all the faithful of Canada."

THE DUKES OF NORFOLK.—His Grace the Duke of Norfolk, and the Ladies Ann and Margaret Howard, and the Earl and Countess of Denbigh, had a farewell audience of the Pope on Saturday, the 12th. The Pope gave to the Duke, through the hands of Mgr. Sponor, on the preceding day, a magnificent picture of St. Peter, in mosaic.

CONFIRMATION IN THREE CHURCHES.—In St. Patrick's Church, Jersey City Heights, the Sacrament of Confirmation was administered on Wednesday week by Bishop Corrigan to a large number of children. On the previous day the bishop administered confirmation in St. Bridget's Church, Jersey City, and on Monday in St. Joseph's Church, Jersey City Heights.

A NEW CATHOLIC CHURCH.—Vicar-General Walsh on Sunday week laid the corner-stone of a new Catholic church in East Hartford in the presence of a large assemblage, including all the Catholic charitable and benevolent organizations of the city. An eloquent sermon was preached by Father Tierney of St. Peter's, Hartford. The church will be a handsome Gothic structure seating over one thousand persons.

CONVERSIONS IN ENGLAND.—The *Voce Della Verita* states that the Redemptorist Fathers have recently received the abjurations of more than eight hundred Protestants in England. It adds: "Whoever reflects on what is implied in becoming a Catholic in England will feel the value of this admirable fact in which God manifests His power and daily increases our hope of seeing that glorious country come back to us."

DEVOTION TO THE SACRED HEART.—A Holy League has just been founded in Paris "to obtain by devotion to the Sacred Heart the triumph of our Holy Father the Pope, and the conversion and safety of France." The patronesses of the League are St. Catherine of Sienna, St. Teresa, and Blessed Margaret Mary. The Holy Father has accorded many indulgences to the members of the League, the head quarters of which is the temporary Church of the Sacred Heart of Montmartre.

THE PAPAL MOVEMENT IN BELGIUM.—The *Bien Public* of Ghent, states that on Sunday, May 27, a body of 400 (late) Pontifical Zouaves went in a body on pilgrimage to Our Lady of Oostacker to pray for the intention of the Sovereign Pontiff. There was High Mass and an eloquent sermon by the Rev. Father Celestin. On their return to the city, the pilgrims again met at the *Cercte St. Joseph*, where they were entertained at a banquet, under the presidency of their Captain, M. de Resimotte.

IN THE NICK OF TIME.—Father Laurent, a French priest, has just published a book, entitled "Of What Use are Convents?" This publication appearing at a period when the Government, on account of the votes of deputies and senators, is making inquiries about all religious communities, comes in the nick of time. The author passes in rapid view all the principal orders, whether military, charitable, contemplative, apostolic, or teaching, that have played principal roles in past history, and he proves that convents are the most powerful instruments for the civilization of a country.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE VATICAN.—Mgr. Angelo Bianchi, Archbishop of Myra in partibus and Apostolic Nuncio in Bavaria, has been nominated to be Secretary of the Congregation of Bishops and Regulars in room of the lamented Mgr. Nardi. Mgr. Gaetano Aloisi-Masella, Propaganda Secretary for Oriental Affairs, is made Nuncio Apostolic in Bavaria. Mgr. Mariana Rampolla, Domestic Prelate, is appointed Secretary of Propaganda for affairs of the Oriental Rite. Mgr. Luigi Pallotti, Domestic Prelate, is appointed Secretary of the Sacred Congregation of Studies.

RELIGIOUS RECEPTION.—On May 18th, a reception took place at the Convent of Mercy, Enniskillen, the Most Rev. Dr. Donnelly officiating. He was assisted at the throne by the Very Rev. E. McKenna, P. P., Dromore, and Rev. J. Cassidy, C. C., Enniskillen. The sermon appropriate for the occasion, was preached by the Rev. James Mullan, C. C., Enniskillen. The young ladies who took their first step towards the sanctuary were—Mary Anne, in religion Sister Mary of the Holy Ghost, and Matilda Jane, in religion Sister Mary Immaculate, daughters of the late Michael McHugh, of Enniskillen. A large and very respectable assemblage of all denominations witnessed the ceremony.

THE OLD CATHOLICS.—On Whit Sunday, at Berne, the apostate Herzog went through the sacrilegious mockery of a confirmation. From forty to fifty poor factory girls were subjected to the rite, in which they were not willing participants; they were pressed into the service of "Old Catholicism" from a certain factory in the city of which the proprietor is a zealot of the new heresy and uses all his influence to secure proselytes to his sect. There was naturally a difficulty in finding the necessary sponsors for the *confirmandi*; the duty was therefore undertaken by a number of Protestant ladies and gentlemen, who, with surprising liberality, became sureties for the perseverance of the neophytes in the "Old-Catholic" faith!

FESTIVITIES IN HONOR OF THE PAPAL JUBILEE.—Mr. Auer, President of the Cassianum in Dononworth, went to Rome with an address of congratulations to the Holy Father signed by 200,000 children from all parts of the world. From the Catholic Club in Munich not less than 120 heavy boxes with presents for the Pope have been forwarded to Rome. In Aix-la-Chapelle the Government could not help allowing certain out door demonstrations in honour of the Pope's Jubilee on account of the determined attitude of the thoroughly Catholic inhabitants. Had the same spirit been shown in all Catholic towns, the Government would hardly have dared to forbid public festivities on the occasion.

THE IRISH COLLEGE AT ROME.—Cardinal de Falloux took possession of the church of St. Agatha, the church of his title, on Sunday evening the 27th of May. The ceremony was private, and admission to the church was given by the door of the Irish College, to which seminary the church of St. Agatha belongs. Although the ceremony was private, the church was beautifully prepared, and a great number of distinguished persons attended. After the singing of the *Ecce Sacerdos*, the Cardinal took his seat on the throne prepared for him, and Monsignor Cataldi read in a clear voice the Bulls appointing Cardinal de Falloux to the church, vacant by death of Cardinal Antonelli, the last incumbent thereof, who held it in commendam until his death.

THE PAPAL ALEGATE.—A large and influential meeting of Roman Catholics was held last evening in the Bishops Palace, to consider the question of a demonstration on the occasion of the visit to this city of the Papal Alegate. Right Rev. Dr. O'Brien occupied the chair, and Dr. Sullivan acted as Secretary. It was decided to hold a public reception, and committees were struck to arrange the preliminaries. The appointment of the date for the event cannot be ascertained at present. Dr. Conroy will pass here next week for Toronto, where a meeting of Bishops will take place. His call here will be made on his return to Ottawa, and the meeting was adjourned until next week, by which time the Reception Committee will be in receipt of definite information of his movements.—*British Whig*, Kingston.

IRISH NEWS.

DEATH OF JAMES J. KILKELLY Esq.—We regret to be obliged to announce the death of James J. Kilkelly, Esq., solicitor, chairman of the Nenagh town commissioners.—*Freeman*.

PROMOTION.—Constable Thomas Macnamara, who for the last six years fulfilled the duties of County Inspector's Clerk in Ennis, has been promoted to the rank of Head-constable, and transferred to Passage, Cork.

IRISH DEPUTATION.—Captain Nolan, M.P., Captain O'Beirne, M.P., and Mr. O'Clery, M.P., were the deputation from the Irish Catholic members of the House of Commons who presented the address of congratulation to Pope Pius IX., on the occasion of his episcopal jubilee.

CURIOUS WILL CASE.—In the Court of Probate Dublin, in the case of Baker v. Ker—a suit to establish the will of the late Mr. Charles E. Ker, who by his will left nearly all his property to the plaintiff, a widow lady residing at Malahide, county Dublin—terminated in a disagreement of the jury. There was no question of undue influence, but merely of capacity. It was proved that deceased had had *delirium tremens* eight times in two years.

THE JURY ACT IN DUBLIN.—At the sessions court, yesterday, considerable difficulty was experienced in obtaining a jury, and the panel was twice called on fines of £5, only eight jurors answering. The Recorder attributed this break-down to the imperfection of the jury list, which arose, to a great extent, from the non-compliance of the Collector-General with his instructions to supply in the margin of his return to the sheriff the information he possessed as to the jurors who might be exempted.—*Daily Express* of 24th ult.

THE DEAN OF DUBLIN.—The Rt. Rev. Mgr. William Meagher, D.D., parish priest of Rathmines, V. G., of the Diocese of Dublin, has been appointed Dean of the Chapter of the Diocese, in succession to the late Very Rev. Dean O'Connell. There is no honor or promotion which the Holy See or his Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop could confer on this venerable and distinguished Divine that would not be matter of deep and earnest joy to his devoted flock, and to the great diocese of which he has, for so many years, been one of its brightest ornaments.

A PROTESTANT PEER AT AN IRISH JESUIT COLLEGE.—On Thursday week the Earl of Portlinton visited the Jesuit College of St. Stanislaus, Tullamore, for the purpose of awarding the gold medal which his lordship has resolved to give annually to the best mathematical scholar in that institution. The visit was made the occasion of a grand literary tournament, and Mr. McGrath, of Eagenalstown, was the winner of the prize. In the evening a *dinner* took place at the close of some interesting speeches were delivered.

LIMERICK AND THE POPE.—At the Redemptorist Church, in Limerick. The other evening, the Director of the Confraternity of the Holy Family, read a letter from Rome, stating that the address of that Confraternity had been presented to the Pope, that his Holiness seemed greatly affected, and that when the reading had concluded, he ejaculated "My poor Irish! My poor Irish!" The letter added that His Holiness also expressed himself extremely interested in the work of the organization in Ireland.

SAUNDERS'S NEWS-LETTER.—The oldest newspaper in the British Isles, *Saunders's News-Letter*, has recently collapsed. It was established in Dublin in 1688, or seventy-five years before the *Freeman's Journal*, which dates back to 1763, and which is now the senior newspaper in the Irish metropolis. *Saunders's News-Letter* has thus passed away like many other once famous journals, such as the *Morning Chronicle*, the *Morning Herald*, the *Courier*, and the *Sun*, the last mentioned of which, the next oldest daily paper after the *Times*, was started in 1793 by William Pitt, then Prime Minister of England.

THREATENED EVICTIONS IN LONGFORD.—We learn with much regret that some twenty-three notices to quit have been served by Mr. Thomas A. Cusack, of Stephen's-green, upon the tenants of the Doorey Hall Estate, county Longford. We understand that these notices have not been served on account of non-payment of rent. They have, of course, created much anxiety, and the result will be looked forward to with deep interest. It is earnestly to be hoped that some means may be found by which these tenants, the families of some of whom have been upon the lands for long periods, may be preserved from eviction.—*Freeman*.

AN INTERESTING PHENOMENON.—A short time ago a sheep, the property of Mr. James Larkin, Kilmacmon (near Terenure), gave birth to a lamb which is the wonder and curiosity of the neighbourhood. The lamb is real black, and is remarkable for four letters (two on each side) which appears in white wool upon the yanking. The letters are "P," "C," "Y," and the third, although resembling an "L," cannot accurately be traced as an imitation of that letter. The three first mentioned can be discerned as plainly as if they were artificially printed, and are about four inches in length. Several persons have visited the place, but none can form any opinion as to what the probable meaning of these letters may be. I believe I may state that the like phenomenon was never before heard of.—*Correspondent of Wexford People*.

MR. BUTT, M. P., IN LIMERICK.—Mr. Butt paid a visit to his Garryowen constituents, and delivered on the 21st ult., evening a lecture before the Catholic Young Men's Society, on the capture of Constantinople by the Turks, an opportune subject, which he treated with his wonted mastery ability. On the 22nd the members of his Election Committee waited on him, a Cruise's Hotel, Limerick, and presented him with an address expressive of their confidence in his parliamentary action, and approval of his political policy, to which he returned a feeling and eloquent answer. He and his colleague, Mr. O'Shaughnessy, then proceeded to the Town Hall, by invitation, to receive from the Mayor Mr. Spaight, a Conservative, and the ancient Corporation of the City, a Corporation whose patent is older than that of London, the freedom of the City of Limerick, in tendering which the Mayor acquitted himself in a manner which reflects the highest credit on him. While the speeches of Mr. Butt and Mr. O'Shaughnessy were models of gentlemanly propriety, political moderation, and good feeling.

TENANT-RIGHT.—On May 21st, an important Tenant-right demonstration took place in Crumlin. Dr. Hume presided, and a lecture was delivered by Professor, Smyth, M. P., on the proceedings of Parliament during the session, and the present position of political parties, especially in relation to Tenant-right. After the lecture resolutions were passed recording the extreme gratification at the large measure of support which Mr. Butt's Land Bill received from the Tenant-right members of both the North and South, Protestant and Catholic, for a common object as a happy omen for the prosperity of their native land. Sincere thanks were returned to Mr. James Sharman Crawford and those members of the House of Commons, who assisted and supported him, for their persistent and manly endeavors to carry forward Mr. Crawford's Landlord and Tnpant's Bill. They regard Mr. Crawford's bill as urgently required and essentially necessary to preserve the tenant-right of Ulster and to protect the inalienable and just rights of the tenant farmers of Ireland; and they earnestly requested every member of the Legislature who wished to promote the peace and prosperity of Ireland to support that bill. Among the speakers were Mr. James Sharman Crawford M. P.

WAR NEWS.

THE DAY FOR CROSSING THE DANUBE.—The Berlin *National Zeitung* says it has received private intelligence that the Russians intend to cross the Danube on June 23.

A NEW COMMANDER FOR BATOUM.—Dervish Pacha has arrived in Constantinople from Salonica, to take command of the Batoum division of the Turkish army.

THREATENING THE RUSSIAN COMMUNICATIONS.—A despatch from Vienna says:—"A Turkish detachment, which has entered the Russian district of Achalshch, is threatening Russian communication with Ardahan."

"SWAPPING HORSES WHILE CROSSING A STREAM."—Quite a number of changes are being made in the various Turkish commands. It is announced from Constantinople that Moustapha Tewfic Pacha has been appointed commandant of Kara.

RUSSIA TO RESPECT THE ROUTE TO INDIA.—A despatch to the Russian Telegraphic Agency states that Russia is disposed to respect the route to India and consequently the neutrality of the Suez Canal and Egypt. The rest depends on military eventualities.

WAS HE A TURKISH SPY?—A despatch from Berlin says:—"A gentleman calling himself Baron Kraut, a Hessian nobleman, was arrested a few days ago at Plojesti by the Russians, and it is stated that after a short trial the prisoner was shot."

FOREIGNERS IN THE RUSSIAN SERVICE.—Two of the captains of the Russian torpedo boats recently sunk at the Sulina mouth of the Danube, one an Englishman and the other an American, have been placed on a Turkish vessel at Ismailia, for Constantinople.

ROMANIA RISING IN RUSSIAN FAVOR.—The German Prince who rules Roumania has a better prospect than his brother of Servia. A Paris correspondent says, according to news from Plojesti, Prince Charles, of Roumania, has offered the co-operation of the Roumanian army on conditions which seem in principle acceptable to the Russian staff.

SIGNS OF LIFE IN CRETE.—Some days ago it was announced that the Cretans, despairing of obtaining justice at the hands of the Porte, had determined on another appeal to arms. A Constantinople despatch now states that a vessel which was about to discharge a cargo of 150 barrels of gunpowder at Crete has been captured by Turkish war vessels.

EARL DERRY'S NOTE TOO CURT.—Nothing is known in St. Petersburg of any semi-official note to Lord Derby. Lord Derby's reply to Prince Gortschakoff's circular has up to the present received no answer, as the Russian Cabinet considers it couched in curt and unusual terms. There is still, however, a possibility that Russia will, on the occasion of the immediately impending passage of the Danube, again set forth her views.

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF'S INSTRUCTIONS.—A letter from St. Petersburg to the Vienna *Political Correspondence* states that Count Schouvaloff took to St. Petersburg a specification of British interests as contained in Mr. Cross' speech in the British Parliament. Count Schouvaloff's instructions on his return to London empowered him to declare that Russia had no designs against the Suez Canal or Egypt. His instructions restricted him to the declaration.

SHALL MONTENEGRO BE CRUSHED?—A Vienna correspondent telegraphs that for some days past an impression has been growing in Russian circles that the Montenegrins are not able to continue to resist the overwhelmingly superior forces of the Turks, and the Austrian government was sounded as to how far it might be disposed to do something to prevent their being crushed.

THE TURKISH CABINET ALARMED.—The Sultan's Cabinet consider the situation very critical. Affairs in Asia are evidently unsatisfactory, partly because Mukhtar Pacha has failed to make arrangements to let the government know what is being done. An extra military council was held yesterday, at which it was decided to press the war tax and enforce the trade for more men and material. The real truth is probably that the heads of the War Department were called together and asked if they could not improve their fighting power. This may be a preliminary to peace, because poor is the best military talent so far shown.

MUKHTAR PACHA'S POSITION CRITICAL.—Mukhtar Pacha is evidently in a most critical position at Erzeroum, and unless the Russians are drawn off by some strategy it seems impossible that the Turkish forces there can avoid a surrender *en masse*. The fortress and town of Van are similarly situated. The great difficulty is that the communications are cut off, as the Russians are guarding every pass and road. Thus intelligence is not to be obtained of what is being done in the different places, such as Van, Erzeroum, Arzetoum and Batoum. Several efforts have been made to restore the telegraph lines, but all have failed.

A STUBBORN RESISTANCE.—A Vienna Correspondent thus explains the operations around Montenegro. As the success of Suleiman Pacha is reported from Ragusa as well as Constantinople, the news may be assumed to be true that he has taken possession of Kustsch (Krstaz?) at the entrance of the Duga Pass. It seems equally certain that the Turks on the southern frontier, who advanced in the direction of Spuz, have been driven back. The Prince of Montenegro was aware that the attack on the Albanian side was but a feint, and took the bulk of his forces thence with the view of making an effort to capture Nicsies before Suleiman could come to the rescue. Much will depend on whether Suleiman is able to force the Duga Pass and relieve Nicsies before it falls into the hands of the Montenegrins.

LITTLE HOPE FOR PRINCE MILAN.—Prince Milan has never been a great favorite at the Russian Court, and even among his own subjects many influential men are to be found who dream of a Slavonic kingdom, with the Prince of Montenegro at its head. The weak young Prince of Serbia's ambition to wear a crown evidently has but a faint chance of being gratified. A Vienna correspondent sends the following:—"Just at the moment when Prince Milan has received permission to go to Plojesti information comes that Russia has intimated far more positively than ever before that it is her will that Servia should keep aloof from the present war, which cannot but lead to the supposition that what finally induced the Czar to accept the visit may be the wish to remove any doubts of Servia about what was expected of her."

MUKHTAR'S FLYING COLUMNS.—The *Neue Freie Presse* of Vienna has a special despatch from Erzeroum which says:—"On the approach of the three flying columns sent by Mukhtar Pasha against the Russian right wing the Russians not only evacuated Olti but Penneck, at the foot of the pass over the Kanly range leading to Ardahan. Both Olti and Penneck were re-occupied by the Turks, who also went in pursuit of the Russians." A Vienna correspondent referring to the above despatch, says:—"As this information does not come from the immediate scene of operations it is difficult to form an opinion as to its accuracy, if the Russians really retired beyond Penneck without resistance this would seem to show that there was only a small force there, and the bulk of the Russian column is still on the Ardahan side of the Kanly range. Possibly, after all, the Russians, before advancing on Erzeroum, will make an effort to bombard and reduce Kara so as to leave their rear quite free."

GENERAL NEWS.

DEATH OF LADY MAXWELL.—LONDON, June 5.—Lady Sterling Maxwell, better known as Hon. Mrs. Norton is dead.

THE GERMAN BISHOPS.—A Berlin telegram to the *Morning Post* says that the Duke of Norfolk has offered an asylum in England to the deposed and exiled Bishops of Paderborn and Ermland.

THE VATICAN AND RUSSIA.—It is asserted that the Pope has indirectly requested the good offices of the Emperor of Austria with the Czar in behalf of the Catholics in Poland.

THE ARCHDUCHESS OF MODENA.—The *Latent* states that the Archduchess of Vienna has presented to the Pope a most valuable offering, consisting of an entire chapel, altar, and altar-furniture and fittings complete, all in silver-gilt.

SOUTH AMERICA.—Letters from New Columbia say that the Catholic and Conservative movement which had been attempted in that Republic has turned out a total failure. General Trujillo was supreme at Bogota, and the persecutions of the Church was redoubled. It was expected that the Archbishop and the other prelates would be banished shortly.

BANISHING THE POLES.—In consequence of the reported discovery of plots against the life of the Czar, and of the fact that many Turkish spies have been discovered in Roumania, all Poles have been ordered to leave Bucharest. Among the persons thus banished is the Bishop of Nicopolis, who is also a Pole and supposed to be strongly anti-Russian in his sympathies.

MARSEILLES.—The *Semaine Religieuse* of Marseilles has collected sixty thousand francs as an offering from its subscribers and readers to the Holy Father on the occasion of his Episcopal Jubilee. The editor, the Rev. Canon Richard, has been appointed by the Archbishop of Aix to fill the post of historiographer to the Provincial Council shortly to be held in his metropolitan city.

GERMANY'S NEUTRALITY.—How little Germany cares to remain strictly neutral in the Turkish war is seen by the fact that its Government has given leave to 24 engine-drivers to enter the Russian service and to run trains in Roumania and the south of Russia. As the same time the promise was given to these men that they would be allowed to re-enter the German railway service whenever they pleased. What would Bismarck have said if, during the Franco-German war, England had allowed English engine-drivers to run military trains in France?

A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER.—Hitherto Alt-Catholics were very fortunate with their applications for the possession of Catholic churches; wherever they formulated a wish in that direction it was unconditionally granted. But lately the Government seems to have changed its views on the subject, for in several localities similar applications were refused. Only last week the Ober-Präsident of Ithenheim Prussia rejected the petition of the Alt-Catholic community of St. Johann asking for permission to hold Alt-Catholic religious services in the parish church.

JOAN OF ARC.—The *fiite* of Joan of Arc was commemorated last week at Orleans with all the accustomed solemnity. The Emperor of Brazil, accompanied by Count Pueno-Retiro, Admiral Lamar and Baron Itajuba, Secretary of Legation for Brazil; the Count de Paris, General d'Absco (specially sent by the Marshal-President), and Admiral Jaures were present. The procession marched through a portion of the town, the illustrious Bishop of Orleans, Mgr. Dupanloup, carrying the cross under a canopy, and behind him came his Imperial Majesty Dom Pedro, followed by the civil and military authorities. The usual panegyric on the heroine was this year pronounced by Father Monsabre.

THE INSURRECTION IN CIRCASSIA.—The insurrection in Circassia, though it is scarcely likely to have any very appreciable effect on the ultimate fortunes of the war, must be giving the Russians no little trouble. Not very long ago we heard that the proclamation of the Jihad, or religious war, by the Sheikh ul Islam had determined the Muselman population of Armenia to imitate the example of their neighbours in the Caucasus. And the Abkhazians and Ossetes are all up, and have got possession of the passes of the Caucasus and the main road from Vladika Kaukas to Tiflis, so that the Russians, unless they can reopen their communications, must bring their supplies and reinforcements by way of the Caspian Sea from Astrakhan. We further heard by way of Russia that a Russian division had fallen back from the frontier in consequence of the Mahomedan population in its rear having broken out into insurrection.

DEATH OF GENERAL CABRERA.—Marshal Ramon Cabrera, Count de Morella, the Carlist general, died on the 24th ult., at Westworth, near Staines, in his sixty-seventh year. On the breaking out of the civil war in Spain in 1833 Cabrera put himself at the head of a body of guerrillas in the service of Don Carlos, and became one of the most distinguished and vindictive of the Carlist leaders. After his capture of the fortress of Morella, in 1838, he was created by Don Carlos Count of Morella, and appointed Lieutenant-General and governor-general of the provinces of Aragon, Valencia, and Murcia. Cabrera continued the war on behalf of the Carlist cause long after all its other leaders had been subdued, but he was finally routed by General Espartaco in July, 1849, when he took refuge in France. He subsequently made two attempts to effect a rising in Spain—one in 1840, and another after the French revolution of 1848. In January, 1849, however, he was defeated and badly wounded at Pastar, and again fled into France. He afterwards went to England and married an English lady, Miss Richards. In the Carlist wars of recent years Marshal Cabrera took no part, although many rumours were published from time to time about his supposed intentions.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE JIHAD.—The following is a literal translation of the *Fetwa* of the Sheikh-ul-Islam, the Moslem High Priest, which has just been published, and which authorizes the proclamation of a war for the defence of the Mahomedan religion against Russia. As in all such cases, the *Fetwa* is in the form of a regular interrogation, which embodies the statement of facts to be adjudicated upon, followed by the ceremonial reply of the Sheikh-ul-Islam.

"Question.—If, after the Commander of the Faithful—whose Khalifate may God prolong to the day of the judgment—has concluded a solemn treaty with the ruler of an unbelieving country, the Sovereign of such country makes unendurable and unacceptable demands which lessen the glory of Islam and degrade the Mahomedan nation, and, in order to impose these demands upon Musulmans, insultingly makes preparation for war, transgresses the boundaries of Mahomedan States, devastates the same, and thus breaks the solemn treaty; in such a case, as soon as it is plain that the Musulmans possess the necessary strength and resources for the contest, and that the contest on behalf of the faith is meritorious, it is the duty of the Protector of the Faith, the Sultan of the Musulmans—to whom may the Almighty God grant victory—to send the conquering troops of Islam against that country and, in confidence in God the Supreme Ruler, to undertake the War of Faith for that country and against the said country and people? It is an answer that is sought.

"Answer.—Yes, God knows that it is so. "Thus writes the poor Hasean Cheirullah unto whom may God be merciful!"

NATURALISTS' PORTFOLIO.

THE NILE.—The Nile is the king of the rivers of the terrestrial globe. The distance in a straight line from its source to its mouth is 2,340 miles, which supposes a real length, says M. Banning, exceeding that of the Mississippi, Misouri, and Amazon. According to the calculations of Schweinfurth, its fluvial basin extends over a surface of 4,956,000 square miles; the basin of the Amazon measures no more than 4,200,000; that of the Mississippi scarcely exceeds 2,000,000 square miles.

CROWTH OF CORAL.—A remarkable piece of coral taken off the submarine cable near Port Darwin is spoken of in a Melbourne paper. It is of the ordinary species, about five inches in height, six inches in diameter at the top, and about two inches at the base. It is perfectly formed, and the base bears the distinct impression of the cable and a few fibres of the coil rope used as a sheath for the telegraphic wire still adhering to it. As the cable had been laid only four years, it is evident that this specimen must have grown to its present height in that time, which seems to prove that the growth of coral is much more rapid than has been supposed.

COPPER IN THE BLOOD.—The presence of copper in the blood of human beings and domestic animals has been placed beyond doubt by the investigations of various chemists, but has generally been regarded as an accidental circumstance due to the use of copper utensils in the preparation of food. M. S. Cloez, of Paris, recently examined the blood of a roebuck shot in the forest of Esarats, and found copper oxide present to the extent of 51 milligrammes per kilogramme of blood. As this result would tend to show that copper is a normal constituent of the blood, the question which next awaits solution is that of the method of its entrance into the animal system.

POSITION OF THE HUMAN HEART.—The heart is said to be on the left side. This strictly speaking is not true; it is as nearly as possible in the middle of the chest, and if a line were drawn down the centre of the breast-bone, to divide the heart into two portions, we should find rather the larger on the right side. The point is directed towards the left side, close to the fifth rib, and the reason we attribute its position to the left side rather than the right is this: that we can more readily feel the pulsation on that side than we can on the other, because the last of the four great cavities of the heart—namely the ventricle—is placed on the left side. From this the blood is forced over the whole system, and we readily feel its pumping through the ribs.

INDIAN TIGERS.—Some interesting particulars of the Indian tiger are given in the *Times of India*, taken from the "Handbook of Hindustan." The tiger is found in all parts of India, even occasionally at an elevation of 6,000 or 7,000 feet. The Lower Provinces of Bengal, and the North Western Provinces, are, however, its favourite haunts, and it is found most frequently in the long jungle grass and low-lying, swampy ground. As to the size of the tiger, opinions vary; whilst Jerdon states the average length of a fullgrown male to be from 9 to 9½ feet, from point of nose to tip of tail, and that no authentic instance of a tiger measuring over 10 feet 3 inches has been known, Lieutenant Rice mentions several tigers which have been killed which measured 11 feet 6 inches, and one of 12 feet 7½ inches in length.

RAIN IN EGYPT.—It has long been a prevalent opinion that it never, or very rarely, rains in Egypt. Formerly it was said that there was no rain at all; and several wet days having been observed of late years, they were supposed to have been caused by a change of climate, produced it was imagined by some extensive plantations in the valley of the Nile. M. Tomard, however, shows by documentary evidence that all these opinions of no rain and change of climate are erroneous. Rain and heavy rains with thunder and lightning, though rare visitors, are not strangers in Egypt. Sir Archibald Alison in his "History of Europe" says:—"It never rains in Egypt; centuries may elapse without more than a shower of drizzling mist moistening the surface of the soil. It is said that it has not rained in Egypt for 1,700 years."

FORMATION OF PETROLEUM.—A theory, based chiefly on chemical considerations, is propounded by Prof. Mendeleeff regarding the formation of petroleum in the interior of the earth. From the fact that in Pennsylvania petroleum occurs in the Devonian and Silurian rocks, it appears to him highly probable that the fluid hydrocarbon should be the result of the decomposition of organic remains, for but little organic life could have existed in those ages. His theory, starting with Laplace's hypothesis of the formation of our globe, assumes the existence of great masses of iron, and, along with it, of inorganic carbon, in the inner part of the earth. The water which, from the more exterior regions, penetrates to the molten metal, is decomposed; its oxygen goes to the iron, whilst its hydrogen unites, under the influence of great heat and pressure, with the carbon, to form the varieties of hydro-carbons which make up petroleum.

INSECTIVOROUS BIRDS.—Professor Aughey, of the Nebraska State University, says:—"No families of birds are so little appreciated for their insectivorous qualities as plovers and snipes. They are represented in Nebraska by at least sixteen different species. The number of insects they destroy is enormous. I have found thirty to thirty-five insects in the stomach of one small species (*Aegialitis semi-palmatus*). Many of these plovers and snipes spend the cold months in the Gulf States, and come north in the spring to hatch. Formerly they were exceedingly abundant in the State, but they are now becoming reduced very fast by hunters. Our thrushes, blue-birds, wrens, swallows, &c., all feed entirely on insects. The blackbirds and orioles, that are charged with confiscating so many grains, will be found, on examination, to make insects at least nine tenths of their food. Now, suppose the insectivorous birds were allowed to increase until there were a thousand to a square mile. Each bird, at a low calculation, would require a hundred insects for food each day. This would destroy a hundred thousand insects per day on each square mile, and in a month three millions, and in five months fifteen millions. But insectivorous birds really consume nearer two hundred, and at this rate five hundred such birds to a square mile would accomplish the same result. If birds are in increased to the number proposed, there will be insects enough to furnish them with food for many years. When once the insects are promptly reduced in numbers, the birds will of their own accord, if left alone, be taken themselves to other regions. If they must be killed by carnivorous man, let the point of over supply be first reached. But, let it be remembered that our forests and cultivated trees in Nebraska alone are preyed on by about one hundred and forty species of insects. Apple, pear, and plum trees have about one hundred species of insect enemies. Fifty species of insects interfere with grape culture. There are at least thirty-five insect enemies of our gardens. One pair of grain weevils will produce six thousand young between April and August. According to Reamer, one apple or plum tree (these aphides are found on almost all kinds of plants) may become the progenitor in a single season of six thousand millions. The female wasp, produces, in one season thirty thousand (Packard). The white ant deposits eggs at the average rate of sixty to a minute. Our own wild silk worm (*Attacus cecropia*), which feeds so largely on our wild plums, produces from six hundred to a thousand eggs per season."