

Africa.—Its Climate and People.

There is little doubt that both the climate and people of Africa have been generally misrepresented by the slave-traders. The climate has been described as pestilential, in order to fright the lawful trader from its shores. Now we are inclined to think that the African climate is not, on the whole, as unhealthy to the European as many other parts of the world which might be mentioned. There are, of course, unhealthy spots and unhealthy seasons there as elsewhere; but we do not find that the loss of missionary life is greater at Abbeokuta than in India or Ceylon.

The Negro tribe have been branded with dullness and stupidity, and a position the lowest in the scale of humanity has been assigned them. Indeed, they have been treated as if they did not belong to the human family, and have been dealt with by the slave dealers as if they were included amongst those inferior creatures over whom man was given dominion. They have been shamefully and inhumanly bought and sold, as if they had no rights of their own. Thankful we are in being enabled to state that this wicked traffic, at the present moment, is being rigorously dealt with, as it deserves; and as the clouds which have for ages overshadowed Africa with gloom, clear away, we are enabled to perceive how cruelly its people have been misrepresented. We find the educated African mind as comprehensive as our own; and as we learn more of the interior of the country we find much in the internal economy of their great towns to convince us that the African people are not the stupid savages they were once supposed to be, fitted only for beasts of burden, and possessing no suitability for social, moral, or intellectual advancement.—*Chh. Missionary Gleaner.*

Jews in Tuscany.

In the private correspondence from Rome, of the *Belgian Independence*, it is mentioned that the government of Tuscany has just submitted to the court of Rome a case of conscience relative to the new *projet de loi* upon public instruction, which has been submitted to the Grand Duke for his approbation. One provision of this measure prohibits Israelites from the power of following the legal and medical professions. In other words, it abolishes the Leopoldine laws by which the Jews were emancipated; and the question is submitted to Rome, because the concordat recognises those laws. The sacred college will decide the question. If the decision proceeded from the Pope or Cardinal Antonelli, it would not be doubtful; but they do not, says the letter, command at Rome; it is the Society of Jesus. The writer concludes:—"If the measure prepared against the Jews be adopted, the rich Hebrew banking houses at Florence and Leghorn will very probably remove into Piedmont, where there still exist religious toleration and liberty."

A Testament Spoiling a Dog.

A poor African came to Mr. Moffatt, the missionary to South Africa, with the sad story that his dog had torn a Testament to pieces and eaten some of the leaves. He said that the dog had been very useful to him, guarding his property from wild beasts and hunting them; but he feared he was now useless. Mr. Moffatt asked him how this could be? He could get another Testament, and why could not the dog be as useful as ever? "I am afraid," he replied, "The dog will be of no further use to me. The words of the New Testament are full of love and gentleness, and after the dog has eaten them, it is not likely that he will hunt or fight for me any more."

Of course he was not long in finding out that the dog was made neither better nor worse by eating the words. How many are there upon whom those words, so "full of love," have no more effect for good than they had on the poor African's dog.—*Macedonian.*

The Cubans.

They, have one hundred and eighty-seven festival days in the year, besides Sundays, in all of which they are forbidden to work, and where they show no disposition for anything but play. They then assemble in crowds at each other's houses, the gathering place for each day being arranged before hand; and spend the whole time in dancing the fandango, drinking, &c., &c. They wear their swords on all occasions, and ride on horseback wherever they go. Even those who go to seek a day's work—mere labourers—attire themselves and ride up with an appearance of importance and display, so that they might be mistaken for officers of the army. All the liberty they desire is that of living just so, with their priests for their masters.

A machine has been invented in New York for sweeping the streets, which, it is said, is superior to any thing ever before brought out. It sprinkles and sweeps the streets at the same time.

The baptism and reception into the bosom of the Roman Church of Mr. Charles Manning, brother of the archdeacon, took place in the baptistry of St. John Lateran, Rome. It is customary every year, on the recurrence of this day, to have some Jew or Musselman in readiness to receive Christian baptism in the baptistry of St. John, and scandal-lovers have remarked that the same Jew usually officiates in the ceremony. This time, however, they can have no such grounds for sneering, a *bona fide* heretic having occupied the place of the Israelite. What is the most extraordinary in the conduct of these converts, is the regularity with which they attend the English Protestant chapel up to the very day of their abandoning it for ever and embracing the worship of Rome.—*Roman Correspondent of the Daily News.*

A CONSECRATED TAPER.—Under the impression that Captain Kellet, the commander of one of the Arctic ships, was a Roman Catholic as well as an Irishman, a wax taper, consecrated by the Pope, has been presented to him. Whenever the vessel is in any danger, out of which mankind is not able to rescue her, the taper is to be lit and her safety may be depended upon. It is to be hoped that the gallant captain will have no occasion to try the experiment; meanwhile, should he be inclined to do so, we recommend him to take in a good supply of lucifer matches, or some iceberg may give his craft a squeeze before there is time to procure a light.—*Literary Gazette.*

REFORMATION IN DUBLIN.—Six persons on Sunday the 2nd inst., under the spiritual direction and instruction of the Rev. Thomas Scott, and a reformed Romanist Priest, abjured the errors of Popery, and subsequently received the Lord's Supper in St. Thomas's Church. One of the converts had been a candidate for the Romish priesthood, and two of them are schoolmasters.

The Karan converts of the Baptist Burman Mission constitute forty-six Churches on the west side of the Irawaddy, each of which is supplied with a preacher; none of them have less than one hundred and fifty members, and several exceed three hundred. A surprising change has passed over them since they embraced the gospel of Christ. Old things have passed away, and all things are become new.

The old palace of the Spinola family in Rome, situated at the foot of the Vatican, is to be devoted to the preparation of apostatizing Protestant ministers for "holy orders" in the Catholic Church. The Pope has undertaken to defray the expenses of these pupils for the priesthood from his private purse.

Bishop Doane of New Jersey, for the purpose of extending "the Church," and educational interests of his denomination, has incurred a debt of a quarter of a million of dollars, which he now repudiates, or declares himself unable to pay.—The sufferers are many, and the Bishop is sorely galled.

A gentleman in Leicestershire, England, who has been engaged in Sabbath school work forty years, has just built a new school for three hundred and fifty scholars, in a populous part of the town, defraying himself the whole expense of the ground, building, and all. A worthy example.

Mrs. Hare, a daughter of Sir John Paul, and sister-in-law to the well-known Archdeacon Hare, and Mrs. Mary King, of Bath, have been publicly received into the Popish Church at Rome. Mrs. Hare's conversion has produced much sensation among the English in that city.

Archdeacon Manning, who recently joined the Church of Rome, has been rudely treated in conversation with one of his superiors, and the venerable apostate has taken the insult so much to heart, that it is said he is about to come back again to the Church of England.

The Presbyterian missions in India and China are prospering: preaching is more abundant, tract distribution is increased; additions have been made to the Churches at Agra and Futteghur, and the schools are giving much satisfaction by the progress and good order.

Keep good company, and be one of them.

The cost of all the missionary agency in the presidencies of Bengal and Agra, in which one hundred and fifty-nine missionaries are employed, is less than the salary and travelling expenses of the Governor-General.

Iodine has been gradually traced through the mineral, vegetable, and animal Kingdoms. It has been found in the air, the water, the soils, and products of the Alps of France.

PUNCH'S DIFFICULTY ABOUT MIRACLES.—As soon as the Pope practices in all his actions the extreme benevolence he professes in all his words; and as the first proof of it, releases the hundreds of poor prisoners now confined for political offences in the dungeons of Naples and Rome; so soon as the Pope allows an English cathedral to be built in the centre of Rome, as we allow a Roman cathedral to be built in the middle of London; as soon as the French soldiers are driven out of Rome, and the Pope's body-guard consists of none but Romans; as soon as the above extraordinary events are accomplished, we shall be better prepared to believe any impossibility in the way of pictures that wink, or statues that bleed, or cabbages that sneeze, or anything else they please; for nothing short of a miracle can bring to pass the accomplishment of events so utterly improbable, if not perfectly impossible. When they are accomplished, we will promise to be amongst the most stubborn believers in Roman Catholic miracles; but till then we must be allowed the healthy privilege of a little rational incredulity.—*London Punch.*

Improvement in Chronometers.

Among the various difficulties which have stood in the way of chronometrical improvement, perhaps no defect has occupied so much time as the imperfect compensation for change of temperature, which has claimed the attention of some of the first mathematicians of the day, as well as those practically engaged in chronometer-making. The defect we allude to is this,—that if chronometers are adjusted for extremes of heat and cold, they will gain in the intermediate temperatures. This is caused by the balance-spring losing elasticity by an increase of temperature at an accumulating rate over the effect produced by the ordinary compensation.

Mr. Loseby has introduced mercury to overcome this defect, which, by its fluidity, admits of being adjusted, so that its effect may vary exactly in the same proportion as the change of temperature alters the elasticity of the spring; or, in other words, which makes the law of the successive alterations of the momentum of inertia adapt itself to the law of alteration of the elasticity of the spring, whatever that law may be. Since the invention was submitted to the Government in 1843, it has undergone several trials, by order of the Board of Admiralty, with a view to test its principle. The chief points which required to be proved, were, first, whether the principle admitted of being adjusted to the irregular loss of elasticity in the spring; and, secondly, if the effect produced by the mercury would be sufficient. The fluidity of the agent used at once answered the first point; and it was therefore to the second that the trials have been chiefly directed. The result shows that not only can the ordinary defect be obviated, but in most of the trials it has even been reversed, so that all doubt has been removed on the remaining point.

Potash in Soot.

At a recent meeting of the Glasgow Philosophical Society, Dr. Penny communicated the important discovery, made by himself, of the presence of a considerable quantity of potash salts in the soot from blast iron furnaces. The soot experimented on was obtained from the Coltness Iron Works, where it leads into the flues that lead the heated gases and other products of combustion from the top of the furnaces to the air heaters and steam boilers. Dr. Penny gave the particulars of a careful analysis of the soot, and exhibited specimens of the potash salt, which had been extracted in large quantities by Dr. Quilan, of Hurlet. The salt has been pronounced by competent judges to be a good marketable article, consisting chiefly of carbonate and sulphate of potash, with a small admixture of soda salts. According to the results of experiments described by Dr. Penny, it appears that soot will yield 50 per cent of this marketable salt, containing 43 per cent of pure potash. It has been found that the amount of potash in soot procured from other iron works is subject to variation, arising, no doubt, from the use of different coals in the blast furnace. From the well known value of potash salts, there is every reason to expect that this discovery will prove of considerable importance to those who are interested in these commercial products, and also to iron-masters, who will now be enabled to turn to

account a substance which has not hitherto been applied to any practical use.

Here, in this discovery, we have the cause explained of the well known value of soot for agricultural purposes.

Pearl Ash.

This is the common name for carbonate of potash, and is an alkaline substance obtained from wood ashes. The ashes of the burnt timber are collected and put into cisterns; water is poured upon them, which dissolves all the soluble parts of the ash, and, after standing some time to become clear, is drawn off and evaporated to dryness in iron pots, when the half melted pearl ash remains. It is then put up in casks containing about 500 weight. Pearl ash obtained by this process is usually of a greyish color, from the presence of impurities; but is readily freed from these by dissolving it carefully in water, and evaporating the clear liquor. Pearl ash when pure is a white substance of an acid caustic taste, easily soluble in water, with which it has so great an affinity as to attract it from the air, unless it is kept in closely corked vessels or casks.

The Boston Journal describes, as one of the curiosities of the age, an electric clock, which has recently been completed, on an entirely new principle, and pronounced by scientific men to be the most perfect and simple of any. All wheel-work in the time-keeping part is dispensed with; therefore all friction is overcome. The time-keeping part of the clock is simply a pendulum, an electro-magnet, and two armatures.—The vibrations of the pendulum break and close the circuit of electricity, while the combined action of the electro-magnet and armatures keep it in motion.

The Superintendent of Education gives notice that the *Journal of Education* for Nova Scotia will be issued Quarterly during the present year, commencing the 20th May. It will contain notices of the Educational affairs of this Province, the School Bill of last Session, with explanatory remarks, plans and engravings of School-houses, and general educational intelligence. The Journal will be sent gratis to Commissioners of Schools and Teachers. Other persons will receive it by mail on paying Ten pence to the Clerk of any Board of Commissioners, or sending (post paid) three postage stamps to the Subscriber in Pictou.

The Nova Scotia Districts commenced their sittings in this City on Thursday last. The Revs. Dr. RICHY and Dr. EVANS preside as Chairmen. Important matters affecting the future operations of Methodism in these Provinces, we are informed, will occupy the attention of the Brethren during this Session, in connection with a Delegation from the New Brunswick District. We hope to be able in our next number to give some interesting information respecting the state of our cause during the past year.

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE, }
2nd June, 1852. }

By the advice of the Executive Council, His Honour the ADMINISTRATOR OF THE GOVERNMENT has been pleased to make the following appointments:

To be Commissioners, constituting "The Board of Works."
The Honorable Hugh Bell, Chairman.
The Honorable Samuel Cunard.
William Murdoch, Esquire.
Jacob P. Miller, Esquire, to be Superintendent.
William Condon to be Clerk and Superintendent.

To be Justices of the Peace.
For the County of Halifax—
Charles D. Hunter, Esquire,
Jeremiah Northup, Esquire, in the place of John Northup, Esquire, resigned.
James Cochran, Esquire.
For the County of Colchester—
James Campbell, George Lombard, and John Irvine, Esquires.

To be Commissioners of Streets.
For Guysborough—
Messrs. William Scott, } In place of J. E.
John Grant, } Cutler, and C. Scott
Jairus Hadley, } resigned.
For Dartmouth—
Mr. William Walker.

To be one of the Commissioners of Schools in the County of Guysborough, without the district of St. Mary's—John Campbell, Esq. in place of E. H. Franchville, Esq. resigned.

To be Commissioners for giving relief to Insolvent Debtors in the County of Guysborough—William G. Scott and John Mahoney, Esquires. In the County of Richmond, Andrew Madden and Peter DeCarteret, Esqs.