

Sir John Young, 1868.  
 Lord Dufferin, 1872.  
 Marquis of Lorne, 1880.  
 Lord Lansdowne, 1884.  
 Lord Stanley, 1889.

Harvard sent, on the 20th of January, its second astronomical expedition to Peru to join the first which was sent out about a year and a half ago. The party expects to stay about three years and will make special preparations to observe an eclipse of the sun which takes place in the early spring of the year 1893. The object of the expedition is to make a more extensive study of the northern stars than has been done heretofore.—*Ex.*

The king of Siam will soon send six youths from his kingdom to Pennsylvania to be educated. They are all to become physicians. The young men are chosen from the poorer classes, and the expense of their tuition, about \$5,000 a year each, is to be borne by the Siamese government.

The population of Ireland in 1841 was 8,195,124; according to the latest (1891) census it is now 4,706,160.

*A Bell Made Six Hundred Years Ago.* One of the most remarkable historic relics in Rhode Island is the bell on the Butterfly factory near the village of Saylesville. Around this bell, about four inches from the crown, is this superscription, "Peter Secest, Amsterdam, Anno, 1263, M. E. Fecit." It is thus set forth that Peter Secest made this bell in Amsterdam in the year 1263. The figures carved on the bell, together with other well authenticated facts, lead to the belief that this bell was long used in a convent in England, and was sequestrated during the so-called reformation.—*S. H. Review.*

It has been calculated that the actual amount of salt contained in the ocean would cover an area of 5,000,000 square miles with a layer one mile thick.

The strength of spider silk is incredible. Size for size it is considerably tougher than a bar of steel. An ordinary spider thread is capable of bearing a weight of three grains, while a steel thread of the same thickness would support less than two.

*A Wonder of Penmanship.*—A few years ago a Swede named Leibsohn made a portrait of King Oscar of Sweden which is a wonder of penmanship. It is in microscopic letters forming long and short sentences from the Bible. The right eye consists of a chapter from the Psalms; the left of seven verses each from the Proverbs, the book of Chronicles, and the Song of Solomon. The head consists of the whole book of Kings. The uniform is composed of the letters contained in the whole book of Proverbs and Psalms. The name of the king is made up of the letters and verses in a Hebrew prayer and of the last two Psalms. It is accounted the most wonderful piece of penmanship in the world.

"In 1840," says an American Catholic clergyman, "we had only 15 Catholic schools; in 1860, 26; in 1870, 48; in 1880, 60, and in 1890, 102, with 32,000 Catholic pupils, 576 well qualified teachers and a Catholic school-board composed of 18 clergymen. All the members of the Board have had a long pedagogic experience, and are not men taken from Broad street. Our Catholic schools cost \$253,587 a year, all of which is brought up by voluntary contribution. Isn't that proof enough that people want free religious schools?"

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#### GENERAL NEWS.

Mr. Archibald Lampman, several of whose poems have appeared in *THE OWL*, contributes to *Scribner's Magazine* for October, a short poem entitled, "The Voices of the Earth."

At a meeting of the Toronto Public School Board, held a few weeks ago, a motion was introduced by a member of the board that only female principals should be employed. Next!

Rev. Fathers Nicoll, O'Dwyre, Furlong and Brady, Oblate Missionaries, have arrived at the University. Already they have started on their mission tour through Ontario. Fathers Nicoll and O'Dwyre are at present preaching with unprecedented success to crowded congregations in St. Joseph's Church, Ottawa; while Fathers Furlong and Brady have com-