

The cost of a one-man sea diving apparatus, for a depth of 200 feet, is £115.

Fifty years ago England imported three eggs a head for its population; last year it imported forty for each inhabitant, the whole number being 1,589,887,000. Many came from Russia, which exported 1,500,000,000 eggs last year, and more from Italy.

South Carolina is the only State in the Union in which a divorce cannot be obtained for any cause. This fact may perhaps interest couples who prefer to be married in a State which will never permit them to be untied.

A single bee, with all its industry, energy, and the innumerable journeys it has to perform, will not collect much more than a teaspoonful of honey in a single season.

Mr. Labouchere, proprietor of *London Truth*, has spent over \$200,000 in successfully defending vexatious libel suits brought against his paper. *Truth* has corrected enough abuses to have made the expenditure well worth while.

The report of the Cremation Society of England for 1896 shows that there were 137 cremations at Woking, as compared with 150 in 1895. The reports from the other crematories, however, at Liverpool, Manchester, and Glasgow, show that cremation is increasing in popularity.

The largest orchard in Great Britain is at Tottingham, in the county of Gloucester. It has 500 acres in extent, and in some seasons yields its owner, Lord Sudley, a profit of \$50,000. The trees are chiefly apples and plums.

The sciarra, a worm like insect of forests of Hungary and Norway, is only a tenth of an inch long, yet, in migrating, in July or early August, the creatures are said to stick themselves together in a serpent-like mass, often 40 to 50 feet long, and several inches thick.

Mr. Ruskin spends several hours a day gardening in a little green cultivated place in the middle of a nut wood, which in spring is full of daffodils and cherry blossoms. Here the professor admits no other toil but his own, and is as proud of his garden as of the great books which bear his name on the title page.

A Londoner is now able to drop a penny in the slot for a six hours' supply of an eight candle-power incandescent light, and he can take the whole amount at once or divide it into small daily instalments.

A life sized bronzed statue of Poseidon was recently discovered in the sea near Mount Cithaeron by a fisherman. Though it is badly rusted, the head is untouched, and only the hands are missing. Near it was a splendid marble pedestal with an inscription. The statue is assigned to the sixth century before Christ by archaeologists, who say it is as fine as the Jupiter Olympus found at Delphi.

Bagpipes are becoming a fashionable instrument for ladies in British drawing rooms, Lady Elspeth Campbell, the Duke of Argyll's grand-daughter, who is a skilled performer, having introduced the fashion. The pipes for drawing-room use are richly decorated and specially toned.

The Duchess of Teck has written thanking the women for the appropriate gift they have made to her daughter, and stating that she looks forward to seeing the robe as one of the chief delights of her approaching visit to York Cottage.

Two skeletons were discovered by the Chatham corporation's workmen, while excavating the foundations of new buildings, on Saturday fortnight. Archaeological experts declare them to be those of Romans who were buried about 1,500 years ago.

Rev. R. H. McGinnis has been appointed to the mission of Havelock and Belmont.

Rev. R. L. Warner has been appointed to Hastings.

British and Foreign.

The Bishop of Dover and Mrs. Eden have gone to the Continent for some weeks.

The Rev. J. S. Cooper, M.A., rector of Killane, has been appointed Dean of Ferns.

There are at the present time 1,341 benefices in England that are under £100 in value.

A new screen and oak choir stalls are about to be erected in the parish church at Rotherham.

His Grace the Archbishop of York is at present paying a visit of a few weeks' duration to Russia.

The Bishop of Peterborough has appointed the Rev. F. H. Joscelyne, M.A., as his domestic chaplain.

A figure, representing the prophet Daniel, has been added to the west front of Salisbury Cathedral.

The Bishop of South Tokyo is ill and has been obliged to cancel all his engagements for April and May.

The Lord Bishop of Newcastle-on-Tyne conducted the Three Hours' service in York Minster on Good Friday.

The Church Missionary Society has been presented by an anonymous donor with a gift of stock of the par value of £30,000.

The Rev. Prebendary Powell, D.D., rector of St. Mary's, Shandon, has been appointed a Canon of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.

The Bishop of London has appointed Bishop Barry, the rector of St. James', Piccadilly, an assistant bishop in the diocese.

The Rev. John Bond, Prebendary of Louth, in Lincoln Cathedral, has been appointed Archdeacon of Stowe, in the Diocese of Lincoln.

The Bishop of Derby preached the sermon at the opening of the General Synod of the Irish Church in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, on the 26th inst.

A tower and spire is to be added at once to the Church of St. Augustine's, Kilburn, at a cost of £4,300, the whole of which sum has been already subscribed.

The appointment of Archdeacon Howell to the deanery of St. David's has been received with general satisfaction by men of all creeds and politics throughout Wales.

The Archdiocese of York at present contains 626 parishes with a population of about 1,450,000. The proposed Diocese of Sheffield would take off from the above 200 parishes and about 550,000 people.

A new organ, which cost £1,000, was placed recently in the parish church of Silverdale, Lancs. It is the gift of Mr. T. Greenhalgh, of Bolton, who has already spent £75,000 in church building in Bolton-le-Moors.

The Rev. H. Percy Grubb, one of the Association Secretaries of the C.M.S., has been appointed vicar of Oxton, Notts. Mr. Grubb accompanied Mr. Eugene Stock on a visit to Eastern Canada some two years ago.

A new parish house is about to be erected on a site in Clare Market in connection with the well-known Church of St. Clement, Danes, Strand. The site for this new building was given by the Hon W. D. Smith, M.P.

In Winchester and its neighbourhood there was, in bygone days, a superstition that from whatever quarter the wind blew on Palm Sunday it would continue to blow from that quarter for the greater part of the year.

Mr. Wheatley Balme, of Mirfield, who died recently, has left the bulk of his library to Selwyn College, Cambridge, together with the sum of £1,000 to provide for the proper keeping and accommodation of the same.

The Ven. Henry Walker Yeoman, M.A., Archdeacon of Cleveland, Diocese York, died on the 30th ult., aged 80. The Bishop of Beverley and the Dean of York officiated at the funeral, which was very largely attended.

A handsome pastoral staff has been presented to the vicar for use in the church by the parishioners of Hawarden as a permanent memorial of the tragically sudden death in Hawarden Church of the late Archbishop Benson.

It has been arranged to hold a Masonic service in the Collegiate Church of St. Saviour, Southwark, on Ascension Day (May 27th.) The proceeds of the offertory on that occasion will be given to the Restoration Fund of the church upon which there still remains a debt of £7,000.

The Duke of Argyll, though himself a staunch Presbyterian, is son-in-law of one bishop (the late Bishop T. L. Cloughton, of St. Alban's) and father-in-law of another (the new Bishop of Peterborough). The only three bishops who are sons of peers hold the contiguous Dioceses of Lichfield, Peterborough and Ely.

The funeral of the late Archbishop of Dublin took place in St. Patrick's Cathedral on the 6th inst. The sacred building was filled to overflowing by an enormous

concourse of people. The Archbishop of Armagh, the Lord Primate of All Ireland, officiated, and with him were seven of the Irish bishops. The Countess of Cadogan, the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, Lord Justice Fitzgibbon and a host of other distinguished people were present at the obsequies.

LEICESTERSHIRE.—John Siddons, of Snarestone, near Atherstone, "England's oldest chorister," was found dead in bed recently. For 83 years he sang in Snarestone church choir. Four of the deceased's sons, five grandsons and three brothers have been members of the same choir, his eldest son having been organist for 40 years. A grandson is a clergyman of the English Church. The deceased was parish clerk for Snarestone for 50 years and his father for 40 years previous to that time.

Correspondence.

All Letters containing personal allusions will appear over the signature of the writer.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our correspondents.

N. B.—If any one has a good thought, or a Christian sentiment, or has facts, or deductions from facts, useful to the Church, and to Churchmen, we would solicit their statement in brief and concise letters in this department.

A Reminiscence.

SIR,—As I attended the early communion at one of Toronto city churches on Easter Sunday morning and saw the crowds of earnest worshippers who came to make their communion at the hours of six, seven and eight o'clock, I let my mind wander back to the time when, amid terrible opposition, a beginning was made in the direction of communicating at an early hour and communicating fasting. At the time to which I refer the churches of the city of Toronto numbered five, three east of Yonge street and two west of it, with Trinity College chapel. In one of these western churches, St. George's, early communion commenced. It was in the year 1856. Dr. Lett was then rector; the kind-hearted, generous and noble priest, he saw that many, especially domestic servants, could not come on account of their housework, to the eleven o'clock service, and after talking the matter over with the best Church people in the parish, he gave notice that there would be an administration of the Holy Communion on the first and third Sundays in the month at 8 a.m. At first the attendance was small. It was composed of the domestic servants, Dr. Lett's family, Mr. S. Harman and his family, and Mrs. Boulton—sister of Chief Justice Robinson—of the Grange. When now the custom is almost universal in the city churches, it is interesting to look back to that brave and fearless pioneer who, in the face of all opposition, saw the necessity of a change and had the courage to begin and continue it.

RETROSPECT.

A Permanent Widows' Fund.

SIR,—I see by your last issue that the Woman's Auxiliary of Montreal have organized themselves into a committee having for its object the formation of a permanent widows' fund for the diocese, in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee. Cannot the same be done for the diocese of Toronto? Our widows' fund is in a sad state. Every year sees its capital diminished. Are we to go back to the old system of a celibate clergy? Thousands of dollars annually leave the diocese for other parts. Are the widows of the men who toiled on in hardship and poverty in days gone by to be cast aside like worn-out slippers?

Ivy.

Reform in the Toronto Synod.

SIR,—With your kind permission I would venture to make a few remarks upon the composition of the Diocesan Synod. In the first place it looks as if it was too large a body for the territory, the population and the work. The diocese includes 20 electoral districts, containing in 1891 a church population of 129,998. The lay members of the Synod of the Diocese representing this 130,000, number 378. The Province of Ontario has a population of 2,114,321, covering a much larger and more varied area, and it has a legislative assembly consisting of 93 members. That is, the Diocese of Toronto has one law maker to every 343 members, while the great Province of Ontario manages to worry along with one law maker to every 22,734 citizens. To say nothing of the vast difference in the racial and pecuniary interests involved, but simply counting noses, the contrast and the disproportion are very striking. On our Synod