

RELIGIOUS.

CATHOLIC.

Two valuable artistic crowns, one the gift of the wife of General Sherman and twenty-nine other American ladies, the other presented by the Empress Eugenie, were stolen from the shrine of the Blessed Virgin in the Church of the University of Notre Dame, Ind., early on the morning of October 7th. One of the thieves was captured, and the spoils were recovered from him; but the miscreants had broken and utterly ruined the crowns.

Four years ago the Rev. George A. Ellis of this city established a society called St. Mary's Union, for the purpose of assisting in the building of St. Patrick's Church, Brunswick Street. During this time the society, the members of which each pay twenty-five cents monthly, has contributed upwards of \$9000 to the building fund of that church. The work being now practically accomplished, it is proposed to devote the funds of the Union towards liquidating the debt on St. Mary's Cathedral.

"The History of the Catholic Church in Newfoundland" is being prepared by Very Rev. Mgr. Howley, Vicar-Apostolic of the western district of that island. One of the most illustrious names in that history is that of Dr. Howley's predecessor, the lamented Mgr. Sears, who labored with such untiring zeal for the spiritual and temporal welfare of the inhabitants of western Newfoundland.

Rev. Richard Donnelly, a native of Halifax, pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Medford, Mass., died at that place on the 7th inst.

PRESBYTERIAN.

The Presbyterian Colleges in the Upper Provinces have commenced the season's work with encouraging prospects, there being a larger attendance than for many years.

The Rev. Dr. Pollock, who has been spending the autumn in Scotland, returned home the latter part of last week.

Dr. Dyall, of the English Presbyterian Mission to China, occupied the pulpit of Fort Massey Church last Sunday evening. He described the customs and religious beliefs of that country, and spoke of the difficulties in the way of a missionary. The reverend gentleman is connected with the hospital at Swatow.

The Rev. L. G. McNeil, late of Newfoundland, was last week inducted into the pastorate of St. Andrew's Church, St. John, N. B.

There are thirty-two Presbyterian Sunday-schools in the United States, having more than 1,000 scholars each. The largest one is at Throop Avenue Church, Brooklyn, with a membership of 2,777.

The following statistics will be interesting to Presbyterians: The Established Church of Scotland has 1,560 churches, 555,662 communicants, 14 missionaries, 10 lady teachers, and contributes for foreign missions \$162,668. The Free Church of Scotland reports 1,206 churches, 324,000 communicants, 39 missionaries, 21 lady teachers, and gives for foreign mission work \$458,010. The United Presbyterian Church of Scotland has within its bounds 558 churches, 181,146 members, 82 missionaries, 18 lady teachers, and its contributions to foreign missions last year amounted to \$198,366. In the Presbyterian Church in Ireland there are 556 churches, 102,141 members, 13 missionaries, 10 lady teachers, and last year \$64,505 was collected for foreign missionary purposes. The Presbyterian Church in England has 286 congregations, 61,000 communicants, 25 missionaries, 14 lady teachers, and gave last year to foreign missions \$89,325. The Presbyterian Church in Canada reports 944 churches, 127,611 members, 17 missionaries, 4 lady teachers, and last year contributed to foreign missions \$43,532.

METHODIST.

The smallest Methodist Conference in the world is said to be that of France, which is composed of twenty-five ministers and three or four laymen. The total membership in that country is under two thousand.

When, fifty years ago, the first Methodist service was held in Melbourne, the white population did not exceed fifty persons. To day, Melbourne, with Victoria for its circuit has 480 churches, 311 other preaching places, and two colleges.

The third party of missionaries is now on the way to join Bishop Taylor's mission in Africa.

BAPTIST.

On the 9th inst., Mr. A. H. Williams, a graduate of Acadia College and of McMaster Hall, Toronto, was ordained pastor of the Baptist Church at St. Andrew, N. B.

The Rev. A. B. Boyar, A. B., was on the 14th inst. ordained by the Free Church Baptist Conference.

A call from the Baptist Church at Pennfield, N. B., to the Rev. A. E. Ingraham, has been accepted.

Now churches have been lately opened at Dipper Harbor, and Campbellton, N. B., and at Souris, P. E. I.

The Annual Meeting of the Sunday-school in connection with Leinster St. Baptist Church, St. John, N. B., was lately held. From the reports we learn that the School is in a healthy condition. 73 were added last year to the membership, and 20 of the scholars united with the Church. The school collected during the year for church and benevolent purposes \$750.

The F. C. Baptist Conference of New Brunswick met on the 8th instant. The membership reported is 12,166, and the number of scholars in the Sabbath-schools 5,560.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

A rowly formed church among the Zulus has the following among its regulations:—"No member shall be permitted to drink the white man's grog or native beer, nor to touch it with his lips."

The King of Spain's first pair of walking shoes must be made according to a special court regulation, and therefore have just been ordered by the Queen Regent in compliance with strict Spanish etiquette. The shoes must be of white kin, embroidered in gold, and must be solemnly blessed in order to insure the divine protection on his Majesty's first tottering steps. At the same time 300 pairs of shoes are given away to the poor children of Madrid.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN THE UNITED STATES.—The death rate for the whole United States for the last census year was 18 per 1,000. Comparing it with the rates of some other countries for the year 1880, we find that in England and Wales the rate was 20.5; in the rural districts of England, 18.5; in Sweden, 18.1; in Belgium, 22.4; in the German Empire, 26.1; in Austria, 29.6; and in Italy, 30.5. The mean annual birth-rate of the United States is 36 per 1,000 of population, and the annual increase of population from the excess of births over deaths is nearly 2 per cent. a year, and this is exclusive of the increase from immigration. The mean annual birth rates of some foreign countries are as follows—viz, England and Wales, 35.4; Sweden, 30.2; Denmark, 31.9; Belgium, 32; Austria, 39.1; German Empire, 39.3. The birth-rate is greater among the colored than among the whites, but this difference is less in the rural districts than it is in the cities.

The now walk, "the tennis strut," is as horrid as its name implies, and I do hope that really nice girls will not, even for a freak, adopt it. Fashionable walks are usually without any excuse for being. Instead of so many exercises in gymnastics, if women would only study walking how much handsomer they would appear on the street. Trotting is not attractive, and most of our girls do this. There are exceptions—in New Orleans. There women walk with the grace of goddesses; without any consciousness, they are the embodied line of grace as they move. Perhaps they are born a little more lithe than other women, but I doubt it; but they do take more care early in life to attain ease in their movement.

If I had a daughter I should do everything in my power to help make her physically beautiful. The religion, whichever it is, that calls for respect to the body because it is made in the image of its Maker was not a religion that made the world a bad one, at least I do not think it was.—"Bab" in *New York Star*.

THE MOST DENSELY POPULATED PORTION OF THE EARTH.—It has been for a long time asserted and believed that the island of Barbadoes, with 169 square miles and a population of 175,000, which is 1,054 persons to the square mile, was the most densely inhabited portion of the earth's surface. From a communication of Mr. John Worthington, the consul of the United States at Valetta, Malta, it appears that in the matter of density of population Barbadoes must yield the palm to Malta. That island contains 93 square miles of surface, and contains 142,500 inhabitants (exclusive of the British garrison and visitors and non-residents), which is an average of 1,500 to the square mile. The city of Valetta contains a great plethora of population, its area being 0.318 square mile and its population 24,854, a population of 78,157 persons to the square mile. There is one specially populous quarter of Valetta, known as the Manderaggio, the area of which is 0.004 square mile, or 2.56 acres, wherein dwell 2,341 persons—a proportion of 636,000 souls to the square mile. If we exclude the one-third of the island which is unsuitable for cultivation and the area occupied by buildings, the population of Malta reaches the large number of 2,000 persons per square mile.—*Iron*.

MASTICATION.—A curious controversy is in progress as to the need or value of "biting one's food." Strangely as it must appear, there are some who should be authorities, ready to affirm that it is futile to take the trouble to use the teeth, with which nature has provided man in common with most other animals, apparently for the special purpose of cutting and grinding his food. Little, if any, weight is attached to the evidence of facts in this dispute. The existence of the dental apparatus counts for nothing. Nor does it go for much that movements of the jaw promote the insalivation of the food. In short, mouth digestion is treated as a myth or little better. What are we to understand by all this? Is it one of the early fruits of that attempt to popularize the science of physiology which has been so persistently and unselfishly made by the medical profession in the supposed interests of public health and the prevention of disease? We do not incline to mingle in the fray, just at present at least. Let the dispute go on and be fought out to the bitter end. Meanwhile, we counsel all who care for their comfort, and who do not desire to develop the worst form of dyspepsia, to continue the practice of mastication as before. As a matter of fact and experience, a liberal use of the teeth in feeding is one of the essentials of easy digestion, and though we are not prepared to assert that it is necessary to bite each morsel of meat precisely, twenty five times, it is better to err on the side of masticating too much than on that of not masticating enough. First, to divide the food and crush its fibres and particles generally, and secondly, to mix it so thoroughly with the secretion from the salivary glands, that not only shall the act of deglutition be rendered easy, but that the food when it enters the stomach shall have been properly prepared for digestion in the gastric juice.—*Lancet*.