

THE papers of Japan, published and edited by pagans, gave an account lately of a very remarkable incident which occurred during the late war with China. Among the Japanese soldiers there are a number of Christians who have shown unusual courage and bravery, and are highly esteemed by their commanders. At the siege of Port Arthur, one of the Chinese forts made a vigorous defence. The Japanese officers selected the Christian soldiers from the various companies, and formed a battalion exclusively Christian. They were ordered to take the fort. The chief officers were confident that the fort would be taken by these valiant soldiers, but not without great loss of life. But their astonishment may be imagined, when, after successfully carrying the fort, the whole battalion was found intact, not a single Christian having been even wounded. *They all wore the Scapular.* This event made a deep impression on the heathen Japanese, and it is said that many conversions were the result.

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THE question of Home Rule for Ireland seems to be as far from settlement as ever. Ministries may change, in England, elections follow elections, but this question seems to be at a standstill. Ireland, which owes its greatness in the Kingdom of God to its indefectible adherence to religious unity, will not achieve any success among the kingdoms of the earth without political unity. That God loves Ireland, is evident to every Catholic from her very history. If Home Rule will be a blessing for it, it can be obtained from heaven. The lovers of Ireland should unite in prayer for unity among her representatives, and do, as they did for centuries, ask for God's blessing on their undertakings, instead of trying to keep supernatural motives entirely out of their politics. When Parnell was at the head of the Irish party, and success seemed to be but a question of time, we were in great doubts as to the successful issue of his leadership, mainly because we could not separate in our mind, the political from the religious side of the question. Ireland, the Island of Saints and Doctors, the "Holy Isle" will never be great on any other basis, than that which made her great among the nations as the home of the chosen people of God.

THOUSANDS of pilgrims were drawn to Our Lady's shrine at Falls View, to celebrate the Feast of Mount Carmel, and to share in the untold treasures opened to them by Our Holy Father. The piety and eagerness to gain all the indulgences were truly edifying. It was extremely gratifying to witness the sincere devotion of the people of all classes to Our Heavenly Mother. It was clearly the enthusiasm of conviction—which made the pilgrims crowd the little shrine to suffocation throughout the entire day. So vast the throng, so intent upon their devotion, and so earnest in visiting the church, that a stranger exclaimed: "It reminds one of the great pilgrimages of the old country." Last year the grain of mustard seed was sown, when the corner-stone of the Hospice was laid, and its growth has been rapid and prolific. We feel encouraged by the flattering reports from all sides. Especially do we appreciate the efforts of the directors of the *Buffalo Volksbund* to make their pilgrimage a success. There were six or seven hundred pilgrims who availed themselves of their excursion. The zeal of the pilgrims was thoroughly aroused by the powerful and eloquent tribute which the Rev. Francis Ryan, Rector of the Cathedral of Toronto, paid to Our Lady of Carmel. In our next issue we will publish a synopsis of this sublime conception of Our Lady's Order and its influence on modern times.

BOOKS.

THE Rosary Publication Co., New York, publishes "A COURSE OF STUDY FOR ROMAN CATHOLIC PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS," compiled by an experienced teacher. It may be well-nigh impossible to obtain absolute uniformity in all those points that would make the parochial schools of the United States most efficient. The country is too large; the teaching communities differ too much in methods and systems of teaching, the requirements of the individual schools are too various, and the demands of the controlling powers, as well as of the parents, are too widely divergent to make uniformity on all points feasible. But there should be a desire on the part of all interested in the welfare of our Catholic schools, to bring about a greater degree of regularity in the course of study and system