

CATHOLIC INTELLIGENCE.

THE NEW ARCHBISHOP.—The Catholics of Halifax have subscribed \$1,750 to purchase a pair of horses and carriage for the new Archbishop; the presentation will be made after consecration.

BISHOP TAMBRZEWSKI.—The Royal Court for Ecclesiastical Affairs has published its sentence against Bishop Tambrzewski; it decrees his "dismissal from office" as suffragan bishop of the archdiocese of Posen and canon of the cathedral.

THE PAPAL CELEBRATION IN OTTAWA.—The approaching celebration of the Pope's accession to the episcopate promises to be a grand affair, the arrangements being now nearly completed. On Sunday, the 30th, there will be a procession to all the churches, the Te Deum being sung in each church, while on Monday the illumination takes place, as well as a pyrotechnic display.

A VETERAN PRIEST DANGEROUSLY ILL.—The veteran priest, who has held the position of parish priest of Cobourg for upwards of thirty years, is now lying dangerously ill. His Lordship Bishop O'Brien is at present at Cobourg with Father Timin. The reverend gentleman is now in his 92nd year, and is not expected to recover.

THE POPE.—The propositions which the Catholic agitation is assuming in Austria and France have reduced the Nuncio to seek instructions from the Cardinal Secretary of State in case of remonstrance being made to them. The Holy See has replied that they are to impress upon the bishops to follow the example of the English Catholics, while attaining their ends, avoid causing any embarrassment to the Government.

A RARA AVIS.—Father Giovanni, who has a most exquisite tenor voice of extraordinary compass, purity, and limpidity, belongs to the Order of Franciscans. He was born at Lucca, but went to Rome two years ago, and only since that period has taken lessons in music. He is thirty-five years of age, tall, robust, and well proportioned, and possesses, the inhabitants of Rome declare, the most delightful voice in the world. He sang the High Mass on Easter Sunday at the Church of the Stimmatte.

CARDINAL LECOCOWSKI.—For the apprehension of his Eminence Cardinal Lecocowski, the district court of Inowraz has issued the following disgraceful writ: "Cardinal Count Mielcias Lecocowski, condemned to 2½ years imprisonment and a fine of 300 marks, or in default 3 months' imprisonment, for high treason, resistance to the State power, and transgression against public order, is to be arrested, and delivered to the next court of justice for the execution of the present order."

THE LATE BISHOP GUIGES.—The magnificent monument erected in the Roman Catholic Cathedral Ottawa, to the memory of late Bishop Guiges, was on Wednesday inaugurated with imposing ceremony, by His Lordship the Bishop of Ottawa, assisted by the clergy of the district. The monument consists of a chapel, on one side of which is a mausoleum, on the other an altar of Our Lady of Lourdes. The monument, altar steps and platform are of polished marble, of beautiful colors and exquisite workmanship.

A PROTEST FROM OSSORY.—The Most Rev. the Lord Bishop of Ossory, Dr. Moran, has convened a diocesan meeting, to be held on Whit-Monday, in the Park of St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny, to which are summoned both the clergy and laymen of Ossory who feel aggrieved at the restrictions placed upon the liberty of the Universal Church by the proposed legislation of the Italian Government. The meeting will also be called upon to protest against the withholding of justice to the Catholic people of Ireland in the matter of equality of educational rights with their dissenting brethren.

THE POPE'S JUBILEE.—PROGRAMME OF THE ROMAN CELEBRATION.—The following is a translation of the official programme issued for the celebration of the Episcopal Jubilee of Pius IX.—I. The majestic Eudoxian Basilica, known under the name of St. Peter in Chains, where his Holiness received fifty years ago, Episcopal consecration, will be sumptuously decorated, under the direction of the architect of the Basilica, who is also a member of the Roman Committee for the Celebration of the Jubilee Peter, etc. 2. On the 31st of May and the first two days of the month of June there will be celebrated in the aforesaid Basilica a solemn Triduum of thanksgiving to God for the preservation of the precious life of the Common Father of the Faithful. 3. Each day, after Vespers, at half-past six, a sermon will be preached, and the sermon will be followed by Benediction with the Most Holy Sacrament. Sermons are to be preached on each of the three days. 4. On the 3rd of June Masses will be celebrated from day-break. At seven o'clock there will be Mass and general Communion for the members of the Italian pilgrimage organized by Count Aquademi, in his capacity of President of the Council of the Society of the Youth of Italy, established at Bologna. At ten o'clock there will be a grand High Mass, to be celebrated by a Cardinal specially designated by the Holy Father for that purpose. In the afternoon the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the principal altar, prayers for the Holy Father, and a solemn Te Deum will be chanted, and all will conclude with the Tantum Ergo and Benediction with the Most Holy Sacrament. The Cardinals and Prelates in Rome for the Jubilee will assist at the Mass and at the evening devotions, and the music will be Palestrina's, sung by the Pope's choir—unaccompanied under the direction of the maestro Dominico Mustafà.

THE CATHOLIC UNION OF IRELAND AND THE ITALIAN "CEREMONIAL AMUSEMENTS BILL."—The following protest has appeared in our Exchanges:—The Catholic Union of Ireland have heard with grief and indignation that a bill against the so-called abuses of the clergy has been introduced in the Italian Parliament. In union with their brethren in Italy and throughout Christendom they protest against this unjust and sacrilegious measure. They protest, as children of the best of fathers, Pius IX., the common father of the faithful, whose sacred rights as Vicar of Christ, and the divinely appointed head of the Christian family on earth, this bill violates and tramples under foot. They protest as Catholics, to whom our Lord Jesus Christ has given the right, of which this measure seeks to deprive them, of recurring to the pastors of His Church, and especially to the Sovereign Pontiff for direction, for guidance, and for support in all their doubts and spiritual necessities. They protest as Christians, believing in a sacred hierarchy which God has instituted for the government of His spiritual kingdom, and which this bill would thwart, degrade, and enslave in the discharge of its sacred duties. They protest as sons of Catholic Ireland, which, through weal and woe, has always remained faithful to the Holy See, and which hereby or schism has never separated from the Infallible Chair of Peter, because this measure endeavours to tear Catholic Italy from the Roman Pontiff, who is her joy, her glory, and her crown. They protest as men, by whom the principles of justice, of honour, and of fair play are still cherished, because this measure, if passed into law, would violate the pledged faith of treaties; would encroach on the most offensive way on the rights of the clergy, who have always been a class of citizens, without reproach, and well-deserving of their country; would set up the civil authority as judge in the spiritual domain, which is altogether outside its competency; would force the judiciary to condemn the innocent, who had acted only in accordance with their conscience; and in flagrant violation of the Italian Constitution would, assuredly, entail a religious persecution. Signed, on behalf of the Catholic Union of Ireland, GRANARD, PRESIDENT, Dublin, March 17 (Feast of St. Patrick), 1877.

THE VATICAN COUNCIL.

The following is a part of Cardinal Manning's article on the Vatican Council now appearing in the Nineteenth Century:

No one who has watched with any attention the pontificate of Pius the Ninth will believe that the definition of the infallibility of the Roman Pontiff was the work of any parties or intrigues. Faith may move mountains but cliques and cabals are too human and too narrow to move Ecumenical Councils. Not just men only, but thoughtful men, will seek for wider and more adequate causes of such effects. And such causes lie on the surface of the history of this pontificate.

THESE GREAT GATHERINGS.—I. 1. Before the Council of the Vatican assembled, Pius the Ninth, had three times called the Bishops of the Universal Church to Rome. In the year 1854, 206 cardinals and bishops assembled for the definition of the Immaculate Conception; in 1862, 265 Bishops came for the canonisation of the martyrs of Japan; and now a third time 500 Bishops assembled from all parts of the world to celebrate the eighteenth Centenary of S. Peter's martyrdom. No pontiff from the beginning, in all the previous successions of 256 Popes, has ever so united the Bishops with himself. Each of these three assemblies had a special significance. In 1854 the Bishops assisted at the promulgation of a doctrine of faith by the sole authority of their head; in 1862 the Bishops with an unanimous voice declared their belief that the temporal power or primacy of the Roman Pontiff is a dispensation of the providence of God, in order that the head of the Church may with independence and freedom exercise his spiritual primacy. In 1867, 560 Bishops unanimously proclaimed their adhesion to the pontifical acts of Pius the Ninth, both in the teaching of truth and in the condemnation of error—that is to say to the syllabus then recently published, which is a compendium of the acts of Pius the Ninth in the many and important encyclicals and other letters of his pontificate promulgated before that date.

In these three assemblies at the tomb of the Apostle and around the throne of his successor there was an explicit act of submission to his Primacy, and a more than implicit confession of his infallibility. The Act of 1854.

It may be truly said that since the year 1854 the subject of the infallibility of the Roman Pontiff had been more than ever before the mind of the episcopate. If Pius the Ninth did not bear an infallible office, what was the act of 1854? The Bishops who assembled at the definition of the Immaculate Conception were not an Ecumenical Council, nor any council at all. They were not convened as a council, Pius the Ninth defined the Immaculate Conception. His act was, therefore, infallible or nothing. The world outside the Catholic Church no doubt accounted it to be nothing; but the whole episcopate and the whole Catholic unity accounted it to be infallible.

It is certain, then, that the events of 1854 powerfully awakened in the minds of both clergy and laity the thought of infallibility. In like manner the canonisation of 1862 elicited from the mind of the Church an express recognition of the prerogatives of the successor of Peter. For many years, by allocutions and apostolic letters, Pius the Ninth had been condemning the doctrines of philosophers and revolutionists. His Supreme office as teacher of the Universal Church had been denied by those who endeavored to restrict it to the dogmas of faith. In the midst of this continuous warfare, the bishops assembled in 1862, and addressed Pius the Ninth in these words:

THE DECLARATION OF 1862. "Long may you live, Holy Father, to rule the Catholic Church. Go onward, as now, in defending it with your power, in guiding it with your prudence, adorning it with your virtues. Go before us, as the Good Shepherd, by your example: feed the sheep and the lambs with heavenly food; refresh them with the streams of heavenly wisdom. For you are to us the teacher of sound doctrine, the centre of unity, the unfailing light to the nations kindled by divine wisdom. You are the Rock, the foundation of the Church against which the gates of Hell shall not prevail. When you speak we hear Peter's voice, when you decide we obey the authority of Christ."

There can be little discernment in any man who cannot perceive how these two events brought out the infallibility of the Roman Pontiff—that of 1854 in the defining of a dogma of faith, that of 1862 in matters which, though not dogmas of faith, are nevertheless in contact with his supreme office as "teacher of all Christians."

THE GATHERING OF 1867. 3. But, powerfully as these two events tended to bring before the minds of men the subject of the authority of the Pontiff as the successor of Peter, they bear no proportion in their power and efficacy to the Centenary of S. Peter's martyrdom in 1867. In the month of June in that year Bishops from all parts of the world began to arrive in Rome. There were Bishops who travelled from regions which lay far beyond any practicable road. Some came from the furthest East, others from the extreme West, some came from Africa, some from South America, some from Australia. Thirty nations were represented by their Patriarchs, Primate, Archbishops and Bishops. All languages were to be heard and all costumes to be seen in the streets. It was said that the population of Rome was nearly doubled by the concourse of Catholics from all parts of the world. Now what was the motive of this assemblage? It was simply the faith that Pius the Ninth is successor of Peter and heir of all his primacy with all its prerogatives and gifts. Since the Council of Chalcedon and of the second of Lyons—for the number at the Lateran council is doubtful—500 Bishops had never assembled together; at Chalcedon, where they exclaimed "Peter has spoken through the mouth of Leo," Leo was not there. But in Rome at this time Peter's successor was at their head. It was not only the festival of the martyrdom of Peter, but of his primacy all over the world. The Bishops when they met around the tomb in the great Basilica of Constantine, knew that they were making a profession of faith in the office of his successor.

THE CENTENARY OF ST. PETER. 4. It does not belong to the story of the Vatican Council to describe the external ceremonial of the Centenary; but it does emphatically belong to the right appreciation of the acts of the Vatican Council that the bearing of the Centenary upon it should be fully understood. It is not too much to say that of the proximate causes of the definition of the infallibility of the Centenary of St. Peter's martyrdom was the most powerful. And this will be made clear by a simple narrative of facts.

The solemnities of the Centenary consisted in the following acts: First in the Consistory of the 26th of June, at which 500 Bishops were present. The number being so great, it was held in the tribune over the atrium of S. Peter's where the arena on Maundy Thursday used to be laid. It was in this consistory that Pius the Ninth for the first time publicly announced his intention of holding an Ecumenical Council. Secondly came the festival of the Centenary. The first Vespers were sung by the Pope with great solemnity in S. Peter's on the evening of the 28th; the Pontifical Mass was sung on the following day at the high altar in the presence of half the Bishops of the world. Lastly, on the 1st of July the Holy Father gave audience to the Bishops to receive from them their address or response to his allocution on the 26th. (To be continued.)

IRISH INTELLIGENCE

DEATH OF THE HIGH SHERIFF OF CAVAN.—William Humphreys, Esq., the high sheriff of Cavan, died at his residence, Bailiwoise House, on the 5th ult. His death was unexpected, and very sudden.

THE IRISH LANGUAGE.—Chevalier O'Clery gave notice in the House of Commons that he would ask the Irish Chief Secretary if similar inquiries made to the Scotch National teachers, as to the advisability of teaching Gaelic, should not be made to the Irish National teachers with reference to the Celtic language.

ANOTHER COMPLIMENT TO O'LEARY THE FERRYMAN.—In addition to the other tributes to O'Leary's pluck the Irishmen of London are about to present him with an address and testimonial. It is stated by his friends that he intends leaving for the United States in the course of two or three weeks, and that there is no prospect of any further matches in which he will take part.

THE IRISH LANGUAGE.—Mr. Butt, M.P., in a letter to the hon. secretary of the Association for the Cultivation of the Irish Language, says:—"I have great pleasure in accepting the office to which the Society for the Preservation of the Irish Language have done me the honour to elect me. I beg to enclose my subscription to the society, and am, dear sir, yours very faithfully."

THE DEFERRED HOME RULE COUNCIL ON THE OBSTRUCTION POLICY.—At a meeting of the Belfast Home Rule Council the following resolution was passed:—"That this Council unanimously accord a vote of thanks to Messrs. Biggar and Parnell for courageously defending the rights of the people against the overwhelming majority of the House of Commons, and faithfully carrying out the compact with their constituents, and according to the wishes of the Irish people."

THE "LEO" MONUMENT.—We observe that the poems and writings of J. K. Casey ("Leo") are about to be published, with a biographical and critical introduction by "Owen Roe," who has kindly undertaken this gracious task at the request of the relatives of the deceased bard's compositions. All the lectures which "Leo" delivered will be included in the work, together with one hundred and fifty poems, ballads, and songs. The sole object for which this work is now being published is to erect a monument over "Leo's" yet unhonoured grave in Glasnevin.

THE CABINET AND THE OBSTRUCTORS.—The Central News says:—"We understand that the Cabinet has had under its consideration the conduct of Messrs. Biggar and Parnell in obstructing public business during the present session, and has arrived at the conclusion that in consequence of the standing order which prohibits proposed business after half-past nine no steps can be taken at present, but Ministers have determined that under no circumstances will they submit to the half-past twelve limit in future." Of course Messrs. Biggar and Parnell will continue their policy notwithstanding such decision.

MORE THAN A CENTENARIAN.—"Traveller" writes me to the effect that he has a great great grand-uncle by marriage, by the name of Dowling, in Freshford, county Kilkenny, who was born in March, 1752, and has a son now living who was born in 1793. The latter, therefore, is now 84, while last month his mother was 119. "Fourteen months ago, when I saw her last, she was able to walk to chapel. When his Eminence was in that locality, some few years ago, he visited her, and expressed his opinion that she was then the oldest woman in Ireland, and older than any one he had ever conversed with."—Irish Times Correspondent.

THE TWO ANCIENT NATIONS.—A curious incident of the St. Patrick's Day celebration in California was the toast—"China and Ireland, the Two Ancient Nations"—proposed at the banquet of the Hartford Knights of St. Patrick. The response was made by Young Wing, one of the Chinese Commissioners of Education. He said that however the two ancient nations may differ, the days are not far distant when these differences will vanish before the light of knowledge and truth. We may here add another curiosity of speech from the celebration at Cincinnati. Governor Young of Ohio was speaking to an Irish toast when he declared:—"We are all Americans, but we will all keep in our remembrance that we all came from that country from which Bob Morgan brought the Shamrock."

THE LAND BILL.—Those members of the Irish party who made themselves conspicuously hostile to the Land Bill are "hearing about it" from their constituents. The Roscommon Messenger, a trusted organ of the popular rights, says that unquestionable great dissatisfaction exists in that county with the O'Connor Don and the Hon. Mr. French, and at a tenant-right meeting at a place called Taughmoneell last week one of the leading speakers pronounced the former gentleman that his celebrated "bullock and butchers theory will cost him a seat in Parliament the very first opportunity. Captain Stapcoole followed the members for Roscommon in walking out of the House when the division on Mr. Butt's bill was about to take place, and the result is that he has also given great dissatisfaction to his constituents in Ennis, where a vote of censure has been passed upon him in public assembly.

MR. BUTT AND MR. O'CONNOR POWER.—The following letter has appeared in the Freeman:—DEAR SIR, Mr. Butt, in accordance with the views of the London Times, thought proper on Thursday night last to protest in the name of the Irish nation against the policy recently pursued by Mr. Parnell and Mr. Biggar in the House of Commons. Had I been in the House on the occasion to which I refer, I should have asked our distinguished leader, as I now do very respectfully, what commission he has received from the Irish nation to interfere with the members of the Home Rule party in any action which they may deem it their duty to take on purely English or Imperial questions? It seems to me that it is the duty of a Home Rule member to give Mr. Butt an unqualified support on those great Irish questions upon which the Irish people are almost unanimous. But the policy which requires an Irish representative to surrender his judgment to the leader of the Home Rule party on other questions strikes at the very principle by which men differing widely on those questions have been united on the question of Home Rule.—Yours faithfully, JOHN O'CONNOR POWER.

A PARISH PRIEST EVICTED.—Some time ago the Messrs. Muegrave, of Belfast, purchased from the late Mr. Tom Connolly M.P., a place called Carrick, situate in the parish of Glencolumbkille, in the county of Donegal. Portions of the estate were reserved at the time of sale including the site of the Catholic chapel and about two acres of adjoining land, which the generous landlord kindly presented to the parishioners. After making their purchase the Messrs. Muegrave, it appears built a hotel upon it, and for the improvement of this structure they begged a portion of the land adjoining the chapel from the parish priest. It was given them, and then they erected a wall to fence their premises off from the chapel yard. Three houses, with pieces of land adjoining stood upon the Messrs. Muegrave's property—that of the parish priest, the Rev. John McGroarty, and two belonging to sub-tenants of his. Father McGroarty wishing to build a wall round his premises was answered by a notice to quit, and on the 4th ult., himself and his sub-tenants had their furniture carried out of doors. An indignant crowd assembled, and demolished the wall which the Messrs. Muegraves had erected on the parish property.

GENERAL NEWS.

Several Russian merchantmen have already been captured by the Turkish fleet.

Constantinople despatches report that Austria has recalled all Austrian officers in the Turkish service.

Fifteen engines and 300 railway carriages from Warsaw for Roumania with troops have been stopped by floods.

The frontier of Persia has been entirely closed on account of plague at Reskd and Tabriz.

A despatch dated Erzerum 2nd, says, the son of Schamyl, a Circassian chieftain, was expected to take command of the Circassians who, however, refuse to submit to military organization.

ATHENS, May 3.—The English declaration of neutrality has plunged the Greeks into despair; they say, if Turkey is victorious they will gain nothing, and if Russia, they lose all chance of gaining Macedonia and Thracia. A military company has been organized, and unless resolutely opposed by the Government will cross the frontier in a day or two, not so much to fight as to provoke a collision between Greece and the Porte.

A despatch from Vienna says the Sultan has declared that he will not unfurl the Standard of the Prophet to arouse Ottoman feeling until all other means of defence have failed.

When the Emperor Alexander finished his speech to the troops at Ekinchev he crossed himself with tear-dimmed eyes. There is a legend that no Romanoff will ever reach the age of 60. The Czar is now 59, and is a fatalist.

A Vienna despatch gives the following account of the battle of Kars.—The centre of the Russian army of 40,000 strong, under Melikoff, attacked Mukhtar, five miles from Kars, on April 29th. The Turks fought desperately, and the Russians, supported by a powerful artillery, succeeded in dislodging them from their position. Mukhtar called out all his reserves, and attempted on April 30th to recover lost ground with 60,000 men, but was defeated and driven back under the guns of Kars. The Russian losses were considerable and those of the Turks enormous.

CONVENT INSPECTION.—A petition was presented to the House of Commons, from Inverness, in favour of the inspection of convents and monasteries. These institutions do not interfere with the comfort of our Northern friends, and it would take an ingenious fellow to discover what right the "creatures" have to interfere. Some inquisitive House Keeper ought to examine the document carefully, for we remember how Mr. Newdegate was drawn last year into a remonial which could not have emanated from any community far removed in morals from the Turks of Bulgaria.—Catholic Times.

CATHOLIC FRANCE.—A petition from all the Catholics of France has been presented to Marshal MacMahon praying him and the Chambers to employ every measure in their power towards causing the independence of the Pope to be respected, towards protecting his administration, and towards securing liberty of conscience to the Catholics of France, and the Bishop of Nevers has written a letter to Marshal MacMahon, requesting the President to declare that the France of Charlemagne and St. Louis accepts no solidarity with the Italian Revolution.

THREE BLOODY CASOCKS.—Three bloody casocks hang in the Church of Notre Dame, Paris. The first belonged to Archbishop Abbe de Paris, shot dead at the great barricade of the Faubourg, St. Antoine, June 24, 1848. The second was that of Sibour, cut down by the knife of Verger, in the Church of St. Stephen of the Mount, January 3, 1857. The third was worn by Archbishop Darboy the day he was murdered by the Communists. It is rent and cut into shreds, although the blood and mud that covered it when it was taken from the body of the dead Archbishop, have been washed off.

BISMARCK BURST IN EFFRIGY IN SCOTLAND.—Prince Bismarck is not popular among the Catholics in Scotland, and an Inverness paper states that when the news of his retirement reached Strathglass in that county, a number of farmers met and resolved to burn the German Chancellor in effigy. Accordingly, an old coat and hat were procured and stuffed with straw. After being drawn through the mud and beaten with sticks, the effigy was thrown on a fire specially prepared, and disappeared in smoke and flame amidst the wild gesticulations of the bystanders. Strathglass is the Catholic stronghold of the Scotch Highlands.

IRISHMEN IN ROME.—A Roman correspondent, writing last week, says:—This week his Holiness received Canon Walsh in private audience, and granted him, with much benignity, various privileges and indulgences, amongst which were the privilege of erecting a private altar and saying Mass thereon wherever he may happen to be during his travels; the privilege of bestowing the Apostolic Benediction, with plenary indulgence, to those in proper dispositions after each sermon he may preach in Lent, Advent, on Sundays, and feasts, besides which the Holy Father granted through his hands a Benediction, with plenary indulgence, to Lady Stratford Kirtwan, wife of Sir George O'Donnell, who confers great benefits on the Church at Westport, Mayo; and to their relations in the third degree. Sir George O'Donnell is an illustrious descendant of Lord Tyrconnell, who was received with great honour by Pope Paul V. in Rome in 1608, and who is buried in St. Peter's in Montorio.

DEATH OF MADAME DANIEL O'CONNOR.—On the 7th ult., the widow of Mr. Daniel O'Connor, son of the great Irish patriot, General Arthur O'Connor, died at Cannes, France, at the age of 57. She was remarkable for her intellect, piety, and charity. The remains are interred in the family vault at the Bignonos, beside those of the illustrious General and his sons. In the late war his two grandsons fought gallantly for France, Captain Ferdinand O'Connor, of the 10th Chasseurs, a Knight of the Legion of Honor, and his brother, Mr. Arthur O'Connor, who has distinguished himself in the army and in civil life.

ITALY AND THE PAPACY.

The Liberte, of Fribourg, never tires of discussing the Pontifical Question. It sees in the vis-a-vis of the Pope and the Government of Italy a feebleness and inferiority opposed to a permanence and inviolability. One cause of the inequality of the forces in antagonism is the universal character of the authority wielded by the Pontiff. He numbers his adherents by millions on all points of the globe. In many of the States of Europe the Catholics are in an actual majority, while even in Protestant countries they are strong and influential minorities. Whatever affects the Pope touches the apple of their eye. The difference between the crown and the tiara do not merely move the passions of Italian public opinion, but arouse deep chords in the souls of two hundred millions of people. The day on which the struggle reaches a crisis will witness a commotion in Europe and America. The Papacy is not an Italian institution, but a universal institution. The crown of Italy, in meddling with the Papacy, intervenes in a dangerous manner in every State where there are Catholic subjects. The resultant evils trouble all the governments, and sooner or later, either through deference to Catholic sentiment, or from motives of ambition, some power will arise to avenge the restrictions on the liberty of the Church's Chief. Thus the Papacy is a source of immense embarrassment to the Government, which is ever open to reproach for the liberties it withdraws, or those it leaves intact. Situation intolerable, which must bring the young kingdom to ruin.

NATURALISTS' PORTFOLIO.

SUBMARINE SNAKE-CHARMING.—Coming Events say that, hitherto as the English people are to sensational performances, the last attempt in this line by Mr. James Swann, who is now performing at the Wilhelm Theatre, Magdeburg, is calculated to arouse their most vivid expectations. This "man crocodile" not only performs under water with eight caymans and alligators from seven feet in length upwards, but also introduces submarine performances with six serpents.

SPRING OF FRESH WATER AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA.—It is well known that in many places springs of fresh water arise from the bottom of the sea. M. Toselli proposes to make use of them. Their water, brought through flexible tubes held at the surface by suitable buoys, would furnish ships with supplies of water they are often in need of. M. Toselli appears to have studied the question carefully, and provided for the preservation of his apparatus in the face of storms.

VISITING ANTS.—There is a species of ant at Sarinam which the inhabitants call the visiting ant. They march in troops with the same regularity as a large and powerful army. As soon as they appear, all the coffers and chests of drawers in the houses are left open for them, as they are sure to exterminate all the rats and mice, and other noxious animals, acting as if they had a peculiar mission from nature to destroy them. The only misfortune is they pay their visits too seldom. They would be welcome every month, but they do not appear sometimes for three years together.

TREE PLANTING IN ALGERIA.—The railway companies of Algeria had up to 1st of June, 1876, planted on the way from Algiers to Oran 14,000 fruit trees, 98,900 forest trees, and 344,000 trees of different species on the open plains and slopes, making in round numbers 457,300 trees. Since then the number has been sextupled, the companies estimating the number actually planted by them on their lines as 4,000,000. If to these particular plantations be added those which have been made in the three provinces by the proprietors, large and small, such as the eucalyptus, the acacia, willow, poplar, &c., it will be seen that in fifteen or twenty years Algeria will be vastly improved.

SOLAR SPOOTS.—Gauthier states that as the result of three and a half years of observations on the solar phenomena, by means of the equatorial of the observatory at Geneva, kindly put at his disposal by Professor Plantamour, he finds himself entirely justified in concluding perfectly with the theory of Zollner as to solar spots being scoria floating upon the liquid, and possibly even within the denser, gaseous portion of the solar surface. They are apparently the result of cooling depending on the radiation from the surface of the sun; and this explanation of Zollner is the only one that seems to him not to contradict both ordinary laws of physics and well-known facts.

THE DATE PALM.—The utilisations of the date palm and its products are very numerous. The stems yield starch, and timber for houses, boats, fences, fuel, &c., as well as an inferior kind of saw. The leaves serve as parasols and umbrellas, and for material for roof-covering, baskets, brushes, mats, and innumerable utensils. At their base is a fibre, which is spun into excellent rope. From the heart of the leaf is cut, a thick honey-like juice exudes, which, by fermentation, becomes wine—the "toddy" of India—or vinegar, and is also boiled down into sugar. The young shoots, when cooked, resemble asparagus; and the dates themselves are dried and ground into meal, from which bread is prepared.

THE AMERICAN BULL FROG.—The American Indians are known to be excellent runners, being almost able to match the swiftest horses. The bull frog of American swamps is also well-known for its surprising power of leaping—often compassing three yards at one leap. In order to make a trial of its powers, some Swedes made a match between a young Indian and a full grown bull frog. They caught one in a pond and carried it into a field at some distance, where applying a burning loggot to its tail, the irritated animal bounded across the field towards the pond as fast as it could, the Indian following with all his might. The race was however no match the frog had regained the pond before the Indian was within many yards of it.

A FORMIDABLE SPIDER.—The sands of the steppes of Central Asia are the abiding-places of many species of loathsome and poisonous creeping things. Mr. Schuyler speaks of the phalangia (Solpuga araneoides) one of the long legged spiders known popularly as the Harvest man, or the Grandfather Greybeard, which has long hair, and when walking, seems as large as one's two fists. This formidable beast is giving to biting when irritated, and with its jaws makes four little holes in the flesh. Its victim feels at first no more discomfort than from the sting of a gnat, but after a time the pain spreads all over the whole body, and is accompanied with fever and great exhaustion. A Chinese officer states in his travels in Turkestan that the body of the largest solpuga is the size of a butter-nut.

SABINUS AND HIS DOG.—After the execution of Sabinus, the Roman general, who suffered death for his attachment to the family of Germanicus, his body was exposed to the public upon the precipice of the Germiniac as a warning to all who should dare to befriend the house of Germanicus; no friend had the courage to approach the body; only one remained true—his faithful dog. For three days the animal continued to watch the body, his pathetic howlings awakening the sympathy of every heart. Food was brought him which he was kindly encouraged to eat, but on taking the bread instead of obeying the impulse of hunger, he fondly laid it on his master's mouth, and renewed his lamentations. Days passed thus, nor did he for a moment quit the body. At length it was thrown into the Tiber; and the generous creature, still unwilling that it should perish, leaped into the water after it, and clasping the corpse between his paws, vainly endeavoured to preserve it from sinking.

SELF-REGISTERING BAROMETER.—A Paris journal describes an improved-registering meteorological apparatus, the arrangement consisting essentially of such an alteration of the printing barometer, that the use of electricity is done away with, and on the other hand, the fulcrum of the principal lever in the apparatus is fixed, while the barometer tube itself, or the aneroid box, moves, an arrangement having special advantages. In its mechanical construction, this instrument consists principally of a clock work, by means of which a cylinder is made to revolve in a uniform manner, carrying with it a sheet of paper upon which the record is to be made. Above the cylinder stands the barometer, this being so adjusted that the rise or fall of a thousandth part of an inch causes a lever to rise or fall by a corresponding movement, in this way releasing the detent of an auxiliary piece of clock-work, which is thereby in a simple and beautifully easy manner set in motion. The movement of this clock-work, as thus produced allows the barometer tube itself to fall or rise, thereby again interfering with the movement of the clock-work, and automatically stopping it. Meanwhile the up or down movement of the barometer has been followed by the corresponding movements of a pencil, whose mark on the sheet of paper produced an exact record of the extent of the barometric change, without any of the uncertainties or discrepancies which have characterized other methods of construction.