

THE VATICAN COUNCIL.

(Continued From our Last.)
All those things which we then declared we now renew and confirm. Never has your voice been silent. You have accounted it to belong to your supreme office to proclaim eternal verities, to smite the errors of the times which threaten to overthrow the natural and supernatural order of things and the very foundation of ecclesiastical and civil power.

The full meaning of this declaration of the Bishops will not be understood unless we bear in mind that they were speaking of their doctrinal acts of Pius the Ninth during his pontificate, of which the definition of the Immaculate Conception, the cyclical, and the syllabus, were the most prominent and the most recent. We see, then, half the episcopate of the Church proclaiming that from the moment that the voice of Pius the Ninth reached them, all the declarations and condemnations of the successor of Peter were to them, not necessarily in all things matters of faith because the greater part of the syllabus is in matters not revealed, but the rule of their teaching. With what consistency or sincerity could this be said of any teacher for whose declarations and condemnations there was no special guidance and guarantee?

THE COMMISSION OF 1867.
The address from which this passage was taken was prepared as follows. Nothing can more clearly show how consciously present to the mind of the Bishops at that time was the infallibility of their head. A general meeting of Bishops was convened at the Altieri Palace, to draw up an address in reply to the allocution of the Holy Father. Bishops of every nation were present, and it was found impossible to frame any document in so numerous an assembly. It was therefore decided to entrust the drawing up of the address to a commission of seven—namely, the Cardinal De Angelis, Archbishop of Fermo, the Archbishop of Sorrento, Saragossa, Kalocsa, Thessalonica (now Cardinal Franchi), Westminster, and the Bishop of Orleans. At the first meeting of the commission it was agreed to entrust the preparing of the first draft of the address to Mgr. Haynald, the Archbishop of Kalocsa. At the next meeting of the commission the draft was examined. In outline it was nearly as it is adopted at last; but in one point, bearing intimately on the history of the Council, it underwent an important revision. As it originally stood, the word infallible was, in more places than one, ascribed to the office and authority of the Pontiff. To this word as expressing a doctrine of Catholic truth, no member of the commission objected. But it was said that the word infallible had as yet been used only in provincial councils, or pastoral letters, or theological schools, but that it had not been inserted in the formal acts of any general council of the Church, and that, inasmuch as the five hundred Bishops then in Rome were not assembled in council, it might be advisable not to seem to assume the action or office of a Council. These considerations were assented to by all. It was then proposed to insert the words of the Council of Florence, which was the last authoritative decree on the primacy of the Roman Pontiff.

WHAT IT DID.
To this no objection as to the subject-matter was made; but it was urged that the draft address already contained expressions stronger than the decree of the Council of Florence, which only implicitly contains the infallibility of the head of the Church as the teacher of all Christians, for the address explicitly declares that "Peter has spoken by the mouth of Pius." To this it was answered that though beyond all doubt these words explicitly declare the voice of the Pontiff to be infallible as Peter was, yet this acclamation of the fathers of Chalcedon and that of the third Council of Constantinople were always and not unreasonably set aside as of little weight in controversy as little more than rhetorical amplifications of the authority of Leo and of Agatho. They were not doctrinal formulas, much less definitions, but only exclamations; and exclamations define nothing, and can form neither objects of faith nor terminations of controversy. It was therefore by the vote of almost all the seven members of the commission, if not indeed by the united vote of all, decided that the words of the decree of the Florentine Council should be inserted. These facts are here noted in detail because their importance will be seen hereafter. They prove that at the Centenary in 1867 the primacy of the Roman Pontiff, with its full prerogatives and endowments, was vividly before the minds of the Bishops. The Centenary in itself, with all its solemnities, admonitions, and associations, threw out into visible and palpable relief the twofold office of the successor of Peter in doctrine and jurisdiction, or, in other words, his primacy and the divine assistance by which it is perpetually sustained in the custody of revealed truth. The facts prove also the circumspection with which the members of the commission avoided everything which could have the semblance of anticipating the action of the Vatican Council, or of engaging the Bishops by any expressions in any declaration beyond the previous and authoritative teaching of the Church. Nevertheless, there can be no doubt that the impression made by the Centenary upon the minds of the Bishops determined many to promote by all means in their power the closing of a controversy which had for centuries periodically disturbed the Church.

THE DOCTRINE OF INFALLIBILITY.
It may not be out of place to give you an outline of the question of the infallibility—its origin, its climax, and its determination. But in writing the story of the Vatican Council it will be more fitting simply to trace the history of the question than to treat it theologically. A history is a narrative, not an argument, and the qualities required in it are truth and accuracy not a polemical defence of the truths narrated. This belongs to the province of dogmatic theology.
Like other contested doctrines of christianity, the infallibility of the head of the Church has had three periods: the first was a period of simple belief, the third a period of analysis and controversy. The second a period of gradual determination and final definition. The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception is a fair example. It has visibly passed through these three stages. It was implicitly contained in the universal belief of the Church, both East and West, that the Blessed Virgin was a person without sin, and sanctified by a pre-eminent and exceptional sanctification. This was the first period of unanalyzed belief.

CATHOLIC INTELLIGENCE.

JUBILEE GIFT.—The Munich Central Catholic Committee have sent eighty chests of presents to the Pope as a jubilee gift.

CATHOLIC MEMBERS.—By the conversion of Mr. Biggar, member for Cavan, of the 102 seats now filled in Ireland, 51, or half of them, are Catholics, a circumstance unknown for about two centuries.

PILGRIMS.—The Pope has received 6,000 German pilgrims including 6 bishops; he said: God sometimes raises up Attilas to awaken nations; Germany has at present her Attila.

A CONVERSION.—Baron von Weihe, a member of the Court of the King of Hanover, and at present residing with Count Biquoy at Gratz (Bohemia), has been received into the Catholic Church, and was confirmed on April 25, by Bishop Jirsik.

SPAIN AND THE HOLY SEE.—The two branches of the Spanish Legislature have passed resolutions expressive of their great satisfaction at the fact of the King's Government continuing to maintain good relations with the Holy See.

THE BELGIAN CATHOLIC MOVEMENT.—The Catholics of Ghent and of Brussels have respectively addressed petitions to the King of the Belgians praying his Majesty to claim the execution of the guarantees for the independence of the Sovereign Pontiff.

PERSIA AND THE HOLY SEE.—The Presse of Vienna publishes a telegram from Constantinople stating that the Catholics of Persia are making great preparations to celebrate worthily the Episcopal Jubilee of the Sovereign Pontiff.

BRAZIL.—The Univers learns by a letter from the Bishop of Rio Janeiro that the Catholics of Brazil, who number 11,000,000, are organizing a pilgrimage to Rome on a national scale. The offerings collected up to the 17th of March amounted to 5,000,000 reis.

OFFERINGS FROM THE DIOCESE OF ARMAGH.—On Monday, April 30, Monsignor Kirby, Rector of the Irish College, presented to his Holiness the sum of £511 sterling, being a jubilee offering from the Archbishop, clergy and faithful of the diocese of Armagh, in Ireland.

A BISHOP COADJUTOR FOR BALTIMORE.—Our Holy Father Pope Pius IX., ratifying the proposition of the Sacred Congregation of the Propaganda, has been pleased to name the Rt. Rev. James Gibbons present Bishop of Richmond, to be Bishop Coadjutor of the Archbishop of Baltimore, cum jure Successionis.

EPISCOPAL PRIVILEGES.—Rev. J. Giorda, S.J., of the Jesuit missions in the Rocky Mountains, is invested by the Holy See with the power of administering Confirmation. When previous to 1791 Very Rev. John Carroll was the Superior of the missions in the colonies, he had the same power.

THE BISHOP OF VERSAILLES.—Mgr. Jean Pierre Mabile, Bishop of Versailles, is at the point of death. He seems to have come to Rome to see the Holy Father and to die. After his interview with the Pope he was removed to the house of the Pate Bene Fratelli, and having received all the rites of the Church calmly awaited the final summons.

DEATH OF A CARDINAL.—His Eminence Cardinal Luigi Vannicelli Casoli, Cardinal Priest of S. Prassede, Prodatario of His Holiness, and Archbishop of Ferrara, died in the Palace of the Dataria, in Rome, on the morning of the 21st of April. His death was most edifying. He was created a Cardinal in jure in Dec. 1839, and proclaimed in January, 1841, by Gregory XVI. He was born on April 16, 1801, in Amelia, and was therefore aged seventy-six at the time of his death.

Mr. Hutton, that very promising young member of the Ritualistic party, the hope of Canon Liddon and Canon King, who, after having published a pamphlet to prove the unassailable position of the Ritualists straightway confessed that it was untenable, and left it for the Roman Catholic Church, has within the last few days received the minor orders at the hands of Bishop Ullathorne.—London correspondent of Liverpool Post.

DEATH OF THE VERY REV. JAMES SYNAN.—Much regret was felt in Limerick the week before last at the receipt of the sad news of the death of the Very Rev. James Synan, V. F., and P. P., Shanagolden, county Limerick. The deceased, who was brother to the junior member for Limerick County, Mr. Edward Synan, was most popular with his clerical brethren, and not less so with the laity of the city, to whom his many acts of unostentatious charity during his administration of St. Michael's parish had especially endeared him.

WHERE PIUS IX. SLEEPS.—Pius IX. sleeps in one of the smallest of the 11,000 rooms at his command. A narrow, humble bed, without curtains or drapery—something similar to those used in seminaries for school boys—a sofa, two or three common chairs and a writing table, are all the articles of furniture; few and simple enough for a Capuchin. There is not even a rug by the bedside to cover the floor of red tiles, not in the best repair. Winter and summer alike, the Pope gets up soon after five o'clock.

DEFEAT OF THE "CLERICAL ABUSES BILL."—We are happy to announce that according to a dispatch from Rome the abominable Clerical Abuses Bill was defeated. The dispatch says:—"The amendment to the first clause in the clerical abuses bill was adopted in the Senate after an exciting debate by a vote of 14 to 93; but after the remaining clauses were passed the whole bill was put on its final passage and rejected—yeas, 92; nays, 103."

A NEW PROVINCIAL OF THE JESUITS.—Rev. Robert W. Brady, S. J., Pastor of St. Mary's Church, Boston, has been appointed Provincial of the Society of Jesus for the Province of Maryland, which comprises the eastern portion of the United States, and his official residence will hereafter be at Loyola College, in Baltimore. The Rev. William H. Dunne, S. J., who has been Father Brady's assistant, now takes his place in charge of St. Mary's Church, Boston, and the Rev. Michael Byrne, S. J., formerly of Boston College, is appointed to the same church.

CATHOLIC UNION OF IRELAND.—Mr. James Burke, barrister-at-law gave a lecture on Monday evening at the Rotunda, Dublin, in connexion with the Catholic Union of Ireland, on "Sheil." The lecturer described the career of Sheil, his education by Jesuit Fathers, his labours with O'Connell in the Catholic Association, and his career in the House of Commons. Sketches were also given of the gifted ecclesiastics and laymen whose talents proved so valuable in the struggle for Catholic Emancipation. The lecture was well received throughout and the lecturer received a vote of thanks which was passed with much applause.

THE FAMINE AND CATHOLIC MISSIONS IN CHINA.—From the China papers it appears that the famine in the northern provinces continues, and the mortality is very great. "The distress in Shantung," says the Colonial Empire, "has we hear reached such a pitch that the unfortunate people are throwing themselves down wells and poisoning themselves with arsenic, unable any longer to bear their sufferings. At Tai-nan Fu they are bringing their children to the Catholic Bishop, saying that if he will not take them into his orphanage they will kill them. From Tung-chow Fu we hear that a good deal of grain is coming into the provinces through the small rivers, but the people who are famishing are those who have no money to buy it. The Bishop above referred to is distributing over a 100 dols. a day to the poor, but has quite exhausted his resources."

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

The Society for the preservation of the Irish language is making satisfactory progress in Ireland.

THE DEPRESSION IN THE LINEN TRADE.—It is supposed that there are at present 70,000 spindles silent in the Belfast linen trade district.

EXTRAORDINARY MARRIAGE.—A marriage took place at Tullamore recently of a couple whose united ages amount to nearly 160 years.

THE CALLAN TRIALS.—Rev. R. O'Keefe is renewing some of his suspended actions, as a motion has been made for a suit against Dr. Ryan, of Callan for slander, who was mixed up in the affair.

FIRE IN DUBLIN.—New York, May 17.—A Herald's cable says a terrible fire was raging on the night of the 16th inst., in Dublin. A bonded warehouse, containing 200,000 gallons of whiskey, was burning.

THE BUTT TESTIMONIAL.—A few weeks ago the Archbishop of Cashel sent a remittance of nearly £800, from the dioceses of Cashel and Emly, towards the Butt testimonial; while this week the adjoining diocese of Killaloe sends £218. The tribute is assuming goodly and hopeful proportions.

TOWN CLERK OF DUBLIN.—Mr. W. J. Henry, the town clerk of Dublin has, it was stated on Saturday, given the necessary security required by the Municipal Council, and will, therefore, resume the personal discharge of the duties of his office.—Daily Express.

DEATH OF A CENTENARIAN.—On Saturday, the remains of an old woman, more than one hundred years of age, were interred at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Killeenau. She was married about the year 1793, and her tales of the "rising," &c., were often listened to with great interest.

THE POTATO ROT IN DOWN AND ARMAGH.—The potato disease has assumed extensive proportions in Down and Armagh. In one farm in the county Armagh no less than three acres of potatoes will have to be replanted. This sad state of affairs has been produced by the recent protracted wet weather.

VALUE OF LAND IN THE COUNTY DOWN.—A few days ago a farm of land, situated at Drumgath, near Rathfriland, was put up for auction by Mr. John Toman, and realised the extraordinary sum of £80 per acre. The farm contained over seven acres, and was bought by Mrs. Mary Moore.—Correspondent of Ulster Examiner.

At a meeting of the Irish National Hunt Steeplechase Committee, the Marquis of Drogheda's motion has been carried, by which in future no one will be permitted to ride as a "gentleman rider" at any race meeting held under the Irish National Hunt rules unless he has been duly proposed, balloted for, and elected a gentleman rider for the current year.

THE WAR PANIC IN BELFAST.—The alarming expectations which have been raised by the outbreak of the war in the East, coupled with the closing of the Danube, have caused something like a panic in the grain trade in this town. We learn that recently there was a further advance in the price of flour of £2 per ton, which is altogether an increase for the past three weeks of £5 10s per ton.

THE HOME RULE CONFEDERATION.—A meeting of the executive of the Home Rule Confederation, presided over by Mr. Butt, M. P., has decided that the convention of the Confederation for the present year shall be held at Liverpool on the 2nd Monday in August. A special report on the conduct of those English and Scotch members of Parliament who, having pledged themselves to support Mr. Butt's Home Rule motion, abstained from doing so, or voted against it, is to be presented; as also, in view of the possibility of a general election, a scheme of electoral organisation and a statement of the strength of the Irish vote in Great Britain.

THE IRISH PEDESTRIAN.—On Wednesday, says the Cork Herald of the 12th inst., Mr. Daniel O'Leary, the pedestrian, arrived in this city from Clonakilty, after a brief sojourn with his friends there. At Clonakilty, and again at Bandon, presentations were made to him by his admiring countrymen, and on his arrival here an immense crowd met him at the terminus of the Cork and Bandon Railway, and escorted him into the city in an open carriage, provided by a committee appointed at a meeting held early in the day in the Mayor's office to raise a fund for presenting him with a testimonial. Last night Alderman Keller presented Mr. O'Leary an address, at the Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of the citizens.

PARNELL ON KEOGH.—In the House of Commons recently Sir C. O'Loughlin brought in a bill which proposed that Irish barristers should be allowed to practice in England, and English barristers in Ireland. Mr. Parnell opposed the bill as an anti-Home Rule proposition, and gave an eloquent exposition of the degeneracy of the Irish bar since the Union, laying special stress on the treachery and bribery of Keogh. The member for Meath handled Mr. ex-Patriot Keogh with gloves, and mauled his reputation severely. The Attorney-General for Ireland, as in duty bound, stood up for Judge Keogh, but in a half-hearted and ineffectual way, and we commend Mr. Parnell highly for enlightening the House so effectively on the manner in which legal appointments in Ireland are made, as exemplified by the story of Keogh's treachery. The bill was withdrawn.

OBSTRUCTION TO IRISH MEASURES IN THE ENGLISH PARLIAMENT.—Another obstruction of an Irish measure by English members is to be added to the long list of such performances supplied by the records of the present session. On Wednesday night the Irish Voters Bill was moved in the House of Commons by Mr. Biggar. The provisions of the bill are most fair and reasonable. They would go merely to assimilate the Irish law to the English in some points relating to the elective franchise. So far as the Irish vote is concerned, Mr. Biggar's motion was carried by a considerable majority; but then came in the British obstructives and swamped the vote of Ireland. There were twenty-four Irish members, including tellers, for the bill, and only eighteen, including tellers, against. So many as seventy-five English members were found to support the measure, but the British majority went the other way, and the bill was thrown out. That makes only the 112th Irish motion defeated in the present parliament by British obstructives!

THE ATTENDANCE OF IRISH M. P.'S IN PARLIAMENT.—The great fault, however, of the Irish members is the indifference with which they attend the House of Commons. I supposed there would be fully sixty Irish Liberals in the House this afternoon, but during the six weeks Parliament has been in session there has not been an average attendance in London of more than fourteen or fifteen Irish Liberal representatives, whilst the average attendance in the House has not exceeded eight or ten. Except Mr. Biggar, Mr. Parnell, Captain Nolan, Mr. Richard Power, Mr. Shiel, Mr. Redmond, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Butt, and one or two more, there is no attempt on the part of the Irish legislators systematically to discharge their duties. Many of them come over for special divisions, and then return to Ireland, utterly indifferent as to the course of business. Home Rulers will never gain the Parliamentary influence they aspire to unless they give a more diligent attention to the duties of their office.—London correspondent of Newcastle Chronicle.

GENERAL NEWS.

PILGRIMAGE.—The Revd. ladies of the Sorel Hospital Quebec, have decided upon a pilgrimage at an early day to La Bonne Ste. Anne.

FAMINE IN INDIA.—The number receiving relief and employed on relief works in the famine stricken districts of India is increasing to an alarming extent.

EXCURSION.—The St. Thomas Branch of the Independent Catholic Union have arranged for an excursion across Lake Erie to Painesville, Ohio, by the Steamer Saginaw, on Tuesday, June 5th.

SMUGGLING FROM CANADA.—The Herald's Washington special says the detectives have unearthed a system of smuggling from Canada implicating leading Dominion merchants, railroad baggage masters and Government officials.

IMPEACHMENT OF AN EX-GRAND VIZIER.—Among other items it is announced that the Ottoman Chamber of Deputies has demanded the impeachment of Mahmood Pasha, the weak and unpopular Grand Vizier under Abdul Aziz, who was dismissed just a year ago.

THE SHAKO.—The present most uncomfortable and unshakely worn by the infantry is doomed, and will shortly be replaced by a neat-looking felt helmet. Orders have been given to the Royal Clothing Factory to arrange for the immediate supply of 200,000 of these helmets.—Whitehall Review.

RUSSIAN PATRIOTISM.—A great number of Russian ladies in St. Petersburg have pledged themselves mutually neither to wear silks nor satin nor costly ornaments, nor to give balls, nor to indulge in other luxuries during the present war, but to devote the money which they would otherwise have spent upon such objects to the nursing of sick and wounded of their country.

MURDER AT RAWDON.—The results of the investigation into the death of the man Fruchette, of Rawdon, points conclusively to murder by means of poison, and warrants have been issued for the arrest of the guilty parties. The case appears to be a repetition of the old story of a faithless wife and her paramour leagued against an unsuspecting husband.

LA VENDETTA.—A Rome despatch says Signor Rizzio, Chief Inspector of Police at Lercara, showed much firmness against brigands at the time of the capture of the English subject, Mr. Rose. On the night of the 15th instant, Signor Rizzio's house was destroyed by an explosion of gunpowder; himself, his wife and two sons escaped alive, though severely burnt. The house had been secretly undermined.

THE LATE ARCHBISHOP OF QUITO.—The Panama Star and Herald of May 2d, states that an autopsy has shown the Archbishop died not die from poison in the wine used on Good Friday, but from effusion of the blood on the brain. The lamented prelate, whose sudden death has cast a gloom over the City of Quito, was a native of that place. He was consecrated in 1855, and since his promotion, had by his piety, humility, and mildness, endeared himself to the clergy and laity of his charge. Among either class he probably had not an enemy.

The wars of this century have been the most bloody and costly since the palmy days of Rome and Greece. For its ten great bloody periods, viz: the Napoleonic, Grecian, Crimean, Italian, Danish, Austrian (1866), Brazilian, Abyssinian and Franco-German wars—leaving out minor expeditions and skirmishes—the figures foot up 33,987,800,000 dollars expended, and 11,708,000 men destroyed from 1800 to 1871. Two-thirds of this aggregate outlay of men and money are to be charged on the ledger to Napoleon I. up to his closing battle fought at Waterloo.

THE PORTS AND GREECE.—Complications seem to be arising between the Porte and the Government of the Hellenes in consequence of a harsh reply sent by the former to the representations of the latter respecting the release of Turkish brigands at Janina and their entry into Greece. The Greek Cabinet will also send a Note to the Divan demanding the amelioration of the condition of the Greek Provinces of Turkey. Notwithstanding these ugly rumours, however, the Greek Minister at Vienna has given a most decided assurance to the Austrian Cabinet that his Government will hold entirely aloof from the present struggle.

EASTERN WAR.—The Russians renewed their attack on Kars on Tuesday and Wednesday, but no definite particulars have been received. The Russians are now concentrating troops for an assault upon Ezerum. A Persian camp has been formed upon the frontier, for the defence of Persian neutrality. A delegation of Sofias waited on the Turkish Chamber of Deputies Thursday, and demanded the resignation of the ministry. The delegation was so threatening and untruthful that it is thought some of the ministers will take the warning, and resign. The statement of a government official gives an entirely different account of the delegation, its aim and object.

GERMAN TROOPS IN LORRAINE.—The Deutsche Reichs Correspondenz states that the arrangements hinted at by Field Marshal Count von Moltke in his speech to the Reichstag, respecting the equalising the German and French military forces in the district near the confines, have been sanctioned by the Emperor and will be immediately carried into effect. They have for their object chiefly to increase the garrison of Alsace-Lorraine by four infantry and three cavalry regiments, so as to bring it up to a strength of sixteen regiments of infantry and ten of cavalry, by about 60,000 men. The German forces at present in Alsace-Lorraine consist of the fifteen army corps [which has eight infantry regiments and six cavalry], and also two Bavarian infantry regiments stationed at Metz, two ditto belonging to the fourteenth corps (Baden) and a dragon regiment from this same corps. When the strength of the Alsatian army is raised, there will be a sufficient number of cavalry regiments (besides those regularly attached to the several divisions) remaining to admit of the formation of a special cavalry division.

THE FRENCH CRISIS.—PROGRAMME OF THE NEW MINISTRY.—The Times' Paris correspondent says the following is the programme of the new Cabinet recently appointed:—"Prefects are instructed to support by every means, as official candidates, all who did not sign the manifesto of the Left, and did not vote for the order of May the 18th. They have been informed that the defeat of any official candidates will lead to their fall. In arrondissement where Bonapartist candidates were defeated by a few votes at the last election, prefects are instructed to support them as official candidates. In all other arrondissement prefects have been instructed to support any anti-Republican candidate if he has a chance of success. Afterwards, if, as it is hoped, the majority of the Chamber is favorable to the government, the two Chambers will be convoked in Congress, and will have to vote six or seven years' prolongation of President MacMahon's power. Some maintain that this Congress would be called upon at the same time to grant the President the right of appointing his successor in certain eventualities. It is possible this is thought of, but improbable that it will be obtained, even if the majority is anti-Republican, for neither Legitimists nor Bonapartists will consent to this clause, the origin and aim of which they suspect. The whole administration is going to be modified as much as possible, and especially as to magistracy, Justices of the Peace and all agents dependent on Government."

NATURALISTS' PORTFOLIO.

A SENSITIVE PLANT.—There is a plant in Texas so sensitive that when a traveller comes within five yards of the spot where it is, it closes its petals.

A WONDERFUL SPOUTING WELL.—According to the Miner, the town of Wilcox, Pa., possesses a remarkable curiosity in the shape of a spouting gas well. It says:—"There is an immense reservoir of gas in the hole, together with a seemingly endless supply of water, and there is evidently a gigantic and never-ceasing struggle between the two elements for the mastery. For a few moments the gas will throw the water to the height of one or two hundred feet, followed (by igniting the gas) by a volume of fire. Then the water will run back into the hole."

ENCOUNTERS WITH BEARS AT GREENLAND.—When the Dundee sealing vessel Intrepid was beset in the ice at the Greenland sea lighting, three of the crew set off to visit the Peterhead sealer Perseverance, which was six miles distant. After walking about two miles they were pursued by a large female bear and one of her cubs. The men were considerably alarmed, as they were only armed with their sealing clubs. There was no course left open but to make for the Perseverance with all haste. They ran at full speed, but the bears were soon close upon them. The men then began to strip themselves of their clothing, piece by piece, and as the bear stopped and tore up every piece before they resumed their pursuit, the men succeeded in reaching to within two miles of the ship, when they were almost bereft of their clothing. One of them then tied his cravat to the end of his club, and waved it as a signal of danger to the crew of the Perseverance, several of whom set out armed with guns, and came upon the three men just in time to save them from being killed, as they were entirely exhausted. The bears were shot.

SOCIAL LIONS.—A native of Ukamnga asserted that in the next village to that in which he lived the people were on most friendly terms with the lions which used to walk in and about the village without attempting to injure any one. On great occasions they were treated to honey, goats, sheep, and ugali, and sometimes at these afternoon drums as many as two hundred lions assembled. Each lion was known to the people by name, and to those they respoused when called. And when one died the inhabitants of the village mourned for him as for one of themselves. This village was reported to be situated on the shores of Lake Tanganyika, not very distant from Jumah Merikani's house; and he also told me that the friendship between the natives and lions were commonly spoken of, but he had never been present at one of the gatherings. The Mkanaga, however, asserted that he had often witnessed this friendly intercourse between man and beast, and brought several of his tribesmen to testify to the truth of his statement. Certainly if this be true, our most famous lion-tamers have yet something to learn from the natives of Africa.—Across Africa.

A WEALTHY COUNTRY.—All intelligent travellers who have visited Brazil speak in the most glowing terms of the country. Prof. Agassiz regarded it as the most productive and interesting country on the globe, and the one in which it is easiest to obtain a livelihood. Some who have sailed up the Amazon declare that a vessel can be loaded with Brazil nuts at the expense of only a few pence per bushel. These constitute a valuable article of commerce, while the oil extracted from them is very desirable. All the tropical fruits are produced in Brazil almost without cultivation. The soil in many parts of the country will produce twenty successive crops of cotton, tobacco, or sugar cane without application of manure. No country in the world approaches the land of Don Pedro in the variety of its forest productions. Prof. Agassiz states that he saw one hundred and seventeen different kinds of valuable wood that were cut from a piece of land not half a mile square. They represented almost every variety of colour, and many of them are capable of receiving a high polish. One tree furnishes wax that is used for candles; another a pitch that is used for food, and still another yields a juice which is used in the place of intoxicating liquor. There is a single variety of palm from which the natives obtain food, drink, clothing, bedding, cordage, fishing tackle, medicine and material they manufacture into dwellings, weapons, harpoons, and musical instruments. Doubtless the day is not far distant when the valuable wood of Brazil will be used for various useful and ornamental purposes.

LIGHT-EMITTING FLOWERS.—The power of emitting light has been found to be possessed by several flowers. The daughter of the great Swedish naturalist, Linnæus, was wont to amuse herself in the summer twilight by setting fire to the inflammable atmosphere which surrounds the essential oil glands of the *Faxinilla*. One sultry summer morning, when sitting in the garden, she was very much surprised to notice the flowers of a group of nasturtiums emitting luminous radiations; and she observed the same thing occur on several subsequent evenings in June and July, 1762. The same phenomenon had also been observed by several naturalists, but almost exclusively in connection with yellow or orange-coloured flowers, such as the sunflower, the marigold, poppies, and the orange lily. The following account of interesting observations of some of these luminous flowers is given by Dr. Phipson. "The Swedish naturalist, Professor Haggren, perceived, one evening, a faint flash of light dart repeatedly from a marigold. Surprised at such an uncommon appearance, he resolved to examine it with attention; and to be assured that it was no deception, he placed a man near him, with orders to make a signal when he observed the light. They both saw it constantly at the same moment. The light was most brilliant upon marigolds of an orange or flame colour, but scarcely visible upon the pale ones. The flash was frequently seen on the same flower two or three times in quick succession, but more commonly at intervals of several minutes. When several flowers, in the same place, emitted this light together, it could be seen at a considerable distance. This phenomenon was remarked in July and August at sunset, and for half an hour when the sky was clear; but after a rainy day, or when the air was loaded with vapours, nothing of it was to be seen. On the 18th of June, 1857, about ten o'clock in the evening, M. Fries the well-known Swedish botanist, whilst walking along in the Botanic Gardens at Upsal, remarked a group of poppies (*Papaver orientale*), in which three or four flowers emitted little flashes of light. Forewarned as he was by a knowledge that such things had been observed by others, he could not help believing that he was suffering from an optical illusion. However, the flashes continued showing themselves, from time to time, during three-quarters of an hour. M. Fries was thus forced to believe that what he saw was real. The next day, observing the same phenomenon to recur at about the same hour, he conducted to the place a person entirely ignorant that such a manifestation of light had ever been witnessed in the vegetable world, and without relating anything concerning it, he brought his companion, before the group of poppies. The latter observer was soon in raptures of astonishment and admiration. Many other persons were then led to the same spot, some of whom immediately remarked that the 'flowers were throwing out flame.' It is chiefly in the summer months that the emission of light from flowers is seen, and generally during twilight. It is said, however, that flashes have also been noticed in the morning, just before sunrise. The light emitted is always most brilliant before a thunderstorm."