

CATHOLIC INTELLIGENCE.

BISHOP CONROY.—The Apostolic delegate has leased the residence on the St. Louis Road known as "Elm Grove," the property of the Marchioness of Bassano. The house is being fitted up and furnished, and His Excellency will take possession on his return from Cacouca in about ten days.

ASCANTATION.—The Gazette de Valois states that a certain Abbe, Alphonse Krieger, who had been preaching as an "Old-Catholic" in the pulpit of the illegally sequestered church of Notre Dame, at Geneva, has just published an energetic retraction of his errors. The document appears in the Courrier de Geneve.

DELEGATE APOSTOLIC.—Dr Conroy, the Apostolic Delegate, returned yesterday to Quebec from his tour in the West by the evening express train. His Excellency and chaplain left this morning for Orleans Island to meet the Archbishop of Quebec, who is making his pastoral visit there.

A SPANISH PILGRIMAGE.—Upwards of 20,000 persons lately took part in a national pilgrimage to Our Lady of Pilar at Saragossa. The government had forbidden a procession or any other public manifestation, but it could not prevent the pilgrims assembling in the Cathedral, where the Cardinal.

NOT BIGOTED.—People are not bigoted in Galway. His lordship the bishop arrived from Rome a few days ago, and reached his house before he was discovered. But the news got abroad, and a popular demonstration was at once improvised, the happiest feature of which was a long peal of welcome from the joy-bells of the Protestant Church of St. Nicholas.

SOCIETY REUNION IN BUFFALO.—It is expected that the Temperance and Benevolent Societies of Buffalo are to receive the Young Irishmen and Father Matthew Temperance Societies of Toronto, who are expected here on the 23rd of July, and also to assist at a picnic to be given by the Young Men's Catholic Association at Germania Park, on same date, in their honor.—Buffalo Catholic Union.

DILLON'S IRISH.—At the great military review in Paris last Sunday one of the regiments—the 89th—has a special history. It was first composed of Irish exiles, and was then known as "Dillon's Irish." To-day it is French, but its career since it changed its nationality has been as heroic as in the times when men carried its banners who made a European reputation for Irish dash and courage.

PHOENIX PARK RIOTS.—From a return presented to the House of Commons, it appears that £10,403 has already been spent in defending the authors of the Phoenix Park riots in 1871, and there is still the final appeal of the Lords to be resisted. A jury found that the police had made an unwarranted onslaught on a crowd of people, but the Treasury had money to spare, and spent it liberally seeking an indemnity.

EDUCATION IN POLAND.—The Russianisation of the Church and schools are making rapid progress in the Dioceses of Vilna and Minsk. The Government has for some time refused to appoint priests who do not pledge themselves to use the Russian language in their services. By this means the more independent clergy are weeded out and an army of priests, bound to obey the commands of the Imperial Government are gradually installed in the province.

HEALTH OF THE BISHOP OF ORLEANS.—A tumour, which was copied in a London evening paper, prevailed last week as to the health of Mgr. Dupanloup, but happily proved to be unfounded. The Defense of the 29th ult. gives the following details as to the health of the venerable Prelate:—"When the Bishop of Orleans arrived at Versailles he was suffering severely from acute pain, which had deprived him of the use of his legs and of his right hand. A skilful operation was promptly performed on the hand by the eminent French surgeon, M. Constantin James, and the cure of that member is now complete. The Bishop has returned to Orleans, and is now better and free from pain, and able to walk short distance.

CATHOLIC MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY.—The Boston pilot says:—"One of the most practical and promising Catholic organizations that has come to our notice of late, is the Catholic Mutual Insurance Company of Hampden County, Mass. Now that we hear so much of unsteady Insurance Corporations, and that the uninitiated are often at a loss which to trust, it is a satisfaction to find such organizations coming forth. The Catholics of Hampden County, at least, when they see the list of Directors, with their Bt. Rev. Bishop at the head of the institution, can have no fear of its stability and fair dealing. The Secretary, John J. Moore, Esq., Springfield will be glad to give any information or assistance in his power to parties desiring to organize similar companies among Catholics in other places.

THE CROWNING OF MONT ST. MICHEL.—A grand festival took place on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday at the historical Mont St. Michel, on the summit of which is the ancient monastery now occupied by the Religious Congregation of the Fathers of St. Edmund of Pontigny. It was the occasion of the solemn coronation of the statue of St. Michael, the Archangel. There were present Cardinals de Bonnechose and Brossais Saint Marc, the Bishops of the province of Normandy, together with those of Mans, Lavall, Gap, and many others, a large assemblage of clergy, and a vast concourse of pilgrims. The solemn and ceremonies were most impressive, and their effect was heightened by the wonderful natural features of the Mount, and the extraordinary interest of the historical and religious associations connected with its history.

Mrs. MORENO.—The Monde gives an account of the sufferings undergone by Mrs. Moreno, bishop of Eumonia in paribus, and Vicar Apostolic of Lower California. This indefatigable ecclesiastic, who was made a Bishop only four years ago, at the early age of thirty four, has already performed the most extraordinary pastoral labours in the district committed to his charge. When Mgr. Moreno first came into Lower California, it contained only four priests, ever went to their duties. The arrival of religious fervour which ensued aroused the rage of the Revolutionary party. The Bishop was immured in a filthy dungeon, and on several occasions his life was attempted with pistol and dagger. He has lately visited San Francisco, where has been received with the greatest honour and affection by the Archbishop and Catholics of that city, Mgr. Moreno is now on his way to Rome.

PENITENTIARY IN PRUSSIA.—Even a Jew's heart may be softened by the sight of the sufferings to which Catholic priests are subjected in Prussia. A short time ago Father von Kaminski, parish priest of Culmeuse, in Western Prussia, delivered a speech at Dzwizno in favour of the Catholic candidate for the Legislature, and for thus interfering in political affairs was tried and sentenced to pay a fine of £7 10s., or be imprisoned for six weeks. The poor priest, who has had his paltry stipend stopped these two years, was about to be "locked up in default" when a Jewish trader stepped in and paid the fine. This truly Christian act of a Jew has greatly incensed his co-religionists, and the rabbi of the district actually proposed to have the donor turned out of the synagogue. This however, would be contrary to one of the "May laws" which are intended only to harass the Catholics, and so the Jews can do nothing to the good Samaritan save taunting him by excluding him from their social gatherings.

IRISH NEWS.

EXCURSION.—The eleventh annual excursion of the Irish Brigade Officers' Association took place on Thursday, July 12th, at Alderney Park, N.Y.

RE-ELECTED.—Alderman Tarpey, Lord Mayor of Dublin, has been re-elected for 1878. This is a compliment which only one or two gentlemen have received in the previous history of the council.

REFUSED AGAIN.—In the British House of Commons on Friday night amnesty was refused the Fenian Prisoners on motion of O'Connor Power. On a division there stood for, 77 against, 235.

ELOCHO SHIELD.—The total scores in the Elocho Shield contest were:—Ireland, 1,568; England, 1,474; Scotland, 1,439—The highest possible score being 1,800.

EXTRAORDINARY WAY TO DISPOSE OF A BODY.—The dead body of an infant was found in a box at the Armagh Railway Station on Wednesday. The box had been sent from Easton Square Station, London—of course in a false name and address. The coroner's jury found accordingly.

FAVORED DISTRICT.—By a proclamation in the Dublin Gazette the Lord Justices revoke the proclamation by which the operation of the coercion act was extended to that part of the barony of the North-West Liberties of Londonderry situated outside the present Parliamentary and municipal boundary of the borough and city of Londonderry.

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN IRELAND.—A London correspondent mentions that on the Irish Education Estimates, Mr. F. H. O'Donnell will move that instead of the sum of some four or five thousand pounds which is annually voted for the support of the Belfast Queen's College, a sum not greater than 20s should be granted for the purpose.

A FAMILY OF GIANTS AND PRIESTS.—The County of Kilkenny, has produced seven brothers, each one over six feet in height, all massively proportioned, without being corpulent. All of them have become zealous Roman Catholic priests and are serving in various missions in both hemispheres. The tallest, David, is six feet four inches, and the least tall of them is six feet two inches.—Ex.

GENERAL GRANT.—General Grant visited the House of Commons on Monday, and was a good deal stared at. The gallant Major O'Gorman shifted his seat to get a good view, and the General's attention was caught by his imposing proportions, so that when the Major was placed for a perfect observation, he discovered that the General was already examining him attentively.

RECOVERING.—Mr. Samuel Barrett, of Galway, who was recently so dangerously wounded near Moylough, in this county, was on June 18, removed from the residence of Charles O'Rorke, Esq., Clonburn, where he has been lying since that occurrence, to his father's residence at Greenhills, Woodlawn, a distance of 15 miles. Mr. Barrett has so far recovered that he is now able to walk about, but must keep his arm in a sling.

RIOT.—At the Limerick Police Court on June 19, two compositors, named Graham and White, were brought up on a charge of riot and assaulting Mr. Edward Borsford, the brother of the proprietor of the Limerick Chronicle, newspaper, who had gone to a hotel to look after some compositors brought from Dublin to supply the place of others out on strike. Mr. Connolly, solicitor, asked for a remand which Mr. Howard, for the plaintiffs, did not object to.

LONGEVITY.—A correspondent writing to the Derry Journal states that Mr. Patrick Ward, residing at Falbawn, near Churchhill, has attained the great age of 111 years, and is quite strong and healthy. Another man, Mr. James Fisher, a native of Ardara, has reached his 116th year. Mrs. Braddon, a resident of Killaroy, is 109 years old. The foregoing facts speak well for the state of health in the county Donegal. The two last have perfect health, but become very much excited at the subject of death being talked about in their presence.

REAPING THE FRUITS OF BISMARCK'S POLICY.—A Frankfurt correspondent of the Defense says:—"Protestantism, as a Christian system or official religion, no longer exists in Prussia. The Kultur-Kampf has given it the finishing stroke. The educated classes—which expression signifies the greater part of the population—are either atheists or marching to atheism. Very soon there will be but two bodies in the community—Catholics and Pagans." The heart of Bismarck must be glad that his policy has been so successful.

SEIZURE OF GUNPOWDER.—On Friday last Mr. David N. Wiles, Inspector of Explosives, accompanied by Constable Duffy, seized a large quantity—eleven barrels—of gunpowder, illegally concealed in a sugar hogshead, in a yard adjoining the McGarel Town Hall at Larne. The explosive was afterwards conveyed under escort to the gunpowder store at Magheramorne Lime Works for safe keeping. The matter will be investigated by the magistrates at next Larne Petty Sessions.

A RAID ON MALLOW BARRACKS.—An alarming raid on Mallow Militia Barracks was reported on Tuesday last, the correspondents always adding that the matter was kept very quiet or spoken of under the breath. The raid was said to be for the purpose of taking away the militiamen's arms, and suspicious noises were heard on the barrack wall. It is now explained that the intended raiders had been ascertained to be three cats, whose noisy demeanour on one of the walls of the barracks excited the apprehensions of the sentry.

IRISH LIGHTS COMMISSIONERS.—On June 17, the Irish Lights Commissioners made an inspection of Belfast harbor. At the meeting of the Belfast Harbor Board, on June 10, attention was drawn by Mr. McLaine, to the old South Light, County Down, which he said it would be most advantageous to have retained. Several accidents had nearly occurred through its being extinguished, two or three vessels with valuable cargoes having just dropped anchor in time to save themselves from going on the rocks. The accident, he said, to the City of Venice occurred at the place through putting up a rotary light, and the loss in that case would be more than £100,000. After some discussion, it was agreed that several members of the Harbor Board should attend on the Lights Commissioners at the conclusion of their inspection and place the matter before them.

BREACH OF PROMISE.—An amusing and rather an unusual breach of promise of marriage case came before the Dublin Courts Wednesday June 20. The plaintiff, contrary to rule in such cases, was a gentleman, and the defendant, who is now married, was Mrs. Caroline Elizabeth Mulligan, whose husband was made a co-defendant in the action. The plaintiff was a widower named Knowles, with one child, who carried on the business of a cattle dealer and victualer in Dublin. He first met the female defendant in Liverpool. She was a woman of considerable personal attractions, the widow of an officer in the army, Captain Verschoyle, and possessed of means. The manner of their first acquaintance partook somewhat of the romantic, and it was admitted that in social position the lady was much superior in rank and fortune to the defendant. Matters, however, went so far that both parties went to England for the purpose of being married, and the lady was only dissuaded from the course by pressure on the part of her friends. The jury awarded the defendant £150 in addition to £58 lodged in Court.

WAR NEWS.

LEVY EN MASSE.—A levy en masse has been ordered in the province of Adrianople.

ASSISTANCE.—The Herzegovinian insurgents are marching in Bajauri to aid Montenegrins.

PEACE RUMORS CONFIRMED.—The Herald cables say peace rumors are confirmed.

THE DANUBE AGAIN BRIDGED.—The third pontoon over the Danube has been constructed at Rohova.

LOSSES BY TURKS.—Only 2,000 Turks were captured at Nikopolis, and the rest killed. The wounded escaped.

TURKISH BRUTALITY.—There is hard fighting around Kars. The Turks amputated the arms of five Cossacks left on the field.

SUPERSEDED.—Hobsart Pasha has sailed with two ironclads for the Black Sea, to supersede Hassan Pasha in command of the fleet.

STILL ANOTHER.—A special says it is publicly stated that the Sultan thinks of abdicating in favor of Youssou Izzeddin, son of the late Sultan, Abdull Aziz.

GREEKS IN ARMS.—Several bands of Turkish brigands have appeared in the frontier provinces. Government has ordered an armed detachment to proceed thither.

TROOP SHIPS ORDERED TO SEA.—It is reported three large troopships at Plymouth have been ordered to be got ready for sea for Wednesday. Destination unknown.

DESTRUCTION.—A despatch from the Governor of Philippolis on the 16th, reports that the Cossacks burned the villages of Feganly, Bayanly Guezlidja and Tchinkadj, near Kasanlik and Eski Sagra.

DEFENCE OF BALKANS.—The Avenir Militaire declares that all of Suleiman and Osman Pasha's forces are necessary to make effectual the defence of the Balkans.

VESSELS SUNK, LONDON, July 21.—Four vessels containing stone have been sunk by the Russians in the Salina, a branch of the Danube. The depth of water is reduced to four feet.

DIPLOMATY.—A Pesth despatch announces that Gortschakoff has entered into a formal engagement that the Danubian Principalities shall not participate in the war, in the war, or territorial aggrandizement.

SULEIMAN PASHA.—Suleiman Pasha, who left Montenegro by steamer for Constantinople, cannot reach Adrianople for several days at least, while the bulk of his army is still far to the westward of the scene of action.

SULEIMAN PASHA.—Suleiman Pasha landed on the 20th at Dediagath, the terminus on the Marmora of the railroad to Adrianople; he is expected at Kaullel Bougas to-morrow. Yeni Sagra has been burned by the Bulgarians.

REFUGE OF RUSSIANS.—Yesterday a large number of Russians attacked the Turks, under Osman Pasha, covering Plevna. After two hours the Russians retreated, abandoning their dead and wounded. The Ottoman loss is comparatively small.

AMERICAN OFFICERS IN EGYPT.—All the American officers in the Egyptian service, except Gen. Loring, have been discharged, probably because of the Eastern complications, the Americans declining to fight against their religious convictions.

CAPTURE OF THE SCHIPKA PASS.—A Russian official telegram announces that the Schipka pass was taken on the 19th. On the 7th Gen. Gourko, after an engagement, in which he lost 207 killed and wounded, occupied Kasanlik and the village of Schipka.

THREATENING THE GOVERNMENT.—The Goulois attacks the Government for not fulfilling its engagements towards the Bonapartists. It says the Government must reckon with it; if not, the Bonapartists will remain neutral until they see an opportunity of appeal to the people.

PRETTY HARD.—Hassan Pasha, the Commandant at Nikopolis, who is a prisoner, had an interview with the Czar on Tuesday. When he capitulated his ammunition was all gone, and he had to kill 3 or 4 soldiers with his own hand for leaving their duty.

PEACE OR WAR.—The Herald cables rumor that the Czar favors early peace, and the Grand Duke Nicholas insists upon taking Constantinople. The Russian army corps will not cross the Danube, but will return to Russia immediately after the capture of Rostchuk, the fall of which will indicate the termination of the war, being the last concession of the Czar to the troops. Some corps have already received official information of an early return to Russia.

TURKISH SUCCESS.—Osman Pasha telegraphs the Porto from Plevna:—"We commenced a desperate engagement on the 19th, last until evening; inflicted considerable loss, and forced the Russians to abandon the greater part of their position. Next day, still strong, Russian corps attacked our lines, but were routed with innumerable killed. The loss of three ammunition waggons, one train of artillery, and an immense quantity of arms and equipments.

BRITISH REGIMENTS FOR THE ARMY OF EGYPT.—The British forces for the army of Egypt under Lieut. Gen. Sir Thomas Serle, are the Eighth, Nineteenth and Twenty-first hussars, Forty-second, Seventy-first, and Seventy-fourth regiments (Highlanders), the 101st Bengal Fusiliers, a brigade of the guards, comprising the second battalions of Coldstream Guards, and the first battalion of Scotch fusiliers; a battalion of the Welsh fusiliers, two regiments of the line, a battalion of sharpshooters, and 5,000 native troops from India. These troops will make a force of about 15,000 men in Egypt.

NOT SO BAD.—Notwithstanding the adverse position of the Turks in Bulgaria, their position is not desperate provided Abdul Kerim shows proper energy. The Russian forces are now separated. Five divisions, containing 24,000 men, are in the Dobruzscha, 70,000 are operating against the Quadrilateral, 34,000 are in the Balkans, 24,000 at Nikopolis and Plevna, and 25,000 in Roumania. If Abdul Kerim waits a week longer the columns south of the Balkans will succeed in opening the passes of the Schipka for artillery, and then two corps could move by Kazanlik and Eskizawa to Adrianople, where the Turks, at last advices, were only 10,060.

DIVIDED COUNCILS.—A letter says it is now known beyond doubt that there are two parties at the Czar's headquarters; one headed by Gortschakoff, desires, after substantial success, that Russia shall be satisfied with imposing, under European guarantee, conditions virtually freeing the Christians from Turkish rule—such as Turkey previously rejected. The other party, headed by Ignatieff Tcherkasski, urges a definite settlement of the Eastern question dictated in Constantinople, on condition of the cession of Kars, Batoum and a portion of Bessarabia; the Dardanelles to be either opened or closed to every power indiscriminately; Turkey to be prohibited to possess a fleet, and Bulgaria, Roumania, Servia, Roumania, Bosnia and the Herzegovina independent. Those who know, say the supreme hour for mediation has arrived, and that when once Rostchuk is in Russian hands, it will be too late to influence the Czar in a pacific sense.

ROUND THE WORLD.

Judge Sanborn died on the 17th inst. The Mexicans are still raiding in Texas.

Fitzpatrick has been presented with one hundred dollars for killing McKeown.

The Irish Team have won the Elocho Shield. The English came second, and the Scotch last.

The Indian War is virtually over. They are demoralized and surrendering in all directions.

Hassau Pasha, before he surrendered himself and Nickopolis, killed four sailors who refused to fight.

The Railway Strike in the States is assuming serious dimensions.

An Earthquake has been felt lately in Murray Bay.

A Witness reporter has instructions to bring in a snooting case every night or else—

The Courier du Canada advocates a Catholic party.

There is not a single Catholic writer on the Montreal press.

The reports of the inquest on Hacketto are most partial and prejudiced.

The Ameer of Kasgar, Russia's great enemy, is dead.

The Young Britons are organizing and arming themselves throughout Canada.

New gold fields have been discovered in British Columbia. There is a great rush.

Brigam Young's complicity in the Mountain Meadow Massacre will it is hoped be proven.

The Witness will shortly require a new bureau—that of bogus letters.

Each Company of the 10th Royals is neither more nor less than an Orange lodge, and it is not much better with the other Ontario regiments.

A Turkish officer, in order to try the temper of his sword, cut off the head of a child. As a punishment he was sent to join his regiment.

The Hungarians are eager for a war with Russia, but there is a strong element in the Austro-Hungarian empire against it.

The Orangemen of Ottawa say that they preserve civil and religious liberty in Ottawa. Ye immortal gods! will they ever give us a rest?

Gortschakoff wants peace if the Turks concede certain provinces, Ignatieff is for seizing Constantinople and choking the Sick man. The Czar inclines to the views of Ignatieff.

In Ottawa Garrity, who fired a revolver at a man has been discharged, while the man has been fined \$5.00 and costs. Very proper why did not the man have a vote instead of religious feelings.

The Toronto Tribune advises to let the Orangemen alone. But suppose they go about cavorting in the heads of people and making them lie down, what then.

The Witness says over 4000 Orangemen attended Hackett's funeral, and that there were altogether 7557, the balance being citizens. It draws the line somewhere.

Mr. Robinson the fainting grand &c., of Kingston in a letter to the Witness claims that the military took their orders from him on the Twelfth. Robinson ought to know At all events he agrees with our reporter.

FOUND AT LAST.—An Italian father's search for his stolen girl resulted last week in his finding her at Tonawanda, N. Y., playing the tamborine for a strolling organ grinder.

A Kingston brother wants the brethren of Montreal to impeach Mayor Beaudry, we presume he is one of those who for a long time labored under the delusion that the Emperor of Europe was an Orangeman.

HARD TIMES.—Several Circuses this year pay no wages to ordinary laborers. Work is so scarce that men are willing to engage for their board alone, the privileges of travel being also an incentive.

DEATHS BY LOCUSTS.—A number of deaths from the bite of locusts are reported in various parts of Virginia, a notable case being that of a child of Mr. Warner Connolly at Brownlee, who was bitten by one of these insects and died in 15 minutes.

HOT WEATHER.—An egg laid upon the deck plaiting of the monitor Monitorcock, which is being rebuilt at Vallejo, Cal., was cooked hard without any artificial heat one day, during the recent heated term.

DAMAGES.—The Baltimore and Ohio railroad has paid \$4,000 to an employee who had both his legs cut off while working as brakeman. It did not pay the amount, however, until the employee had sued for it.

A ONE-EYED CHILD.—A boy-baby, healthy and otherwise perfectly formed, was born in Michigan recently with only one eye. The place were the other eye should be is entirely smooth, with neither eyelids nor sockets.

A BIG WHALE.—In one week recently the Pigeon Point (California) Whaling Company caught three whales. One of these latter is said to be the largest ever caught on the Pacific coast. It measured 300 feet in length.

COTTON.—A bale of new cotton, the first this season, was received at New Orleans, on July 11, from Brownsville, Texas. Its weight was 475 pounds. It was raised on the plantation of Marion & Fallin in Cameron county.

The newspapers all over represent the Orangemen as something like heroes of Thermopylae. Wherever a peaceable Orangemen meets a few ruffians, he quietly disperses them with a wave of his revolver. It is the old story of the man, lion and the painting.

A daughter of the Earl of Gainsborough, who married a young Irishman engaged to teach her music, is now living with her husband at North Conway, New Hampshire, where he plays the organ in the little Episcopal Chapel every Sunday.

THE UNION DEAD.—The ceremonies attendant on the completion of the marble head-stones for the Union dead at Poplar Grove Cemetery, Petersburg, Pa., were taken part in by a number of ex-Confederates including a former member of General Lee's staff.

SAND SHOWER.—A sand-shower from Africa fell in Rome on June 23. It filled the upper atmosphere like a great cloud, and to such an extent that the sun at 4 o'clock in the afternoon seemed entirely shorn of its rays, appearing like a pale moon of greenish tint.

A NOVEL USE OF THE BALLOT.—The authorities of a Japanese village, unable to detect a midnight robber, called on the inhabitants to indicate their suspicion by ballot. Fifteen ballots bore the same name—the others were blank. The distressed man was so astonished that he confessed and went to prison.

NATURALISTS' PORTFOLIO.

FAIRY BUTTER.—This is the popular name for star-jelly (Tremella mesenterica), a yellowish gelatinous substance found upon rotten wood or fallen timber; supposed by country people to fall from the clouds.

TOADS AND BEES.—The fact that toads do eat bees would seem to be proved—in spite of the numerous assertions to the contrary—by the recent observations of M. Brunet in France. He saw a single toad in his garden devour twelve honey-bees in rapid succession. The bees were voraciously snapped up off the blades of grass on which they had alighted. Upon being removed from the spot which the bees frequented, the toad repeatedly returned to it and recommenced his attack upon the insects.

WHAT MAKES THE SEA-SHELL SING?—When the sea-shell is held up to the ear there is a peculiar vibratory noise which children assure each other is the roar of the sea, however distant they may be from it. Philosophically investigated, the peculiar sound thus recognised is a phenomenon that has puzzled scholars for a long time. The experiment is easily made by simply pressing a spiral shell over the cerebra of either ear. If a large shell, the sound is very much like that of a far off cataract. Now, what causes it? Every muscle in the body is always in a state of tension. Some are more on the stretch than others, and particularly those of the finger. It is conceded that the vibration of the fibres of those in the fingers being communicated to the shell, it propagates and intensifies them as the hollow body of the violin does the vibration of its strings, and thus the acoustic nerve receives the various expressions.

A SILK-SPINNING FISH.—There is a mollusk—the pinna of the mediterranean—which has the curious power of spinning a viscid silk, which is made in Sicily into a textile fabric. The operation of the mollusk is rather like the work of a wire-drawer, the substance being first cast in a mould formed by a sort of slit in the tongue, and then drawn out as may be required. The mechanism is exceedingly curious. A considerable number of the bivalves possess what is called a byssus, that is a bundle of more or less delicate filaments, issuing from the base of the foot, and by means of which the animal fixes itself to foreign bodies. It employs the foot to guide the filaments and to glue them there; and it can produce them when cut away. The extremity of the thread is attached by means of its adhesive quality to some stone; and this done, the pinna, receding draws out the thread through the perforation of the extensible member. The material when gathered is washed in soap and water, dried, straightened, and carded one lb. of coarse filament yielding about 3 ozs. of fine thread, which, when made into a web, is of burnished golden-brown colour. A large manufactory for this material exists in Palermo.

A VIPER HUNT.—The Jardin d'Acclimation has been enriched by the addition of some fine secretary birds, and a few days ago occasion was taken with their help to offer to the public what a French paper calls "a most attractive spectacle." Some vipers had been procured, and were thrown down before the birds, which, to the intense delight of the spectators, lost no time in "engaging in a struggle" with them. The combat must have been rather one-sided if the birds were anything like full grown, for a secretary has been known not only to vanquish, but to devour bodily snakes as large as a man's arm. But the gestures and tactics of the birds while engaged in the fight were highly amusing to the visitors, who will, no doubt, urge all their friends to go and patronise the exhibitions that may be given in future. It is certain that the gardens are far better suited for the chasse aux viperes than for displays of falconry; for the secretary does not fly, but runs after his prey, and that at a prodigious pace reserving his wings to serve as a weapon of offence and defence. When the snake is overtaken, one of the wings is used as a shield and the other as a club, while the long and hard legs of the bird are impervious to the attacks of the foe. A common viper is, however, by no means a fair match for the newly-trained chasseur and it would be well on the next occasion to make a quarry of a stout cobra or a young python.

CRABS.—It is but reasonable to think that crabs must have been one of the earliest among shell-fish known to mankind, from the circumstances of its being fixed upon as one of the signs of the zodiac. This figurative application of the animal must refer to a knowledge of it to a very remote period, and to have made it familiar to all to whom astronomical science, even in its rudest form, was cultivated. Athenæus says: "While Ulpian was continuing to talk in this way, the servants came in, bearing on dishes some crabs bigger than the orator of Callimedon, who, because he was so fond of this food, was himself called the Crab." Alexis, a comic poet hands Callimedon down to posterity in this fashion:—"It has been voted by the fish-sellers to raise a bronze statue to Callimedon, at the Panathenic festival, in the midst of the fish market, and the statue shall in his right hand hold a roaster crab, as being the sole portion of their trade which other men neglect and seek to crush. Pliny tells us that the common stag when wounded by a species of spider or any noxious insect cures itself by eating crabs. The wild boar does the same, more particularly with those crabs which are thrown up by the sea. This notion is confirmed by Plutarch, who speaks however of rivet crabs. Charles V. of Spain was passionately fond of crabs, which he had cooked a variety of ways, to his own fancy! In a book published at Barcelona in 1650 the general mode of this royal crab-cookery is given at full length, and Charles, when not engaged in his military duties, usually had an supper of crabs.

POWER OR SIGHT IN BIRDS.—So keen is the sight of the condor of the Andes, that if a carcass be exposed where the naked eye can detect none of these creatures in the horizon, yet in a few minutes they are seen streaming from all directions straight towards their hoped-for meal. But though birds be long-sighted, it is also highly necessary that they should see minute objects at short distances. No ornithologist will deny that an insectivorous bird must have keen eyes for short distances if it is to get its living with ease. A microscopic sight is scarcely less requisite for a grain-feeding bird. The swallow flying with such reckless impulse through the air will nevertheless seize a small insect as it dashes along with almost unerring certainty. Usually the prey is so small that the wonderful powers of the bird displayed in the chase cannot be observed; but sometimes, when the insect has large wings this dexterity may be seen. The writer has seen a swallow seize, while in a head-long flight the beautiful, scarce swallow tailed butterfly, and shear out its rapid body from between the wings and let them float severally down; and then not satisfied with a feast so little proportional to the splendour in which it was dashed up, glance around and seize the several pieces before they reach the ground. How, then, is a long sight and a keen short sight to be obtained from the same eye? This is done mainly by the aid of bony plates so disposed that the edge of one is capable of sliding over the edge of its neighbour; so that when the fibres of the muscle which unites them contract they compress the eye all around and make it more tubular, while the humours of the eye thus subjected to pressure cause the cornea to protrude more, and also the retina to be removed from the lens.