

## WE CAN MAKE HOME HAPPY.

Though we may not change the cottage  
For the mansion tall and grand,  
Or exchange the little grass plot  
For a boundless stretch of land—  
Yet there's something brighter, dearer,  
Than the wealth we'd thus command.

Though we have no means to purchase  
Costly pictures, rich and rare—  
Though we have no silken hangings  
For the walls so cold and bare,  
We can hang them o'er with garlands,  
For flowers blossom everywhere.

We can make home very cheerful  
If the right course we begin,  
We can make its inmates happy  
And there truest blessings win.  
It will make a small room brighter  
If we let the sunshine in.

We can gather round the fireside  
When the evening hours are long—  
We can blend our hearts and voices  
In happy, social song;  
We can guide our erring brother,  
Lead him from the paths of wrong.

We may fill our home with music  
And with sunshine brimming o'er,  
If against all dark intruders  
We will firmly close the door—  
Yet should evil shadows enter  
We must love each other more.

There are treasures for the lowly  
Which the grandest fail to find,  
There's a chain of sweet affection  
Binding friends of kindred mind—  
We may reap the choicest blessings  
From the poorest lot assigned.

## IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

Edward Smith, of Bellamont Forest, Cootchill, Esq., has been appointed to the Commission of the Peace.

The Rev. Timothy O'Sullivan, P.P., of Kilbride, died on the 17th ult., at his brother's residence, Castletown Borehaven.

Colonel Vandeleur, D.L., has handed £20 to the Very Rev. Dr. Dinan, P.P., V.G., Kilrush, Co. Clare, for distribution among the poor of the parish.

Lord Lisgar has forwarded £10 to the Very Rev. Francis O'Reilly, P.P., V.G., Ballinacorney, his annual subscription to the funds of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in that town.

The following changes have been made by the Most Rev. Dr. Dorrigan—Rev. Patrick McCurtain, C.C., Antrim, to Dunsford; Rev. Maurice Healy, C.C., Dunsford, to Glenarm; Rev. Daniel Healey, C.C., Glenarm, to Antrim.

Justice O'Brien has forwarded to the Right Rev. Bishop of Limerick £25 to be divided among the Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of The Good Shepherd, Presentation Convent, and other charities for the benefit of the poor of his native city, at Christmas-tide.

An interesting meeting of the Maryborough Young Men's Society took place, at the inauguration of Rev. Joseph Farrell as President, in room of Fr. Morin, who had so long and so worthily presided over them, and whose removal to Abbeycix they all so much regretted.

The death is announced of George A. Grierson, Esq., the second oldest member of the Royal Irish Academy. In connection with his brother, lately deceased, he held, under patent, the office of Queen's printer in Ireland.

A meeting of the Louth Tenants' Defence Association was held on the 13th ult. A resolution was passed expressing deep sympathy with the tenantry on the Gormanstown Estate and the Association of Meath, who had taken their case in hand.

On the 30th ult., the Hon. E. McDermott, ex-Attorney-General of Queensland, delivered a lecture in Carlow in aid of the funds of the Carlow Catholic Institute, talking for his subject "The Irish in Australia." At the conclusion of the lecture a vote of thanks was passed by Mr. F. McDermott.

On the 21st ult., Mr. F. Campbell, auctioneer, sold by public auction the interest in two valuable houses, with extensive outhouses and yards attached, situate in Clonbrassil street, Dundalk. The houses produced a profit rent of £20 17s. 5d., and were sold to Peter Casey, Esq., for £1,165.

On the 18th ult. printed posters were circulated throughout Kilkenny town to the following effect:—"To the farmers of Kerry—Take notice that you will not propose to Mr. M. S. Hussey, agent to the Earl of Kermore, for the lands of Dromdubhmore, at your peril!" It is supposed that the notices were posted up at midnight.

Quick Surgery.—The *Cork Herald* says: "On Dec. 11, a gentleman skating on the Lough got a fall which dislocated his knee. Dr. Lambkin, however, was fortunately skating at the time, and set the knee in a minute, and he and his patient slid off together amid hearty cheers."

Owing to his success having three soldiers sent back from the Limerick county goal to the city prison by the order of the Lord Lieutenant, Mr. W. H. O'Sullivan, M.P., intends contesting the legality of the removal of the political military prisoners from Irish prisons to England without the sanction or order of the military authorities.

Mr. De Courcy D. Denny, solicitor (of the firm of Huggard & Denny), son of the Rev. Henry Denny, rector of Churchhill, and grandson of the late Sir Edward Denny, of Tralee Castle, died on the 17th ult., at his residence, Strand street, Tralee. Deceased was attacked with inflammation of the lungs, and died after two days' illness, leaving a widow and little boy to mourn his early loss. He was highly and universally regarded in Tralee.

MAJOR CONYNGHAM.—The *Cork Examiner* announces the arrival from America of Major D. P. Conyngnam, LL.D., who has returned to visit the friends and scenes of his youth, after a lapse of several years in America. Dr. Conyngnam is the author of several popular works, including the "History of the Irish Brigade in the American War," "Lives of the Irish Saints and Martyrs," etc. The Pope honored him with a special letter of approbation of the latter work.

On the 21st ult., Mrs. Richard Wolfe, of Rockfort, near Neagh, while riding a spirited horse at Brook Watson, the animal reared and threw her to the ground, rolling over her. The injured lady was removed home, and after some time recovered consciousness. She suffered from concussion of the brain. Mrs. Richard Wolfe is daughter of J. F. Rolleston, Esq., D.L., Frenchfort Castle, Dunkerrin, and niece to Charles Rolleston-Spinner, Chairman of the county Tipperary.

THE POPULATION OF IRELAND.—The abstract of the recent census of Ireland contains more interesting facts. The population of the island is set down at 5,412,397. During the last ten years 849,836 emigrants have left the country. The religious denominations hold very nearly the relative strength of former years, although the Catholics have decreased about one per cent. since 1861, and the Episcopalians and Presbyterians slightly increased. The Catholics number 4,150,857, the Protestant Episcopalians 667,998, the Presbyterians 497,648, and all other denominations 95,864.

CATHOLIC UNION.—The annual meeting of the St. Mary's Association, Catholic Union, was held on Dec. 19, in the rooms of the association, in Marl-

borough street. Rev. Nicholas Donnelly presided. The annual report of the council stated that the work of the branch has been satisfactorily carried out during the past year. The library has been largely availed of, and the attendance in the reading rooms is most satisfactory. Since we opened 141 members and 553 associates joined the branch. During the last year two lectures were delivered—one in the Cathedral by our President, Father Donnelly on the temporal power of the Pope; the other by R. P. Carton, Esq., on novels and novel reading, delivered at the Rotundo.

The question whether a bequest for Masses is a charitable bequest or not was partially raised and decided in the Court of Common Pleas on the 16th ult., the Right Rev. Dr. Dorrigan, Catholic Bishop of Down and Connor, being interested in upholding the contention that a bequest to him charged with a bequest for Masses was not a charitable bequest. The testatrix died within three months from the date of her will, and the plaintiffs—in an ejectment suit against the Bishop, claiming through the heir at law—alleged that the bequest was, therefore, invalid. The Court of Common Pleas held that it was not.

A meeting of the Chapter and other clergymen of the diocese of Ferns was held on the 15th ult., for the purpose of selecting by ballot the names of ecclesiastics for submission to the Holy See as deemed worthy by them to succeed the late Most Rev. Dr. Furlong in the bishopric of the diocese. The election resulted as follows:—Dignissimus—Most Rev. Dr. Rickard, Bishop of Graham's Town, Cape of Good Hope. Dignior—Rev. Michael Warren, Order of Missionary Priests Ennisceorthy. Dignus—Very Rev. W. Fortune, President, All Hallows College, Drumcondra.

THE POPE TO THE IRISH PEOPLE.—The *Cork Examiner*, Dec. 24, says:—At his audience with the Pope the Lord Mayor of Dublin read an address thanking His Holiness for the manner in which he had been received and presenting the homage of his fellow-citizens. He added "that the Holy Father, in conferring upon him the high distinction of the Order of Gregory the Great, had wished to honor Irishmen. Ireland was rich in affection for the Holy Father. On the occasion of the celebration of the O'Connell Centenary Ireland had shown her attachment and fidelity to God and the Pope. As an Irish Catholic he deeply sympathized with the sufferings of the Church." He concluded by imploring the Pope's blessing on the Catholics of Dublin. His Holiness, in reply, said that "He was greatly moved at the proof given him of the affection of the people of Dublin. He alluded to the constancy of Irishmen in their devotion to Catholicism, and expressed gratification at the celebration of the O'Connell Centenary." He sent his blessing to the city of Dublin.

On the 18th ult., a man named James Davis, aged sixty years, who resided in Rowerstown, Kilmaham, was killed on the Broadstone Railway Terminus. It appears that the deceased, who was a painter in the employment of the Midland Great Western Railway Company, was on the line which leads to the cattle bank, and while in the act of passing in a stooped position between two railway carriages which were standing on the line, he struck his head against a tender attached to an engine which was going by at the time after shunting a ballast train down the line. His head was caught in the tender, and he was dragged a short distance along the line. The fireman, Henry Green, saw the deceased stagger against the engine and called to the engine-driver, Robert Walsh, who pulled up as soon as possible; but when, after some difficulty, by the aid of some of the Company's officers, the body was extricated life was found to be totally extinct.

A NEW EDUCATION MOVEMENT.—The *Dublin Freeman* says:—"We have received through the 'Central News' a very extraordinary piece of intelligence which we publish elsewhere. It is that an attempt will be shortly made to effect a settlement of the Irish University system on an entirely new basis. The telegram goes on to say that a number of graduates of the Catholic University, 'discarding the action of the Roman Catholic Bishops,' and, moreover, without having 'in any way consulted them,' have 'privately associated themselves with a number of graduates of Trinity College, with a view of arranging a basis of a comprehensive University system for Ireland.' Steps it is added, are being taken to bring the matter under the attention of the Government, either by a motion in Parliament or in some other manner. This is certainly a piece of startling intelligence, which will take everyone by surprise. What kernel of truth it contains, underlies the story we know not. This, at least, we believe—that the story, in the shape which it reaches us, is untrue. That any graduates of the Catholic University have 'discarded the action of the Catholic Bishops' we cannot for a moment credit, knowing as we do that no student ever left the University that was not full of gratitude for the gallant and glorious fight the illustrious prelates of Ireland have, against all odds, maintained—first, for the existence of the University, and then for its success."

HENRY GRATTAN.—UNVEILING OF THE STATUE IN DUBLIN.—A colossal bronze statue of Grattan, mounted on a limestone pedestal, was unveiled with appropriate ceremonies on the 6th inst., in College Green, in front of the old Parliament House, in Dublin. The site selected was especially felicitous, inasmuch as it was the scene of many of his greatest efforts and triumphs. The statue stands about the centre of the green, and faces towards Trinity College. Speeches were made by Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Isaac Butt, M.P., and others, eulogistic of the character, talents, and services of Grattan in the interests of the Irish people. Mr. Sullivan moved a resolution to the effect that the statue be transferred to the custody of the civil authorities, to be held in trust by them for the Irish nation. At eleven o'clock a monster procession, which was participated in by trades' unions, orders, and citizens generally, moved on from the Custom House, and assisted in the ceremonies of unveiling. The Order of Foresters declined to join in a body, giving as a reason that they regarded the demonstration as of a national character, and in reality endorsing the idea of Irish independence. Sir Arthur Guinness, member of Parliament for Dublin city, and Messrs. Plunkett and Gibson, the two members for the University, also declined to participate in the ceremonies.

Those terrible Jesuits who sit at the bottom of every conspiracy, and who, notably, rescued the Paraguayans from barbarism by their justice and humanity, have been at it again. This time it is in Ireland that one of their Company has been doing what he conceived to be an act of justice and humanity. We gladly expose his communistic operations which we find detailed as follows in the *London Weekly Register*:—"While on every side are heard cries of rents being raised and tenant farmers being evicted from their holdings, a pleasant piece of information of a different kind comes to the public ear, with reference to the doings of a Jesuit landlord in the West of Ireland. The Rev. Francis Kenny, P.P., Moycullen, Co. Galway, writes as follows in a letter to the *Galway Vindicator* of Saturday:—"The very Rev. James McSwiney, of London, a distinguished member of the Society of Jesus, on succeeding as oldest son and heir to his father's property of Knockrasser, in this parish, as the first act of his proprietorship, remitted the arrears due by his tenants up to November last, and granted them all leases for the term of thirty-five years, at the moderate rents which they were paying to his worthy father." But, I suppose, to some persons this will be only another proof of the wicked-

ness of the Jesuit Order. Clearly, Father McSwiney's notions of "rights of property" have been somewhat modified by Jesuit and paternal teachings as to the "duties of property."—*Catholic Review*.

On the morning of the 21st ult., the boiler in Lowry's scutch mills, in the townland of Ballymacnall, between Bangor and Donaghadee, exploded, when eight persons—six men and two women—were congregated around the fire in the boiler-house waiting for the steam to be turned on, instantly killing them all. Their names are as follows:—Henry Molloy, married, aged 34, leaves a wife and eight children; Andrew Molloy, his son, single; John Stephenson, married, aged 39, leaves a wife and seven children; J. Byrnes, married, leaves wife and one child; John Arnot, aged 14; Alexander Bryan, aged 14; Mrs. Mary Anne McKee, 40 years of age, leaves husband and five children; and Mrs. Isabella Scott, 34 years of age, husband and three children. The bodies were discovered, five at the foot of the chimney, one in the flue with a barrow he had been wheeling into the boiler-house, one in a field about twelve yards off, and one a short distance from the chimney. The damage amounts to about £500, and the premises were not insured. A portion of the boiler was driven across the road into a field and embedded in the soil several feet, about three hundred yards distant, and bricks belonging to the mill were scattered for a great distance around. The engine-driver, Bryan, is in custody.

On the 11th ult., the body of Mr. Thos. Malone, farmer of Corkmore, was found drowned in the Shannon, off Russell's Quay, Limerick. It appeared from the evidence of Mr. Malone's brother at the inquest, that they both came to Limerick with loads of straw to sell at the market. Having disposed of same, they proceeded to return home, but in Wickham street they stopped at some shop to transact business. The deceased left the place on his car before the brother, who imagined that he had proceeded on his way home, and went there himself. On arriving at home the brother was surprised to find that deceased had not arrived before him, and he became very anxious towards nightfall at not seeing him return home. Nothing was heard of the deceased till next morning when the brother came to town to make inquiries about him, and his body was found in the water. It is supposed that the unfortunate young man lost his way in the dense fog which prevailed that evening, and drove the horse into the river by mistake, and that the animal with the car was carried by the current over towards Coochagh, and that the man was drowned near where the body was found. The jury returned a verdict of "Found Drowned." Mr. Malone was a respectable young farmer about twenty-seven years old; he rented about fifty acres of the best land of Corkmore, and was about getting married to a neighbor's daughter with £800 fortune.

## GREAT BRITAIN.

During the last ten months of 1875 England exported horses to the value of £214,828, against £175,994 for 1874. She exported to France alone £97,440.

At the Circuit Court of Justiciary at Glasgow, a man named Greedy was sentenced to fourteen years' penal servitude for stabbing his wife.

The English Admiralty have just issued an order that for the future, instead of the boys proceeding on shore to obtain spiritual instruction, the Catholic priests will be allowed to go on board the training ships at Portsmouth, Plymouth and Falmouth.

The total number of paupers in the British metropolis during Christmas week was 87,744 of whom 36,692 were in the workhouses, and 51,152 received outdoor relief. Compared with the corresponding weeks of 1874, 1873, and 1872, these figures show an increase of 8,135, 19,598, and 21,165, respectively.

The Catholic Bishop of Shrewsbury, Dr. Brown, in the course of an address to the newly-formed Total Abstinence League at Birkenhead, said that the Catholic Church had very properly condemned Good Templarism, because it was void of Christianity. Though many persons connected with the Good Templars might not be aware of it, they were associated with deism and infidelity, and that being so, he (the Bishop) could not countenance such societies.

Richard Charlton, 28 years of age, farm labourer, was executed at Morpeth for the murder of his wife. After the birth of their first child she left him and went to live with a sister, a farmer's wife. Notwithstanding several entreaties, she refused to return. He went to his sister-in-law's house, and with a revolver, shot his wife, wounded his sister-in-law, and shot himself in the right side of the head. The self-inflicted wound produced paralysis of the right side, and for a long time the prisoner was unable to sit up.

At the meeting of Parliament three new peers will be entitled to take their seats, Francis Theophilus Hastings, 12th Earl of Huntingdon, died shortly after the prorogation of Parliament, and is succeeded by his son, who becomes the 13th earl. On the 28th of August Lord Granville died, and is succeeded by his nephew, the second son of the late Hon. George Norton, formerly one of the magistrates of Lambeth Police-court, and of Mrs. Caroline Norton, the accomplished writer. Lord Dorchester died on the 2nd of December. In default of male issue the peerage devolves on his cousin, Colonel Dudley Wilmot Carleton, eldest son of the Hon. and Rev. Richard Carleton.

SCOTCH SHIPOWNERS AND THE MERCHANT SHIPPING LAW.—There has been held in Glasgow a largely attended conference of shipowners from all parts of Scotland, at which the subject of past and future legislation affecting their interests was taken into consideration. A considerable number of English shipowners were also present on the occasion. Resolutions were adopted to the effect that the time had arrived when a general codification of the statutory merchant shipping law should be pressed for; and that the serious attention of the Government should be directed to the necessity of providing for the marine legislation of the country being originated and carried out by members of the Cabinet, and officials really conversant with the subject, as also the necessity of the law being now fixed upon a basis which should ensure that vessels of the British shipowners should not be prejudiced in competition with foreign ships, and of regulations being framed by the Board of Trade for the guidance of their officials in enforcing the law so as to ensure uniformity in their requirements at all ports.

At conferences which have just been held in Edinburgh of social and temperance reformers, the following heads of a "Suspensory Liquor Bill for Scotland" were agreed to:—1. That it shall not be lawful to consider any new applicant for a license in any district so long as there is more than one licensed house to every 750 of the population; that no application for extension of premises shall be entertained; that the power of transfer by the licensing authority shall cease and that all licenses shall be cancelled on the death, bankruptcy, or conviction of those holding certificates. 2. That in districts where no licensed house exists, and in other districts where the licensed houses are from any cause below one in 700 of the population, no license be granted without the sanction of a majority of the ratepayers; and that all courts of appeal be abolished. 3. That no place of amusement, recreation, instruction, railway station, river or constant passenger steamboat be licensed to sell intoxicating liquors. 4. That all licenses held by grocers,

bakers, and confectioners shall be at once abolished; and that all beer licenses issued by the Excise and special licenses issued by the magistrates shall at the same time cease.

EXTENSIVE SMUGGLING OPERATIONS IN ORKNEY.—A seizure of spirits has been the subject of investigation both by the Customs and Inland Revenue, and the result has been the exposure of a system of smuggling which has been carried on for years, and in which a number of persons resident in Kirkwall and other parts of Orkney are implicated. It appears that sacks of tobacco have been shipped from the North Isles to Kirkwall along with and made up in the same way as potatoes and delivered to the consignees without their contents ever having been questioned. The plan that had been usually adopted was to call at an English port and ship spirits for the foreign market, where the article is free of the heavy impost levied on spirits which leave the stores for home consumption. The exporter then directed his course northwards to Faroe, where he was supplied with such goods as tobacco, and he finished his cargo by taking on board a few ponies and several tons of potatoes, &c. He then sailed for the Orkneys, discharged his spirits and tobacco and spirits in the outlying islands, where he had confederates, and proceeded to Kirkwall. In a day or two afterwards a boat laden with spirits arrived in Kirkwall during the night, and its contents were safely housed in a yard near at hand, and at convenience distributed among the dealers prepared to receive it. Captain Wm. Askam, of the ship Julia, was arrested at the instance of the Customs authorities, charged with being connected with the recent seizure. He was in company with the men when the three casks were found, and it is said that they were his property. As far as can be ascertained, it appears that the gin was shipped at Gainsborough for a foreign port. If this proves correct the vessel will be forfeited to the Crown.

## UNITED STATES.

Ten miles of buildings were added to Chicago last year.

Abundant discoveries of copper ore have been made in Montana.

The cattle disease has put in an appearance at Rock Island county, Ill.

The cholera has almost entirely destroyed the hog crop of some of the counties of Missouri.

LOVELL, MASS.—An order was promulgated, on the 1st in Merrimack Manufacturing Company's mills, to dismiss one-half of the force in the machine department temporarily.

THE NORTH-WESTERN CHURCH of St. Paul, Minn., says:—"The recent Paulist Mission sums up 8,800 communicants, 37 converts, 1392 pledged to total abstinence, 405 adults receiving confirmation, and over one thousand young men and women enrolled in sodalities."

It is stated at Washington that the President will shortly send to Congress a message on Cuba, and that the settlement of the difficulties there and in Porto Rico will be forced by the pressure of united international opinion.

Bird concerts are becoming the rage in the United States. The rooms are hung with cages containing feathered songsters. Readings are given, songs are sung, and instrumental performances are rendered on bird carols.

The coldest winters on record in the United States within the past one hundred years were those of 1780, 1836, and 1856. In 1780, the Delaware River, bay of New York and Long Island Sound were so completely ice-bound as to be crossed with horses and sleighs. The coldest year was that of 1816.

THE NORTH ADAMS STRIKE.—On the 3rd instant the operatives in the Blackinton Mills decided not to work any more unless their former wages were paid them. Mr. Blackinton refused to accede to their demand, and the mills were ordered closed until April 1, unless some adjustment of the difficulty can be arrived at.

ALBANY, N. Y.—The workmen of Albany, N.Y., becoming uneasy at the want of employment and their inability to secure it, have held meetings and paraded the streets with banners inscribed "Bread or work." On the 5th instant, a delegation called on the mayor, who gave them a hope of employment on the proposed new reservoir.

COLLIERS SUSPENDED.—On the 4th inst., the Lehigh and Wilkesbarre Coal Company suspended work. Two collieries at Empire and two at Plymouth continue at work, supplying the local trade. All the others suspended for three weeks. The men anticipated this action, and there are no fears of difficulty.

Statistics for the past year show that 41,000 bales of domestic cottons were exported from the United States. The heaviest item is 11,205 bales to China. Great Britain took the next largest lot, and Brazil follows. This amount is nearly double the exportation during 1874.

A California inventor has patented a contrivance for driving sewing machines, which does away with the treadle. A number of springs are moved by clock-work and governed by a lever so nicely that the needle may be made to move at any desired rate of speed. The machine will run for about an hour and a quarter with one winding.

THE BIBLE IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.—At a meeting of the Philadelphia Common Council last week, a resolution was adopted, that the Board of Public Education be requested to inform the councils by what authority the reading of the Bible has been discontinued in certain public schools in the city.

A subscriber writing from Camp Stambaugh, WY., under date of the 9th ult., says:—"On the 30th Nov. an old man died in Atlantic City, WY., and a Rev. Mr. Buck delivered the funeral sermon, for which he received \$5, and within fifteen minutes from the close of the sermon I saw him in a saloon playing poker with the \$5. That evening he was \$369 winner. The people here think Buck a mighty fine man."

A novel clock has recently been placed in the tower of the Albany N. Y. Savings Bank. By an ingenious arrangement the dial is illuminated by a gas burner, lighted automatically at early evening twilight, and extinguished at daylight by means of the mechanism itself, without the attention of any person; and what is still wonderful, although the time of daylight varies greatly from month to month, the clock lights the gas at precisely the proper time from day to day.

Scene at Brooklyn wedding breakfast. Company all seated about the table. A pause in the general conversation. Happy husband, to his wife's seven-year-old sister at the other end of the room:—"Well, Julie, you have a new brother now?" Julie:—"Yes, but mother said to papa the other day that she was afraid that you would never amount to much, but that it seemed to be Sarah's last chance." Intense silence for a moment, followed by a rapid play of knives and forks.

THE RT. REV. BISHOP DUBOIS of Galveston, Texas, had the happiness while abroad, of visiting his mother, an old lady of 88 years, at Lyons, France. From Lyons eight Sisters were sent by him under the care of Father Querat to Houston, two more to San Antonio under the charge of Father Ruffard, and one brought by the Bishop for the hospital in Galveston, Texas.

EXPENSIVE PRISONERS.—The grand jury at Jacksonville, Fla., makes the following disclosures:—"We find that there are three prisoners in the jail who have been there nearly two years for the pitiful

sum of \$10 costs each. These prisoners have cost the county nearly \$900. We recommend that the county commissioners pay the fees, release the prisoners, and thereby save money for the county."

DESTITUTE CHILDREN.—Fr. Drumgoole and his little waifs of the St. Vincent's Home, Brooklyn, N.Y., had a very happy Christmas. Father Drumgoole deserves the thanks of the community for this very worthy and benevolent enterprise of providing a home for the unfortunate street waifs of New York. The mission gave a good dinner to more than 200 boys; 400 pounds of turkey and 100 pounds of plum pudding were prepared by the pastor of the Mission.

The schools of Boston are hereafter to be governed by a board of twenty-four commissioners, elected by the people. This board chooses a superintendent of schools and a board of six examiners or inspectors. In the late election the first board of commissioners was chosen, the successful candidates being to a man the nominees of Mayor Cobb's supporters, the local "citizen's committee." Four of the new commissioners are women and four Catholics.

Some representatives of the Russian communistic sect of Nihilists have found a refuge in New York. The fundamental principle of their school is that all fortunes should be exactly equalized, and the State should be ruled by members of their order. The Nihilists believe in the speedy coming of a Messiah who will obliterate all social distinctions. The Czar of Russia is driving them out of his realm as fast as he can.

The annual statement of the production of the precious metals in the States and Territories west of the Missouri River, during 1875, show an aggregate yield of \$80,889,037, being an excess of \$6,487,982 over 1874, which was the greatest previous annual yield in the history of this coast. The present prospects indicate an aggregate yield of \$90,000,000 for 1876, of which Nevada will doubtless produce \$50,000,000.

A STRANGE LAKE.—There is a lake of perhaps 60 acres in extent, situated near the railroad track about five miles west of Farwell, Clare county, Mich., the water of which is so muddy the year round that the bottom is not perceptible even in six inches of water. A good share of the beach is sandy, and to the observer no definite cause can be assigned for the constant muddy condition of the water. There is also a white fungous substance in small particles all over the surface, which gives the water a filthy appearance, yet this lake contains abundance of fish.

That Chicago is a growing city cannot be successfully disputed in the presence of statistics of the most convincing character. In 1860 its taxable valuation was \$37,653,512; in 1875 it was \$303,705,140, seven-fold increase. In 1860 its taxes were \$313,315; in 1875 they were \$5,466,603, a thirteen-fold increase. In 1860 the debt was only \$2,336,000; in 1875 it was \$13,544,000, a five-fold increase. But the comptroller states that there are floating liabilities to the amount of \$4,079,849, in addition to the bonded debt; so that the total indebtedness of the city is \$17,623,849.

Catholicism in Minnesota, which in the boyhood of its recently consecrated Bishop, Right Rev. John Ireland, consisted of a few missionaries, ministering in log cabins to the pioneer settlers and Indians has grown to a magnificent hierarchy of three Bishops, one mitred Abbot, and an army of secular and religious clergy, a monastery, a Jesuit and Benedictine College; a score of convents, with their schools and charitable institutions; magnificent church edifices dotted all over the State, with parochial schools attached, and a Catholic population of 150,000. A pleasing incident connected with the consecration of Bishop Ireland, was the presence in the cathedral of his two sisters, Mother Superior and Sister St. John, both of the Order of St. Joseph.

REDUCTION OF SALARIES.—The New York Board of Health has made a general reduction in the salaries of all connected with the department. This course was rendered necessary by the reduction in the appropriation for 1876 of \$30,000. The salary of Sanitary inspectors, which has hitherto been \$1800 per annum, will be cut down to \$1600, and Assistant Inspectors will receive \$1350 per year instead of \$1500, as formerly. No arbitrary percentage in the reduction was decided upon by the Commissioners, but the average is ten per cent. In a few instances where the salaries paid have been very small, no reduction has been made. With these exceptions no official, from the secretary of the Board down to the messenger, has been exempted. The salaries of the Commissioners, being fixed by law, will remain unchanged.

A Catholic correspondent of the *Springfield Republican* denies the statement of Congressman Society that 60 or 70 colored youths are now studying in the Propaganda at Rome to labor among the colored people of the South. He says "there is not one colored American youth, nay, not one colored youth of any nationality, studying in the Propaganda today. More than this, there are not one-third the number mentioned studying there from the entire United States; and I do not think one colored American youth has ever studied in Rome. The last colored youth who studied at the Propaganda was a native of Africa, and was ordained a priest about 1868. As he was a very clever fellow, the professor should beware of him, lest he might come over some fine morning with a dozen of his tribe, and take possession of the States!"

GRANT'S STRICTLY ANTI-SECTARIAN SCHOOLS.—The School is open. The class in spelling and defining will recite. "Spell creation." "Creation." "Define it." "Bringing into being from nothing." "Stop! That is a religious idea. That is forbidden. Try again." "That power in matter by which it evolves into higher and perfect forms." "Hold! That is an atheistic idea. That is forbidden." "Well, by Jupiter, that is the—" "Stop! My boy, that is a pagan idea prohibited in this school." "Spell soul." "Now define it." "The immortal substance." "Hold on! That is a religious idea, prohibited." "Spell sin." "A transgression of the divine law." "I cannot allow that; that is a religious idea." "That is what my books says." "Well, all of you bring new books to-morrow." "Master, where can we get the right kind of books?" "From General Grant."—*Pittsburg Presbyterian*.

FACTS IN NATURAL HISTORY.—Frogs, toads, and serpents, never take any food but that which they are satisfied is alive.—When a bee, wasp, or hornet, stings it is nearly always at the expense of its life.—Serpents are so tenacious of life that they will live for six months and longer without food.—Turtles dig holes in the seashore and bury their eggs, covering them up to be hatched by the sun.—Lobsters are very pugnacious and fight severe battles. If they lose a claw, another grows out.—A single codfish produces more than a million of eggs in a season.—A whale suckles its young, and is therefore not a fish! The mother's affection is remarkable.—Toads become torpid in winter and hide themselves, taking no food for five or six months.—Serpents of all species shed their skins annually, like sea crabs and lobsters.—It is believed that crocodiles live to be hundreds of years old. The Egyptians embalmed them.—The head of the rattlesnake has been known to inflict a fatal wound after being severed from the body.—If the eye of the newt is put out, another one is soon supplied by rapid growth.—Fish have no eyelids, and necessarily sleep with their eyes open.—Alligators fall into a lethargic sleep during the winter season like the toad.—The power of serpents to charm birds and small quadrupeds, is a well authenticated fact.