

We have (says the London Times) in this metropolis, and in our own immediate neighbourhood, a spectacle more painfully ridiculous and a greater violation of common sense than is to be found in any human institution in the most backward and unimprovable countries. Here are scores of churches—handsome churches, with everything that money can give them, in admirable order, with well conducted services, and no congregation. The model city church is a spacious, and, indeed, a magnificent structure, with nave, aisles, chancel, vestibule, vestry, tower, bells and the rest. Once in three or four years it is closed for a month to be repaired and cleared, and fitted with a new warming apparatus, at a great cost. All its furniture is excellent; there is nothing wanting that comfort and a certain quiet civic taste can desire. It has the services of a well-paid clergyman, a well-paid clerk, a well-paid organist, paid singers, beadle, sexton, and pew-openers. The bells ring for a morning service on Sunday, and at eleven service begins. Count the congregation any time between eleven and one; include the minister, clerk, beadle, pew-opener, organist, the half-dozen school children—in a word, every soul in the place, taking care not to omit yourself, and you will find, perhaps 40. We have made the reckoning many times in one handsome church, without exceeding that limit. In a larger and handsomer church, in a well-known street, on a fine Sunday morning, we have made out twenty-two souls. The average in a considerable number of such churches is said to be fifty. In each of these churches the expenses, including the clergyman's income, and triennial repairs, and every other item, are considerably over £500 a-year, or £10 per head of the actual congregation. Yet there is not an improvement in London that has not been spoiled by these deserted structures, which divert a new thoroughfare as a rock will turn aside the most rapid stream. Many of these churches, besides handsome incomes for the clergymen, have large estates for the maintenance of the fabric. The cause of this preposterous state of things is, that private houses have given way, and are still giving way, to shops, offices, and warehouses. The population either goes to the suburbs, or, if spending the week days in London, takes the opportunity of Sunday to get a mouthful of fresh air, and a few hours' repose to the eye and the ear. The people are all gone where churches and clergymen are really wanted and are not, for they cannot be transplanted, it seems, without fatal injury. The results are as lamentable as the appearance is ludicrous. The London clergy, having so little occupation, and for other obvious reasons, are generally non-resident. A young man employed in a warehouse extending into three parishes was seized with mortal illness, and earnestly desired to see a clergyman. No one of the three was to be found, and nobody could even say where they lived, as they only made their appearance in time for Sunday service. We have been told that in eleven adjacent parishes on the south of Cheapside there is not one resident incumbent. There are populations, but they are of the class that does not go to church, and the clergy, in the city of London, does not go to them. Without going further into the religious condition of the city, it is at least evident, by the admission of the congregations, that our churches are more than enough; and, by the admission of the incumbents that we could do with half the number of clergy.

SUSPENSION OF A CLERGYMAN BY THE PROTESTANT BISHOP OF DURHAM.—Much excitement has been caused in the diocese of Durham, in consequence of the suspension from Priests' orders of one of the prize men of Durham University, who has been, for some time past, acting as curate in an important and populous district. The clergyman alluded to, who was in deacon's orders, applied to be admitted to the priesthood at the Bishop's recent Ordination, and all his necessary papers were lodged for that purpose. Just before the day appointed for the ceremony some of the congregation of Tynemouth church memorialised the Bishop, stating that the Rev. J. H. Blunt, their curate, was in the habit of preaching the doctrine of the Mass, had exaggerated the authority of the Church and her ministers, had insisted upon the evils resulting from the exercise of private judgment, the power of remission of sins vested in the clergy, and the doctrine of Transubstantiation; and that, moreover, on one occasion he inculcated the practice of having the cross upon the altar, and wearing it upon the person. They proceeded as follows:—"The manner in which Mr. Blunt performs the service appears to us to be Romish. Previous to entering the reading desk, Mr. Blunt makes a bow or genuflection to the Communion Table, and on leaving the reading desk, to assist the vicar in the Communion Service, he makes a similar genuflection on passing through the entrance to the Communion Table. He then takes his place, not at the South side of, or near to the table, but remains at the lower step on the south side of the raised floor in front of the Communion Table, where prior to a short prayer, he makes another genuflection, and whilst praying he kneels with his back to the congregation, and on rising from the prayer he remains on the same spot, standing with his back to the congregation, never approaching the table, and only turning round whilst reading the Epistle, and on the conclusion of the service he again bows to the table previous to leaving the church." Mr. Blunt denied having preached Romish doctrine, and submitted his sermons. The Bishop acquitted him of this charge, but alleged that his language was "mystical and confused." The result was, that the Bishop suspended the Rev. gentleman, from taking priests' orders for the period of twelve months.—*Morning Herald.*

DR. ACHILLI.—We read the following paragraph in the Record (Anglican "Evangelical" paper):—"We are informed that Dr. Achilli is likely to secure for himself still further notoriety in America as the leader of a new sect, or rather as the reviver of the Swedenborgian heresies and follies. He will not, however, be much more heard of in England, and his new associates will be of a different class from those whom he induced to sustain him in his contest with Father Newman. It is a melancholy conclusion to his career that a Priest who professed to have come out of the Church of Rome, as a Protestant, should take up a belief in the doctrines of a madman, who fancied himself a prophet, and declared that he had himself seen Luther amongst the lost spirits condemned to darkness for having taught the doctrine of justification by faith."

THE HOPES AND FEARS OF HUSBANDRY.—The usual period of the harvest is now rapidly approaching, and the doubts which have all through the season been expressed as to the state of the wheat crops seem to be in no degree dissipated. In consequence of re-

cent heavy rains during the time of the wheat blooming, it is feared that even in those districts where the wet autumn permitted the usual breadth of wheat being planted, the yield will prove deficient; and in many of the heavy land districts it is now obvious that the wheat crop must, to most of the occupiers, prove almost a blank. A very considerable rise in price has recently taken place, which seems to be generally attributed to the threatening aspect of affairs in the East of Europe; but the indifferent prospects of the coming harvest cannot have been without a large share in contributing to this rise.—*London Economist.*

THE AZTEC LILLIPUTIANS.—The two children whose advent in the metropolis has excited more curiosity than any other wonder of the same class that we happen to remember, have been transferred to the Hanover Square Rooms, where they were publicly exhibited on Monday for the first time. The fiction owing its origin to the story of the old padre in Stephen's "Incidents of Travel," which tells of the mysterious Mexican city in the vicinity of the great Sierra range—the enterprise of Messrs. Huertis, Hammond, and Velasquez, in scaling the mountains and getting within the walls—the extraordinary architectural grandeur they saw there—the isolated character of the people—the butchery of the aforesaid Huertis and Hammond, and the escape of Velasquez with the children who are now in London, has been turned to a useful account by the speculators, and afforded a good commercial amount of conversation during the past week. The result of the inquiries which have been instituted by the Ethnological Society, where the children were exhibited a few days ago, and where certain discussions connected with them took place, would seem, however, to have disabused the public mind; and the Aztec children, it is now believed, are simply debased descendants of one of the Mongolian tribes which settled in Mexico at the beginning of the twelfth century.—the comparative splendor and civilization to which these people arrived is well authenticated; but the kingdom, in the enjoyment of its highest luxury and magnificence during the reign of Montezuma, eventually perished as a nation when Cortez, in the heat of adventurous rapine, spread terror and desolation over the face of the country—an invader, it is said, regarded by the superstitious Mexicans "to be the offspring of the sun, destined by prophetic tradition to come from the East and subvert the Aztec empire." It is concluded, we repeat, that the two children who have just come to London from New York, belong to the posterity of this once famous nation, and that the opinion which has been circulated that they present a distinct branch of the human family is wholly without warrant. The popularity of the boy and girl, as to aspect is certainly most extraordinary. A generic similitude is perceptible in both. The forehead in each case retreats violently, while the under jaw is equally receding, leaving the strongly-delineated Jewish nose severely prominent, and so producing a profile of falcon like acuteness. Professor Owen, who has made an anatomical report of these children, conceives, from an examination of the teeth, that the boy is between ten and twelve years of age, and the girl between seven and nine. Their diminutive size well entitles them to the term "Lilliputian," which has been bestowed upon them. The head of each measures no more than 13 or 14 inches in circumference. In height they are about 33 inches, and in weight the one is only 23lb., and 21lb. Professor Owen is "inclined to look at them as instances of impeded development." Their likeness, however, to the traditional configurations of the Mexican idols is so decided as to visibly identify them with the pure Aztec class—now so rare as to admit its types to dedication in the Mexican temples. Dr. Connolly, who was present at the Ethnological Society on the occasion to which we have alluded, stated that "he was struck with their resemblance to some of the idiots in the asylums at Highgate and Colchester. He would not enter," he observed, "into the question of race, but it was clear that no nation of people so low in intelligence as these children could exist. In the first place they had no language, and in the second place their intellectual development would not probably enable them to procure the first necessities of existence.

Some of our readers may remember these extraordinary creatures, as having been exhibited in Montreal some years ago.

UNITED STATES.

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND.—The collections proceed vigorously in Philadelphia. The appeal in behalf of the University was very generously responded to in the Churches of St. Paul and the Holy Assumption. In the Church of the Assumption, the collection will amount to between five and six hundred dollars; whilst the collection in St. Paul's Church will go far beyond one thousand dollars, probably, over eleven hundred dollars. The contributions of St. John's congregation still continue to pour in. They reach now the truly noble sum of \$1,592,—exceeding, by nearly three hundred, the amount at which we first announced the collection.

END OF A SOUPER.—William Cating, a convert to Protestantism, was hanged on the 28th ult. at Hackensack, New Jersey, for the murder of the children of Timothy O'Brien—Mary and Daniel O'Brien—the former eleven, and the other nine, years of age. Our Protestant friends are unlucky with their converts. Leahy is under sentence for murder, and Achilli—well we hardly know what has become of Achilli, or in what conventicle he is doing duty: but he is pretty well used up.

Boston, July 30.—A desperate encounter took place last night between the new Harbor Police and the river thieves, who had been boarding and robbing vessels at the wharves, wearing masks. The robbers were seen leaving the vessel in a boat, and were captured. They afterwards escaped and were re-captured, after a desperate struggle with fire-arms; the robbers firing, and the police returning the fire, without effect. The robbers were armed with six-barrel revolvers; each robber had several gold watches, which they had stolen—the property stolen from the brig "Mary Wilder" on Tuesday night, when the Captain was put to sleep with chloroform.

The Bill abolishing capital punishment in the State of Wisconsin, has been signed by the Governor and is therefore a Law.

The N. Y. Freeman's Journal says:—"Late accounts from Mexico say that Santa Anna is preparing to receive the Papal Nuncio, and to conclude a Concordat with the Holy See on terms favorable to the Church. The rights and privileges of the Jesuits and other Religious Orders enter as component parts into this arrangement."

"OUR PECULIAR INSTITUTIONS"—PRES. PIERCE'S "INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE."—The Wilmington (North Carolina) Journal has the following:—"High price of Negroes.—We know not to what cause to attribute it, but better prices have been offered by traders for this description of property, than we have ever before known. Negro fellows of very ordinary appearance, are bringing \$1,000 very readily. Women are selling for very large prices, varying from \$700 to \$1,000.—Boys weighing about fifty pounds can be sold for about \$500. This is the time for selling, if any one is so disposed. That nigger-boys weighing only 50 lbs should fetch \$500 a piece, shows that human flesh when young and tender is worth \$10 a pound, though it is not usual to sell it so, out of the Feejee Islands.—That these ordinary niggers should fetch \$1,000—who probably weigh on the average 150 lbs., proves that their flesh is worth hardly \$7 a pound, the odds being the difference as to toughness. Women, weighing say 130 lbs. and fetching \$1,200 is a fair price a pound their flesh is tender again. Altogether the prices are extraordinary for the slave pens.

The Evening Post, of New York, and other papers, recommend that the Crystal Palace, as they call it, be open on Sundays. It is a sensible suggestion. It is not against the commandment which says,—"Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work. There are hundreds, perhaps thousands in New York, who have no other time at their disposal. Many spend it worse than by visiting the Palace. The liquor shops, saloons, puppet-shows and gardens near the building are open on Sundays. If the Fair were open at the proper hours, on that day, the grogshops would not be emptied, but many persons would enjoy an innocent recreation, of which they might otherwise be deprived, and some would be drawn from the guilty atmosphere of the groggeries to the purer and comparatively harmless air of the great Glass House. These fanatics always strain at gnats, and swallow camels. They say little or nothing to the gambling and drunkenness too common in the vicinity of the Palace. But when an innocent and reasonable recreation is proposed for the poor, they lift up their hands and turn up the whites of their eyes in speechless horror. Protestantism is naturally the enemy of the poor.

WOMAN WHIPPED.—A story was told about Haynau which turned out to be false, but the "liberal press" refuses to correct the error.—Occasionally, events transpire which go to prove that the barbarity which was wrongfully charged upon Haynau is common enough in countries which boast of their superior civilization.—Even here, the thing is not unknown. We copy the following from the Commercial Advertiser, of Buffalo,—"A court martial was recently held in New Mexico for the trial of Brevet Captain Sykes, on a charge of cropping the hair and publicly whipping two Mexican women, the sentence being executed by his guard. He pleaded not guilty. The court martial found him not guilty in one case, and in the other they found that the fact was proven, but they attached no criminality thereto, and honorably acquitted him! This decision was disapproved by Col. Sumner, who very properly administered a sharp rebuke to the court, and all others who would inflict unnatural punishment upon the helpless. We sincerely hope the matter will not be permitted to rest here."

FLOCKS WITHOUT SHEPHERDS.—There are four Societies at South Boston without pastors.—White cravats don't seem to agree with the climate over the bridge.—*Bee.*

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