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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Doubt"—You ask us "What is the Catholic and what is the Protestant population of the world." We find a reply in the Scientific Miscellany...

"P."—There was some mistake in the wording of the paragraph to which you refer, and which has gone the rounds of the press...

"P."—There 4,110,867 Catholics in Ireland to 1,260,510 Protestants.

"T. J. B."—Metaphor and sentiment are very good, but our columns are occupied with more pressing subjects just now.

We print a letter from a gentleman in Ottawa, on the Amnesty question. The letter contains a grave charge against Mr. O'Donoghue...

HOME RULE.

We take the following from Mr. Anglin's paper—the St. John's Freeman. We are sure that the friends of the Home Rule cause will rejoice to notice that the Speaker is in favor of granting to Ireland that responsible Government that has made Canada prosperous and contented

"The Irish Home Rulers have again asked the British House of Commons to make enquiry into the reasons which, they allege, would prove that the concession of what is called Home Rule to Ireland is demanded by justice to that country and by a due regard for the general interests of the Empire...

DISSENSIONS IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The enemies of everything Catholic and Irish are fond of magnifying the smallest expression of dissent into a revolt. As a matter of fact it is in English politics and in the English Church that one must look for dissent and protest of every kind.

"A long-threatened secession has at last taken place. The Protestant Bishop of Derry, Dr. Alexander, has retired from the Synod of the Dissatisfied Church, and has stated his reasons for this step in a letter to Primate Beresford.

AUSTRIAN ARMAMENTS.

In view of the possible part that Austria may take in the present war, a look at her armaments may be instructive. It appears that "When mobilized the Austrian army will number thirteen army corps with forty-two divisions of infantry and five of cavalry.

squadrons, two or three batteries, one ammunition wagon, one sanitary division, and one commissariat column. According to the law the Austrian army would thus number, after the mobilisation:— 1. Regular army, 900,000 men, 150,000 horses, 24,000 conveyances; fighting force, 570,000, infantry, 50,000 cavalry, 1,700 field pieces.

TORPEDOES.

Torpedoes are to sailors what mines are to soldiers—the most demoralizing of all dangers. Soldiers and sailors who face death with coolness, will blanch if they think they are going to be spun into the air like a rocket.

"Whitehead torpedo is made from fourteen to twenty feet in length, and eighteen inches diameter, as is in form much like a cigar pointed at both ends. The bursting charge which consists of gun-cotton, is contained in the foremost part or head, which is provided with a detonator.

THE PERSIAN ARMY.

If the reports that come to us from travellers are to be relied upon, the Persian Army will not be of much service to the Russians—if they become allies. Dr. Armenius Vambery a Hungarian says that

"The Persian army is a mockery, a delusion, and a snare. As to its fighting power, if what he says be correct, it is even below that of the Serbians. In the campaign against Merv sixteen years ago, 4,000 Turkoman cavalry defeated and captured a Persian army of 22,007 men.

BISMARCKISM.

Bismarck's name will be forever associated with Religious Persecution. Living in his time, we cannot well judge of the enormity of his crimes, but history will do ample justice to his infamy.

The Kingdom of Wurtemberg has about 1,800,000 inhabitants, or about 600,000 are Catholics. While persecution was raging in the three surrounding States of Prussia, Baden, and Hesse, the Catholics of Wurtemberg had hitherto remained unmolested, and the priests of the diocese of Rottenburg, which is co-extensive with the kingdom, had pursued their laborious duties without being brought into collision with the organs of the secular power.

STILL MORE DISSENSIONS.

The example of Dr. Alexander in dissenting from the Protestant Synod has been followed by the Archbishop of Dublin, and we learn from the Freeman's Journal that

"A most serious crisis has arisen in the affairs of the Irish Protestant Church. The conflict between High and Low Church, which has divided the Synod from the beginning, came to a head on the motion to confirm the various amendments and alterations which have been made in the Book of Common Prayer.

TIPPERARY.

Tipperary has many Richmonds in the field for the honour of representing it in the Imperial Parliament. We learn that the first who wooed the constituency was the present Sec. of the Home Rule Confederation of Great Britain,—Mr. F. H. O'Donnell, but on "Learning that Mr. E. Dwyer Gray, of the Freeman's Journal, had resolved to stand for the seat, he retired readily.

ODESSA.

Odessa is one of the great grain depots of Europe, the chief port of the Black Sea, and the third commercial city of Russia. It is very old, and was settled by a colony of Tartars. The original fortifications—

"We read, were built by the Turks and reduced in 1789 by the Russians, who subsequently erected the principal fort which protects the harbour. The erection of the town as it now stands, with its wide, and, for Russia, clean streets, its terraces and boulevards, its schools, handsome public buildings and commodious quays, is due to French talent and enterprise, the foundations having been laid by the Duc de Richelieu, whom the revolution drove out of France, and whose services were promptly accepted by Russia.

KARS.

Kars, the town in Asia Minor which the Russians are now bombarding, is the capital of the pashalic of the same name on the northern frontier of Armenia:

A contemporary describes it as a specimen Oriental mountain town, situated upon a rocky plateau 7,000 feet above the level of the sea, and having narrow dirty streets. It finds a reason for its existence, like all the towns of that neighbourhood, in the caravan trade, of which it is a recognized stopping-place, as the long trains of camel file from Persia and Armenia into Georgia and Circassia, returning by the same route.

The writer of this quotation was evidently not aware that since the Crimean war the fortification of Kars have been strengthened and improved.

CUBA'S NINE YEARS WAR.

For nine years the Cuban have been in a state of active insurrection against the Spaniards. A gentleman who has served with the insurgents estimates their loss during that time at 50,000 men. During the nine years active service, the insurgents have received no pay, and while the Spaniards hold the coast the Cubans hold most of the centre of the island. At present the Cubans have only 18,000 men under arms to oppose to the 80,000 Spanish regulars and 40,000 volunteers.

THE GLASGOW IRISH.

There was a mass meeting of the Irishmen of Glasgow a few weeks ago. The meeting was called to support the policy of obstruction, which is now pursued by Messrs. Biggar and Parnell. At that meeting there were men of extreme and men of moderate opinions—there were Separatists and there were Home Rulers. Mr. John Ferguson, the sterling Presbyterian patriot was in the chair and delivered one of his fine manly speeches.

My idea in this matter is that in working the principles of our national independence much sacrifice must be made by rational men to the opinions of their neighbours. The opinion of the Irish majority—the opinion of the people of Ireland—must determine the course of action we are to pursue (hear, hear).

THE SECRET OF FRENCH PROSPERITY.

France has more than once astonished the world by her recuperative powers. She has sprung to her feet under circumstances which would leave the country that beat her, prostrate for ages. This is accounted for by the peculiar ownership of the soil by the people. The Pilot says:—

The difference between the ownership of the soil in France, England, and Ireland is an interesting political study. In France there are more than 6,000,000 peasant proprietors of the land, while in the United Kingdom, with about the same population, there are only 200,000 or one British for every twenty-five French landowners.

FAMINE IN INDIA.

The latest reports from China informs us that the famine is unabated. A Correspondent of the Paris Temps draws a distressing picture of the miseries which have been general in the famine districts for the past few months. He says:—

That in Chili and Shantung districts districts the distress has reached such a height that a part of the inhabitants of these large provinces are literally dying of hunger. Two Europeans who had courage to carry some provisions to a small village in Shantung returned horror-stricken with what they had seen. The inhabitants were putting an end to their sufferings by suicide, and in one family the father and mother to avoid witnessing the death agony of their starving children, had buried them alive.

VERY LIKE A WHALE.

At last we are informed that the sea-serpent has been caught. There is no mistake about it this time. It has been captured at the picturesque little town of Oban, in Scotland. We hear from New York that:—

"Foreign papers received late last night, publish a circumstantial narrative by a resident of Oban, Scotland, from which it appears the sea-serpent has been actually captured at that place. The correspondent writes:—'A most extraordinary event has occurred here—the stranding and capture of the veritable sea-serpent in front of the Caledonian Hotel, Oban. About 4 o'clock yesterday an animal or fish of gigantic size was seen sporting in the bay near Heather Island. It was of the serpent species, carrying its head fully twenty-five feet above the water. A number of boats were soon launched and proceeded to the bay, the crews armed with such weapons as could be got handy. A little past 6 the monster took the ground on the beach in front of the Caledonian Hotel of George street, and his proportions were now fully visible. A party of volunteers, under Lieut. David Menzies, now assembled and fired volley after volley into the neck, according to the directions of Dr. Campbell, who did not wish for scientific reasons that the configuration of the head should be damaged. Its exact appearance is as follows:—Extreme length 101 feet; the thickest part about twenty-five feet from the head, which is eleven feet in circumference. At this part is fixed a pair of fins four feet long by nearly seven feet across. At the sides further back is a long dorsal fin extending for at least twelve or thirteen feet and five feet in front, tapering to one foot.'

WHAT THE ENGLISH PRESS THINK OF THE WAR.

The Standard should be an authority upon England's Eastern policy. Considering that it is the organ of the Government when it speaks it is likely to indicate something near the policy that the Government is likely to pursue. It says:—

"In Asia we stand alone, since it cannot matter to Germany, to Austria, to Italy, or to France whether our prestige among Asiatic races be threatened or not; but even in regard to the campaign in Asia it is clear that precipitation would be the worst of counsellors. It is possible that the dread of offending the Powers of Central Europe may render Russia cautious and moderate in European Turkey, and the wish not to arouse against her all the strength of the British Empire will make her circumspect and forbearing in Asiatic Turkey. But to speak of localising the interests affected by the war is another thing. If Russia should be defeated, or being victorious, should be willing to forego some of the fruits of victory, the entire question may be localised. On any other supposition a world of questions will come to the front, and will likewise demand a settlement. Who can doubt by what means they, too, would be settled?"

The Daily Telegraph writes even stronger. It says:—

"Is there any one who can believe that the conquest of Constantinople by Russia, and the inevitable extension of her will over Asia Minor, would not shake our Indian Empire to its foundation? Let those answer who know how much our way and our usefulness in the East depend on moral as well as on military supremacy. Thus a weakness of statesmanship, a shrinking from national duty, whatever might be the cause—sentiment, apathy, or dullness of intellect—would not merely plant a foe on the flank of our roads to India and our colonies in the Pacific, but put in peril India itself. England, at a conjuncture so grave, is bound by the highest motives which can govern the conduct of nations to form a clear and long-sighted conception of the task thrust upon her by Russia, and then to carry it out with the iron resolution which has been more than once displayed by our forefathers."

IRISH, ENGLISH AND SCOTCH MORALS.

The Scotsman, a newspaper which has always been rather prejudiced towards Ireland and the Irish, is forced to pay the following tribute to Irish morals and to the beneficent effects of the Catholic religion on the people:

England is nearly twice, and Scotland nearly three worse than Ireland. Something worse has to be added, from which no consolation can be derived. The proportion of illegitimacy is very unequally distributed over Ireland, and the inequalities are such as are rather humbling to us Protestants and still more as Presbyterians and as Scotchmen. The division showing the lowest figure is the Western, being substantially the Province of Connaught, where about nineteen-twentieths of the population the Celtic and Roman Catholics. The division showing the highest proportions of illegitimacy is the North Eastern, which comprises almost or equally divided between Protestant or Roman Catholic, and where the great majority of the Protestants are of Scotch blood, and of the Presbyterian Church. The sum of the whole matter is, that semi-Presbyterian and semi-Scotch Ulster is fully three times more immoral than wholly Popish and wholly Irish Connaught—which corresponds with wonderful accuracy to the more general fact that Scotland, as a whole, is three times more immoral than Ireland, as a whole. There, is a fact, whatever may be the proper deduction. There, is a text whatever may be the sermon—we suggest that the sermon should have a good deal about charity, self-examination, and humility."

A Paris despatch to London, dated Saturday says, I have learned on the highest authority that the British Government have ordered a well-known firm of bankers here to purchase a hundred thousand head of cattle.