

GOOD WORDS.

We are always pleased and very often edified by the words of wisdom that fall from our contemporary the New York Freeman's Journal. We have rarely, however, felt more genuine pleasure than in the perusal of a brief article on home education which lately appeared in its columns. We are sorry not to have been able to deal with it before now, and nothing, our readers may rest assured, could have denied us this pleasure but the pressure of other calls. Our contemporary sets out by laying down certain incontrovertible propositions, which, while universally admitted, do not suffer by repetition:

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CATHOLIC NOTES.

Within five years the number of priests in Scotland has increased from 272 to 320, and the number of churches has increased from 271 to 303.

Father Ryan has been invited to write an ode to be read at the celebration of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the settlement of Maryland, on March 25.

The Papal Nuncio at the Spanish court has informed the Vatican that he is in perfect accord with the new ministry on all religious questions. The concordat will be scrupulously maintained.

Jules Ferry is now on excellent terms with the Pope, while the bitter debates in the Prussian Parliament led the Vatican organs to declare that the Kulturkampf must be fought out again.

There are twenty-five Catholic Bishops and Vicars-Apostolic in China. In Peking there is a community of Nuns composed entirely of natives, and in the same city a Trappist Monastery whose members are all Chinamen.

Before leaving Waterford, Ire., Archbishop Ryan of St. Louis, sent a letter to the Very Rev. Prior Flood, O. P., of Tallaght Convent, expressing a wish to see a memorial erected to the late Father Burke, and enclosing £10 for that purpose.

The Pope gave audience to a deputation of Catholics from Nice and Cannes who asked him to lend his assistance in suppressing the gaming-tables at Monte Carlo. He listened attentively to what they had to say, and gave them a favorable answer.

The Pope and cardinals have decided to address a note to the different powers, pointing out the consequences to the Church which will result from the conversion of the real property of the Propaganda into Italian rentes, as ordered by the courts.

It is with much gratification, says the London Tablet, that we see it stated in the Times that by an act of the German Emperor the Bishop of Munster, as well as the Bishop of Limburg, has been recalled and reinstated in his See.

A solemn mass was celebrated in Rome recently in the Sistine Chapel of the Vatican in memory of Pius IX. The Pope, cardinals, prelates, diplomats and many foreigners were present. The chapel was crowded and the ceremony was unusually imposing.

Rev. Father Larch has collected about \$1,200 for the purpose of the establishment of a Roman Catholic Church at Regina. It is understood that Archbishop Tache, who has guaranteed a large sum for the object, will visit Regina and locate the church on his return from the East.

Archbishop Feehan returned from his visit to Rome on the 17th. He was escorted home by a procession of 10,000 persons. There were over 100,000 along the three mile line of march to witness the parade. Except the General Grant welcome the ovation exceeds anything of the kind previously witnessed in Chicago.

The London correspondent of the Freeman's Journal says: "I learn on good authority that the will of Mrs. Stapleton Bretherton, who recently bequeathed a sum of £500,000 to the Pope, is likely to become the subject of litigation. Some of the relatives most nearly interested have already taken the initial step towards contesting the validity of the instrument on the ground of testamentary capacity. The plaintiff's beneficial interest in the will is of the most trifling kind."

We quote from the following letter of the Vicar-Apostolic of Southern Kiangsi, China, describing the trials and triumphs of the Church in that distressed country: "It is a truly admirable sight to behold neophytes of a day, knowing only two or three Catholic prayers, but supported by a special assistance from above, resisting all manner of seductions, and submitting to be insulted, cast into prison, and loaded with blows, rather than renounce the truth."—Ave Maria.

The *Monteur Oriental*, of Constantinople, the official organ of the Porte, reviews the reign of Leo XIII. and declares that he has been victorious by reason of his "truly marvelous activity, at once wise, prudent and strong." All powers are bending, the iron Bismark even going to "Cannosa." "We doubt," it concludes, "if there has ever been in history a Pontiff more universally venerated by the faithful or with a higher place in the esteem of princes and peoples than Pope Leo XIII., gloriously reigning."—Baltimore Mirror.

The angry and indecent disputes that have lately taken place in Dr. Newman's church are not unprecedented. Similar scenes have been enacted in many Protestant churches before this, and doubtless others of the same sort will be heard of hereafter. But it is a notorious fact that such things are next to impossible among the Roman Catholics. With them the personality of the priest is entirely subordinate to the idea of worship.—N. Y. Sun.

We notice in the Roman correspondence of a London paper that the newly appointed Vicar-Apostolic of Zanzibar, Monsignor De Courmont, is a native Creole, of Martinique, one of the West India Islands subject to France. He belongs to the Society of the Holy Ghost, a congregation of missionary priests whose special field of labor, like other Orders, is the colored races. A West India paper, *Les Antilles*, remarks that the Right Rev. Mgr. De Courmont "is the first Creole raised to the mitre, and the first bishop furnished to the Church by the French Antilles." The vicariate of Zanzibar includes the island of that name on the east coast of Africa.

The Old Abbey of Buckfast, which was founded by the Benedictines in the old Saxon days, but in the time of King Canute adopted the Cistercian reform, is about to be restored. At the dissolution of monasteries the roofs were stripped of their lead, and for two centuries the buildings seem to have been used as a quarry for the neighborhood, the "Abbey Tower" alone being spared. Now a community of Benedictines, driven from France, have arrived in precisely the same garb in which their brethren were driven away by bluff King Hal. They have resolved to restore the edifice, have unearthed the foundations of the old church, 250 by 55 feet wide, and after restoring the Abbey's towers, will rebuild on the old lines. Mr. Harry Keins of Exeter,

whose admirable wood carving Americans visiting the international exhibitions will remember, is carrying out this, the first restoration of an old English abbey.

The foreign papers report a remarkable lecture on the religious and moral situation of German Protestantism, by Dr. Stade, Professor in the University of Gieslen. A clever and instructed man, and a determined conscientious opponent of Catholicism, his statements are well worth noting. Herr Stade is appalled at the rapid dissolution of Protestantism. Religious ignorance among the mass of the people, indifference and prejudice in the middle and industrial classes, the culpable negligence of the clergy—who do not stem the downward current—these are the salient features of the picture he presents to our eyes. "Our German Church," he exclaims, "is at this moment powerless in strength and influence; she is in the stadium of decadence of a crisis." These words, following swiftly on the recent Luther celebrations, are a strange commentary on the latter.

CATHOLIC PRESS.

The conference of the Irish Party presided over by Mr. Parnell, passed a resolution warning the people of America and Australia against placing reliance on Irish news called by English news-agencies. If the Irish Party would devote themselves to such a thorough exposure of the actual persons who concoct this news and the manner of its concoction that the real nature of the monstrosity would be brought home to Americans they would be doing a work of great utility. But mere denunciation of the cable-liars is not enough.

Mr. Parnell has proposed his amendment to the address in reply to the Queen's speech; and the latter part of last week and the early part of this week were taken up with the debate thus stated. The amendment thoroughly exposed the tyrannical and partisan policy of the Castle Government in Ireland as directed by Earl Spencer, especially in reference to the recent Orange excesses in Ulster; and it demands the immediate abandonment of the policy of stimulating State-aided emigration. Mr. Parnell's speech in support of the amendment was very telling. He pointed out—as The Pilot did while they were taking place—that the Orange demonstrations would be not spontaneous, but were attended by hirelings paid by landlords; that Orange opposition to Nationalist meetings was violent and seditious; and that every one participating therein was liable to prosecution under the intimidation clause of the Crimes Act. The recent events in the North of Ireland, however, Mr. Parnell declared, would hasten the time when Ireland would legislate for herself on her own soil. The vote of censure on the Government proposed by Sir Stafford Northcote, which will come to a decision the end of this or the beginning of next week, will be the occasion for an important tactical move on the part of the Irish Party. The Tories cannot carry their vote without the help of the Irish; but the Irish may not give them their help. To carry a vote of censure against the ministry would be a great Tory triumph; and clearly as the Parnellites like to harass the Government, this time they may elect to punish the opposition. It would be a sweet revenge for the encouragement of Orangemen by the Tories if the Irish can be the means of snatching so dazzling a Parliamentary victory out of their hands. Milwaukee Citizen.

The largest individual total abstinence society in this country is a one connected with the Cathedral at Philadelphia. It has a membership of 1,012 men, 452 boys and 310 women. It has a fine hall, purchased and fitted up at a cost of \$21,000. It contributed \$7,050, or more than one eighth of the entire cost of the Catholic T. A. B. fountain in Fairmount Park. Since its organization it has paid out to sick members and for the burial of deceased members, over \$23,000. It has a very successful circulating library.

Hiram S. Church, City Treasurer of Troy, defaulted last week with \$100,000 of the people's money. Mr. Olmuck was a prominent member of the Evangelical church whose minister probably was in the habit of uttering cultured sarcasms at the "Mikes" and "Barneys" who "disgrace our municipal politics." Instead of disgracing his city by some petty and paltry proceeding Mr. Church did full justice to his opportunities by a liberal haul. In this respect the descendants of the Puritans never "disgrace" our city governments.

One of the Irish World's "Staff correspondents" Transatlantic gives this admonition to the dupes who are subscribing to the new fund: "Rally round Patrick Ford. Submit to his ruling. Send all your funds to Patrick Ford. Go where he shall command you to go. Discuss not plans adopted, but obey, do." Patrick Ford may order movements which shall be only "feints." Don't criticize those movements. Don't require explanations.

"The last 'caution' is good. It won't do to ask explanations. Dupes never ask for reasons. They go blindly where they are led. Catholic Review.

A reverend gentleman who has just returned from a visit to the South, where he went for the benefit of his health, related an incident before his Rosary Society which is worthy of record. He said he called upon a friend whom he had not seen for many years, in one of the large cities of the South, and found him in a most flourishing condition. He was living in a splendid mansion in one of the principal streets of the city, surrounded by all the comforts and even luxuries that wealth could obtain, and paying taxes on four millions of dollars. After supper they had retired to the parlor, and after sitting and conversing for a few minutes, the wife and some of the children who were present excused themselves and went out of the room. Then the gentleman himself begged to be excused for a few moments as he was going to say the Rosary with his family. Our friend, the priest, of course, begged the privilege of joining them; and after the devotion was ended his friend told him that he and his

wife commenced saying the Rosary together the day they were married, and it had never been omitted in the family for a single day since. They commenced with ten dollars on their bridal day, and he was now surrounded by the evidences of wealth and prosperity which he witnessed and nine children; "and," said he, "I look upon it all as a special gift from Providence in answer to the prayers of the Holy Mother of God as a reward for our fidelity in devotion to her through the Holy Rosary." And the priest said it was one of the best and happiest families of children he had ever seen. Is there not a powerful lesson here for all!

Catholic Columbian.

The most common objection urged against the Catholic Church is that she is not progressive—does not meet the advanced thought and scientific progress of the age. The reason of this is that men outside her fold, judging her by the same standard that measures the acceptability and adaptability of human contrivances and institutions, place her in the same category thus destroying or ignoring the claims to divine construction. So regarded, it is certain that she does not meet the exemplar of idealists—and if so constituted, would not merit even the passing admiration and notice they accord her. But this is not her nature. She is of God—divine. At the foundation she was perfect, because her builder was an eternally wise God, who adapted her to the wants of all coming time. She was not to know what progress meant, in its material sense, nor made a changing to accommodate herself to the vicissitudes of times or the vagaries of men's minds. She was constituted a teacher and the nations were to be her scholars. Her mission was to teach not to be taught. As God was her founder, so was He bound to preserve her in the prosecution of the great work He had imposed upon her. She could not fail. As well might we say that God Himself could fail—for her work is His work. Nothing is assumed—nothing ventured—that was not commanded. The embodiment of God's wisdom, she is the teacher of His providences, the instrument of His mercies, and the repository of His trusts. She cannot exceed preposition—her progressiveness was accomplished at her foundation. She must advance, but not in the way of her own progress, but in the work she has to do. If men had a true notion of religion, and recognized its essential character, they would at once see the absurdity of looking for human elements in what must be by its very nature divine. With this conviction, looking towards the Catholic Church they cannot but see that she is the only one that possesses the visible evidences of such origin, and that consequently, they but stultify themselves in assuming to see her how she should better carry out the work of man's salvation. Mankind are the pupils, the Church the teacher.

London Universe.

The Jesuits who have been expelled from Germany, from France, and from Switzerland, and who might meet with a similar fate in this country if certain old statutes could be enforced, are turning the tables upon their persecutors by proving to the world what immense amount of good they can do when they are left unfettered. The latest reports of the doings of the Order in the Philippine Islands, the important Spanish colony in Eastern Asia, go to show that within the last few years they have been busily engaged in converting the savage Indians, more particularly of the Isle of Mindanao, but of several other islands belonging to that extensive archipelago, to the Catholic faith, thereby making useful members of the human society, and at the same time Spanish patriots of men who had formed a horde of abandoned barbarians until Father Guerrero came among them. This is but one of the many instances which go to show how wisely the Spaniards are acting in not copying the examples to them by other nations of Europe, more especially the Germans, who would readily repeal the law for the expulsion of the Jesuits they passed twelve years ago if they did not, very preposterously, fear that in doing so they would take another step on the "road to Cannosa."

Terrible Floods in the States.

From Fulton, Arkansas, we learn that the whole country is one vast sea. Hundreds are fleeing. Dead mules and cattle are floating down all day.

In Cincinnati an alarm started during the night by the cracking walls of the Broadway Hotel. The house was filled with families. They were speedily removed by boats.

Nowhere the overflow of the river is the greatest ever known. Communication with Jacksonport is cut off. Hundreds of families are lodging in the Court-house at Jacksonport. Newport Academy is crowded with sufferers. It is feared that the Iron Mountain levee will break. Business is suspended.

A four-story brick building on Central avenue, Cincinnati, fell Friday night. In all the submerged part of the city where frame houses have been moved from their positions the owners are endeavoring to float them back to their places. The same thing is being done at Newport, Ky. Weather milder and growing cloudy, with indications of rain.

Mayor Millsbaugh, of Shawneetown, Illinois, estimates at least 1,000 people in Gallatin county have been driven from their homes by the water. Many of them are on the hills and in immediate need, but when the flood subsides many of them whose houses were swept away will have no place to go, and will have to live on public charity. It will be necessary to feed from 300 to 500 of them for a month, and many will have to be assisted in restoring their houses. It is estimated that from Raleigh to Saline, a distance of fifteen miles, 150,000 bushels of corn have been swept away.

The United States relief steamer Katie Stockdale has arrived at Parkersburg, West Virginia, with 200 tons of supplies and 100 tons of coal. The submerged country is slowly shaking off the waters and the devastation paralyzes description. The water has receded twenty feet, the banks appearing on both sides of the river, and the full destruction is exposed. Parkersburg lost over one hundred buildings. Belpre, opposite Parkersburg, is a mass of desolation. Its principle street,

with the flour mill and a number of brick and wood buildings, has totally disappeared. The losses at Parkersburg are carefully estimated to date are \$1,000,000 with more returns to come in.

The steamer E. L. Cobb, from Pine Bluff, Arkansas, reports nearly all the plantations below considerably submerged for many miles. Hundreds of people were standing in water in their homes helpless, and cannot be rescued. Stock is drowning in large numbers, and houses washed in the river. Unless relief is soon afforded the loss of life will be heavy.

The suffering among the refugees in the hills in Shawneetown, Illinois, is increasing. Bad as the situation is now it will inevitably get worse. The depth of the water throughout the town ranges from 15 to 40 feet. Skiffs pass over good-sized houses, the roofs of which can scarcely be reached by the longest oar.

At Pomeroy, Ohio, the destitution is great, and the appeals for help pressing. The town contains nineteen towns, embracing 40,000 inhabitants. All the towns were flooded, and the losses are estimated at over \$2,000,000.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

Ireland.

The Irish members will probably abstain from voting on Sir Stafford Northcote's amendment to the address, in order to give the conservatives a lesson for supporting the Orangemen.

An Orange official, denounced by Mr. Sexton, has been dismissed by the Land Commission, and other dismissals are expected.

Chief Secretary Trevelyan's defence of the policy of Earl Spencer is universally considered lame. A strong feeling against the bill containing nineteen towns, embracing 40,000 inhabitants. All the towns were flooded, and the losses are estimated at over \$2,000,000.

England.

A mass meeting was held a few days since, at Prince's Hall, Piccadilly, to denounce the Egyptian policy of the Government. The hall was too small to hold the great throngs of people, and an overflow meeting was organized. Lord Randolph Churchill made a speech and Sir Robert Peel offered a resolution, which was carried to the effect that Parliament had ceased to be in accord with the people and ought to be turned out. The meeting ended in great uproar.

A royal commission has been appointed to inquire into the conditions of the dwellings of the poor in the United Kingdom. The commission includes Cardinal Manning, several delegates from the Workmen's Association and a number of Irish and Scotch members of Parliament.

The Earl of Dunraven made a motion from the office of Justice of the Peace was not justified, and was calculated to discourage Irish loyalists. Baron Carlingford, Lord of the Privy Seal, defended the action of the Irish executive, and warned the House that a vote of censure would have grave effects in Ireland.

Egypt.

Gen. Gordon is sending down the river many women and children from Korosko. The expedition for the relief of Tokan has started. It is believed by officials that Omen Digma's forces are massing at Tokar for the purpose of making a desperate attack upon the place. Some alarm is felt because the defenders of the town are short of ammunition. General Gordon telegraphs: I have formed a Committee of Defence with well-to-do families of Berber. Precipitate action may throw them into the arms of the enemy. Fieldwork is requisite. He asks the authorities at Cairo to send arms and ammunition for Berber. The rebels killed at Sinkat numbered 200 women and a number of children. Yemen, in Arabia, is in full revolt. Four million cartridges are being shipped to Egypt.

Since Admiral Hewitt assumed command at Suakin everything has been put in man-of-war order, perfect justice dispensed and the inhabitants are contented. The fact that preparations are being made at Cairo to transport a large force to Suakin and that Gladstone asks for 250,000 to defray expenses, portend more than an expenditure to relieve Tokar. It is believed that it is intended to relieve Kassaia garrison and open the Berber route. Spies report that the rebels are fully aware that English troops are coming. They are mustering in great force. Omen Digma, whose camp is pitched sixteen miles southwest of Suakin, has proclaimed that he will obtain Tokar before the British can possibly arrive, and that he will then capture Suakin.

A leader of friendly tribes reports that when Omen Digma receives the guns captured from Baker he will attack Suakin. A friendly Arab warns the garrison here to prepare for a night attack. Spies have brought a letter from the commander at Tokar, saying the rebel guns kill some of the garrison daily. He asks for two men-of-war to be sent to Trinkit to make a demonstration in his support until troops arrive. The rebels have summoned the Tokar garrison to surrender, promising if they do their lives will be spared. The enemy are mustering for an attack. Three thousand of Baker Pasha's troops are ready to fall in. Nobody trusts them. Steady blacks man the redoubts.

Turkey.

The Sultan has decided to send large reinforcements to Jeddah. There Austrian Lloyd's steamers have been chartered for the purpose. All carry a great quantity of military stores, provisions and ammunition and several mountain guns. No men have been taken from Crete on account of the effervescent condition of the population. The Cretan chiefs are all now at Athens. The intended reinforcements amount to over 5,000 men. They will be ready at Jeddah in the event of an arrangement with England, for immediate service in the Sudan.

Italy.

The train on which King Humbert was returning from a hunt, recently, was fired into by four men on the roadside. A bottle of gunpowder with a lighted fuse

was thrown on the train, but one of the guards threw it off.

China.

Torpedoes have been placed in the river at Peking. If Bamchin is attacked the members of the French embassy will receive passports. The approaches to Bamchin are guarded with dynamite.

AN "OLD LAW OF THE REFORMATION."

Catholic Review.

A little paragraph appeared the other day in one, and perhaps several, papers, among the news from Europe. But, so far, it has not apparently excited any attention. How different it would be if a peaceable Catholic village in Spain, aroused by lying tracts, insulting the confessional, the clergy generally and the religious orders—all these dear to the people who know them—should in its just indignation drive the foreign mischief-maker forth with his villainous tracts and his mutilated Bibles? What noise would be made for a few weeks in the papers and for months in the pulpits! The affair would be discussed in the Protestant family circle and around the boarding-house dining-table. Poor Spain, the most hospitable country in the world, would be rated for its ignorance and its violence.

But here is the paragraph, from the New York Herald of January 27: "ROSTOCK AND PERSECUTION."

"Rostock is the most important town and seap