

THE SHRINE OF ST. EDWARD CONFESSOR.

English Protestant Prejudice.

The Dean of Westminster Abbey has been placed in an awkward position by the meddling Protestant Alliance. If he permits people to show reverence to the tombs of the literary celebrities in Westminster Abbey, he cannot consistently interfere with the liberal of English Catholics to pray at the tomb of St. Edward. The London Standard, which contains the following alarming rumor of "Papal aggression," is evidently in sympathy with the meddling "Alliance":

A letter signed by the Secretaries of the Protestant Alliance, the Church Association, and the Protestant Educational Institution was, on the 11th ult., to the Dean of Westminster, protesting against "the recurrence of the exceptional privilege being granted yearly to Roman Catholics Bishops, priests, monks, Sisters of Mercy, and other devotees, permitting the recital, on October the 13th, of the Romish devotional service of the Rosary of the Virgin and the Invocation of Saints to be made at the shrine of Edward the Confessor in Westminster Abbey—a service specially directed by Leo XIII. to be used in all churches during the month of October, for the conversion of heretics." The memorialists submitted that the introduction of a Popish ceremonial and devotional service into a Protestant place of worship is a sore grievance to the consciences of loyal members of the Church of England and Protestants generally, and they directed the Dean's attention to the action taken by the late Dean of Westminster and his predecessor, who were careful to close this portion of the Abbey each year on October 13th, to guard against any such display of devotion. To this letter the following reply has been received:

"Southlands, Warminglid Cuckfield
October 14, 1886.

Gentlemen:—In my absence from London I have received a paper bearing your signatures. It is dated October 11, but was not left at the Deanery till after I had left town on the afternoon of the 12th, and has been forwarded to me here. In this document it is stated that, in spite of appeals 'made to the guardians,' from some quarter which is specified, 'an exceptional privilege' has been 'granted yearly to Roman Catholic Bishops, priests, monks,' etc., to hold a service on October 13 'at the shrine of Edward the Confessor, in Westminster Abbey.' The service is described as one specially ordered by Pope Leo XIII., with a view to promote the conversion of heretics. A list of reasons—nine I think, in all, some of them of weight—is added in order to prove that the granting of such special permission for the holding of such a service in the Abbey is much to be deprecated. The paper concludes with a statement that opening of this portion of the Abbey on October 13 is an innovation introduced by the present Dean. You will allow me to assure you that on all these points you have been misinformed. No permission has been given, either this year or previously, to hold an exceptional service. Roman Catholic or other, on the day you mention. No Bishop, priest, monk, or layman of the Roman Church has asked me for any such permission. No such 'function' as you describe has been performed, or any service held. No change whatever as regard the opening or closing of the Abbey on that day has been introduced by me. I am quite aware that among the numerous pilgrims to the tombs of the Kings some of our Roman Catholic countrymen have knelt for devotional purposes before the shrine of the confessor. But they have done this as individuals, without any approach to a public service of any kind, and without unduly interfering with the throng of ordinary visitors. It is not our practice to discourage any visitor to the Abbey from offering private prayer within its walls, or to question those who assume the attitude of devotion as to the nature and object of their personal petitions. Should any attempt be made to use any portion of the Abbey for religious service other than those for which it is entrusted to my care, I and those who act with me would have difficulty in dealing with the matter. In this case where some mount of careful judgment and of due consideration for the feelings, both of worshippers and of others, were required, I should hardly be assisted by such statements as those which you have taken the trouble to bring before me. If the paper which I received was drawn up with the approval and under the authority of the societies which you name, you will be so good as to communicate to them the answer which it has received. I must entirely decline further correspondence on the subject. Believe me to be your obedient servant,

"G. G. Bradley."

The Secretary of the Protestant Alliance writes that the Dean's letter is satisfactory, so far as it is a pledge on the part of the Dean of Westminster that "no religious service shall be permitted within any portion of the Abbey other than those for which it is entrusted to his care," but the Dean, he adds, "is evidently not aware of the fact that special services and procession in honor of 'Our Lady of the Rosary' have been commanded by Leo XIII. to be served during the month of October in all Churches and it may be possible that Westminster Abbey is regarded by Romanists as one of the churches still belonging of right to the Church of Rome. Last year, and the year before, the festival of Edward the Confessor fell upon a day when all parts of the Abbey are free to visitors and this affords an explanation of the fact stated by the Dean, that 'no change had been made by him as regards the closing or opening of the Abbey on that day.' We learn from the published reports that 'on Wednesday last the pilgrims were kneeling three and four deep around the shrine,' and it can, therefore, hardly be conceded to Dean Bradley that there was no 'undue interference with the throng of ordinary visitors.' It would be desirable to know whether the Dean of Westminster considers that prayers avowedly addressed to the Virgin Mary are a fitting form of devotion for a Protestant place of worship, or whether he believes that the Virgin Mary is a proper object of veneration.

EFFECTS OF TEA DRINKING.

From Science:

The consumption of tea has become so enormous as to have suggested a study of its effects upon the health of the people. There are those who look upon it as an evil only second to that connected with excessive use of alcohol. Tea is spoken of as an agreeable cerebral stimulant, quickening intellectual operation, removing headache and fatigue and promoting cheerfulness and a sense of well being. When it is used to excess the digestive and nervous systems are especially affected. There is no doubt that there are cases of dyspepsia caused by the inordinate use of strong tea, and it is also a matter of common observation that sleeplessness, palpitation of the heart and nervous irritability often follow the prolonged use of this beverage. Tea drinkers, by which we mean those who use tea to an excess, are to be found in all classes of society. The fact should be impressed upon such persons that tea is not a food and cannot therefore, without risk to health, be substituted for articles of diet which form both flesh and bone.

POPULAR SCIENCE NOTES.

The soundness of timber may be ascertained by placing the ear close to one end while another person delivers a succession of smart blows with a hammer or mallet upon the opposite end, when a continuance of the vibration will indicate to an experienced ear even the degree of soundness. If only a dull thud meets the ear, the listener may be certain that unsoundness exists.

Measurements have shown the thickness of the human hair to vary from the two hundred and fiftieth to the six hundredth part of an inch. The silk worm's thread is one five thousandth of an inch thick, and the spider's web only one thirty-thousandth. Blonde hair is the finest and red the coarsest. Taking four heads of hair of equal weight, a patient German physiologist found the red one to contain about 90,000 hair, the black, 103,000; the brown, 106,000, and the blonde, 140,000.

The moon from its nearness has always been a favorite object of telescopic study. Its mountains are readily visible with the lowest power and the configurations of its surface. Its plains and mountains (not land and water, for water does not exist) have been repeatedly mapped. The largest of these, 72 inches in diameter and drawn to scale, was Dr. Schmidt, of Athens and recently published at the expense of the Prussian Government. The mountains are often craters, consisting of a ring, with small peaks in the centre. There are also streaks over its surface about two miles wide and sometimes 150 long, which are probably cracks caused by the moon's cooling filled up with some lighter colored substance, or they may be old water-courses. There have been many announced changes on the moon's surface but it is not certain that they are anything else than changes of shadows caused by the relative positions of sun and moon is anything but a cold and dead mass of rocks.

RELIABLE RECIPES

Port Wine Jelly.—Melt in a little warm water an ounce of isinglass. Stir into a pint of port wine, adding two ounces of sugar candy, an ounce of gum arabic and a half nutmeg, grated. Mix all well and boil it ten minutes or till everything is thoroughly dissolved. Then strain it through muslin and set it away to get cold.

Quick Waffles.—Two pints sweet milk one cup butter (melted) sifted flour to make a soft batter, and the well beaten yolks of six eggs, then the beaten whites and lastly just before baking, four tea spoons paking powder, beating very hard and fast for a few minutes. These are very good with four or five eggs; but much better with more.

Ox-Tail Soup.—Take two ox tails and two whole onions, two carrots; a small turnip, two tablespoonfuls of flour, and a little white pepper, add a gallon of water, let all boil for two hours, then take out the tails and cut the meat into small pieces, return the bones to the pot for a short time, boil for another hour then strain the soup, and rinse two spoonfuls of arrowroot to add to it with the meat cut from the bones, and let oil boil for a quarter of an hour.

ON THE RIO DI SOBRADO, BRAZIL

The soft tones of the dawn of a fine morning fell alike upon the field and flood and tinged all creation with its rosy hues. The rich-colored banks glow, ed with the warm light that made the dripping leaves of forest, the ferns and flowers of the shore all flash and sparkle like jewels. On the river here and there patches of rising vapor partly obscured its sheets of gleaming gold, until a gentle breeze carried away the mist in the faint test of clouds. The fish splashed in the smoking waters; gay blue, bronze king-fishers darted from their perches on the bleached skeleton trunks of stranded snags; white herons skimmed the waters with wide outstretched wings clouds of noisy, chattering parrots flew by, numerous small birds twittered and chirruped, and in the woods the roars of 'quaribas' or howling monkeys echoed and re-echoed from cliff to cliff of the banks. It was a picture that even in the absence of personal comfort one would gaze upon with delight, and all nature seemed to welcome the rosy dawn and pure fresh air after the moist, erous, darksome night.—Three Thousand Miles through Brazil.—James W. Wells.

TENDERS FOR A LICENSE TO CUT TIMBER ON DOMINION LANDS IN THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

SEALED Tenders addressed to the undersigned and marked 'Tender of a timber birth,' will be received at this Office until noon on Monday, the 1st day of November next, for four timber births of ten square miles each, more or less numbered respectively 4, 5, 8, and 9 situated on Kicking Horse River, and Otter tail Creek, a tributary of the Kicking Horse River, near field and Otter tail stations, on the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, in the Province of British Columbia.

Sketches showing the position, approximately, of these births, together with the conditions on which they will be licensed, may be obtained at this Department or at the Crown Timber Office, Winnipeg, Calgary, N. W. T., and New Westminster, British Columbia.

A. M. BURGESS,
Deputy of the Minister of the Interior
Department of the Interior.
Ottawa, 14th August, 1886.

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The conveyance to be made in covered vehicles securely locked; and each vehicle drawn by at least two horses, the vehicles to be appropriated expressly for the mails.

The courier to leave the post office and railway station with the mails on such days and at such hours as may be from time to time required; to deliver the mails at the railway station within fifteen minutes after leaving the post office, and at the post office within fifteen minutes after the arrival of each mail train.

Each tender to state the price asked per single trip—a single trip to consist of the conveyance of the mail from the post office to the station, or from the station to the post office.

Two securities must be bound with the contractor in the sum of two thousand dollars for the due performance of the service.

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed contract may be seen, and blank forms of tender obtained at the post office at Winnipeg, or at the office of the subscriber.

W. W. McLeod,

Post office Inspector

Post Office Inspector's Office.

Winnipeg, Oct. 15, 1886

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