

are situated on the wings, the ladies' Turkish bath being in one, and the gentlemen's Turkish bath being in the other; they are now nearly completed to twice their former size, and with their elegant furniture, drying rooms, reposing rooms, dressing rooms, wardrobes, and other equipments require to be seen to be appreciated. There is a complete suite of ladies' baths, consisting of mineral, douches, and fresh water baths, all fitted up with dressing rooms in the most modern style, with the latest improvements, while a suite of gentlemen's baths of a similar description are under the management of the best bath attendant in America. In addition to a numerous staff of experienced nurses, both male and female, all trained by himself, Dr. Mack has made extensive arrangements for the use and application of electricity as a sanitary agent, and for this purpose has procured the best description of apparatus that modern science can produce. The inhaling chamber is another improvement lately introduced, for the purpose of inhaling oxygen gas and other vapours, and for atomizing fluids, or producing spray medicated and simple.

"The water used for the mineral baths is brought from the Artesian Well, which, owing to a more thorough system of tubing; is stronger than any other mineral water (the well is 400 feet deep.) The spring water for the baths, as well as the canal water for other domestic purposes, such as sluicing drains, is all forced up to the cistern at the top of the house by steam force pumps. The ten horse power engine which works the pumps also saws all the wood used in the establishment."

### Current Notes.

Dr. Wm. Joos, a wealthy Swiss, is soon to visit Minnesota in search of 100,000 acres of land, with a view of locating a Swiss Colony.

There are in the United States 63,000 church edifices, affording accommodation for twenty-one millions and a half of worshippers.

The bi-centenary of Peter the Great is to be celebrated at St. Petersburg, on May 30, with considerable display.

Cable messages to Great Britain, only under ten words may be taken at one dollar per word, with 25 cents added. Thus a message of five words will be \$5.25.

According to the last census, the population of St. Petersburg is 667,267, in the proportion of 76 females to 100 men. The average house rent is £48.

NAPLES, May 3.—The eruption of Vesuvius has entirely ceased, and the inhabitants of villages which were threatened with destruction by running lava have returned to their homes. A hurricane of terrible violence has swept over and devastated the country, greatly damaging the villages and remaining crops.

The agent of the Cunard line has received information of the loss of the steamship *Tripoli* from Liverpool to Boston. The *Tripoli* went ashore on the South Tuscar rock of the Cansore Point, on the Irish coast. The crew and passengers are all saved, but the vessel will be a total loss. Little of the cargo can be saved.

Business in the stock exchange on Friday, the 18th ult., was inaugurated by a public burning of the *Daily Telegraph*, general condemnation being expressed of its bold assertions on Thursday with regard to the existing relations between France and Germany, which the telegrams from various parts of the Continent totally contradict.

Deputations headed respectively by Sir Charles Dilke, M.P., and Mr. Harvey Lewis, M.P., waited upon the Marquis of Ripon, to urge the opening of the British Museum and other art galleries to the public on Sundays. The Lord President of the Council promised, on behalf of Mr. Forster and himself, carefully to consider the subject.

Mr. Henry Mitchell writes to a Birmingham paper:—The remarks which have appeared in the local papers upon the death of Mr. Joseph Gillott, "that the adaptation of machinery to the manufacture of metallic pens" was his invention, lead the public to wrong conclusions. It is due to the memory of my late father, John Mitchell, that I should state that he not only made steel pens, but used machinery in their production, for some time before Mr. Gillott commenced in that branch of business.

Another item of news, and good news, too, from Japan: A despatch from Yokohama, dated April 23, says by an Imperial decree, Tenno, of Japan, has abolished all edicts directed against Christianity, which have been in force for over three centuries. This is a voluntary act of a generous and enlightened Sovereign. This result has been delayed by the frequent embarrassments which the government encountered from the persistent interference of certain foreign missionaries who systematically baptized criminals convicted of infamous crimes, and then attempted to avert just punishment under the laws by raising cries of Christian persecution and invoking foreign interference.

The martello towers on the S. English coast having in a measure been rendered useless by the more recently constructed forts and the wonderful progress made in the science of gunnery of late years, the authorities decided to destroy by gunpowder the two towers, Nos. 35 and 38, situated on the coast of Sussex, near Hastings, on Thursday, the 25th ult. The experiments were made by the Royal Engineers and officers of the Ordnance Corps, and others likely to feel an interest in the operations were invited to be present. The tower No. 35 was blown up by 200 lbs. of gun cotton placed in three positions, and No. 38 by 800 lbs. of powder in barrels.

The following is a return of the number of building grants applied for by managers of elementary schools for the enlargement of existing schools, and the denominations to which the applications belong, and of the number of applications undisposed of on the 1st day of January, 1872 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 185, of Session 1871):—Church of England, 2,885; Roman Catholic, 82; British, 100; Wesleyan, 96; Primitive Methodist, 4; United Methodist Free Church, 7; Methodist New Connexion, 1; Baptist, 6; Congregational, 9; English Presbyterian, 1; Unitarian, 3; Jewish, 1; Undenominational, 135—total, 3,330. This number is slightly (100) in excess of the previous return (185 of Session 1871), owing to accidental delay in registering some of the latest applications made in 1870. The number of applications undisposed of on the 1st of January last was 2,077, of which 1,773 belonged to the Church of England. In the great majority (1,474) of these cases the applications have been approved, but the plans or trust deeds are still under consideration.

The following is a condensed *etat* of the German army for 1873:—The total of the regular standing army is 401,700 men, 17,000 officers, 94,800 horse, and 1,700 medical men. The Prussian contingent for the infantry is 113 regiments, guard and line, including five sub-officers' schools and a gun-practice school. The Prussian body comprises 5,585 officers, 19,833 sub-officers, 1,663 commissioned, and 5,484 private drummers and bandsmen, 167,204 privates and sergeants, and 4,206 artisans—total, 199,760 men; besides 685 surgeons, 344 paymasters, 343 armourers, and 3,306 horses. There are besides 9 Saxon, 2 Mecklenburg, 8 Wurtemberg, and 16 Bavarian infantry regiments. The Jaeger (voltigeurs or chasseurs) are represented by 13 Prussian, 2 Saxon, and 1 Mecklenburg regiment, and 10 Bavarian battalions—total, 14,765. The cadres of the Landwehr only contribute 4,876 officers and men. There are 63 cavalry regiments (71 Prussian), with 66,284 officers and men, 313 doctors, 94 paymasters, 534 veterinary surgeons, and 93 armourers and saddlers to each regiment. The field artillery musters 21 regiments, 30,269 officers and men, and 14,878 horses; siege artillery, 16 regiments—13,730 men; the two together forming about 44,000 men, with 15,000 horses. Finally, there are 18 battalions of engineers (7,476 men), 18 battalions of the train (4,180 men), with 176 medical men, and 3,400 horses, &c. The Landwehr may be fairly estimated at 900,000 men, ready at short notice, not to mention the Landsturm.

Seven months ago Chicago was almost obliterated from the face of the earth by one of the most terrible conflagrations of modern times; one who saw it then would hardly recognize it now. The rapidity with which it has been rebuilt is marvellous; the unsightly ruins made by the fire are almost replaced by fine blocks of buildings, more substantial and beautiful than those which once occupied their sites, and the value of property is rapidly rising in all parts of the city. On Wabash Avenue and in Jackson, Adams, Monroe, and Jefferson streets the price of land has advanced from \$1,000 per front foot to \$200, and in some instances to \$1,500. The Grand Pacific Hotel is the finest and largest of the new buildings, and has 500 rooms; it is rebuilding on its old site and will cost \$1,000,000. The Republic Life Insurance building, which was badly damaged by the fire, is rebuilding with stone, iron and brick, and the many public edifices in process of erection will make Chicago a much finer and better city than it was ever before. As may readily be believed, in all buildings great precautions are taken against danger of fire, Chicago being a "burnt child."—*The Leader*.

The Boston *Advertiser* gives a description of the jubilee Coliseum as it is to be if not again blown down. Five hundred and seventy-five men are to work at it, and it is thought that it can be finished before June 17 without night work. The roof will be sustained by 300 pillars sixty feet long, and the building will be painted a light pearl-grey colour. The abutments of the Newton street bridge have already reached its highest level in the centre, and the abutments of the Huntington Avenue bridge are complete on the east side and nearly up to their full height on the western side of the Boston and Albany Railroad. The building will be insured for \$100,000. Altogether it will be a great affair; but the Bostonians should beware lest the fate of Jericho meet it when the trumpets shall blow and the people shall bawl. The singers and other musicians are hard at work rehearsing, and from one end of Massachusetts to the other nothing is heard but the loud bassoon, the soft flute, the twanging horn, the thrumming piano, and the melancholy cry of the midnight cat, whose nose has been put out of joint by all this endeavour of Boston to emulate the aesthetic portions of Bostonese culture.

Whatever may be their precepts, the practice of the "Peculiar People" is far from commending itself to the approval, or even the toleration, we should imagine, of any enlightened people. Religious mania has, in times gone by, shown us many examples of absurd zeal and revolting custom. We recall the sacrifices at Smithfield, the thumb-screws of Spain, the floating bodies on the Ganges, and the ill-treatment of Jews, with horror, coummingled with satisfaction that we in England can now pursue the even tenor of our religion in safety and repose. An investigation just concluded at Plumstead, however, will not fail to excite considerable attention at the hands of the public, for it exhibits the slowly expanding nucleus of a social danger. An inquest, it appears, was held on the body of a child, aged seven years, named Cecilia Hurry, and who had died from small-pox. The special feature of the case rested in the fact that the father of the deceased is an elder of a sect called "Peculiar People," who consider medical attendance unnecessary in any sickness that may befall the faithful. In this case the disease was allowed to run its course unchecked, and unattended by a medical man. In the result the jury returned a verdict of manslaughter against the father of the deceased. Now, whilst we would not desire for one moment to deny to any sect or individual the extremest latitude of thought upon religious matters, we can but feel that toleration must stop short of encouraging so pernicious a system as that which appertains to the "Peculiar People." The age of miracles, we are led to believe, is gone by, and, consequently, we can assure the misguided creatures who rejoice in the designation of "Peculiar," that of recent years faith has not proved the most competent attendant on a broken limb or a raging fever. Moreover, does it not appear monstrous that a child of seven years, who cannot possibly have a mind to grasp the views of the "Peculiar People," should risk its life in conformity to the prejudices of that sect? Perhaps these people act conscientiously; but even if they do so, they must be taught to take care of themselves and their friends, or otherwise their sect may rapidly become extinct.—*Morning Advertiser*, April 20th.