

CATHOLIC INTELLIGENCE.

CATHOLIC NEWS.—There are 8,000,000 Catholics in Russia. ADDRESS TO HIS HOLINESS.—The Edinburgh Catholic Young Men's Society has sent an address to His Holiness, on the occasion of his jubilee. PATRONS' PRIZES.—The diocese of Southwark, England, contributed about £1,500 on the occasion of the collection for the Pope. ROME, May 19.—It is asserted that the Pope has indirectly requested the good offices of the Emperor of Austria with the Czar in behalf of the Catholics in Poland. MANDATE.—The Bishop of Meaux has published a mandate for the consecration of his diocese to the Sacred Heart. There are only five French dioceses which are not so consecrated. THE SEA OF HAARLEM.—The Right Rev. Petrus Mathias Snickers, President of the Seminary, Vicar-General, and Vicar-Capitular, has been appointed Bishop of Haarlem. MISSIONARY PRIESTS.—A number of priests for the Colored mission are expected to arrive in Baltimore at an early date from Mill Hill College in London. Those of the Mission now in America are doing a noble work and recruits are at all times acceptable. THE BENEDETTINO MISSIONARY IN SAVANNAH, GA., intend, besides their missionary labors, to erect an industrial and agricultural school for colored youths. The boys who remain until their twenty-first year will be able to instruct their brethren, and the undertaking promises great results. In a convent of Capuchin nuns, at Nuria, in Spain, a religious 125 years old is reported to be still living. But what is more extraordinary is the fact that she still attends to all the exercises of the community, including even Matin and Lauds, which are said at midnight. A hundred years ago there were not more than twenty-five priests in the United States. In 1800 there were no more than forty. During the next thirty years the number increased to 232. Eighteen years after this (1848) the number had risen to 890; in 1862, to 2,317; in 1872, to 4,809; in 1873, to 5,704. A Rome despatch states that Victor Emmanuel has written to the Pope, congratulating him on the approaching anniversary of his elevation to the Episcopate; the Pope sent reply, thanking the King and begging him not to permit the Italian Government to despoil the parishes and confraternities of their property. THE DUCHESS OF NORFOLK.—A Rome correspondent writes that the *Unica Cattolica* announces with much satisfaction that the Duchess of Norfolk has just brought to a conclusion the works of the fourth of the five churches she vowed she would build in commemoration of the wounds of our Lord. PRESENTS TO THE POPE.—The *Herald's* Rome special says.—Charles Ewing, the Envoy of Mrs. Gen. Sherman, President of the American Ladies Committee, at a private audience with the Pope, presented \$11,000 gold, from the Archdiocese of Baltimore, and \$5,000 from other dioceses. PROGRESS OF CATHOLICITY IN THE WEST.—Seattle, a place in Washington Territory, on Puget Sound, which was founded only three or four years ago by the Rev. Father Prefontaine, a Catholic priest from Quebec Province, has now a population of 5,000, with a daily paper, four district schools, and seven churches. CONVERSION OF AN ANGLICAN CLERGYMAN.—The Rev. James Arthur Poole, late curate of St. John's, Mills Platting, has (says a Central News telegram) resigned his curacy and been received into the Catholic Church. The Rev. gentleman belonged to the High Church party, the services at St. John's being conducted upon Ritualistic principles. JESUIT MISSIONS.—The Jesuit Fathers have accepted missions and parishes in the cities of Providence, R. I., and Detroit, Mich., and will enter immediately on the duties of their new charges. In the latter city they are to establish a high school and college for boys—a want long felt by the Catholics in that region. THE CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA.—Australia, which at the beginning of this century had no more than 100,000 inhabitants, counts now 800,000 Catholics. They have built churches, hospitals and schools. The first and only Catholic Bishop in the province resides in Sydney, but it will not be long till the Holy See shall have to erect a new bishopric. IRISH UNIVERSITY EDUCATION.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer received a deputation from Ireland, headed by Mr. Butt, M. P., and the Lord Mayor of Dublin, respecting University education; and, after listening to their representations, intimated that he was fully alive to the importance of the subject, and would confer with his colleagues as to obtaining a day this session for the discussion of Mr. Butt's Bill now before Parliament. BELGIUM AND THE ALLOTMENT.—His Eminence Cardinal Deschamps, Archbishop of Malines, has published an eloquent Pastoral, re-affirming in energetic language the reclamations contained in the late Allocution of His Holiness, and calling on the Catholics of his diocese to pray earnestly for the deliverance of the Church from its present calamitous circumstances. CONVERSION OF A NAVAL CHAPLAIN.—Letters from Jamaica state that on the arrival there of the Rev. Charles Edwin Hodson, who had come out to join her Majesty's ship "Aboukir," to which he had lately been appointed, he announced that he had joined the Roman Catholic Church. There were several Catholic priests among his fellow passengers on board the mail boat. Mr. Hodson has for a long time been connected with the High Church party. He was ordained by the Bishop of Exeter, and, having obtained a chaplaincy in the Royal Navy, took part in the late Arctic expedition, serving as chaplain on board the "Discovery." CONVERSION IN ROME OF AN ENGLISHMAN.—In the chapel of His Eminence Cardinal Simeoni, Secretary of State to his Holiness, Mr. Algar Welby, a member of an English family well known in Rome for many years, abjured on Friday morning the errors of heresy, and was received into the bosom of the Catholic Church. Mgr. Sallua, of the Holy Office, and Father Simpliciano, of the Minor Arcadian of Naples, by whom Mr. Welby was instructed in the dogmas of the faith, and a number of ladies and gentlemen, were present on the occasion. Cardinal Simeoni received the adjuration, and conferred on the neophyte conditional Baptism, Confirmation, and the Holy Eucharist. He was afterwards presented to the Holy Father, who was in his room busily engaged in writing, and was received with much kindness. His Holiness affectionately imparted his Apostolic Benediction to the new convert.—*Weekly Register*. DIOCESE OF THE MAURITIUS.—Bishop Saurisbrick, O. S. B., of Port Louis, Mauritius, and his Secretary, Rev. Peter Cox, are staying at the Hotel d'Allegagne, Rome. The Bishop presented to the Pope, in private audience, on the 6th of April, the sum of £890 in gold, being the third offering from his diocese within a short time. The purse containing this offering was worked by the nuns of Marie Reparatrice in gold embroidery, with the Papal arms and the inscription—"22,000. Sanctissimo et Dilectissimo Patri Nostro Pio Nono peramator oblatum Episcopus Clerus et fideles Diocesis Portus Induvic in insula Mauritiis, 1877." The Catholic population of the diocese is about 100,000, the Creoles being all Catholics except those who are in Government employment. The Indian population is about 200,000.

IRISH NEWS.

LONGEVITY IN DENPASAR, COUNTY DUBLIN.—Mrs. Wilkinson, of Denparagh, died recently, at the unusually great age of 103. THE IRISH LANGUAGE.—At a meeting of National Teachers, held at Killybegs, it was voted that Irish should be taught in the national schools. CATTLE DISEASE AT NEWRY.—At Newry lately two more cases of cattle disease were reported. Both animals were ordered to be slaughtered. ALLEGED DISTRESS IN THE ARRAN ISLANDS.—Rev. John A. Conannon, F. P., has written to the *Galway Vindicator* denying that distress exists among the Arran Islanders. ERECTION OF A COMMISSIONER.—Mr. John F. Boyle has been elected one of the Dunsgrange Town Commissioners in the room of Mr. Wm. Ryan, who resigned. RAY-KILLING EXTRAORDINARY.—An inmate of the Armagh Workhouse killed 1,171 rats in that institution during the past year. On Tuesday last he was ordered a gratuity of £2 therefor.—*Armagh Guardian*. HARBOR COMMISSIONERS.—At the annual meeting of the Waterford Harbor Commissioners, on the 31st ult., the secretary read the yearly accounts which showed that the Board was almost £3,500 better off than at the close of the last financial year. DESTITUTION IN DUBLIN.—In a room without any furniture whatever, except some straw strewn on the floor, three starving children of a laborer were found by the police on the 29th ult., in a court off Summer Hill. The father was arrested, charged with neglect, and remanded. FATAL ACCIDENT.—A wooden bridge spanning the railway near Castleblinham Station, which was about to be taken down lately, fell while three workmen were engaged on it. Thos. Byrne, one of the men, died of the injuries he sustained, and the two others were severely hurt. A TIPPERARY LAND AGENT.—The editor of the *Irish Monthly* tells a good story of a "new English land-agent in Tipperary, much given to strong adjurations, on whom one of the tenants reported as follows: 'Well, I don't know about his business day's; but for blasphemous language he's an *au revoir*.'" CHARGE OF BIGAMY.—At the Edenderry Petty Sessions on the 28th ult., Robert O'Dea was remanded, on a charge of bigamy. It appears he had married a third time, though the ladies of the two former marriages were still alive. He was married to Eliza Rogers, at Ballybrook, County Dublin, on November 1, 1863. A PETITION TO THE LORD LIEUTENANT.—Mr. Dominic Forham, who was committed and sentenced to nine months' imprisonment by Judge Keogh at the last Kerry Assizes for assaulting Sub-Constable Books in Tralee, has memorialised the Lord Lieutenant for a mitigation of that sentence. A copy of the memorial has been forwarded to The O'Donoghue, M. P. THE POPULATION OF IRELAND.—Owing to the births (140,000) exceeding the deaths, and emigration combined (92,000 and 37,000 respectively), last year, Ireland had for the first time for many years a clear gain in the population amounting to over 10,000. The population in the middle of the year was 5,321,000. TENANT RIGHT.—A great tenant right meeting was held at Crumlin, Co. Antrim, on Whit Monday. Professor Smyth, M. P., delivered a lecture on the doings of the past session, with special reference to the land question, and the following Ulster members took part in the proceedings:—Mr. James Sharman Crawford, Mr. Thomas A. Dickson, and Mr. Taylor. SAD DEATH OF A CATTLE DEALER ON BOARD A STEAMER.—On the arrival of the *Earl of Erne* steamer, on the 2nd inst., at Warren point, it transpired that during the passage from Liverpool a cattle dealer named Roger Rooney, who belonged to Mayo Bridge, near Newry, had expired. The verdict of a coroner's jury was that death had resulted from congestion of the brain produced by excessive drinking and exposure to cold. ORANGE OUTRAGE AT MULLENTAIN.—At Stewartstown Petty Sessions, lately, six men were summoned by Arthur Doherty for a combined assault on the 12th of March last. Arthur Doherty, the complainant, gave evidence, from which it appeared that on the day in question he had been attending a meeting at Ballinure Bridge, and when returning, and at Mullentain Gate, a party of about forty persons waylaid them, he being struck with a stone, and rendered insensible. Other witnesses having been examined, the case was adjourned to the 11th inst. NARROW ESCAPE OF TWO OFFICERS.—Lieutenants Moore and Smith, of the 88 Connaught Rangers, had a wonderfully narrow escape from drowning on the evening of the 28th ult. While sailing on Lough Rea, under the influence of a stiff easterly wind, their boat, a small yacht of about four tons, suddenly capsized, and being ballasted, went to the bottom immediately. The officers reached the Connaught shore in an exhausted condition. Lieut. Moore is son to the late George Henry Moore, who was for many years the eloquent and popular Parliamentary representative of the County of Mayo. LAND ACT.—In the English House of Commons, on the 27th ult., The O'Donoghue, M. P., for Tralee, moved a resolution for amending the Irish Land Act of 1870. He declared that Act to be almost worthless, and that steps should be taken to prevent the exaction of rents which virtually confiscate the improvements declared by that Act to be the property of the tenant, and also that steps should be taken to prevent the eviction of tenants for refusing to submit to such rents. The motion was supported by Mr. Butt, the Home Rule leader, and generally by his party. It was, like all similar motions in favor of Ireland, defeated by a majority of 124 votes, 65 members voting for and 189 against it. SUNDAY TIPPLING IN SOUTH TIPPERARY.—From an official return having reference to the districts in the South Riding of Tipperary, it appears the total number of inebriates convicted in the year was 3,694, and of these but 289 were convicted of being drunk on Sundays—that is, on the average, about half the number convicted on each week day. The rarity of convictions for Sunday tippling in the Catholic diocese of Cashel is very remarkable. In that diocese the Catholic Bishop induced publicans to close their houses on Sunday. Where the ecclesiastical law is obeyed, the sobriety of the people on Sundays is beyond all praise. In the towns of Ballynanty, Ballingarry, Drangan, and Killenaule, there was not a single Sunday tippler convicted. In the thickly-populated towns of Cashel, Fethard, Golden, and New Inn, there were but five. In Dunderum, Cappawhitte, and Holyford, only three. But in Tipperary, Banaha, and Emly, there were no fewer than sixty-five convictions for drunkenness on Sundays. The cause of this very remarkable difference between the police statistics of these towns and those of others in the Diocese of Cashel, is suggested by a note added by Dr. P. Ireland, Esq., County Inspector.—"In Tipperary, Banaha, and Emly, there are five public houses kept open on Sundays, contrary to ecclesiastical rule."

GENERAL NEWS.

BRANTON.—Branton, Ontario, became a city on Thursday. SITTING BULL IS AGAIN ENGAGED IN HOSTILITIES WITH UNITED STATES TROOPS. Mr. J. H. Fraser, M. P. P., has been confined to bed for three days past with a serious attack of inflammatory rheumatism. COLLIERIES STRIKE.—The Northumberland, England, colliers struck on Monday, and removed their tools from the pits; 12,000 men idle. TORONTO, June 1.—A special by cable to the *Globe*, dated yesterday, says:—"The Canadian pilgrims left for Rome to-day. All well." TIDAL WAVE.—The great tidal wave of May the 10th was felt simultaneously at the Hawaiian Islands. RELIEF WORKS.—A Calcutta despatch reports the number employed on Madras relief works increasing slightly; at Bombay the increase is considerable, with a slight rise in the price of grain. GENERAL GRANT.—The parish priest of Queenstown, Ireland, preached against Grant on Sunday, alleging he had shown himself a persistent enemy of the Roman Catholic Church. BILLIARDS.—Sexton took away the championship and \$1,000 from Joe Dion last night at Tammany Hall, New York, beating him by 158 points out of 600. DISASTER.—The Catholic Church at Wiesen, Grand Duchy of Posen, was struck by lightning during service. Six people were killed and twenty seriously injured. IMMIGRANTS.—Up to this date only three hundred immigrants have reported at the Ottawa office this year. The demand for labor is exceedingly limited, about the only call being for domestic servants. FAMINE IN CHINA.—Latest China news states that sufferings from famine in the northern provinces of China are unabated. Partial relief is afforded by the exertions of foreigners and wealthy Chinese, but effective only to a limited extent. THE DOGS ON MOUNT ST. BERNARD saved the lives of forty persons during the past winter. At a distance of an hour's walk they can discover through their wonderful sense of smell, whether travellers are on the mountain within that distance. BISMARCK.—It is stated that Bismarck is endeavoring to effect an understanding between the belligerent powers, and that the Porte is not opposed to entering on negotiations for a cessation of hostilities. DISASTROUS FIRE.—HULL IN FLAMES.—OTTAWA, June 1.—A most disastrous fire occurred at Hull, at an early hour this morning, which destroyed about \$50,000 worth of property owned by E. B. Eddy. 43 horses were roasted, also one cow which was stabled in the rear. OCEAN NAVIGATION EXTRAORDINARY.—The schooner *New Bedford*, twenty feet long, with Capt. Thos. Crapo and wife aboard, sailed on Monday for London. An immense crowd witnessed the departure. The boat is the smallest that ever attempted the feat. ENTERPRISING SCHEME.—Chinese capitalists, supported by high officials, are endeavoring to get control of the great trading interests of steamship lines, &c., by extensive purchases, with the avowed object of gradually wresting commercial supremacy from foreign hands. COREAN TERRITORIAL LINK.—Complaints have been received from the Korean Government that the line of neutral territory between the Corea and China is not respected by subjects of China, and a proposal is now under consideration, to authorize the Koreans to capture and summarily kill all intruders. MAKING PROVISION.—A Rome despatch states that a large portion of the \$600,000 which the Pope has already received from the pilgrims has been remitted to London and deposited to provide against the needs of the Holy See while the Pontifical throne is vacant, and for the first requirements of Pius's successor. OFFICIAL ASSIGNMENTS.—John Turner and Thomas McCrosson of the *Tribune*, of city of Toronto, have been gazetted official assignees under the provisions of the Insolvent Act, for the County of York, including the city of Toronto. Mr. McCrosson's experience in such matters will doubtless be useful in his new sphere. THE CHANNEL SQUADRON.—The strength of the Channel squadron represents nearly 60,000 tons of armor-plated ships carrying 115 guns and 5,000 men. The fleet in the Mediterranean consists of 20 sea-going vessels (10 armor-plated) and an aggregate of 5,000 officers and men. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECT.—Reports from 49 different sections of the state of Nebraska show an increased acreage especially of corn. In some localities the wet weather and floods have done some damage, but the crops generally are looking well, and grasshoppers do not seem to be doing much damage. There is also a large increase in stock cattle and hogs. CATHOLIC EDUCATION.—NEW YORK, June 1.—The Young Men's National Roman Catholic Union today adopted a resolution requesting the delegates to interest their societies in the cause of the Roman Catholic education, which was believed to be an absolute necessity. And for the establishment and maintenance of schools to instruct the Roman Catholic youth in worldly knowledge and in the principles of faith. REPORTED MUTINY ON BOARD A BRITISH IRON-CLAD.—There was recently an *emute* on board Her Majesty's iron armor-plated ship "Alexandra," flagship of the Mediterranean squadron, in consequence of stringency of discipline and unusual severity of punishments. The whole of one watch refused to do duty and threw the gun-sights overboard. Three subordinates were sentenced to 42 days' imprisonment, and sent home in the "Monarch" to undergo the punishment. ATTEMPTS AT PERVERSION IN PRUSSIA.—Several months ago some Catholic citizens of Elbing applied to the Provincial Government of Dantzic praying that their children may be dispensed from receiving religious instruction from Old-Catholic teachers. Weeks passed without any answer. A fresh application was made, and at Easter there came a simple refusal. The parents have now applied to the Minister for Public Instruction. For six months the children have been forced to receive religious instruction from Old-Catholic teachers. It further appears that for a considerable time past Protestant school inspectors, acting under the authority of the Ministry of Instruction, are in the habit of interrogating the Catholic children on religion. THE PAPAL JUBILEE.—The jubilee of the Holy Father, which has caused such an outburst of feeling in the Catholic world at large, has not passed unnoticed in the Western District of Scotland. This is amply evident from the fact that during the week eleven hundred pounds have been forwarded to Rome to be laid at the feet of his Holiness. This sum was made up, not by the handsome offerings of some few generous hearts, but by the united efforts of all who, whether rich or poor, were anxious to give a token of their filial love to the Holy Father. The children from all the schools joined in the demonstration, and it was quite affecting to see how proud they were to subscribe their names, and sign their names to the schedules to be presented to their beloved Father.

WAR NEWS.

GREEN WILL FIGHT.—Greece has decided to have a hand in the Turco-Russian war. CONFERENCE.—A conference of the powers for the localization of the war is proposed to meet at Plasi. RECAPTURE OF ARDAHAN.—The reported recapture of Ardahan by the Turks, as alleged was effected by the former Turkish garrison unexpectedly turning back and taking the Russians unawares. ARDAHAN.—The London *Standard's* correspondent at Constantinople expresses the belief that the news of the recapture of Ardahan is authentic. In St. Petersburg the report is pronounced false. In Constantinople it is officially announced that the Turks have just retaken Ardahan. IN FRONT OF BAYAZET.—The inhabitants are surrendering their arms to the Russians. Heavy rains continue to impede operations. A fresh rising occurred in the Terek district, and the insurgents were dispersed by the troops. One body of 500 insurgents lost 80 killed and 100 prisoners. ENGAGEMENT.—A sharp engagement took place outside Kars recently, resulting in a decisive advantage to the Russians. The Turks lost the outlying entrenchments on three sides of Kars, with two guns and a quantity of ammunition. The Russians lost 36 killed, and Turks 100. MARAUDING EXPEDITION DESTROYED.—Suleiman Pasha, commanding the Turkish forces in Hercegovina, reports that the Montenegrin marauding expedition is totally destroyed. The Turks laid a mine at Piva, and, by feigning a retreat, tempted the Montenegrins to follow, when the mine was fired and the Montenegrins all killed. SERBIA.—The most moderate view held in Constantinople regarding Serbian preparations is that they are intended to support a declaration of independence to be issued as soon as the Russians cross the Danube. In that case the Serbians, without declaring war or making any forward movement, would practically cover the right of the Russo-Rumanian army. RUSSIA.—Thirteen trains filled with Circassian cavalry in the Russian service passed over the Moldavian railways in one day, on their way back to Russia. Three squadrons will be disbanded. The Sheikh ul Islam found means to let these troops know that a holy war had been declared. They since have shown great discontent, and many declared they would not fire on their co-religionists. The regiment will be sent to a Siberian garrison. ALLEGED MASSACRE BY TURKS.—A *Herald's* London special charges that a number of Bosnian refugees in Servia, confiding in the Turkish promise of amnesty, crowded the frontier in the hope of returning home, were immediately seized by the Turks and driven to Derber. They were thrown into a dungeon, and nine were murdered in cold blood. The massacre has spread terror throughout Bosnia. The population are arming, and looking to Russia for help. THE CZAR IMPATIENT.—The *Herald's* special says the Czar is irritated at the slowness in the conduct of the Campaign, and the bad nourishment of the troops. He has ordered the mobilization of three more divisions for the Caucasus, where the Circassian insurrection causes anxiety. The convoy of munitions for the Russians have been seized by the Austrian authorities, at Lemberg, in Galicia. During the bombardment of Widdien the Roumanians shelled the hospital, killing two patients. TURKEY.—A Vienna despatch says that the palace clique at Constantinople seems to have renounced all idea of yielding. The formation of a Council of War is a sign that it has renounced its position in the Palace. This measure will probably prevent the Sultan's going to the army. The first step of the Council of War has been to obtain an authorization from the Sultan for the formation of a Hungarian legion. The authorization was given despite the representations of Count Zichy, the Austrian Ambassador. THE DANUBE.—A New York *Times* London special says the Russian advance on the Danube has been postponed, partly because of the interposition of diplomacy. Bismarck hopes to bring about understanding between England and Russia. This is rendered advisable by a strong undercurrent of active animosity in France against Germany. Germany proposes to form an alliance with Italy against ultramontane dictation, and Bismarck is working to prevent an alliance between France, Austria and England against a secret but well-known, understanding existing between Germany and Russia. BISMARCK BUSY.—The delay in beginning hostilities in earnest gives some strength to the rumours of Bismarck being busy as a mediator between the Porte and Russia. Ardahan has been retaken by the Turks, but not before the Russians destroyed the place. The Roumanians intend getting up a demonstration on the Czar's arrival in Bucharest. The war party is still active in Greece. At a large meeting in Birmingham last night addressed by Mr. Gladstone, a resolution was carried declaring England's true policy to be to unite with the other Powers and compel Turkey to give effectual guarantees for the proper treatment of Christians. TERRIBLE SLAUGHTER.—ERZENOU, June 3.—The most terrible event of the present war has occurred. Two nights ago 4,000 Circassian cavalry, commanded by Moussa Pasha, were ordered to proceed towards Kars, entirely unsupported by infantry. They rested for the night at Bekli Ahmed. Russians secretly organized a powerful force, and during the night surrounded and surprised the village in which the Circassians halted. Only about five per cent of the entire force of 4,000 Circassians escaped the carnage which followed. Moussa Pasha himself is among the missing. The Circassians fought desperately, and no quarter was given. THE POWERS AND PEACE.—The semi-official *Provincial Correspondence*, of Berlin, publishes an article which in the light of the recent peace rumours from Bucharest is significant. The article concludes as follows:—"The efforts of German policy, which after the last war found expression and a firm basis in the alliance of the Emperors, have proved also on the present grave crisis to be a guarantee for pacific mediation reaching far beyond that narrower alliance. If, notwithstanding the outbreak of the Russo-Turkish war, the prospects of the preservation of peace in Europe have within the last few weeks rather increased than diminished, German policy has an honourable share in this. BULGARIA.—The Rusechuk correspondent of the *Times* writes as follows:—"The twenty odd thousand troops of this garrison are the perfection of soldiers. They are brown, open-faced, big-shouldered fellows, perfectly resigned to any fate Allah may have for them, with perfect faith in the bankrupt Government, for the chief of which they shout and salaam every evening at sunset. The disorderly Moslem elements in a state of great fury with the Bulgarians and foreigners generally. The Christians are frightened to death lest some imprudent member of their faith should provide the spark which might light up such a glare as would throw Batak into the shade completely. Even the consuls have to be careful for their lives. Proofs of the extreme and dangerous tension of the relations between Moslem and non-Moslem could be given without end."

NATURALISTS' PORTFOLIO.

SCARCE BIRDS IN THE OLD AND NEW WORLD.—It is a very unfounded notion, that in the New World the brilliant lines of the bird take the place of the power of song. On the contrary it would appear from observation that the American song-birds are infinitely more numerous than those of Europe, and many of them superior to our most celebrated songsters. THE JACKDAW.—A correspondent of the *Dorset Chronicle* hears from Crawkara that for several days past the town clock has failed to keep time. A jackdaw selected the interior of the clock for its nest—which blocked up the cog-wheels, and so stopped the clock. Although the nest has been destroyed several times, the jackdaw immediately rebuilds it. Efforts have been made to shoot the bird, but without success. There has been some conflict of opinion among zoologists as to whether the camel exists anywhere in a wild state or not. The latest evidence on the subject is that obtained by Lieutenant-Colonel Prejarsky, the Russian traveller in Central Asia. He did not himself see any wild camels, but was assured by the natives that they were to be found in a marshy depression which extends between the two great lakes of Koko-Nor and Lob-Nor. WOLVES IN ENGLAND.—The natural-historical accounts of the wolf tells us that it was extirpated in Britain by the salutary edicts of King Edgar, who accepted wolves' tongues and heads as tribute or as a commutation for certain crimes. This statement is not in accordance with fact, for in the reign of Edward I. wolves had increased to such a degree that officers were appointed to promote their destruction, and lands were held on the condition of hunting and destroying them. A STRANGE PLACE FOR A BIRD'S NEST.—There is at the present time, a short distance below Hogton Station, on the line of railway between Preston and Blackburn, a throstle's nest built in the side drain under a sleeper, about a foot lower than the line of rails, on which the trains are passing every hour both day and night. The nest contains four eggs, on which the old birds sit, apparently undisturbed by the trains, which whirl past within a yard of her, and which cannot fail to shake both nest and contents.—*Preston Guardian*. TOBACCO.—What our forefathers thought of tobacco may be gleaned from the following, which is taken from the proceedings and debates in the House of Commons:—"Wednesday, April 16, 1621.—Sir William Stroud moved that he would have tobacco banished wholly out of the kingdom, and that it may not be brought in from any part, nor used amongst us; and Sir Grey l'almos said that if tobacco be not banished it will overthrow one hundred thousand men in England, for now it is so common that he hath seen ploughmen take it as they are at plough." SIGHT OF THE CROCODILE.—Pily, like other authors, has made the mistake of concluding that the sight of the crocodile is defective under water—which a moment's consideration, without the necessity of personal experience, should have corrected; for it is at least reasonable to suppose that an animal living chiefly on fish should, in order to secure its prey, be gifted with an equal power of sight to that of the fish. The crocodile covers its eyes at pleasure with the inflating membrane. It has no tongue, and moves the upper jaw. It does not run very fast, but can turn round in an instant. THE BAY-TREE AND LIGHTNING.—The bay-tree was represented in the temples of the Greeks as binding the brows of Apollo, their god of poetry. It formed numerous ornaments in their sacred edifices, and was wreathed into the shape of coronets as prizes for the victors in the games of the circus. It was a common belief in those times that the bay was never struck by lightning; and Pliny relates that the Emperor Tiberius always crowned himself with bay during a thunderstorm. It was also the agent in many popular superstitions—a few of which have descended to our times. GOLD IN INDIA.—Gold occurs very generally in the stream gravels of the Indian rivers, but only in small quantities, and only the poorest natives are employed in washing for it. The rivers of Burmah and of the Punjab seem to yield the largest quantities. Quartz "reefs" and "leadens" yielding gold also occur in the Malabar district and in the Wynad; these latter promise well for working on the modern Australian plan. Notwithstanding this occurrence of gold in India, very large quantities of gold bullion are annually absorbed by that country, for the purposes of manufacture into ornaments. The George-and-Dragon sovereigns are in special favour. THE COLOUR OF THE RED SEA.—Rumour says that the Red Sea is losing its ruddy hue, which, as is well known, is due to the presence of a microscopic plant. Many spots in the open ocean are similarly discoloured. Recently it has been discovered that the dark green colour of some portions of the Arctic Ocean is due to the abundance of a minute species of plant of the seaweed order. It is believed that the "whales' food"—very minute animals—live on this microscopic vegetable. Whales congregate in localities where the dark green discoloration is observed; so that an important branch of commerce is probably dependent upon the existence of a minute plant not known until recently. A FRENCH TOWN INVADDED BY WILD BOARS.—The little town of Bernay was rather startled the other day by the sudden irruption of a herd of wild boars which rushed down the Rue Lisieux. In the first moment of terror the inhabitants retired to their houses and closed the doors, but the male population, soon recovering from their alarm, proceeded to do battle with the invaders, twelve in number. Attacked with firearms, the wild boars seemed to have completely lost their heads, and six of them fell without having inflicted any loss on their enemy. One was killed while attempting to swim across the river, and two took refuge in a stable, where they were made prisoners. A fine old solitaire alone effected his retreat with any dignity, and reached the forest of Alencon in safety. While these events were passing in the town another herd of wild boars, issuing from the forest of Frocourt, made its way to the woods of Meuneval and St. Leger. THE VINE IN FRANCE.—Of all the elements of wealth in which France is so rich, none contributes more powerfully to the prosperity of that country than the vine. It was introduced in historical times, yet the soil and climate, the system of land-tenure, and the genius of the people are so adapted to its cultivation that France has long since distanced all competitors as a producer of wine. She, in fact, exports more wine than all other countries taken together, though the grape ripens to perfection in Italy, Greece, and Turkey, in Spain and Portugal, in Germany and Austria, throughout Western Asia—where indeed it appears to be indigenous—in Australia, South Africa, and the United States of America. From the plains of Champagne to the shores of the Bay of Biscay, and from the banks of the Loire to those of the Rhone, the cultivation is general. It occupies over five millions of acres, or a fourth more than the area under wheat in the United Kingdom. It gives employment to at least millions of people, and it produces on an average every year a harvest valued at £120,000,000 sterling.