

NOTE AND COMMENT.

The Czar's peace proposals have been received with feigned respect because nobody except the erratic Mr. Stead believes in his sincerity. How can he be sincere when, shortly after he made the proposal for a disarmament conference, he ordered an immense sum to be spent on increasing his navy, he ordered fresh aggressions in China, and new territorial grabs in Persia. The Powers have, of course, decided to send representatives to the disarmament conference, but it is significant that, since the reception of the Czar's note Emperor William of Germany has asked the Reichsrath for more money to increase the navy, the United States government have resolved to ask for an increase in the standing army to 100,000 and \$60,000,000 for new war ships, and Great Britain is turning out new and formidable battle ships almost every month.

Lord Salisbury's reply to the Czar is the most sarcastic note of all the powers. Here is an extract of it: "The statement which constitute the grounds of the Emperor's proposal are too well justified. It is unfortunately true that while the desire for the maintenance of peace is generally professed, and while in fact, serious and successful efforts on more than one recent occasion have been made with that object by the great powers, there has been a constant tendency on the part of almost every nation to increase its armed force, and to add to the already vast expenditure on appliances of war. The perfection of the instruments thus brought into use, their extreme costliness and the extreme carnage and destruction which would ensue from their employment on a large scale have acted without doubt as a serious deterrent from war, but the burdens imposed by this process on the population affected must, if prolonged, produce a feeling of unrest and discontent, menacing both internal and external tranquility.

Her Majesty's Government will gladly co-operate in the proposed effort to provide a remedy for this evil and if in any degree it succeeds they feel that the sovereign to whose suggestion it was due will have richly earned the gratitude of the world at large. Your Excellency is therefore authorized to assure Count Muravieff (Russian Foreign Minister) that the Emperor's proposal is willingly accepted by her Majesty's Government, and the Queen will have the pleasure of delegating a representative to the conference whenever an invitation is received.

Her Majesty's Government hope that the invitation may be accompanied by some indication of the special points to which the attention of the conference will be directed as a guide to the selection of the British representative and the assailants by whom he should be accompanied.

The enquiry as to the "special points" is an adroit piece of diplomatic phrasing. It is a pity that some plain-spoken Bismarck did not remind the Czar of Alphonso Kan's previous commentary on the proposal to abolish capital punishment in France. "Que Messieurs les assassins commencent."

In the current number of the Contemporary Review, Mr. M. E. Bennet, war correspondent of the Westminster Gazette, contributes an article in which he gives a picture of the slaughter of the Dervishes after the battle of Omdurman. There were, he says, shocking scenes after the fall of the city; fugitives were needlessly slaughtered by fire from the Maxim guns, and wounded and dying Dervishes were put to death in almost wholesale fashion. It was stated that orders had been given to kill the wounded. The statement has been contradicted, but he is certain that no protest was made when the Sudanese despatched scores of wounded men who lay in their path. Mr. Bennet does not deny that wounded Dervishes attempted to shoot or spear British troops, but he holds that British soldiers first taught them the lesson of giving no quarter. The practice, he says, began at Tel-el-Kehir and prevailed in all the Sudan campaigns previous to Omdurman. The embalmed body of the Mahdi was dug up, the head wrenched off, and the trunk cast in the Nile. "It is almost incredible," observes Mr. Bennet, "that the disinterment and mutilation of a dead body which had lain in the grave for more than ten years should have been possible under a General whom Christian England is now delighting to honor!"

It is a hopeful sign of the times in Ireland that Orangeism is dying out in portions of the North where it was once rampant. The town of Cooteshill, in Cavan which is an otherwise Catholic County, was for years a hot bed of the bigoted sect whose patriotism is proved by their annual celebration of the defeat of their coun-

trymen at the battle of the Boyne by a foreign potentate. Of late years, however, the noisy idolizers of the "pious" Dutchman have been dying off, and have been succeeded by sensible men of enlightened views. We read in Irish papers that recently the High Sheriff of the county, Captain Smith, J. P., of Cooteshill, attended a Nationalist meeting where he seconded a resolution in favor of Home Rule, a Catholic University, and a reduction of Ireland's enormously unjust share of taxation for the Imperial Exchequer. That overtaxation is bringing many good recruits to the Nationalist cause.

The London Universe says: When Mr. Disraeli was Prime Minister it was generously surmised by persons who had opportunities of knowing that he was in favor of giving a Catholic university to Ireland. It now appears that the opinion was well founded. Mr. Edmund Dease (Queen's County) had a relative, the late Mr. Langdale who was very intimate with the Tory Premier. In a private conversation with Mr. Langdale Mr. Disraeli explained his inability to give the Catholics of Ireland "what, in justice, they were entitled to," on the ground that Parliament and the temper of the country were opposed to it. In the course of time, Mr. Disraeli hoped, the English people's sense of justice would cause them to admit that the Irish Catholics were entitled to a properly endowed university. In a footnote to Mr. Dease's letter, the Spectator says Mr. Disraeli missed a great opportunity from want of courage to do an act of justice and take consequences. Will the present Government with its enormous majority miss a still better opportunity of settling the question? We are not without hope that Mr. Balfour will signalize his political career by doing a great act of justice to the people of Ireland.

There is a lot of charity going astray in this world, remarks a writer in the Dublin Freeman, and nowhere is so much of it directed into wrong channels as in those places where its proper distribution would be most useful. Lord Kinchever in a few days could gather in a hundred thousand pounds for the education of the Sudan Dervishes, while thousands of people are in daily want not only of education, but of a bare subsistence in London. Even the dogs came before humans with some kind-hearted people in the great English metropolis. Through the kindness of some ladies interested in the Dogs' Home at Battersea five hundred of the four-footed inmates of that institution were treated to Christmas pudding, and it is on the cards to establish a country house for "the better class of dogs and cats" at Lockbridge. There must be many a poor wretch in London who has reason to be envious of the favored canine.

"M. A. P." gives a list of things the Queen can do," remarks the same correspondent. It seems she can disband the army, dismiss all its officers, sack all the sailors in her "Navy," make a peer of every full-grown male in the kingdom, dismiss all the civil servants, pardon all offenders, and otherwise play the mischief with things, generally, including our glorious and inviolable Constitution. Our contemporary does not tell us of the things the Queen cannot do. For instance, she cannot "part" with proper cheerfulness. The extent of her latest subscription to an Irish charity, viz., the fund in aid of the victims of the Kerry bog disaster, proved that conclusively. Her Majesty's generosity towards her ruined subjects was then represented by a £5 note.

Senator John Raines intends to introduce a bill in the New York State Legislature which will, if enacted, place hotels on the same plane as saloons, as far as the selling of liquors on Sunday is concerned. It will, in fact, prohibit the Sunday sale of liquor altogether. Under the present laws hotels are allowed to sell liquors with meals on Sunday, and within a quarter of a mile of polling places on election days. Senator Raines's bill provides that these exceptions shall be removed. Senator Raines said recently that the enactment of such stringent measure is necessitated by the abuse of privileges which have been extended to hotels in allowing them to sell liquor on Sunday.

"All sorts of abuses have grown up," said the Senator, "under the cloak of a hotel license. If privileges are to be abused, none must be granted, and my amendment, similarly, intends to place all liquor sellers on the same basis."

Hotel men ridicule the idea. They do not think that Senator Raines would seriously propose an amendment to the Liquor Tax Law absolutely prohibiting the sale of liquor in clubs, hotels and restaurants on Sun-

days as Albany despatches said he would. It was generally thought that, even if such an amendment was proposed, it would be defeated. The Hotel Men's Association would oppose it vigorously.

UNITED STATES RELIGIOUS STATISTICS.

The San Francisco Monitor says: We publish a table of religious statistics of the United States for 1898, compiled by the Independent. That paper does not vouch for their accuracy but they give a general notion of the membership of the various churches and sects. It will be noticed that the Catholics are credited with a membership of 8,395,178 (distributed amongst four bodies. Practically all, however, are Roman Catholics, the schismatics only numbering 17,050. Of these, 15,000 are misguided Poles who, if they have not already returned to the Church, will not long remain in schism. Two other Catholic bodies are the "Old" and the "Reformed"—the latter "reformed" by an ex-priest. Between them they can only muster on paper a grand total of 2,050. It must also be remembered that the Independent only includes the number of Catholic adults; the total Catholic population is far in excess of the Independent's figures. The remainder of the Christian population is distributed amongst forty-six sects broken up in about one hundred and fifty bodies, offering a charming variety of sects and creeds. It might be in order to ask all these pious Christians to come together and settle their differences before they undertake the work of preaching to the heathen and proselytizing the Papist.

Denominations.	Members.	1898.	1895.
Adventists, 6 bodies.....	84,544	25,9	
Armenians, 2 bodies.....	5,924	5,589	
Baptists, 13 bodies.....	4,264,427	131,465	
Brethren (River), 3 bodies.....	4,739		
Brethren (Plymouth) 4 bod's.....	6,722		
Catholics, 4 bodies.....	8,395,178	219,791	
Catholics, Apostolic.....	1,491		
Chinese temples.....			
Christadelphians.....	1,277		
Christians, 2 b. dies.....	124,363	2,858	
Christian Catholics Dowie.....	14,400	9,000	
Christian Missionary Ass'n.....	754		
Christian Science.....	70,000	30,000	
Christian Union.....	18,214		
Church of God (Wanobrenarian).....	38,000		
Church Triumphant (Schweinfurth).....	384		
Church of the New Jerusalem.....	6,762	4,972	
Communicative Societies, 6 bod. e.....	3,330		
Congregationalists.....	625,564	10,669	
Disciples of Christ.....	1,085,415	31,536	
Dunkard's 4 bodies.....	109,194	8,000	
Evangelical, 21 bodies.....	175,994	24,134	
Friends 4 bodies.....	118,626	1,452	
Friends of the Temple.....	340		
German Evangelical Protest.....	26,500		
German Evangelical Synod.....	199,274	4,616	
Greek Church, 2 b. dies.....	48,000	31,253	
Jews.....	1,200,000		
Latter Day Saints, 2 bodies.....	310,452	43,289	
Lutherans, 20 bodies.....	1,626,564	36,678	
Mennonites, 12 bodies.....	76,318	1,271	
Methodists, 17 bodies.....	5,988,994	16,196	
Moravians.....	14,563	345	
Presbyterians, 12 bodies.....	1,542,400	12,239	
Protestant Episcopal, 2 bodies.....	689,347	21,841	
Reformed, 3 bodies.....	379,277	13,065	
Salvationists.....	40,000		
Schwenkfeldians.....	304		
Society Brethren.....	913		
Society for Ethical Culture.....	130	275	
Spiritualists.....	45,430		
Theosophical Society.....	3,900		
United Brethren, 2 bodies.....	285,916	5,823	
Unitarians.....	75,400	5,040	
Universalists.....	48,856	2,169	
Volunteers.....	2,000		
Waldenströmians.....	20,000		
Independent Congregations.....	14,128		
Total in the United States.....	27,714,723	862,990	

THEATRICAL NATIONAL ALLIANCE.

The first series of entertainments to be given by local union No. 56, of the Theatrical National Alliance, was held on the 15th inst. in St. Joseph's Hall, was both a social and financial success. The programme was a long and varied one, and included some of the best amateur talent in the city, besides several items from ladies and gentlemen who were with the companies playing at the various theatres.

The special feature of the entertainment was the rendering of several musical numbers by the Orpheus Quartette, composed of Messrs. W. Murphy, M. C. Mullarky, J. Penfold, and E. Quinn, under the direction of Mr. P. J. Shea, the popular organist of St. Ann's Church.

The Orpheus Quartette, since making its debut before a Montreal audience, has succeeded in establishing for themselves a reputation which places them among the foremost musical organizations.

The success of the entertainment is largely due to the efforts of the committee:

Messrs. C. J. Auburn, W. J. Furlong, Bob Price, Chas. Greenwood, F. Gibson, L. D. Thibault, J. Dixon, W. Weisheit and E. Saucier.

A movement is afoot to form a combination of Calico printers in England and Scotland. The owners of two-thirds of all machines employed in the industry support the scheme. It is estimated that the capital of the new company will be nearly £10,000,000.

SOME RECENT WEDDINGS IN CATHOLIC CIRCLES.

The marriage of Mr. Richard O. Barry, son of Mr. John Barry, the well-known wholesale fruit merchant of this city, and Miss Maude Marguerite McShane, daughter of the Hon. James McShane, ex-Mayor of Montreal, took place in the private chapel of the Archbishop's Palace. His Grace the Archbishop performed the ceremony. The chapel was beautifully decorated with white flowers. There were no bridesmaids, and only a few intimate friends and relatives were present. The bride wore a handsome tailor made gown of biscuit-colored cloth, with a bodice of white, trimmed with applique and gold braid. Her hat was of velvet of the same shade as the gown, trimmed with white and blue ostrich tips. After the wedding Mr. and Mrs. Barry drove direct to the Bonaventure depot, where a very large number of friends had assembled to wish them adieu. They took the train for New York, and will continue on to New Orleans and Florida. On their return Mr. and Mrs. Barry will occupy a suite of rooms at the Place Viger Hotel. Mrs. Barry will be at home to receive friends about the first week in March.

The gifts to the bride were numerous and costly. The following is the list:

Solid silver statuette from Lourdes; diamond sun burst, gift of the groom; diamond heart, mother of the bride; piano, Mr. John Barry, father of the groom; Crown Derby dinner set, Mrs. John Barry; jewelled clock, Mr. Frank Barry; china cabinet, Mr. J. Barry, jr.; hand-painted China fish set, Miss Lillian McShane; cheque, Judge and Mrs. M. J. Dun, Chicago; cut glass bowl, Miss Kathleen McShane; dozen sterling silver spoons, Mrs. Laforee, Plattsburg, N. Y.; hand-painted tapestry, Miss Miron, Plattsburg, N.Y.; Royal Worcester Vase, Mr. and Mrs. P. McDermott; water color picture, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. McShane; gold fern dish, Sir Wilfrid and Lady Laurier; pair Japanese cases, Mr. Baldwin Hart; one dozen sterling coffee spoons, Mr. and Mrs. Lemoyne de Martigny; gold-mounted biscuit jar, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Levy; Limoges chocolate set, Mr. Henri Jonas; dozen sterling silver spoons, Mrs. Michael Davis, Ottawa; crown Derby salad bowl, fork and spoon, silver mountings, Mr. and Mrs. Moneel, silver fern dish, Miss Mildred Hayes; books, Mr. H. P. Davis; silver pudding dish, Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Paton; solid silver tea set, Mr. Marshall Montgomery, Philadelphia; sterling silver cream jug, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Ouden; cabinet of sterling silver, Mr. and Mrs. Augusta Mann; one dozen sterling silver oyster forks, Mrs. E. H. Lemay; sterling silver ice-cream knife, the Misses Irving; gilt Louis Quinze chair, Mrs. and Miss Bismore; oxidized table, Mr. Ansell; Douillon jardiniere, Mr. J. D. Ambrose; sterling silver coffee spoons, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Douglas; brass and onyx table, Mr. and Mrs. F. B. McNamee; brass-mounted mirror and candelabra Miss Mary Denneen, Fort Covington, N. Y.; oxidized silver mirror, Mr. and Mrs. A. R. McLaren; dozen sterling silver orange spoons, Mr. and Mrs. G. Bury; cut glass bowl Miss Bury; brass and onyx candelabra Hon. and Mrs. John B. Riley, Plattsburg, N. Y.; Brussels point lace handkerchief, Miss Leonard, Columbus, Ohio; brass and jewelled clock, Mr. Jay Holmes, New York; book, Mr. B. Ambrose; pair of silver entree dishes, Mr. and Mrs. Lomer Gouin; silver tray, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Dobbin; cut glass biscuit jar, silver mounted, Mr. G. L. Dobbin; dozen sterling silver tea spoons, Mrs. F. H. Warrington; sterling silver soup ladle, Mrs. Wm. Brennan; sterling silver berry spoon, Mr. A. J. H. St. Denis; silver syrup jug and tray, Mr. and Mrs. B. Lemoyne; sterling silver mounted Douillon tea set, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Wilson; picture, Mrs. John McGarvey, Ottawa; sterling, custard spoon, Mr. A. Brice; sterling jelly spoon; Miss L. Brice; linen embroidered centre piece, Miss Beatrice Brice; Douillon vase, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Grant; hand-painted centre piece, the Misses Grant; embroidered sofa pillow, Miss N. and G. Warrington; brass gong, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Pechette; brass clock, Mr. and Mrs. H. Bugas; Mr. and Mrs. Cavanagh, Douillon jardiniere, pedestal; cut glass dish, Mr. and Mrs. O'Brien; silver pudding dish, Mr. E. O'Shea; ivory and sequin fan, Miss Hollinshead; jewel case, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Mercier; gilt chair, Hon. and Mrs. Nantel; large bronze figure, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Morrison; sterling silver pepper and salt, Mr. Geo. Picaud; large terra cotta jardiniere, Dr. G. and Madame Tasse; sterling silver berry spoon, Mr. J. W. Beaufield; sterling silver bonbon spoon, Mr. and Mrs. K. C. S. Foley; bronze statuette, Mr. and Mrs.

Crepeau; pair Renaissance lace doilies; Miss Margaret Denneen; Venetian iron lamp shade, Mr. and Mrs. L. Gibb; brass mounted mirror, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. de Boucherville; oxidized silver inkstand, Mr. Edward Surveyer; point lace handkerchief, Miss Lillian Griffith; pair drawn work doilies, Miss Minnie Hickey; piece of statuary, Dr. Mount and family; silver jardiniere, Mr. and Mrs. Peter McKenzie; cut glass dish, Miss Kathleen McShane; sterling silver fish knife and fork, Mr. and Mrs. O. Faucher; pair cut glass salt cellars, Mr. and Mrs. Achille Bergevin; silver bonbon dish, Mr. Edward Barry; silver fern dish, Mr. and Mad. Beausoleil Majolica jardiniere and pedestal, Mr. and Mad. John Conway; Limoges plate, Mr. D. McIntyre; three sterling ladles, Mr. and Mrs. William Wainwright; sterling shoe horn, Miss B. B. Jones; sterling silver breakfast cruet, with silver egg cups and spoons, Mrs. M. J. Spellessey; large cut glass dish, the Misses Wright; sardine fork, sterling silver, Mrs. Gascoigne; sterling silver salt-cellar, Mr. Fred. and Geo. Gascoigne; one dozen sterling silver fruit knives, Mr. and Mrs. Whelan; two sterling silver ladles, Mr. and Mrs. Coyle; Louise Quinze chair, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Bowie; large parlor lamp, Mrs. Mullen and Miss Daragh; a Dresden China urn, mounted in gold, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Smith; opera glasses mounted in gold, Mr. Bittenger, American Consul; cut glass and silver charet jug Mr. Geo. A. Simard; a pair of Japanese vases, Miss McDonald; embroidered centre piece and doilies, Miss Grace O'Hara; crown Derby cheese and butter dish with sterling silver mounted knives, Mr. Ernest Brice, a chocolate China jug, Mrs. J. Doheeny; large onyx and brass vase, Hon. A. G. and Mrs. Blair; hand-painted dessert set, china, Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Hart; sterling mounted carvers, Mr. and Mrs. William Cunningham; large onyx lamp, Mr. and Mrs. James Cochrane; Douillon salad bowl, Mr. and Mrs. M. Fitzgibbon; Sisters of the Holy Names, Windsor, Ont., a large painting of the Madonna on white satin; a jewelled enamelled clock, Mr. Frank Barry; Mr. Patrick Gury, sterling salt-cellars; embroidered centre piece, Miss B. Brice; Mr. Tom. Collins, one doz. sterling silver spoons; Mrs. Honore Mercier and sons, sterling silver sardine and pickle forks; sterling silver bonboniere, Mr. and Miss Glass; Dresden china figure, Mr. and Mrs. C. Meunier; Dresden China berry set, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Tressider; a silver pudding dish, Mr. Stafford; a gold picture frame, Mrs. H. Holiban, Troy, N. Y.; brass and lacquered vase, Mr. Henry Herdt; handsome mahogany cabinet, the wholesale fruit merchants of Montreal; one dozen yards handmade lace, Mrs. Wm. Cassils; jewel case, Mr. and Mrs. A. Racine; silver pudding dish, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Dausereau; a Douillon China salad bowl, spoon and forks, mounted in silver, Miss Gerain; a Douillon Shakesperian vase, Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Greenfields; a cut glass punch

bowl; Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Baxter; a half dozen coffee spoons, sterling, Mr. E. J. Langlois; a silver fern dish, Hon. Mr. and Mrs. Tarte; a large silver nut and raisin dish, Mr. O. E. Hart; Madonna fount, mounted in gold, Mr. E. Daoust; carvers, double set, silver mounted, Mr. O'Rourke and Mr. Whyte; silver sugar spoon, Mr. F. Wilson; sterling silver after dinner coffee pot, cream jug, sugar bowl and tray, Mr. McCarthy; draw work and embroidery lunch cloth, Miss Blanche Lionais; china biscuit jar, mounted in silver, Mrs. Arthur Roy; Paul and Virginia, drawing on satin, Miss M. de Montigny.

A marriage which attracted much attention in the circles of the young people of St. Anthony's was that of Mr. Frank A. Meehan, of Chicago, and Miss Lizzie McVey, one of the most energetic workers in the charitable societies of the parish. The ceremony took place in the private chapel of the Archbishop's Palace on Tuesday morning and was performed by the Rev. Wm. O'Meara, P.P., of St. Gabriel's. The bride looked charming in an elegant travelling costume of Kit-chener blue and picture hat. The happy couple left on an extended tour amid the hearty congratulations of their numerous friends. They will permanently make their future home in Chicago. The popularity of the bride was shown in the many handsome presents of which she was made the recipient.

ST. ANN'S YOUNG MEN.

At the annual meeting of the St. Ann's Young Men's Society, held on Wednesday last, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

Spiritual Adviser, Rev. E. Strubbe, C. S. S. R.; Hon. Pres., Jos. Johnson; Pres., J. Whitty; Ist. Vice-pres., M. C. Mullarky, 2nd Vice-pres., F. J. Hartford; treas., T. O'Connell; Col. Treas., A. Thompson; Asst. Col. Treas., Jos. Hart, Rec. Sec., J. Corcoran; Asst. Rec. Sec., Thos. McArthur; Librarian, W. Whitty; Asst. Lib., J. Wickham; Marshal, M. Baben; Assistant Marshal, J. Hughes.

Executive Committee — Messrs. P. J. Shea, J. Martin, P. T. O'Brien, D. J. O'Neill, E. Quinn, Thos. Dillon, J. Donovan, J. Cummings and C. Conway.

The choral section are considering the suggestion made by their numerous friends, to reproduce their highly successful musicale, "The Tennessee Minstrels," on Shrove Tuesday.

An energetic committee are preparing an elaborate reception on the inauguration of their new building, specially built for their gymnasium and Drill Hall for the Junior members of the Society, which will take place on Tuesday evening 24th inst.

The programme will consist of an exhibition by the members of the gymnasium section. A fancy drill by members of St. Ann's Cadets. Addresses will be delivered by several prominent clergymen, and numerous leading citizens.

A SAMPLE

Of the bargains that we are offering at our January Sale is shown in this chair, but it is only one picked out of many.



\$3.85 each.

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