

MISCELLANEOUS.

Dr. Joseph Parker, of London, says: "When I look at any large ecclesiastical assembly I cannot but wonder whether so many able-bodied men ought not to be digging and plowing, and otherwise getting an honest livelihood, whilst the sisters, wives and mothers were undertaking the culture of the spiritual life. It cannot require so many able-bodied men to reveal the kingdom of heaven."

Buenos Ayres will soon see the completion of the largest opera house in the world. It will seat 5,000 spectators and the stage will hold 800 persons. The house is so constructed that box-holders can have their carriages drive up to their tiers, and for the occupants of the galleries there are elevators. The parquet seats can be removed, and the auditorium converted into a circus in three hours.

It is said that the post of "Tiger-Slayer in Chief" to the Government of the Straits Settlements have been conferred on M. de Nancourt, a French sportsman well known in the East, that gentleman having been appointed over the head of Major-General Probyn, also a well-known shikarry. It seems that the General has only killed about 400 felids in his time, while the French sportsman's score now registers over 500.

Reports of naval officers commanding patrol boats in the Bering Sea generally show that the regulations have been of little avail to protect seals in the open season. Pelagic sealers have killed about 25,000 head during the past season, which were found asleep on the surface, and of which fully 80 per cent. were females. One officer predicts the extermination of the seals within the next five years at the present rate of slaughter.

A "Society of African Pioneers" has been formed with a programme similar to that attempted by the late Cardinal Lavigerie in the Sahara. A few Frenchmen, robust and courageous, are to settle in the centre of an unexplored region, erect a house able to resist all assaults, cultivate the land, receive and shelter native proselytes, and thus gradually form a native and Christian village strong enough to repel slave-dealers.—*Evening Post.*

Camilla Urso, the violinist, always closes her eyes when playing. This she explains: "people in the audience used to distract my attention. A lady might come in late wearing a high bonnet, with nodding feathers. That bonnet immediately had an individuality above all others; it fascinated me. A young couple whispering behind their hands, others impatient and moving in their seats, a fluttering programme—they all distract me. At first it was difficult to perform without seeing the conductor and orchestra, but perseverance was needed as in everything else worth doing well."

Some valuable gems have been sold lately at Rakwane, in Ceylon. A Moor boutique-keeper the other day purchased a blue sapphire weighing about 72 carats from a Tamil man for 1,000r. As soon as he had completed the purchase, he sold it again to a dealer for 3,250r., and the latter sold the gem to a merchant in Colombo for 5,000r. It is said that the gem is worth a good deal more than this amount. The Tamil man referred to

possesses another blue sapphire for which he has been offered 5,000r., but he will not part with the gem for that price, as he expects a larger sum.

Mrs. B. M. Hall, Fernwood, Ill., U.S.A., August 15th, 1894, writes:—"I am 61 years old. For two years I have been afflicted with partial paralysis of the lower limbs rendering me unable to walk a block without complete exhaustion. After using Acetocura for five days the pain had entirely disappeared, permitting me to enjoy a good night's rest, and after ten days treatment I was able to walk two miles without fatigue."

To Coutts & Sons, 72 Victoria st., Toronto.

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