

CATHOLIC INTELLIGENCE.

BIBLE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.—The New Rochelle School Board has decided to continue the reading of the Bible in Public Schools...

CONVERSION.—We learn from the Herald des Glanes that eight persons, adults, were received into the Church on June 13, by Father Mohring...

LONGEVITY.—In a convent of Capuchin Nuns, at Naria, in Spain, a religious 120 years old is reported to be still living...

THE JESUITS.—The Jesuits according to a work annually published by them at Vienna, number 9,546, or 158 more than twelve months ago...

AMENDING IRISH CHURCH ACT.—A bill has been printed, bearing the names of Mr. A. Moore, Sir Colman O'Loghlen, and the O'Connor Don...

ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD.—On Sunday, at the St. Mary's Cathedral, Hamilton, Bishop Grinnon ordained and admitted to the priesthood the following deacons...

THE EMERALD CONVENTION.—At the meeting of this Convention in Hamilton, on the 11th, the Secretary, Mr. Boland, of Pennsylvania, made an able report of the financial and numerical standing of the organization...

CATHOLIC TRUST PROPERTY.—A case that has attracted much attention has been on trial for several days before Judge Jones. Bishop Gilmore, Roman Catholic Bishop of the diocese of Cincinnati, sought to enjoin the County Treasurer from collecting \$3,900 taxes assessed on lands alleged to be held by him in trust for the use of Roman Catholic parochial schools...

THE POPE AND ARCHBISHOP McHALE.—The following reply has been received from his Holiness the Pope to the address of congratulation forwarded to him from the Archbishop of Tuam and the clergy and faithful of the archdiocese...

PROCESSION IN LONGFORD.—At six o'clock on Sunday evening, June 10, in St. Mary's Church, vespering being sung a procession was formed, headed by the members of the choir. Next came the male branch of the Holy Family, to the number of sixteen hundred, each member wearing the medal and ribbon of the order, and each section headed by a prefect carrying a shield bearing the name of its patron saint...

FORECAST.—Says the Voce Della Verita:—The vigorous and salutary act by which the head of the French Government, caring less for the responsibility to Parliament of some of his senseless ministers than for that of the graver responsibility he has himself assumed for the salvation of the country in receiving the supreme power from the hands of its representatives, has shaken the world, and almost entirely distracted attention from the awful struggle which has commenced in the East...

IRISH NEWS.

VALUE OF LAND IN TIPPERARY.—Thirty acres of land in the barony of Silevradagh, held under Landed Estates Court Title, with lease forever, were sold recently for £835.

CARDINAL CULLEN.—His Eminence Cardinal Cullen has been suffering from a slight bronchial attack. The Pope's physician, Dr. Pelogallo, has been in attendance on the Cardinal, who is recovering.

THE NEW M.P. FOR DUNGARVAN.—The London correspondent of the Daily Express, writing on Tuesday, says:—Mr. O'Donnell took the oath and his seat to-day for Dungarvan. The hon. member was introduced by Mr. Earnell and Mr. R. Power. These are rather ominous sponsors, and would seem to indicate that Mr. O'Donnell is about to join the band of parliamentary obstructionists.

ILLNESS OF AN M.P.—In the House of Commons recently, Mr. A. M. Sullivan, the member for Louth, was suddenly seized with illness. As he entered the library, the hon. member fell on the floor, where he lay unconscious for some time, surrounded by Dr. Brady, Sir Colman O'Loghlen, Mr. Grey and others. Dr. Brady prescribed and in about a couple of hours Mr. Sullivan was removed in a carriage to his house by Mr. Gray.

MUNICIPALITY GIFT.—At a recent meeting of the council of the diocese of Ossory, the Right Rev. Dr. Gregg, Bishop of the diocese, stated that the Right Hon. W. F. Tigue had given the sum of £2,000 to the Representative Church Body, to be invested by them, and the interest of this sum to be applied yearly for the benefit of the most deserving of the clergymen of the diocese whom the bishop might think was most in need of pecuniary assistance.

MORE OBSTRUCTION.—The House of Commons sat from four o'clock on 3rd inst. to seven o'clock next morning, chiefly in committee on supply. There were eighteen purely obstructive divisions, and several attempts to count out. The obstructionists were Nolan, O'Donnell, O'Gorman, O'Connor Power, Richard Power and Parnell, Home Rulers, and Mr. Whalley, Liberal. Concern is expressed lest such proceedings, which have greatly impeded business during several sessions, may lead to alterations of the rules of debate, curtailing the privileges of members.

DISCOVERY OF ARMS NEAR LISMORE.—Recently the police of Lismore received information that arms were seen in a wood near the Lismore Castle, thrust into a brake of briars, by some boys gathering sticks. Two constables went in search, and soon discovered two rifles—one, an enfield breechloader, marked "48th Regiment," and the other a strong, American-made rifle, sighted for 400 yards, and marked "U. S." They were concealed in a brake of briars, and not much the worse for being exposed. The Enfield is believed to be the rifle taken from a sergeant of the 48th, while billeted in a public-house at Lismore about ten years ago.

THE CLIPPERS PROSECUTION.—The case of the Queen against Dean McManus has been decided by the Queen's Bench, on the 21st ult. The case was one in which Charles Grimes sought a writ of Habeas Corpus, to compel the Very Rev. Dean McManus to deliver up Katherine Grimes, a girl aged thirteen, to the custody of said Charles Grimes, her father. The delivery of the child, and thus determined the question as to who was entitled to her custody, but further proceedings have been instituted in the Court of Chancery, in order to endeavor to protect the girl's conscientious convictions.

ELEVATED.—The Holy Father has raised the Right Rev. Monsignor McCabe, V.G., P.P., of Kingstown, to the episcopal dignity. Mgr. McCabe has been nominated Bishop of Gadar in partibus infidelium and Bishop-Assistant to his Eminence the Cardinal-Archbishop of Dublin. The choice of the Holy Father will give great delight to the people of Dublin and to the Catholics of Ireland. The reputation of the new Bishop is second to none for learning, piety, ability and zeal, and all the virtues which could adorn the prelatial character he has exhibited in fulfilling the functions of vicar-general of the archdiocese, and parish priest of one of its most important parishes.

OPERATION.—Mr. Barry Sullivan, the actor, has recently undergone a singular operation connected with the eye-lash. It will be remembered that at Drury-lane Theatre Macduff's sword accidentally struck him in the eye, causing an abrupt termination of his engagement and his retirement for some weeks. In the end he left the doctor's hands cured, it was believed, but ever since he has been troubled with a curious affection of the eye. Having consulted an oculist, the conclusion was arrived at that there must be something in the eyeball itself. Barry Sullivan consented to undergo the necessary operation for testing this theory. His eyeball was cut open, and from it there was taken an eyelash which had been thrust in at the point of the sword.

EXPERIMENTS WITH TORPEDOES IN CORK HARBOR.—Recently a torpedo, containing the explosive power of 100 pounds of gun-cotton compressed, was fired from the steam-launch of her Majesty's ship Thunderer, opposite Queenstown. The torpedo was of the class known as the jiffer, owing to its being attached to the end of a long pole which is pushed forward from the bow of the steam-launch as far as possible. The end to which the torpedo is attached being a considerable distance out of water, the object is to bring the case containing the destructive material as deep as possible below the water line of the vessel intended to be destroyed. It is then fired by electricity. On the explosion of the torpedo, a column of water was thrown perpendicularly in the air to the height of at least sixty feet, while the vibration of the shock was felt all through Queenstown.

THE GALTEE BOY.—Mr. Casey's defence is not likely to fall through for want of funds. Last week when the trial was expected to begin at once in the Queen's Bench, Mr. Dwyer Gray, M.P., opened "a fair-rial fund" in the columns of his journal, the Freeman, subscribing himself £25, and further authorising Mr. Casey to draw on him in the bank to the extent of £200, till the public came to the rescue. This generous act—the generosity of which will be all the better appreciated when the circumstances of the late election in Tipperary are borne in mind—has not been without its fruits. His Grace the Archbishop of Cashel, several members of Parliament, and other persons in various parts of the country, have sent in liberal subscriptions, and some of the farmers' clubs have also stirred in the matter.

DROWNED.—On June 13, a party of fourteen of the militia recruits started for a bath to the Folly Dam Armagh. Five went into the water and four were about to enter, when one of the former, James Holmes, aged 24 years, and belonging to Kilmore, got out of his depth, and not being able to swim, got thrice up his arms and sank. As none of the others were good swimmers they were afraid to go near the drowning man. One of the first on the spot was the adjutant of the regiment, Captain Rankham, who at once stripped off and dived, with others that had arrived, but all in vain. The pond was at once emptied, which took nearly two hours (as it is large), when the body was found near the spot where he sank. Mr. J. G. Peel, held an inquest when a verdict in accordance with the above was given.

WAR NEWS.

DECLINED.—A Bucharest telegram denies that the Roumanians intend to cross the Danube on having concluded an alliance with Serbia.

MEETING.—The Vienna correspondent denies that there will be a meeting between the Emperors of Germany and Austria this year.

GOVT.-MARTIAL.—Military and civil commandants of Sistova, Tirova and Osman-bazar, have been summoned thither for trial by court-martial.

BLOCKADED.—The Bucharest correspondent says it is officially reported that Rutchuk is blockaded by the Russians.

WAR FEVER.—Belgium is mobilising her army, and Holland her navy. These small states smell a political rat and have reason to know the powers are about absorbing them.

NO MEDIATION.—The Russian telegraphic agency says Prince Bismarck has declared it to be his opinion that any mediation is at present impossible.

DEMIED.—It is denied that a convention exists between Roumania and Serbia. Russia, and Austria have agreed to give those principalities good advice without assuming a right to intervene.

CAZAR'S MOVEMENT.—The Czar has arrived at Fratzei Station, on the Bucharest and Giurgevo Railroad, where, according to some accounts he is about to take up his residence.

CORRECTION.—A Russian official despatch from Tiflis, states that the Turkish force defeated when Gen. Tergukassoff relieved Bayazid, numbered 13,000, not 30,000, as reported in a previous despatch.

RUSSIAN PURCHASE OF COTTON.—The Russian Government has purchased eight thousand bales of cotton here within a few weeks, and probably three times that quantity since the commencement of the war.

REPULSED.—A doubtful report says the bombardment of Rutchuk re-commenced on Tuesday afternoon, under cover of the bombardment the Russians attempted to take the town by assault but were repulsed after two hours fighting.

ANOTHER ARMY CORPS.—The advanced guard of another Russian corps has arrived at Ploesti. It is reported that a camp of 80,000 men is prepared at Ploesti. A battle is expected at Eski-Djumuaji, where the Turks are concentrated in great force.

BOMBARDING OF THE CITADEL.—The following official telegram from Bayazid was published yesterday:—The besieged Russians having refused to surrender, the bombardment of the Citadel has therefore been reopened; Gen. Tergukassoff is near Sinck, four hours' march from Bayazid.

A DEER SCHEME.—It is reported that the Ameer of Cabool agreed to harass the Russians wherever they can be found, by petty chiefs in Central Asia, which may compel a Russian expedition into Cabool, thus opening an Anglo-Indian difficulty, which may result in English interference.

ARMENIA AGAIN IN DANGER.—After the reinforcement of the army of the Caucasus, even if necessary by troops from the Central Asiatic frontier, a second invasion of Armenia is meditated, commencing with the capture of Batoum, and the suppression of the Abchasin rebellion.

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TRUCKS WINNING.—The Pera correspondent sends the following, dated Friday evening: I have just heard, on good authority, that the Russians have been attacked simultaneously by Osman Pasha at Plevna, and Ahmed Eyoub Pasha at Monaster. The fighting lasted all Thursday and Friday. The Turks are getting the advantage.

MONTENEGRO AGAIN TO THE FRONT.—A correspondent at Cetinje says the concentration of Montenegrin battalions has been ordered before Nicsica, professed for the siege of that place. Prince Kikta will refuse to entertain any overtures for truce. Several accounts agree that the destination of Suleiman Pasha's army is Adrianople.

RELIEVED.—A telegram was received here from Tiflis, dated Bayazid on the 14th, announces that the garrison of Bayazid citadel has been relieved by Turkish investing force, numbering 30,000, capturing 4 guns and 80 prisoners. The town of Bayazid is destroyed.

MONTE CROSSINGS.—Herald cables say two more crossings of the Danube are projected by Russians, one in southern Dobrujeha, to get in rear of the Turks between Merjidie and Kerstendje, and the other near Kalafat. The Turks are pushing forward a large force to Shumula, and the Russians at Sistova now being well provided, cannot longer delay offensive operations.

REINFORCED.—A despatch from Plymouth says the new gun-boat Condor is to be fitted with torpedo apparatus, and sent as soon as practicable to the Danube, where she will with her sister vessel, the Flamingo, under orders of the British ambassadors at Constantinople and Vienna, for the protection of British interests. The Admiralty has by telegraph ordered that the steam frigates Narcissus and Topaz be commissioned immediately.

TROUBLE IN THE CABINET.—Times cables say it is stated that Lord Beaconsfield had two interviews with the Queen this week, and yesterday the Queen presided at a Cabinet Council in Windsor Castle, the subject of which is said to have been the retirement of a prominent member of the Ministry, not Lord Beaconsfield. The Cabinet is also considering fresh despatches from Austria.

RAISING THE SIEGE.—Kiernan's London despatch says a despatch from Erzerom states that the attempt of the Russians under Tegukassoff to relieve the besieged garrison of Bayazid, failed, notwithstanding the garrison made a determined sortie. The Russians, after suffering severe loss, retreated to Mount Ararat, where they were attacked by the Turks and again defeated. The Turks took many prisoners and captured six guns.

DISTURBING RUMORS.—There is much uneasiness in regard to the Mohammedan population in India, the famine having the effect to render the Indian population unsettled. It is feared that this, in connection with the demands of the Sultan, who is their spiritual head, may lead to widespread outbreaks in favor of Russia, which afterwards may assume dangerous dimensions with reference to English interests. The Russian alliance with the United States proposes Canada and Cuba as the price. The idea is broached by Schouvaloff. The Russian Commissariat is in a frightful condition, and is partially the cause of the delay on the Danube.

FRENCH ARMY SUPPLIES.—The Inter-Ocean publishes as a portentous fact that during the past fortnight secret agents from the French Government arrived in this city, whose presence is known to but a few in France and few here. They have secretly contracted with a few large firms of Chicago packers for immense quantities of army supplies. The contracts specify not only the quantity and quality of the supplies, but the manner of their preservation, and the amount of rations in each package. A condensed soup, capable of preservation for a long period and speedy preparation, has been contracted for. Similar agents have been in a few other large cities in this country and in Canada. Enough food has been ordered to sustain a large army during a long campaign.

ROUND THE WORLD.

Crops reported good all over.

Mime. Tiliens is again in a critical state.

The Auetrians are to occupy Servia.

Sevastopol is to be attacked by the Turks.

It is expected Earl Beaconsfield will resign.

Beetles devour potatoe bugs and relish them.

The Russians have again occupied Tinova.

The potato bug has squatted down on Irish soil.

President Hayes believes in the Munroe doctrines.

St. John N.B., wants a new Chief of Police.

A War with Mexico is feared in the States.

The population of London in 1876 was 4,286,407.

Deaths from scarlet fever are reported from Ottawa.

Bishop Lynch of Charleston is not to be Cardinal McCloskey's co-adjutor.

There was no attempt at an Orange Celebration in Quebec, on the 12th.

Wheat is a little slow coming up round London, Ont. Perhaps it is afraid of the War prices.

General Grand lines with Kings—and cuts Grand Duke in the streets.

President Hayes goes in for the suppression of Mormonism.

The Peninsulars of Detroit beat the Toronto Club at Cricket on the 9th inst.

A general rising of the United States Indians is expected.

Captain Simmons is not altogether satisfied with his late glorious achievement.

The Orangemen and Young Britons celebrated the 12th with their "usual bravery."

The Bonapartists have had a grand meeting at Chislehurst.

The Russians have retreated from Kars and the siege is raised.

10,000 Russian troops pass through Moldavia every day.

The licensed victuallers of Toronto have declared war against the Dunkin Act.

The remains of General Custer have been taken from the Big Horn to Fort Lincoln.

United States troops crossed the Rio Grand last week and entered Mexico in pursuit of raiders.

The remains of Pere Marquette have been discovered at St. Ignace, Ill.

Operations have been resumed on Sections 14 and 15 of the Canada Pacific R. R.

The organizers of the Caxton Celebration will have to pay \$400 of a deficit.

Miss Kate Kelly died at Decatur, Ill. on the 11th inst. of the effect of a bee sting.

Mr. Moody's watch was stolen in Cohasset. He missed it in the middle of a psalm and was angry.

The Turks are at present successful all along the line.

Greece has given up the idea of going to War for the present.

The Union says there should be no such parties as Right and Right centre, they are all Monarchist and should unite in support of a candidate.

The Ottawa papers are furious because Mayor Beaudry did not lose his head on the 12th, and order out the army.

No 12th of July disturbances are reported from Ireland. A papist or so killed in that district is not considered news.

Mr. F. H. O'Donnell the lately elected Home Ruler for Dungarven is a young man and a great orator.

The last rail on the Montreal, Portland, and Boston Railway, between West Franham and St. Lamberts was laid on the 12th.

The British fleet at Bezika Bay numbers twenty-four iron clads carrying 150 guns and eight thousand men.

The St. Patrick's Benevolent Society, of London, Ont., held their Annual Picnic at Stratford this week.

The French Budget shows a surplus of \$5,000,000 and still the *Witnes* thinks Catholic countries are poor.

There is a rumor afloat to the effect that secret agents of the French Government are in the States and Canada buying up immense quantities of provisions.

It is impossible to tell as yet whether the Conservative or Liberal demonstrations are the more enthusiastic. There is no proper standard by which to measure.

The Lincoln tomb robbery turns out now to have been a hoax. The two men who were sentenced to two years imprisonment will however find it no joke.

A strange thing connected with the Russo-Turkish war is that a battle is always imminent and England and Austria are always coming to an understanding.

Lady Ernest Temple has eloped with Mr. Hungerford. The latter is a great friend of the Prince of Wales. The infuriated husband swears he will shoot the gay Latherio.

A number of Young Britons left Montreal on the 11th to take part in the proceedings at Cornwall. The *Witness* says "they played several inspiring airs."

Ella McCloud, a coloured woman in the South, is 120 years old. She has had eight husbands, or one for every fifteen years of her life. She has decided to remain single in future.

A New York despatch of the 13th, says Father McNamara addressed the Orangemen of that city as they were embarking on the 12th, and was courteously heard.

A fight between the Catholics and Orangemen took place in Charlotte town, P. E. Island, on the 12th, the former using stones and the latter revolvers. The Orangemen hauled down their flag.

The Orangemen of Montreal on being appealed to as Christians gave up the "walk." It was very touching. Is it possible if the Toronto boys had been called upon in like manner they also would have refrained.

A letter of Mr. John Dougall, of the New York *Witness*, appears in the N. Y. *Times* which draws a parallel between the action of the civic authorities of Montreal and New York, much in favor of the latter as regards protection to Orange processions.

DETECTIVES IN TROUBLE.—At the Bow street Police Court London, Eng. Chief Inspectors Dillscovitch, Micklejohn and Palmer, the best known officers of the Scotland yard detective force, and a solicitor named Froggatt, were arraigned at the instance of the Treasury, accused of a conspiracy to defeat the ends of justice in a recent celebrated confidence case, in which a number of betting men were convicted of defrauding the Countess De Goucourt of \$50,000. Mr. Poland, on behalf of the Treasury, charged the four above-named defendants with conspiracy, and also with being accessories after the fact to certain felonies committed in the Goucourt affair. Mr. Poland said he feared the case would be fully made out against the accused; Froggatt was admitted to bail in £2,500, but bail was refused in the case of the others.

NATURALISTS' PORTFOLIO.

PRICKLY COFFERY.—In view of the fact that after many trials in some parts of the Old World, prickly coffee has been abandoned, we have no hope of its being of any more value here; indeed, as we have corn as a cheap fodder plant there is more to compete with here than there.—*Forney's Weekly*.

THIS SWALLOW.—The superstition as to the illluck attached to the killing of swallows is thought to be of Pagan origin; for we read in *Aelian* that these birds were sacred to the Penates or household gods of the ancients, and, therefore, were preserved. We also find in *Athenaeus* that the Rhodians had a solemn song to welcome the swallow.

THE BREATHING OF THE WHALE.—The whale's way of breathing is by two spout-holes on the top of the head. When not disturbed, the animals rises to blow once in every quarter of an hour. When pursued, they will sometimes keep under water half an hour or more, though it is observed that a cow with a calf on her tail rises much oftener for the calf to breathe without breathing herself.

THE BEST SLEEPING POSITION.—The food passes from the stomach, to the right side; hence its passage is facilitated by going to sleep on the right side. Water and other fluids flow equally on a level, and it requires less power to propel them on a level than upwards. The heart propels the blood to every part of the body at each successive beat, and it is easy to see that, if the body is in a horizontal position, the blood will be sent to the various parts of the body with greater ease, with less expenditure of power, and more perfectly than could possibly be done if one portion of the body were elevated above a horizontal line. On the other hand, if one portion of the body is too low, the blood does not return as readily as it is carried thither; hence, there is an accumulation and distension, and pain soon follows. If a person goes to sleep with the head but a very little lower than the body, he will either soon wake up, or will die with apoplexy before the morning—stupidly because the blood could not get back from the brain as fast as it was carried to it. If a person lays himself down on a floor for sleep, a portion of the head, at least, is lower than the heart, and discomfort is soon induced; hence, very properly, the world over, the head is elevated during the sleep. The savage uses a log of wood or a bunch of leaves; the civilized a pillow; and if this pillow is too thick raising the head too high, there is not blood enough carried to the brain, and as the brain is nourished, renewed, and invigorated by the nutriment it receives from the blood during sleep, it is not fed sufficiently, and the result is unquiet sleep during the night weariness, without refreshments, to be followed by a day of drowsiness, discomfort, and general inactivity of both mind and body. The pillow should be hard enough to prevent the head sinking more than about three inches.

THE ARCTIC NIGHT.—There is perhaps a very general misunderstanding that the Arctic night is only night in name; that a perpetual twilight reigns; that a reflection of the snow illumines distant objects; that the moon is always at the full; and that the flashes of the Aurora, the merry dancers of the North, are always brilliant. We are not exaggerating when we say that we have, at one time or another, heard each of these propositions, and the figment of a lunar theory, seriously maintained by men who would be generally spoken of as "well informed." It is well therefore, to say that they are each and every one of them misstatements and misconceptions based on absolute error. That in the lower latitudes within the Arctic Circle the twilight at noon is very perceptible; that the moon when full shines through the clear air with great brilliancy; that the Aurora occasionally gleams with splendour and beauty and that what little light there is is intensified by the white lustre of the snow, are points to be readily admitted, but do not alter the great law of nature to which Arctic travellers have to submit. The Arctic night is, practically speaking, as dark as any other night, and the experience of the officers of the officers of the *Tegothoff* affords us some homey measures of its intensity. In the beginning of November, in clear weather, a faint twilight was perceptible at noon, but generally there was no difference between the light of midday and of midnight. The heavens were usually overcast, and the night of the Aurora, during the few minutes of its greatest intensity, seldom exceeded that of the moon in its first quarter. Christmas and the New Year were celebrated with an attempt at German conviviality, in which the dogs took their part. Jubnal, a Siberian dog of great size and strength, found his way into one of the cabins, and refused to quit till he had finished a heap of maccaroni. Sumbu, who, being of a close and saving disposition, had accumulated a private hoard in a depot of his own, got very drunk on the sailors' rum, and his companions, taking advantage of his helpless condition, devoured his stores without scruple. It was thus, then, that through the darkness of a hundred and eleven days—from October 28 to February 16—in ever-recurring danger, and ceaseless dread, fast locked in the ice, they drifted to the North.

THE LAUGHING JACKASS.—The *Illustrated News*, of Adelaide, Australia, gives the following particulars of this interesting bird: "The laughing jackass is almost too well known to need description. His appearance and extraordinary note are familiar to the inhabitants of every country village. Although a kingfisher, he never procures his food from the water, after the orthodox fashion of kingfishers, but has more the habits of a bird of prey. Sitting motionless among the lower branches of some tall gum tree, unnoticed and apparently half asleep, he waits, like Micawber, for something to turn up. Suddenly without noise, he drops of his bough and flies direct to a certain spot, whence he soon returns, bearing in his 'beak a lizard, a small snake, or perhaps a rat. His acuteness of sight is extraordinary. From his elevated post he seems to miss nothing, and discerns his prey in swamps and crevices of rocks at a distance that is perfectly astounding. The laughing jackass has the advantage of being able to live on almost anything that presents itself; hence it is always in good condition and apparently in good humour. But in spite of his careless happy, happy life, the laughing jackass has his peculiar duty, and he performs it conscientiously. Snake-killing is his speciality; lizards, frogs, beetles, small birds, rats, etc., are his usual food. In fact, nothing comes amiss to him; let a snake appear upon the scene, and the laughing jackass recognizes his quarry at once. Never hesitating, he makes straight for it, his agitation being observable by the quivering crest feathers. With some caution he swoops backwards and forwards, seeking an opportunity to seize the reptile. The snake, with head erect, ready to strike, keeps on the alert. The excitement continues for some time, till the bird finally settles down, close by, on the ground. But all his stolid, heavy appearance is gone. His wings and tail quiver with agitation and eagerness. Fully alive to the dangerous character of his opponent he keeps at a safe distance. Flitting round, his head just out of reach, he continues to annoy him, till becoming exhausted, the snake affords him the opportunity he is seeking. With the rapidity of lightning the bird descends upon his prey, then rises in the air bearing with him the captured snake, neatly held just behind the head, in such a position as to render him perfectly powerless. Rising until he has attained a considerable height, he directs his flight to a more open part of the country, then suddenly backing in the air, he drops the reptile, following it down and reaching the ground almost at the same time. Stunned and bruised, the unfortunate snake is in no condition to renew the contest, and is very soon dispatched and eaten by his victorious enemy."