

RELIGIOUS.

CATHOLIC.

On Saturday, 2nd inst, Archbishop O'Brien, accompanied by Rev. Fr. Ellis, sailed for Rome. During the absence of His Grace, Very Rev. Monsignor Power, will be administrator of the Diocese of Halifax.

At St. Mary's Cathedral, on Sunday last, Bishop Rogers, of Chatham, N. B., preached at the 9 o'clock service.

The St. Bernard Convent, Antigonish, (Sisters of *Notre Dame*), had, during the past year, over two hundred pupils. To the instruction of those the time of six teachers is devoted.

Bishop Gilmour, of Cleveland, Ohio, once lived in Cape Breton. The following is from the *Catholic Herald*:—"On the 23rd inst, Rt. Rev. Richard Gilmour, D. D., Bishop of Cleveland, was welcomed to Canal Fulton, N. Y., by the Mayor. Next morning, at 10 o'clock mass, he confirmed two hundred and fifty-three, seventeen of whom were converts. A notable feature in this congregation is, that the entire service is sung by the congregation."

The *New York Catholic Herald* says:—"A protestant gentleman, of Little Rock, Ark., has offered Bishop Fitzgerald \$25,000, provided another \$25,000 be raised by the citizens of that city, to found a hospital; there being a further stipulation, that the hospital shall always be in charge of the Sisters of Charity. Bishop Fitzgerald had a conference with Father Mendino, and assurance was given that the Sisters of Charity would be furnished when required."

The number of Catholics in the Maritime Provinces is not too small to support one well-equipped first-class Catholic College. Not a few students would come from such an institution from the United States and Newfoundland. At present, the St. Francis Xavier College, Antigonish, has seven students from outside the Province. Until the Catholics of these Provinces concentrate their educational forces, i. e., with respect to colleges, they cannot enter into the college-consolidation movement of the friends of Dalhousie.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

The Christmas and New Year's season has seen the Churches largely attended. Last Sunday, carol services were in order. These services originated, so far as Halifax is concerned, at St. George's Church, a few years ago, have now become popular, and have spread widely. St. Paul's has caught the infection, and gave a selection of carols after Evening Prayer last Sunday.

At St. George's great pains is always taken with the musical part of the service, and the carols sung by the children this year were no exception to the rule. The choice of carols was good, and they were sung with great spirit and perfect time. Such services are very bright and attractive.

The Rev. Canon O'Meara officiated at St. Paul's last Sunday morning, and St. Luke's in the evening. On Monday he addressed a Missionary Meeting in Trinity Church, and advocated the claims of the Diocese of Rupert's Land. The Rev. gentleman is a pleasing speaker, quite as forcible as the average clergymen of this diocese, and is evidently in great earnest about his mission. It is to be hoped that some adequate response will be made to his appeal.

When is that Choral Union about to become an accomplished fact? The choirs of the Churches in the city are anxious to be organized. Who will take the first step?

PRESBYTERIAN.

The Rev. J. C. Cattanach will be inducted into the pastorate of St. Andrew's Church, of this city, on the evening of the 15th inst.

The Rev. Dr. Smith, of St. John, N. B., has accepted a call from the Presbyterian Church at Wausau, Wis.

We regret to learn of the serious illness of the Rev. John I. Baxter, of Truro.

At the last meeting of the Presbytery of Miramichi, a call was presented from the church at Campbelltown, to the Rev. A. Ogilvie Brown, late of Scotland, and accepted by him. He was to have been inducted on Tuesday last.

We are pleased to observe that Erskine Church, Montreal, of which the Rev. L. O. H. Jordan, late of Halifax, is pastor, is making steady progress. At the communion held last Sunday, forty members were added to the roll.

The attendance at the services in Erskine Church, Montreal, since the Rev. L. H. Jordan became pastor, has become so large that the managers are taking steps to increase the accommodation.

METHODIST.

A revival, under the leadership of the Rev. Thos. Harrison, has just closed at Milwaukee, Wis. It is said that 400 persons have professed conversion.

The Conference of the African American Episcopal Church has just closed its session in North Carolina. The most striking event of the Conference was the ordination, as deacon, of Miss Sarah A. Hughes, of Raleigh.

The Wesleyans and other Bodies of Methodists in Great Britain now number 762,594, an increase of 5,041 during the year.

At a monster missionary meeting, held in New York, lately, the sum of \$30,800 was collected.

The Rev. Thos. Tennant recently died at Pransville, Ark., at the age of 115 years. He was a Methodist preacher for ninety years.

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

Water-spouts seldom last longer than half an hour.

THERAPEUTIC VALUE OF COAL TAR.—In the *Journal des Usines a Gaz* are given some particulars derived from investigations made to ascertain the effect of coal tar and its derivatives upon the health of the workmen employed in the preparation of those substances. These enquiries were made chiefly in connection with the employes of the Paris Gas Company. It was found that those whose duties did not necessitate a prolonged stay in the parts of the works where tar was to be found, were liable to all kinds of ailments and formed a considerable proportion of the number of the sick list—while among the workmen specially occupied with tar only three were sick in the course of seven years; this result, medically considered, is all the more striking in view of the large number of workmen employed at the period in question—more than 20,000, of whom nearly 800 were employed in some occupation connected with tar. At the Bayonne Gas Works, too, the records show not only an exemption of the workmen from cholera, but also their immunity from skin diseases.

CLEANING KITCHEN BOILERS.—The cleaning out of kitchen boilers is seldom, if ever, thought of. All sediment cocks should be left open at least once a week for the space of fifteen minutes, so as to clean out all foul sediment. Oftentimes when complaint is made that the water smells, or that it don't heat properly, the real cause will be found to arise from this neglect alone. In fact, people seem to go on the plan that once in order, always in order. All plumbing fixtures require cleaning and looking after, just as the plate we eat off of.

THE SECRET OF COOKING MEAT.—The secret of cooking meat so as to retain the juice is to turn it frequently. Meat can be cooked in a hot griddle or frying pan to be almost as excellent as if broiled, by heating the pan, putting a bit of butter to prevent the meat from sticking, and turning it almost as soon as you have laid in it the pan. To sear the surface quickly is to imprison the juices.

PREVENTING THE CORROSION OF METALS.—Metallurgists have resorted successfully of late to two special processes for preventing iron and steel from corroding. One of these consists in submitting the iron or steel, at red heat to the action of superheated steam, while the other exposes them, at red heat, to ordinary air and carbonic acid gas. In the one instance, the oxygen combining with the iron forms magnetic oxide, the only oxide of iron not affected by atmospheric conditions; in the other case, the magnetic oxide is formed by a series of oxidizing and deoxidizing operations, the carbonic acid gas being formed within the chamber where the articles are placed, by the combustion of carbonic oxide. The first method is better for wrought iron, though more costly, while the other process is preferable for cast iron and steel, and less expensive. A fusion of these methods consists in having one furnace, of special design, which does the work of the two separate furnaces, producing carbonic acid, generating and superheating steam, heating the chamber, and treating it in cast or wrought iron, and at less cost.

FIRE-PROOF WRITING PAPER.—A paper which will withstand an immense heat without rendering the writing illegible, says the *Paper Trade Journal*, may be made of an asbestos body coated on one or both sides in combination with a thin writing paper coated or impregnated with salt. The heat has the effect of forming a thin glaze which will combine with the asbestos body. The thin coating of salt may be applied to the paper with a brush or by means of a bath, and combined with the asbestos body by the use of a cement composed of or containing silicate of soda, to which should be added a small portion of carbonate of lime, to set the mixture. The asbestos or coaline paper may be united by being subjected to a powerful pressure.

The ink used for printing or writing on this fire-proof combination may be an ordinary ink containing nitrate of silver; or, if desired, other solutions of metal may be used. When paper so prepared and written and printed upon is subjected to an extreme heat, the thin surface is consumed or destroyed, leaving the metallic or incombustible part of the ink, which has penetrated or touched the thin paper, plainly legible on the asbestos body. Paper on asbestos thus prepared is expected to be used for the most important legal instruments, or other written or printed certificates of indebtedness, the destruction of which by fire would entail considerable embarrassment, and lead to vexatious delays, if not cause actual loss.

HOW AXES ARE MADE.—In the manufacture of axes, says the *Pittsburgh Times*, the material passes through twelve different operations before it is ready for labeling and boxing. At first it is a rectangular piece of iron, about three-fourths of an inch thick, three and one-half inches wide, and about six inches long. The bit is of steel, and in some instances is inserted in a slit made in the iron, and in others it is drawn over the edge of the iron. There is a growing demand for axes made entirely of steel. The most important part of the process of manufacture is tempering. "This is really where the axe is made," said a manufacturer. The grinding and polishing is the most laborious part of the process. It is here that the rough, irregularly shaped semblance of an axe is ground and polished until it is as bright as a mirror. It is said that the work will prove fatal within five years to any man who pursues it steadily. The air is filled with imperceptible dust from the stones, and many of the workmen tie small sponges saturated with water over their nostrils.