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GREGORY THE GREAT.

Notes of the Celebration in the Holy City—New Interpretation of the Chants.

The special Rome correspondence of the Pilot (Boston) gives some interesting details of the Gregorian Centenary from which we make a few extracts. On the Sunday after Easter His Holiness held a "Circolo" at which he spoke of the great joy it brought to his heart to learn the cordial and devout acceptance given to the spread of a higher devotion towards St. Joseph, and of his hope that it might in time spread throughout Christendom.

On Thursday, High Mass was celebrated in the glorious basilica of St. Paul's, beyond the Walls; a homily was preached by the Father Abbot of the Benedictine Order, which bears this basilica, and the... was rendered by the Benedictine monks. It is, perhaps, interesting to recall the fact that in the museum attached to this basilica there is preserved intact to the present day the authentic marble slab on which is inscribed the legacy left by St. Gregory the Great for the lamp which should burn before the body of the Apostle St. Paul.

GREGORIAN CHANT.

On Friday afternoon a penitential procession took place in the basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore. This was in conformity with the septiform supplications made by St. Gregory to obtain the cessation of the plague that desolated Rome in his days. In 590, the first year of his Pontificate, he instituted the "septiform litany" which should be celebrated on the 7th of the Kalends of May, that is to say, on the 15th of April, by seven societies of men and women, who, on that same day, should simultaneously set out from seven churches designated beforehand, and unite in one assembly to make public prayers together. This litany was called...

eclesiastical music. It is perhaps rash to conjecture what the future success of Dom Pothier's system will be; but one thing is certain, that the tendency of opinion in Rome is decidedly favorable to the Gregorian chant as rendered according to the system of this French Benedictine. He claims to return to the original method of execution and to have discovered the rhythm of the melodies as written by the great Pontiff whose name they bear.

THE NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERIES.

Debate in the House of Lords on the Treaty Bill. LONDON, May 4.—Lord Kimberley in the House of Lords today moved that in view of the assurances given the Government from the Newfoundland delegates that the colony would immediately pass an act which would provide for the due enforcement of the treaty stipulations existing between France and Great Britain the House ought not to go into committee on the Knutsford Convention Bill until reasonable time had been given to Newfoundland to pass the necessary legislation.

Lord Kimberley refused to accede to Kimberley's motion, claiming that the Newfoundland question had an imperial character which must be recognized in dealing with it.

Lord Salisbury said the Government had entered into a serious international obligation with France which must be carried out. Under the decisions of the Newfoundland courts the hands of the naval powers were paralyzed.

After further discussion Lord Kimberley's motion was rejected, 113 to 30. Lord Herschell moved that the Knutsford act continue in force for only one year. Lord Salisbury opposed the motion and it was rejected, 61 to 21. The bill then passed the committee stage.

HIBERNIAN GAMES.

Some Startling Feats of Former Times Described.

From O'Donovan's famous "Annals of Ireland" it appears that in the age of the world 3370, or exactly 1829 years before the Christian Era, the first Tailtin games were held at Telldown, county Meath. These games were inaugurated by Hugh Lamhinda, monarch of Ireland, in honor of his foster-mother, Tailte, daughter of Maglor, King of Spain, and wife of Eochaid, son of Ere, the last king of the Firbolgs.

the birth of Christ a large stone, specimens of which can be seen in the museum of the Royal Irish Academy, was substituted.

However, the manhood and chivalry which for centuries had graced the mimic warfare of the Taltian amphitheatre were soon persistently occupied in more fruitful arenas, emphasizing the prowess of their athletic days with grim impartiality on the sea-browned hides of the Danes, the haughty crests of the Normans and the Plantagenets, the merciless partizans of Elizabeth and the close cropped skulls of the Roundheads, each eagerly succeeding the other in a forlorn hope of subjugating or annihilating the unflinching sons of Erin.

HOW THE FEAT IS PERFORMED.

No actual arm work is called for, the strain falling mainly upon the back and loins. The hammer is swung round when once the thrower has begun his spin, at right angles to the body and in a vertical position, and the arm and handle thus act as one and the same lever. A very slight grasp of mechanical principles will show that the hammer head is, as it were, attached to the circumference of a revolving circle, the motive power being supplied by the spinning human body at the centre.

The advantages of this preparation, even to a man never destined to excel in high class competitions, will be found to repay lavishly the amount of time and trouble expended. The muscles called into play served to draw the shoulders and ribs into a healthy and natural position and to give the lungs and heart plenty of room to perform their vital functions.

An English Swindle.

LONDON, May 4.—A sensation has been caused by the disclosures arising from the wind-up of the Anglo-Austrian Printing Company. Evanoh Hansard was its promoter. Managing Director Bottomley, of Hansard's Union, now a bankrupt, received £88,500 out of £93,022 received from shareholders as part of the price of the business he was supposed to have acquired in Austria.

Against Italians.

NEW ORLEANS, May 4.—During the Maika excitement here it was suggested that the business of unloading fruit vessels ought to be taken from the Sicilians, and that if this was done it would materially reduce the Italian colony. Last week it was announced that the Stevedores and Longshoremen's Association, including many thousands of members, had determined to act on the suggestion, and that a very strong effort would be made to get possession of this business.

Paternal Government.

DUS-ELBOUR, May 5.—At a banquet in his honor last evening the Emperor William made a significant speech, in which, after dilating upon his desire for peace and for the protection of the rights of labor, and after expressing satisfaction at the conclusion of the commercial treaty with Austria, he said, "As to the home policy which is becoming established I shall not devote a hair's breadth from the course I have adopted. I alone am master in this country and nobody else."

FIRST COMMUNION.

Thoughts suggested by this Ceremony in Notre Dame Convent, Ottawa.

First Communion! Happy day—Brightest in life's story! Day endeared in song and lay—Dear to young and hoary.

Hear those infant virgins clad In white robes and veiling, Chanting anthems—anthems glad, 'Th' Holy of Holies calling!

And, as round the throne divine Cherubim are kneeling, Knelt they round the sacred shrine Rapt in pious feeling.

Knelt they—dead to sin and strife—Knelt they—prayerful, fasting—Fasting for the Bread of Life, Of Life Everlasting!

Fresh in innocence of heart, Naught to them were stranger Than the wiles of knavish art, Worldlings that endanger.

Single-minded, trusting, true, Faith in all possessing, Few their cares, their wants but few, Best themselves and blessing!

Ah, no wonder young and old Eulogize in unison, That one day of bliss unfold—That of First Communion!

Day, that child and parent both Still recall with pleasure; That still grows with mem'ry's growth—Mem'ry's richest treasure.

Day, too, that proclaims the good Done by hands untainted—By the gifted sterpooth 'Of Bourgeois the sainted!

Taught to teach this truth sublime, (World-lore not despising) That eternally, not time, Is what's most worth praising.

That the soul beyond such lore Christians all should cherish, Since the first lives evermore, Whatist the last must perish!

W. O. FARMER. Ottawa, 23rd April, 1891.

IN THE FIJI ISLANDS.

Monsieur Vidal Tells of the Establishment of Catholicity There.

Monsieur Julien Vidal, bishop of Fiji, arrived recently at San Francisco. Bisop Vidal is a man with a history. For nineteen years he has labored in the cause of Christianity and the propagation of the true Catholic faith among the semi-civilized nations of the islands of Oceania.

"Twelve years ago the Fijians were cannibals," said he. "At the present day the Solomon Islanders, among whom I intend to go, are cannibals. Bishop Epalle was killed by them three years ago. This cross I wear belonged to him. In the Fiji group are 200 islands, about eighty of which are inhabited. One island is 122 miles long and 110 miles wide, and another is of about the same size. There are about 135,000 natives and 1500 Europeans in the group. In the capital, Suva, are about 700 Europeans, and at Levuka are about 200. There are about 200 Irish Catholics in the group. I have eighteen missionaries and nineteen sisters. Fifteen sisters are engaged as teachers in the native schools, in which there are about 4000 native children and the other four are in the white schools. There are fourteen churches on six of the principal islands. We have about 11,000 native converts and 180 native catechists. We have prayer books, catechisms, and hymns printed in Fijian, and I am about to print the vesper and gospel in Fijian also.

"What is taught the children in the native schools?" the reporter asked. "We instruct them in their own language and teach them some history, geography, and the four rules of arithmetic. The geography is a general idea of the countries of the world and we have about forty pages about the history of the Church since Jesus Christ."

"Have you any converts at all among the Solomon Islands?" "We have a few catechists who, we expect, will assist us greatly in our work upon the Solomon group. About 100 Solomon Islanders go to Fiji to work on the plantations there, and we have baptized some of them. We expect that they will live in villages together, to which the missionaries will go, and from which, with interpreters, they may go out to work among the natives. I want about seven more missionaries, who will make the number twenty-five, in my diocese, which covers nine degrees of latitude, from twelve degrees south to twenty-one degrees south, and six of longitude.

"How do the Samoans compare as a people with the Fijians?" "The Samoans are far superior both physically and intellectually, but the Fijians being of a more zealous nature make better converts. The Fijians are of a far more warlike nature than the Samoans. The Solomon Islanders resemble the Fijians more than the Samoans. The Fijians live very simple lives, their only care being to have enough to eat. Their dress, which is merely a skirt from the waist, troubles them but little. They dress the hair in many fantastic fashions. They have no use for money. The converts devote much time to prayer. The first missionary among them was Father Brohbert, my vicar-general, who is now 75 years old. He has lived among the Fijians for forty-five years and has never been home since he first went there. I offered to take him to France on this trip, but he declined, fearing that he might die and not be buried among the natives. Everybody loves him, and he is, indeed, a holy man."

St. Simeon Stylites.

St. Simeon Stylites was so named from the Greek word stylites, a pillar, and was the founder of the Order of Monks called Pillar Saints. Of all the forms of voluntary mortification practised by the early Christians this was the most extraordinary. Originally St. Simeon was a shepherd in Cilicia about the year 408. When only thirteen years of age he left his flocks and obtained admission into a monastery in Syria, but afterwards withdrew to a mountain, where he at first confined himself within a circle of stones. Deeming this mode of penance not sufficiently severe, in the year 423 he fixed his residence on the top of a pillar, which was a fir nine feet high, but was successively raised to the height of sixty feet. The diameter of the top of the pillar was only three feet, but it was surrounded by a railing which secured his from falling off, and afforded him some relief by leaning against it. His clothing consisted of the skins of beasts, and he wore an iron collar round his neck. Sometimes he prayed kneeling, sometimes in an erect attitude, with his arms stretched out in the form of a cross, but most frequent exercise was that of bowing in prayer till his head almost touched the ground. A spectator once observed him make 1240 such reverential bendings without resting. In this manner he lived on his pillar more than thirty years, and there he died in the year 459. During his life princes and potentates sought his Council and advice, which were freely given, and at his death his body was removed with great solemnity to Antioch. His predictions and miracles are mentioned at length by Theodoretus, who gives an account of thirty celebrated hermits, ten of whom were his contemporaries, including St. Simeon of Stylites. The Pillar Saints were never numerous, and the Order was found almost exclusively in the warm climates of the East. Among the names recorded is that of another Simeon, styled the younger, who dwelt sixty years on his pillar.

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School Children in the midst of a snowball fight.

The carriage was stopped so that the little sovereign might observe how her little subjects amused themselves. It was give and take, hot and heavy among the combatants. The weaker party began to go to the wall. Just as a discomfited was aggravated by the fall of the boy leader, who had got a ball of slush in his eye, the young queen sprang to her feet and leaped from the carriage. She ran between the two parties of combatants and called out that the victors must at once stop snowballing. She had the proverbial luck of peace-makers. All the children turned on her, and before the coachman could come to her aid, had her half buried under a great pile of snow. When pulled out Wilhelmina shook out her skirts, drew herself up and said calmly—"Boys and girls, I am your queen."

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The children became white and scared, and most of them snivelled piteously. Queen Emma added to their terror by ordering the coachman to take their names. The next day, however, the mourning of every child was turned to gladness when it received a box of toys with the good wishes of the child sovereign.—Boston Boulevard.

How the Eskimos are Governed.

According to the census of 1888 there were 10,221 Eskimos scattered in little settlements from Cape Farwell to Upernivik. For the purpose of government the country is divided into two sections called the north inspectorate and the south inspectorate, each of which has a governor called the inspector, who is responsible only to the colonial department at Copenhagen. The north inspectorate is divided into seven districts, Upernivik, Umanak, Godhavn, Ritenbank, Jacobshavn, Christianshaab and Egedesminde. In the south inspectorate are five districts, Holstensborg, Sukkertoppen, Godthaab, Fredrikshaab and Julianshaab. Each district has a ruler or governor responsible to the inspector, while every little settlement within the district has its resident government agent who is responsible to the district governor. The Eskimos are a peaceable race, with the hearts of children, and good children at that. In the old days they used to kill one another under the vendetta principle, but that has long since died out. They will still steal if good opportunity offers; they will quarrel over game taken; they will commit adultery; they will sell fur to others than government agents if the market happens to come to them properly. For these deeds the governor, after judicial investigation, may punish the men by fines up to about twelve dollars; by tying them to the flag staff in front of his house while the flag of the nation floats above and flogging them, the number of blows being limited. A woman when proven to be chiefly guilty in a case of adultery has her hair cut off.—Goththaab's Geographical Magazine.

Bush Fires.

KINGSTON, May 4.—Bush fires are still raging along the line of the C.P.R., and occupants of many farms are in danger of having their barns and outbuildings burned at any time. Miles of forests between Kalader and Arden are ablaze, and the fire has been burning four days. The people of Mountain Grove are greatly alarmed and have moved their wood and implements to the opposite side of the railway track. Once before the people of this place had their buildings destroyed by a forest fire. One farm house was destroyed. For passengers on the C.P.R. trains the sight of the fire is interesting. The heat from the flames can be felt on board the train. A commercial traveller who arrived from the burning district to-day says the people there are very much excited. It is thought the fire was commenced by a tramp.

Very Improbable.

HALIFAX, May 4.—A report is current here to night that the British warship Pelecan, now in Newfoundland waters, has been fired upon by the exasperated Newfoundland bait catchers in Fortune Bay, against whom the ship was sent to coerce the colonists into obeying the irritating bait law and because of the threatening attitude of the people down there. The warships Emerald and Farbridge have been ordered to that place. The report cannot be verified to-night. A cablegram from St. John's Nfld., says a steamer has arrived there from Fortune Bay bringing eight of the ringleaders in the recent riot including Hartigan, who threatened to shoot Police Inspector Fawcett.

The Bonapartes.

The present Pretender to the throne of the Napoleons should assume the title of Napoleon VIII. in the extremely unlikely chance of his ever being summoned back to France to set on his legs again for a brief term the collapsed empire. Here is how a clever correspondent makes it out: Napoleon I. abdicated in favour of his son, the so-called King of Rome, who died at Vienna in his youth without any direct descendant. He was Napoleon II. The real Napoleon III. was Joseph, the ex-king of Spain, who also left no heirs. Napoleon IV. would naturally be his next surviving brother, Louis, King of Holland. His legitimate son, Louis Napoleon, who took to himself the title of Napoleon III. was in reality Napoleon V., as the Prince Imperial slain in Zululand, would be Napoleon VI. and the late Jerome, Napoleon VII. would be the denouement.

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