

Paragraphic.

At Bristol, England, a Church Missionary Army has been started on the lines of the Salvation Army, but without its eccentricities.

The population of Utah is estimated at one hundred and forty-three thousand; the Mormons number one hundred and ten thousand.

By the will of the late Samuel Hawk, of the Windsor Hotel, New York, the sum of \$5,000 is left to Zion Church, to promote its benevolent work, and to Rev. Charles Tiffany, Rector, \$2,000.

Archdeacon Macdonald of the Canadian Church has a field of work on the confines of the Arctic Circle, extending across 20 degrees of longitude. About 1,500 natives have been baptized and more than 100 are communicants.

The VIIth Church Congress in the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, will be held in the city of Richmond, Virginia, commencing October 24th, 1882. The Rt. Rev. F. M. Whittle, D.D., Bishop of Virginia, presiding.

A recent writer on Bible lands, reports that of all the seven Churches of Asia, that of Smyrna alone is alive. At the English Church he saw written over the communion table, "To the angel of the Church in Smyrna," etc., closing with, "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life."

A touching proof of the popularity of Shakespeare in Russia has just been given us. When the late Professor Katchanofsky—who was well known in legal circles here—lay dying, the friend and pupil who nursed him, heard him reciting "To be, or not to be, that is the question," two hours before his death.

For refusing to acknowledge King Henry VIII. the "Head of the Church," Sir Thomas Moore was cast into prison and afterward beheaded. For refusing to acknowledge "The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council" as the Head of the Church, The Rev. S. F. Green now languishes in goal at Lancaster.

The Vicar of Great Yarmouth, Canon George Venables, has issued in the form of a four page tract, a guide to his noble parish church of St. Nicholas, which enjoys the distinction of being the largest parish church in England, and which also has the still nobler pre-eminence of being filled, as a correspondent tells us it was last Sunday week, with a congregation of at least 3000 persons.

Dr. Siemens delivered the opening address before the British Association at Southampton. He sums up the result of his studies in the statement that in the great workshop of nature there are no lines of demarcation to be drawn between the most exalted speculation and commonplace practice; and that all knowledge must lead up to one great result, that of an intelligent recognition of the Creator through His works.

The New York Methodist Episcopal Conference owns what is known as the Mount Ruzer Farm, which is designed to be a home for worn-out and superannuated preachers, members of the Conference. Friends of the project, instead of constructing one large edifice on the plan of a public almshouse, are building small and neat cottages, where the declining days of well spent lives may be passed amid home-like comforts.

The struggle between Church and State in Germany, is again becoming of a more serious character, excited by the fact that Prince Bishop Herzog, at Breslau, has forbidden his clergy to consecrate any marriage of a Protestant and a Catholic which has already been consecrated, or is afterwards to be consecrated, by a Protestant priest. The Emperor is said to feel very strongly on the subject.

The Southwell Bishopric Fund has reached £35,206, of which Nottinghamshire contributed £5,215; Staffordshire, £4,729; Shropshire, £4,895; Derbyshire, £3,200; Lincolnshire, £8,707; whilst £2,800 has been raised as a general fund, and £5,000 has been granted by the central committee. A meeting in aid of the movement will be held during the Church Congress at Derby, and will be attended by the bishops of Lichfield and Lincoln, whose dioceses will be principally affected by the projected new bishopric.

The Bishop of Guinea has recently celebrated the fortieth anniversary of his consecration, when he received a number of addresses of congratulation, remarking on the circumstance that Bishop Austin's episcopate had been of unprecedented length for a tropical diocese, and that, "while a large proportion of Bishops appointed to colonial sees subsequently to his lordship have been obliged to retire from their work, the senior Bishop in the whole of her Majesty's dominions still remains at his post."

In certifying to the death of Mr. James J. Sullivan in New York recently, Dr. Willard Parker declared that he died from "poisoning the system with tobacco." The deceased was twenty-six years of age, a book-keeper, and had "used tobacco so constantly that his system had become impregnated with nicotine," and the significance of the matter is that Mr. Sullivan smoked cigarettes almost exclusively, the empyreumatic oil uniting with the nicotine, forming a deadly poison, resulting in this instance fatally, and at an early age.

A country vicar writes:—"I am decidedly in favour of free and open churches and weekly offertories where they can be introduced with the full approval of the parishioners—but not otherwise—and have myself introduced both in two parishes with entire success. In my late parish in Lincolnshire, where pew-rents formed part of the vicar's stipend, half the offertories amounted to more than the pew-rents, the other half produced more for the wardens than the old plan. Here, where there were no pew-rents, the wardens are supplied with ample funds, and the quarrels about pews annihilated."—Free Open Church Advocate.

Speaking at a Temperance Mission at Salisbury, Archdeacon Lear said a very extraordinary statement had appeared in *Sword and Trowel*, and he presumed it was made by the editor (Mr. Spurgeon), for it was in the first person. It was as follows:—"I measured a square 300 paces in the very centre of Salisbury, and found on it no less than eighteen public houses and gin-shops, all on Church lands." The fact was that the Bishop's land was not in Salisbury, but surrounded the city, and the Dean and Chapter had very little in the city itself. Certainly there was not a single public-house on their property.

During the past month the Lord Bishop of Meath has been holding a series of Confirmations throughout his diocese. He has visited seventeen principal centres, and it is a gratifying fact to be able to state that notwithstanding the diminution of the Church population during the last three years, the number of candidates has substantially increased. The reverential demeanour of the young people everywhere left nothing to be desired, and the large and attentive congregations showed how deep was the interest felt generally in the administration of the solemn rite. Two supplemental confirmations are to be held in the month of October.

THE GENERAL COUNCILS.—I. Nice, A.D., 325. 318 Bishops attending. Decision against the Arians. II. Constantinople, A.D., 381. 150 Bishops attending. Decision against the Macedonians. III. Ephesus, A.D., 431. Decision against the Nestorians. IV. Chalcedon, A.D., 451. 300 Bishops attending. Decision against the Eutychians. V. Constantinople, A.D., 553. 165 Bishops attending. Confirmed the decisions of the first four Councils. VI. Constantinople, A.D., 680. Decision against a development of Eutychianism. The decrees of the later Councils were not received by the whole Catholic Church, and therefore they were not General Councils.

"Nonconformists," remarks the *Christian World*, "profess to think very little of sacred places, and yet their Church buildings are fast locked up all the week as if through fear of desecration. Everybody is pleading nowadays for open spaces for the relaxation of the people, and it might well be asked, why not let Nonconformist as well as Episcopal Churches be open a part of every day, at least, for their repose and meditation? The time has gone by when any question could arise about Popish practices, which would have been the cry a generation ago."

On the face of it there is something lamentable in the fact of these costly buildings being opened for worship only one day in the week."

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