

insisted on, in these columns, because a private company can much better manage and carry out a great work of this kind than a Government can. We believe that it is purely an intimate knowledge of this fact which took the Ministers to London, and led them to sign the concession, of which we have now the announcement. If it were otherwise, if a Government, responsible to a popularly elected legislature, were not hampered by party exigencies, and liable to change, and if it could successfully and continuously carry out large schemes of immigration and settlement, the action taken would be a mistake, but it cannot, and its function seems rather to provide facilities than to attempt the work itself.

METROPOLITAN'S CROZIER.

The Crozier, of which we give an illustration, was presented, in Montreal, on the 9th Sept. to the Most Reverend the Lord Bishop of Fredericton, Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Provinces of Canada, by a number of members of the Church of England, both clergymen and laymen. The presentation was intended both as a mark of respect to the office and as a tribute of personal esteem and respect for the venerable prelate whose labours in the episcopal office have extended over 36 years.

The Crozier is a staff of ebony, surmounted by an ornamental cross of solid silver. At the intersection of the arms of the cross is a shield, gilt, on which is embossed an *Agnus Dei*. It will be observed that a Metropolitan's Crozier differs from an ordinary pastoral staff, in being surmounted by a cross instead of a crook.

This Crozier is intended to be handed on to each Metropolitan who succeeds to the office. A band with an inscription will, it is expected, be added each time that it changes hands, so that in turn it will be in itself a record of the Anglican Church.

The staff was manufactured by Mr. J. Hendery of this city, from designs furnished by Messrs. M. S. Brown & Co., jewellers, Halifax, N.S., to whom the order was entrusted.

HOW RAILROADS EAT UP FORESTS.

But few people comparatively have any idea of the amount of timber used in the construction of a single railroad. We hear that our forests are rapidly disappearing, and we know that material for building and fuel causes the sacrifice of many leafy monarchs of the forest; yet only the initiated know that it is yearly takes 200,000 acres of forests to supply cross-ties for the railroads for the United States. The Cincinnati *Commercial* lately interviewed a gentleman who has been in the business for thirteen years, and gives the substance of his talk. It takes 15,000,000 ties to supply the demand on our railroads, for which on an average the contractors get 35 cents a piece, making in the aggregate about \$5,250,000. In building a new road the contractors figure on 2,700 ties to the mile, while it takes 300 ties to the mile to keep a constructed road in repair. Contractors, of course, buy pieces of timber land as near to the proposed line of road as possible, paying for the timber an average of about \$10 per acre, or giving the proprietor of the land 10 cents for every tie cut out. The average of a good piece of timber land is 200 ties to the acre and 12 ties to the tree. The size of a cross-tie differs on different roads, but the usual size demanded is eight feet six inches long, and eight inches face. White or burr oak is considered the best timber for the purpose, although cherry, maple, ash and even locust have been used. The last named were first used on the Little Miami Railroad, and after a time thrown aside as unfit for the purpose. Railroad men much prefer ties hewn out with an axe to those sawed in a mill, and many contend that the first named will considerably outlast the sawed ties. This theory is probably a mistaken fallacy, as sawed ties have been placed alongside of hewn ties, and remained sound twice as long. This business gives employment to an army of choppers, who are paid 10 cents apiece for each tie. A continued practice makes the choppers expert in the use of the axe, and a single man has been known to get out 35 ties in a day; yet the average is only 10, while an expert will probably get out 20. During the war, when ties sold at from 50 to 65 cents, choppers were paid 12½ cents apiece. Although the contractor gets 35 cents apiece from the railroads for each tie still there is a loss of from 5 to 7 per cent. on dockage and steelage. An inspector is sent by the company to inspect the ties. This is generally a clerk from some of the offices, who frequently knows but little as regards the strength or durability of timber, and, as a consequence, some of the best ties are docked and only bring 20 cents apiece. The steelage is where the section men put in new ties which have not been inspected and received, and fail to report the use of the same to the road-master. Most all cross-tie men also contract for bridge timbers and trestling, as well as telegraph poles. For the latter chestnut and cedar are mostly used. They bring about \$1.75 apiece, and are mostly in the tamarack swamps of Michigan and the forests of Southern Kentucky and Tennessee. Large sums of money have been made by lucky contractors above described, and each

only adds to increased demands. Ohio has over 4,000,000 acres of woodland, yet the ever-increasing demand for railroad purposes alone, if supplied entirely from our forest, would leave us without a single stick to mark the existence of our once dense forests.

MR. BEECHER'S OFFERS.

From the Duluth (Minn.) Tribune.
Referring to the terrible ordeal through which he passed a few years since, which happened to come up in conversation in the most "accidental" manner. Mr. Beecher broke out in a sort of "by the way" form, and said: "Speaking about my experience as a lecturer, reminds me of some, I might say, remarkable offers I received a few years ago. At a certain period in my life, which you no doubt, will remember, I was offered, by a sort of syndicate who was in the business \$300,000 if I would give them my time, including Sundays, for the space of twelve months. They offered to pay me \$150,000 in advance, and the remaining \$150,000 in twelve equal monthly instalments."

We naturally exclaimed, "What a temptation!"

"Not a bit of it," he replied. "Do you suppose that I would go about the country like a monkey one year for \$300,000 or for any other sum of money? This was only one of a score of offers I received. P. T. Barnum offered me \$10,000 if I would lecture in his coliseum ten nights, choosing my own time and themes. A man in Baltimore offered me \$100 an evening, for a long term, if I would simply appear in the principal hall there with him, and sit for thirty minutes each night on the stage in view of the audience, and not say a single word."

A VORACIOUS EATER.

A remarkable feat of eating and drinking against time is reported by the Hungarian press, and said to have been performed by a youthful Magyar residing in Grosswardien. The surprising trencherman laid a wager, and is declared to have won it with several minutes and an omelet to spare, that he would, between the hours of 9.30 p.m. and midnight devour the following comestibles, it being clearly understood that there should be a full portion of each dish in succession, any two of which portions may be estimated as constituting a hearty meal for a full-grown adult blessed by nature with a lively appetite; Roast beef with paprika sauce and potatoes; a Viennese veal cutlet with peas; a fillet of beef with dumplings; grilled pork and pumpkins; half a fowl, fried in batter; bubble and squeak; a beefsteak with poached eggs; fried calves' liver; calves' brains and kidneys; pickled veal; stewed beef; a broiled goose liver and a fricasseed fowl with carrots. He not only contrived to stow away all the articles enumerated in this comprehensive menu, washing them down with two quarts of beer, four bottles of old wine, and three of aerated water, but, when he had cleared the last of his appointed dishes—the clock-dial then marking ten minutes to twelve—he asked for a three-egg omelet, which vanished down his throat before the hour struck.

THE SULTAN'S ASTROLOGER.

The Sultan has sustained a severe loss by the death of his chief astrologer, Tahir Effendi, who died from sunstroke during the late very hot weather. His successor has been chosen, not from among the other three remaining, but selected on account of special fitness from another department. Osman Kamil Effendi, who now wields the magic wand, was Mustechar, or first Secretary to the Kadi of Stamboul, and is believed to be deeply learned in the occult sciences. In all matters of difficulty, it is said, His Majesty has recourse to his astrologers, and few decisions are come to without consulting the stars. Some of the delays which take place at the palace may be traced to the belief in lucky and unlucky days. A signature given by the Sultan on an unpropitious day, for instance, could not but bring misfortune to him or the State; it should therefore be deferred to a more convenient season. The chief astrologer has the monopoly for the publication of almanacs from which he makes a nice thing, since one should be in the hand of every good Moslem to point out to him the days and hours at which certain prayers should be said. The forecasts of the weather and other predictions are, to say the least, curious. In last year's almanac a certain day was declared to be propitious for the purchase of a beautiful white slave, which had the effect of causing a run on the market, and a corresponding rise in the value of the article.

VARIETIES.

A BEAUTY.—The Princess Zorka, who is to be married to Prince Alexander of Bulgaria, is described by the Croatian painter, Krasnuy, as "the most charming creature I ever met, a well-trained, sweet and blooming child, slender and agile as a roe, with deep, soulful eyes, full of thought and power. She was the only Montenegrin maiden I was allowed to paint, but I did not regret my journey from Warasdin, notwithstanding the pecuniary loss it entailed. When I showed her the finished portrait she asked in the simplest manner possible: "And am I really then so beautiful?"

LITERARY.

A NEW novel by Mr. Wilkie Collins, entitled "The Black Robe," will be commenced in the *South London Press* early next month.

A RUSSIAN publishing firm has entered into negotiations with Mr. Darwin for the exclusive right of translation into the Russian language of his new work on natural history.

MADAME CAMILLE PERIER, a well-known French novelist, is said to have become deranged in her mind, and to have been removed to the Sainte-Anne Asylum.

The late Frau Pretorius, the wife of the historian and private secretary of Prince Albert, has bequeathed her husband's valuable library to the Germanic Museum at Nuremberg.

LAMBETH Palace Library will be closed for the recess for six weeks from Monday next. The new collection of pamphlets on the monastic literature of England and Wales is rapidly increasing by the gifts of authors and societies.

M. JOSEPH HALÉVY, of Paris, the celebrated Oriental traveller and linguist, paid a brief visit to London last week in order to examine, at the British Museum, some cuneiform MSS. and inscriptions in connection with an important work on which he is at present engaged.

THE town of Kempen, near Crefeld, in the Rhineland, proposes celebrating next month the 500th anniversary of Thomas à Kempis (Thomas Hamerken), the author of the famous book "De Imitatione Christi," which has passed through more editions than any other book except the Bible.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Manchester Courier* understands that a new work from the pen of the Earl of Beaconsfield will be published in the course of a few days. His Lordship has been engaged during the past three years in compiling the work, which it is believed will treat of the political history of Great Britain during the latter part of his premiership.

MR. S. L. LEE, who has already in the *Gentleman's Magazine* brought to light some interesting facts as to the connection of the leading characters and incidents in Shakespeare's works with certain contemporary occurrences, will contribute to an early number of that magazine an article entitled, "A New Study of 'Love's Labour Lost'."

THE papyrus manuscript recently discovered in the cave of a hermit near Jerusalem, and said to be the work of St. Peter, has been submitted to a committee sent out by the Biblical Society of London, and they have come to the conclusion that the papyrus is in reality the work of the great Apostle. They have offered 50,000 francs to the heirs of the hermit for the document, but the offer was refused.

NOT only are the ladies carrying off the palms of literature in England and America, but a Calcutta correspondent of a native paper says that lately there have sprung up a number of gifted Bengal lady writers, the most accomplished being Mrs. Suramoyi Ghoshal, who has written two handy novels and a melodrama. She seems to be well read in English works of imagination, and a careful student of English and Sanscrit poets.

A SERIES of papers on "The Resurrection" will be commenced in the *Churchman's Shilling Magazine* for September, examining and refuting the arguments brought forward by recent writers against the cardinal doctrine of Christianity, and the writer invites his readers to forward him a statement of any difficulties which may present themselves to their minds in connection with the subject, all of which will be dealt with by the author in a supplementary paper. This is rather a novelty in magazine literature.

THE death is announced of Ivan Nikolaevitch Rumiankoff, editor of the illustrated journal *Zootch* (The Ray). His career was curious. For many years he was a barge boy on the Volga, and, joining a Cossack caravan bound for Persia one summer, he was captured by the nomads and lived for many years prisoner among them. Being ransomed, at length he returned to Russia with a knowledge of several Oriental languages, and, after educating himself, became a very successful journalist.

THE third congress of the International Literary Association will hold its sittings in Lisbon in the latter part of next month. The French, Spanish, and Portuguese Railway Companies have agreed to issue tickets to members attending the Congress at a reduction of 50 per cent., and the Royal Mail Steam-ship Company will take members out and home for a single fare. The Portuguese Government had offered to convey the members of the Association from Havre or Cherbourg to Lisbon in a ship of the Royal Navy, but this courtesy has been found to be impracticable. The Congress will not be the less thankful to the King for his generous intention. His Majesty, the devoted student and scholarly translator of Shakespeare, will preside over the first meeting of the Congress; and has kindly offered to the literary men, who are about to travel to his capital to confer on matters directly affecting the well-being of the world of letters, a Royal welcome.

FRANCIS DOUCE, the celebrated antiquary, left his note-books and other MSS. collections to the British Museum, upon the understanding that they were not to be unsealed until January, 1900. As Douce died in 1831, if the conditions of this bequest are literally observed, these books will have been sealed up for sixty-six years, which appears to be an unreasonable time. There is a medium in all things, and, if no limit is to be observed, some literary Enclausure may order his manuscripts to be uselessly warehouse for centuries. A curious question arises whether, in the absence of a shifting clause, such a condition is valid, and if the trustees of the British Museum would not now be authorized in throwing the Douce MSS. open to the public, especially if, as there is reason to believe, the object of the condition has been attained. The already expired term of forty-six years must assuredly be sufficient to carry out the testator's design of preventing their being used by an obnoxious contemporary, that being said to have been the reason of the conditional bequest.

THE GARTER.—The Duke of Bedford has received the blue ribbon now placed at Mr. Gladstone's disposal by the death of Viscount de Redcliffe. It has been suggested that Mr. Gladstone himself ought to succeed the latter as knight of the garter, although the honor is rarely conferred upon a commoner. Admiral Montague, whose ship brought Charles II. back to England, was created knight of the garter before he received the earldom of Sandwich, as was Monk, at the same time, before he was known as Duke of Albemarle. According to Pepys, the only commoner on whom the honor had been conferred previously was George Villiers, first Duke of Buckingham, who was enrolled when only a plain knight, in 1616. But Sir Robert Walpole received a garter in 1726; and one was offered to the younger Pitt by George III., and on his declining it, given to his brother Lord Chatham.

IN A COTTAGE GARDEN.

Between our apple boughs how clear
The violet western hills appear,
As calmly ends another day
Of Earth's long history!—from the ray
She with slow majestic motion
Wheels her continent and ocean
Into her own deep shade, where through
The Outer Heavens come into view
Deep beyond deep. In thought conceive
This rolling Globe whereon we live
(For in the mind, and there alone,
A picture of the world is shown),
How huge it is, how full of things,
As round the royal Sun it swings,
In one of many subject rings—
Carrying our cottage with the rest,
Its rose-lawn and its martin's nest.
But, number every grain of sand,
Wherever salt wave touches land;
Number in single drops the sea;
Number the leaves on every tree;
Number earth's living creatures, all
That run, that fly, that swim, that crawl;
Of sands, drops, leaves, and lives, the count
Add up into one vast amount;
And then, for every separate one
Of all these, let a flaming Sun
Whirl in the skies, encircled each
With its own massy worlds. No reach
Of thought suffices.

Look aloft,

The stars are gathering. Cold and soft
The twilight in our garden croft
Purple the crimson folded rose,
(O tell me how so sweet it grows!)
Makes gleam like stars the cluster'd white;
And beauty too is infinite.

HISTORY OF THE WEEK.

MONDAY, Sept. 13.—The Powers have sent a collective note to the Porte respecting reforms in Armenia. Chile has accepted the offer of the United States to mediate between Chili and Peru. The Duke of Cambridge narrowly escaped a serious accident at a grand military review at Berlin yesterday. Ragusa despatches report 6,000 Montenegrins with 8 guns, en route for Dulcigno, and determined to fight if they meet with resistance. A Cape Town despatch says that the Premier is to have an interview with the Boer chiefs, from which it is hoped a peaceful settlement may result. In the International cricket match at Philadelphia yesterday, the Americans made 79 in their first innings. The Canadians had scored 43 for six wickets when heavy rain stopped the play. An unsuccessful attempt was made yesterday to blow up a train near London, in which the Russian Grand Duke Constantine and Admiral Popoff, of the Russian Navy, were travelling from Scotland.

TUESDAY, Sept. 14.—The Marquis Tzang has been unsuccessful in his endeavours to reopen negotiations between Russia and China. A number of Nihilist conspirators have been betrayed by a political prisoner, who afterwards committed suicide. The Zimra correspondent at Ragusa says there is no doubt that the Sultan has resolved to resist the session of Epirus and Thessaly to Greece to the very last. Despatches from Cape Town state that the Mounted Rifles have occupied two important points in Basutoland, and that a collision with Chul-Masupha appears inevitable. A conference at Derbyshire and Yorkshire miners was held at Barnsley yesterday, to discuss the state of trade, the outcome being a general admission of the desirability of waiting for better times, and not to resort to a strike to remedy existing grievances.

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 15.—Robert the Devil won the St. Leger at Doncaster yesterday. The annexation of the Society Islands by France is officially announced. A number of rides engaged by Loughrea, in Ireland, have been seized in London. Scotch iron masters have decided to halve the furnace blown out during the recent strike. An Italian agent is at Berlin, seeking participation for Italy in the alliance between Austria and Germany. It is expected that an ultimatum will be presented to Turkey to-day, denouncing the session of Dulcigno within three days. The recent dynamite explosion on the London and North Western Railway, in England, is now attributed to discharged railway employees. The Basutoland troubles have broken out afresh. A despatch from Cape Town this morning announces the complete rout of the Mafeking rebels. Another mysterious gunpowder plot was discovered at Liverpool docks on Tuesday night. The parties implicated were arrested, but subsequently discharged.

THURSDAY, Sept. 16.—A Paris cable says there is an immediate danger of a dissolution of the Ministry. The unusual lateness in the rise of the river Nile is causing some anxiety in Egypt. A Ragusa despatch contains a rumour of the assassination of Riza Pasha by Albanians. The sergeant accused of false marking at the last Wimbledon meeting has been acquitted by the court-martial. The German Government has ordered the immediate expulsion of the Jesuits who took refuge in Alsace and Lorraine on the enforcement of the divorce in France. According to the programme arranged for the guidance of Vice-Admiral Seymour, commanding the allied fleet in Turkish waters, that officer will summon the authorities of Dulcigno to call to the city to the Montenegrins, and on their refusal to do so, the Montenegrins will at once attack the place. Should the Turks plead want of instructions, twenty-four hours will be given them to obtain them by telegraph from Constantinople. The question of the bombardment of Dulcigno is left entirely at the discretion of Vice-Admiral Seymour, but reconnoissances are now being made of the place by British despatch boats.

FRIDAY, Sept. 17.—The rumour of efforts being made to include Italy in the Austro-German alliance is denied. Fighting has occurred between the Turks and Greeks at Turra, in which the latter got the worst of it. The collective note of the Powers on the Montenegrin question was handed to the Porte yesterday. Unharvested crops in various districts in England have been greatly damaged by heavy rain, gales and floods. A long and important session of the French Cabinet was held yesterday on the subject of the religious decrees. The opinion was expressed that the decrees should not be enforced till the courts had rendered judgment in the Jesuit cases.

SATURDAY, Sept. 18.—Mohamed Jan has offered the services of his forces to the Ameer. The statue of ex-President Thiers was unveiled yesterday at St. Germain. The French political crisis has culminated in the resignation of several of the Ministers. M. Jules Ferry is mentioned as M. de Freycinet's successor. The Albanians have occupied Dulcigno in force, the garrison, under Riza Pasha, the Turkish commander, turning out without any show of resistance. At a land meeting at Ennis yesterday, Mr. Parnell charged the Government with having as yet done nothing for Ireland, and threatened a resumption of obstruction tactics if their promises were not fulfilled.