

CATHOLIC INTELLIGENCE.

Dr. PEREIRA.—The Bombay Examiner announces that the Rt. Rev. Dr. Pereira, formerly Vicar-Apostolic of Agra, has arrived in Bombay, bent on a very special mission from Rome to India.

PERSECUTION IN GERMANY.—Last week the Bishop of Ermiland received another visit from the bailiff, who came to seize goods to the amount of 3,500 marks. All the bishop possessed yielded only 350 marks.

PILGRIMAGES.—All the French Bishops are organizing pilgrimages to the Vatican, and the idea is taken up with much enthusiasm by the laity, so that you may expect to see many thousands of French Catholics visiting the Eternal City in the course of the present spring.

TOUCHING.—The Venerable and Very Rev. Dean Kenny, P.P., V.G., Ennis (says the Limerick Reporter), to the great joy of his parishioners appeared in the parochial church on St. Patrick's Day, invested with the green ribbon of the pre-Emancipation order of Liberators.

SISTERS OF MERCY IN GERMANY.—The Sisters of Mercy in Duren, Bitburg, and Steinfield left these places on the 15th of last month; those of Loban Peplia had been ordered to leave on the 1st of April, but those of Bromberg got permission to remain to the 1st of October.

RUSSOVED RE-ASSEMBLING OF THE VATICAN COUNCIL.—It is stated that the Pope, who may be mentioned, is somewhat indisposed, contemplates re-assembling the Vatican Council, and has consulted the college of Cardinals on the subject. Should their reply prove favorable the Council would re-open in November.

PILGRIMAGES.—The German pilgrimage is announced for the 7th of May, and will be received by his Holiness on the 21st. The Austrians will be received upon the 27th. The French upon the 3rd of June. The Spanish upon the 10th of June. The Italian upon the 17th of June. The Americans English, and Polish shall be allotted days, as will also the inhabitants of Rome.

BISHOPS IN EXILE.—We have reason to believe that no less than three of the Roman Catholic bishops of Germany, who have been expropriated by a policy which in the long run is certain to fail, have come to England as refugees. Though their track has been for some distance marked out and followed by foreign spies, it is now believed to be lost; and the bishops, in the dress of laymen, are safely harbored by influential English sympathizers.—Whitehall Review.

PREPARATION FOR THE 32ND PONTIFICATE OF THE POPE.—The Federation of the Catholic Societies of Rome has issued a proclamation calling attention to the fact that in the year 1878 the Holy Father will complete the 32nd year of his pontificate, and equal the period during which St. Peter reigned over the Church, partly at Antioch and partly at Rome. The 16th of June has been fixed for the date, when the Church will simultaneously honour the Feast of the Sacred Heart.

MR. BUTT'S UNIVERSITY BILL.—Yesterday (Sunday) in all the Catholic churches of St. Peter's parish, Drogheda, by express command of the Lord Primate, the Most Rev. Dr. McGettigan, Archbishop of Armagh, petitions were signed, to be presented in Parliament, in favour of the bill which Mr. Isaac Butt, M.P., has brought into the House of Commons for the granting of a charter to the Catholic University in Ireland. The petition was not signed in the adjoining parish of St. Mary, which is in the diocese of Meath.—Freeman of Monday.

THE PILGRIMS.—Intelligence arriving from all parts tends to show that the pilgrimages to the Vatican on the occasion of the jubilee will surpass all calculation. The whole Catholic world have been moved deeply by the coming fete, and the one desire is to see Rome and Rome's august resident. Despatches from Belgium represent the preparations in that country as on a grand scale. Suffering Germany will send her children. The faithful will throng from every clime and offer their homage in many languages.

A BEAUTIFUL PRESENT TO THE HOLY FATHER.—The Roman correspondent of the Paris Univers gives a very interesting and touching account of a most beautiful and valuable present made to the Holy Father by the pious young French Count de Saint-Amyour. The present consists of an altar service of unparalleled richness. The service of massive gold is set with more than royal profusion, of diamond, rubies, pearls, emerald, topazes, opal, amethysts, and what not. All these jewels belonged to his young wife who died nine months after her marriage. The Count was disconsolate at his loss, but does it not seem as if he had sought for consolation at the only source from which he could expect to find it?

THE CHURCHES IN ROME.—Immense crowds of persons visited the churches in Rome during Holy Week. Among those who made visits to the sepulchres were the Princess Margherita and some of the Quirinal Court. The whole population of Rome poured into the various churches, and made a veritable demonstration of their faith. The crowds kneeling before the altars were a solemn manifestation of the Catholic spirit which dominates in the great majority of Romans. Some Protestant visitors were, as usual, conspicuous by their conduct, and stood in groups, chatting in a loud tone, and apparently unconscious of being in a place of worship. The churches of S. Luigi dei Francesi, the grotto at St. Agnes in Piazza Navona, and St. Ignatius were visited by numbers.

FORGERIES AND CALUMNIES OF THE ANTI-CATHOLIC PRESS.—The Observatore Romano and the Voce della Verita gives authorised denials to the pretended letters and documents said to have passed between Cardinal Simeoni and the Emperor of Austria. The alleged "circular to Bishops" is also pronounced a forgery. The Liberal papers lately invented and circulated a story that a priest in the south of Italy nailed one of his pupils to a board, cutting off his feet to make the length of the body correspond to that of the board and attributing this crucifixion of the youth to revenge on account of the boy having accidentally allowed the priest's canopy to escape. Another false story has been concocted and duly sent round the Press, to the effect that a sacristan disguised as Satan attempted to frighten a reluctant Catholic into making a proper confession upon his death-bed, and stating that the sacristan so disguised was shot by the servants of his intended victim. These sort of calumnies on Catholics seem to be done "to order," and are allowed by the Government to circulate freely, and without contradiction. The Times is not ashamed to adopt the sacristan and give him to its readers under the title of "Ignorance and Superstition."

CATHOLIC PROSPECTS IN MEXICO.—General Porfirio Diaz has managed to obtain undisputed possession of the principal towns and positions in this unhappy country, and during the month of February caused elections to be held for the National Assembly. The Liberals are of course in a majority, but the General has proclaimed free and universal suffrage. If this is fairly carried out, there will be a large number of Catholics returned at the next elections. The ex-President Lerdo de Tejada, who

expelled the Jesuits and Sisters of Charity is regretted by no one, and his downfall seems to have been most ignominious. General Porfirio Diaz, we learn from French and American sources, is a Freemason but still bears the reputation of being a just and honourable man compared with his predecessor. The anti-Catholic faction is very strong in the Government offices and in the army. The prospects of Catholics do not, therefore, look much brighter for the change of Government. As the bishop of Vera Cruz, Mgr. Perada, now dead, said during the Council at Rome: "The misfortunes of Mexico have not been laid upon her by any human power, neither will any human power bring them to an end." The correspondent of the Univers at Puebla announces the formation of a Catholic society in that town, and says that the majority of the population have without doubt been gained over to the profession of Catholic principles. This may be, and it is to be hoped, will be, the commencement of a new and better state of things.

THE SUPPRESSION OF THE PARIS CATHOLIC COMMITTEE.—Before starting for Italy M. Jules Simon made his protest against liberty of speech, as he had previously done in the case of M. de Cassagnac against the liberty of the Press. He issued orders for the dissolution of the Central Catholic Committee of Paris, just on the eve of the annual Congress organised by that body. It is true that the members met, and discussed matters, but the meeting was a private one, and much of the interests in it was gone. Such is M. Simon's definition of liberty, equality, and fraternity. It is a natural result of a state of things which obliges Marshal MacMahon, seven years after the siege of Paris and the murder of the hostages, to submit to have a member, or an ex-member, of the International as his Minister. It is alleged by the defenders of M. Simon that no other course was open to him. He had dissolved red-republican meetings, and was bound, it is urged, to treat both parties alike. The Government of the Marshal-President, if this line of reasoning were carried out to its logical conclusions, is in fact compelled to treat with the same severity the patriots who would destroy him and the Catholics who would defend him. The whole course of events in France confirm the truth that, as M. Veillot says, "the Syllabus is the only law of liberty; outside of it there is nothing but confusion, disorder, and tyranny." This step of the Prime Minister proves his own inconsistency, but will do no harm to Catholics. The right of public meeting is not essential to them. They are under no obligation to attend such gatherings; sometimes even these meetings are not without bad effects. Catholics have more legitimate modes of action; though it scarcely becomes an ex-leader of the Left like M. Simon to point them out. It may be added that the Catholic Club at Nancy, in Savoy, has also been dissolved by order of the Prefect, the well-known citizen Camescasse.

PONTIFICAL BRIEF.—To all the Faithful who may peruse the present Letter, Health and Apostolic Benediction.—The Young Men's Catholic Society of Italy—besides many other notable marks of affection which it incessantly gives to the common Father—in union with all the Faithful bearing the name of Catholics, and having the same object in view, in order to testify its laudable zeal and to return thanks to God, under whose Providence and protection We have attained this great age, whole in body and mind, notwithstanding the many difficulties which beset us—has resolved to celebrate solemnly—(if it is pleasing to God)—the Thirtieth Anniversary of our Episcopal dignity, on the third day of June next, and this Society desires that the occasion may be a happy event for the people. We therefore, anxious by tender charity, to promote the piety of the Faithful, and eager to secure the salvation of souls by means of the many heavenly treasures of the Church and, also, desirous of yielding to the pious prayers of the aforesaid Society—relying on the mercy of Almighty God, and by the authority of His Apostles the Blessed Peter and Paul—do mercifully grant in the Lord Plenary Indulgences and remission of their sins to all and each of the Faithful of both sexes, who, on the third day of June, of this year, in any Church or Oratory, during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, being truly penitent, and having confessed and received Holy Communion, will offer up to God pious supplications for the conversion of sinners, the propagation of the Catholic faith, and the peace and triumph of the Holy Roman Church. This indulgence the Faithful can apply, by way of suffrage, to the souls of the faithful who departed this life in peace with God. We furthermore desire that precisely the same authority be given to written or printed copies of the present Letter, when signed by a Notary, and marked with the seal of a person in ecclesiastical dignity, as would be given to the present if the original were exhibited. Given in Rome, at St. Peter's, under the seal of the Fisherman, on the 27th day of February, 1877, the XXXIst. year of our Pontificate.

Pro. D. ASQUINIO. D. JACOMINI SUB. SEC. Archbishop of Bologna, True Copy. March 5th 1877. A. CAN. MANARA, Chauceller of the Archbishop.

STATE PRIESTS IN PRUSSIA.—The half dozen renegades called State priests in Prussia have managed to secure some of the "fat livings" in the province of Posen, but it seems a strange thing that, with plenty of money at their disposal, they cannot even procure the bare necessities. It is quite amusing to read in the anti-Catholic Ostseezeitung, a Steffin paper, Jeremiads like the following:—"The loyal priest Breuck, of Kosten, has no end of difficulties to grapple with, owing to the persecution waged against him by the Ultramontanes. Apart from the most unendurable personal insults he suffers whenever he sets his foot outside his house, the fanatic Ultramontane clique exercise such a terrorism over the whole population of the town that no shop-keeper—not even a Protestant or a Jew—dares to serve him, for fear of losing all his trade and being ruined at once. The priest who is thus abandoned and completely isolated would literally have to starve along with his servants if he could not have his wants supplied by rail from Posen." If the man cannot procure either a pound of butter or a "pennorth" of tin tacks in the place for love or money, not even from Protestant or Jewish shopkeepers, this shows clearly that the Polish people of Prussia are Catholic to the back bone, and mean, one and all, to set their faces against the intrusion and obtrusion of excommunicated priests. This appears still more clearly from the way in which the people of Kosten took the law into their own hands on a recent occasion. Breuck had ordered that no one was to be buried in the Catholic cemetery except those who had had the sacraments administered by him; and to enforce this order he had the gates of the cemetery closed. Thereupon many families had their dead buried in their gardens rather than be contaminated by the contact with an excommunicated priest. But on a recent occasion, when a corpse had been lying in the dead house for six days, the people of the town broke the gates open and buried the body decently, taking care to keep Breuck at arm's length. At night the gravedigger closed the gates again, and thereupon the people broke them open once more, and, having done so, took them off altogether, so that now any Catholic can be properly buried. So long as the people go on this way the Catholic Church is safe in Germany.—London Univers.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE

RUN OVER.—A surface man, named John Browne, was run over by a train, at the Dunlary station, on the Northern Counties Railway, on March 16th, and died in the hospital of the Antrim Workhouse on the following day from the effects of his injuries.

STRANGE SAIL ON THE HIGH SEAS.—Captain Jones, of the "British Oak," reports at Queenstown that there is a strange craft on the high seas whose destination would not be made known to him when he challenged her in "latitude 49° 41' N., longitude 34° 17' W." The answer to his request for information on that point was that "it was none of his business." She was manned by seamen only, no officers being visible—unless a female, whose form was visible for a short time on deck, was the "navigating officer" in command. Naturally the bold Jones is much vexed in spirit at his inability to elucidate this mystery of the sea, but he is understood to favour the idea that the strange sail is a Fenian cruiser freighted with Irish "Skirmishers" from New York, told off for service in England.—Irishman

DEATH OF MR. O'CONNOR ECCLES.—We have seen with sorrow the following announcement in the Freeman of Monday, and most cordially do we endorse every word our contemporary says in eulogy of the deceased:—"We deeply regret to announce the death of Mr. O'Connor Eccles, of Roscommon, a melancholy event, which took place at his residence in that town on Sunday. The deceased gentleman was the proprietor of the Roscommon Messenger, and was associated with most popular movements in the West of Ireland for many years back. A strong champion of popular rights, he did battle for his convictions in a manly way, which won for him popular applause outside the limits of his own province. In private life he was a most amiable and estimable man, eminently notable for his pious devotion to the ancient faith he professed. His death, though not expected, will be sincerely mourned by a large circle of sorrowing friends.

THE UNIVERSITY QUESTION IN THE DUBLIN CORPORATION.—At a meeting of the Municipal Council, Ald. Campbell, High Sheriff, moved the adoption of a petition to Parliament praying for the passing of Mr. Butt's University Bill, or some similar measure which will secure the establishment in this country of "such a system of university and intermediate education as Catholics could avail themselves of." The speaker highly lauded Mr. Butt's University Bill. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fry, and agreed to. It was also resolved that the Lord Mayor and a deputation of the council should present the petition at the bar of the House, and that the corporations, town commissioners, and poor-law boards throughout the country should be requested to forward similar petitions. Mr. Tickell was the only person who dissented from the proceedings. Amongst the speakers in support of the Catholic claims, besides those already mentioned, there were Alderman MacSwiney, Alderman Harris, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Brooks, M. P., and Mr. Dwyer Gray.

OBSTRUCTION.—The Anglican journals of Dublin complain bitterly of the Parliamentary tactics of Messrs. Parnell and Biggar, who have the patriotic courage to face the hostility of the house with its own weapons. We have repeatedly expressed our approval of obstructive action, which is no more than a just and fair retaliation of the obstructive opposition given to every measure introduced for the use and benefit of the Irish people. The passage of the Land Act was obstructed by a dogged majority of 230, and by the same submissive machinery the Irish University Bill will be cast aside. Messrs. Parnell and Biggar apply the lex talionis to the enemies of Ireland, and we welcome the endorsement of the Freeman's Journal of their action during the small hours of Tuesday morning. Our contemporary has much reason in asserting that "when the House of Commons deliberately shows its teeth and its contempt for Irish subjects, it is the duty of Irish members to reduce the whole proceedings to a dead lock. If one must fight a bully, he must be taken on his own ground, and if English members are too haughty to listen to mere Irish grievances, they ought not to be indulged in their insolence by Irishmen."

CAPTAIN STACPOOLE, M.P., AND THE LAND BILL.—A telegram from Ennis in the Daily Express says:—"It seems that the course taken by the hon. and gallant member for Ennis at the late division on Mr. Butt's Land Bill, in walking out of the House to avoid recording his vote on that question, has given great dissatisfaction to some of his constituents, who have held a meeting in this town, and passed a vote of censure upon him. The following paragraph appeared in the Freeman:—"At an ordinary meeting of the Ennis trades last night an attempt was made to introduce a vote of censure upon Captain Stacpoole, the borough member, for walking out of the House of Commons when the division on Mr. Butt's Land Bill was about to be taken. It was considered out of the proper business of the trades, and there was some suspicion that the movement originated in an electioneering manoeuvre, of which a barrister with views of his own on the constituency was supposed to have had the inspiration. Mr. Michael Consideine, secretary of the congregated trades, declared that the Farmer's Clubs were the bodies that had the best right to complain of the action of Irish representatives about the land question. He pointed out also that Captain Stacpoole had no opportunity of explaining why he retired from the House. The motion found only five supporters, and was rejected.

A RECENT SCENE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—The Graphic refers as follows to a rather notable scene in the House of Commons lately:—"Mr. Mitchell Henry endeavoured to make a diversion by moving the adjournment of the House, and it was on that question that the first division was taken. But before the question was put there ensued one of those comical scenes which appear to lie in wait for great questions in the House of Commons. Although the Marquis of Hartington rather threw over Mr. Mitchell Henry in his proposal for an adjournment, it is well known that the member for Galway took the course he did at the instance of the powers that sit immediately on the left of the Speaker. It was a point of tactics—a clever strategic movement, and Mr. Mitchell Henry, who moved it, and Mr. Sullivan, who supported it, were loudly cheered—more particularly the latter, who delivered a speech which well earned the high compliment which Mr. Gladstone paid him when, in his letter to Sir H. D. Wolff, he referred to him as "the eloquent member for Louth." This prominence on the part of two Irish members was wormwood and gall to those members for Ireland not so distinguished. When Mr. Sullivan followed Mr. Mitchell Henry the concatenation of circumstances proved too much for Mr. Callan, who rose from the back benches, and in a very heated manner, denied the right either of Mr. Mitchell Henry or of Mr. Sullivan to speak in the name of Ireland. The fact that neither had assumed such authority set the House roaring with laughter, which was renewed when Mr. Callan declared that, "as for himself he would not record his vote at all, but would vote as he pleased." The House laughed at this in its hearty way for several minutes, and had hardly got over a quarter of the convulsion when it was set off again by Mr. Callan, who had been speaking for a quarter of an hour in a most impassioned manner, declaring that he "repudiated all participation in the debate." In fact Mr. Callan was in a distinctly repudiating mood, and everybody who was not Irish, and was not oppressed by more serious reflections, greatly enjoyed this inconsequential contribution to a somewhat heavy debate.

GENERAL NEWS.

FINANCIAL TROUBLES.—ARBURN, N. Y., April 21.—The Farmers' Joint Stock Insurance Company, of Meridan, has been placed in the hands of a receiver.

MR. GLADSTONE.—The state of Mr. Gladstone's health is causing some anxiety. His medical men advise him to go abroad.

ARTIC EXPEDITION.—Sir George Nares has received the permission of the Admiralty to publish a narrative of the late Artic expedition at his own expense.

NAVY CHAPLAINS.—In the Navy List for the present month the names of the Roman Catholic chaplains at Portsmouth are introduced for the first time.

DEPUTY CASSAGNAC AGAIN IN TROUBLE.—PARIS April 21.—Cassagnac was again sentenced to two months imprisonment and 3,000 francs fine for insulting the police power.

CHINESE ASCENDANCY.—At the graduating exercises of the High School, Hartford, W. Kalkah, one of the Chinese boys being educated here, took the second prize in declamation over six American boys.

NIAGARA FALLS AS A MOTIVE POWER.—THIS WATER PRIVILEGE TO BE SOLD.—The monopoly of the use of the entire water of Niagara Falls, upon the American side of the river, with canal, etc., is to be sold at auction May 1st.

IMPORTS.—The total imports of France for the year 1874 were \$84,500,000, of which 65.9 per cent. or \$55,500,000 is conveyed by sea. The total exports for the same year were \$94,420,000, of which 66 per cent. is sea borne.

THE GREAT EASTERN.—It is proposed to use the steamship Great Eastern for carrying cattle from the United States to England. She will be fitted up to answer modern improvements, at a cost of \$250,000. She is now in the Milford Docks.

WATERING STREETS.—The mode of watering streets without watering carts is not new. A considerable portion of the city of London, Eng., is watered from pipes laid in the sidewalk, between the curbstone and the flags; these pipes are punctured by small holes in line.

COMMITTED FOR TRIAL.—Charles Bradlaugh and Mrs. Annie Besant, the free thought advocate, recently arrested on a charge of printing and publishing a pamphlet of an alleged immoral character, have been committed for trial. Prisoners were released on their own recognizances.

NO WISE.—Mrs. Hayes at first refused to have wine at the grand dinner in Washington lately, but yielded to Mr. Everts' explanation of foreign custom. No wine glasses were placed at either the President or Mrs. Hayes' plate. Hereafter, no wine will be served at State dinners.

PARTIES IN THE GERMAN PARLIAMENT.—According to an official list, the various parties in the Reichstag are as follows:—National Liberals, 126; Centre (Catholic), 96; German Conservative, 40; German Empire, 38; Progress, 35; Poles, 14; Socialists, 12; no Party, 35; Dead, 1; Total, 397.

WITHDRAWAL OF THE TROOPS.—WASHINGTON, D. C., April 21.—The President's letter directing the withdrawal of the troops in New Orleans has been made to include all troops stationed in the vicinity of the State House. Gen. Sheridan has communicated to Gen. Auger the order removing the troops.

SOLDIERS AS LABORERS.—The soldiers of England may be employed in the harvest field under certain restrictions. Such work is to be at the discretion of the general officers in command, provided the employment of ordinary laborers is not interfered with, nor can such permission be granted where strikes and disputes between farmers and hired men exist.

COLLIERY DISASTER.—An explosion and inundation at the Treodryhiw colliery, at Pontypridd, Wales, on April the 11th, imprisoned nine men behind a column of coal 40 yards thick. Continuous operations for their rescue resulted in opening communication with them. Five men were found alive; four had wandered to other parts of the mine, and are believed to have perished.

CUBAN NEWS.—The cane fields in three plantations near Sagua have been burned by the insurgents. The German Government has sent a communication stating that German residents in Cuba are exempt by the treaty from extraordinary contributions. It is stated also that the Spanish Government has ordered Jovellar not to persist in his order requiring them to pay thirty per cent contribution.

DIALECTS IN INDIA.—In India 100 dialects are spoken by the 240,000,000 of people who belong to a great number of distant races, and whose habits of life to-day are essentially similar to those practiced by their predecessors 3,000 years ago. Three hundred years of labor in that peninsula have brought 12,000,000 souls under Russian sway. The English in one third of that time have extended their power over 200,000,000.

THE TICHBORNE DEMONSTRATION.—A midnight despatch referring to the contemplated Tichborne demonstration says:—"Between fifty and sixty thousand people took part in the Tichborne demonstration to-day. Their leader De Morgan, proceeded alone to the House of Commons. He wrote to the Home Secretary, who replied that he would receive the deputation to-morrow, and, if good reasons were given, he would move that De Morgan be heard at the bar of the House. The crowd peacefully dispersed."

COLONEL BAKER.—The refusal of Colonel Valentine Baker's services by the Turkish Government and the statement made that European officers are not needed are extremely suggestive of the sanguinary and ferocious character of the anticipated war with Russia. It will truly be war to the knife, as far as the Turks are concerned. It is clear that the Porte will make it one of religion, upon the issue of which the future existence of the faith of Mahomet will rest, and Christian officers could not therefore be depended upon to sufficiently arouse the fanaticism of the followers of the Prophet. In the event of a rupture, we sincerely pity the unfortunate Christians of Turkey.—Quebec Chronicle.

WAR AND BUSINESS.—This is the situation. The hour that proclaims an outbreak between Russia and Turkey, with the immense possibilities that hang on such a proclamation, will be to our whole circle of industrial interests like an electric shock, sending new life into them all from centre to circumference. It will begin where all natural operations should, with acting upon production. Agriculture will feel it first, and almost instantly. And from that solid groundwork of all the industries will rise the structure of our fresh success. If the world has been suffering from over production and a paralysis of consumption, a great disturbance, such as a gigantic war, is the very event to relieve the plethora, by its incalculable powers of destruction, reinstate the equilibrium and rapidly stimulate production and consumption again. What might otherwise take the country years to achieve a foreign war will bring back to it in a very short time.—Boston Post.

NATURALISTS' PORTFOLIO.

THE BUFFALO AND THE TIGER.—A Malay boy near Singapore was recently herding some water-buffaloes, when a tiger sprang out of a jungle, and, seizing him, would have carried him off, but two old bull buffaloes, hearing his cries of distress, charged upon the tiger, and compelled him to drop his prey, thus saving the boy's life.

WHAT ARE BATS?—Dr. St. George Mivart attempts to answer this question. He thinks that they possess no real resemblance whatever to birds, and are the only truly flying mammal. He anticipates that very soon fossils deeply buried in the secondary rocks will come to light clearly pointing out the line which has been followed in the development of this curious animal.

NOBLE PERFECTION.—Elephants were of old employed in India in the launching of ships. Ludolph relates that one being directed to force a very large vessel into the water, the work proved superior to its strength. His master with sarcastic tone bade the keeper take away the lazy beast, and bring another. The poor animal instantly repeated his efforts, fractured his skull, and died on the spot.

GAZ COAL.—The science of chemistry has shown that the elements in a ton of average gas coal are susceptible of yielding from 15,000 to 17,000 feet of excellent illuminating gas, and yet, swayed by prejudice or a want of intelligent comprehension, manufacturers adhere to the method of production instituted more than half a century ago, and are content to obtain an average yield of about 9,000 per ton.

BALLOONS AT THE NORTH POLE.—Monsieur de Fonville protests against any scheme of Artic exploration by means of balloons in the present state of aeronautical art. No such scheme is practicable without certain means of directing a balloon and insuring its progress in any direction independently of air-currents; and as no method of steering and propulsion has yet been invented that merits consideration, discussion of the subject on existing bases is premature.

AN OPIUM-SMOKING CAT.—In the Chinese quarter of San Francisco there is a fine Maltese cat that has developed the habit of indulging in opium-smoking. She makes her headquarters at one of the principal dens of the locality, and perching herself in front of the recumbent smoker, eagerly inhales the smoke escaping from his nostrils and mouth. She will keep her position for two or three hours, until, overcome by the fumes, she rolls herself up in a ball and sleeps off the effects of the drug.

HABITS OF HERRINGS.—The Scotch Meteorological Society have discovered that herrings seek cold water. They come to the surface when the temperature has descended to 12° deg. centigrade. Thanks to this observation the fishermen are able to determine by means of a thermometer the precise depth to which they ought to sink their nets. The experience of the past season has fully confirmed the accuracy of the theory advanced by the Meteorological Society, and the fishermen are now all provided with thermometers in order to carry on their work intelligently.

A GENEROUS REVENGE.—A young man desirous of getting rid of his dog took it along with him to the Seine. He hired a boat, and rowing into the stream threw the animal in. The poor creature attempted to climb up the side of the boat, but his master, whose intention was to drown him, constantly pushed him back with the oar. In doing this he fell himself into the water and would certainly have been drowned, had not the dog, as soon as he saw his master struggling in the stream, suffered the boat to float away, and hold him above water till assistance arrived and his life was saved.

BIRDS AND THE PNEUMATIC POST.—A peculiar request, according to a Berlin newspaper, has been made by the Society for Bird Protection to the Postmaster General in Berlin—viz., to make arrangements so that birds be not killed by the pneumatic post. It appears that from the large air-compressing steam-engines of the building process chimney-pipes to the roof, by which the required air is sucked in. The power of this suction-apparatus is so great that both small and large birds, even pigeons, which happen to be flying over the tubes when the engine is in action, are helplessly drawn in and destroyed.

VARNISH-TREE OF THE JAPANESE.—The urushi, or varnish-tree, of which they make so extensive a use is a noble plant when grown to its full size. On incision it yields a rich milky glutinous juice, out of which the Japanese make the celebrated varnish known by the name of Japen. With this varnish they cover and coat all their household furniture, all their dishes and plates, and all their drinking vessels, whether made of wood or paper. The use of plate, porcelain, or glass appears to be very limited, and is probably interdicted by some rule of nationality or religion. From the emperor down to the meanest peasant, all make use of the light varnished or japanned cups and dishes, the inner substance of which is wood or paper, or what we call papier-mache. Another tree called forasi gives a varnish of an inferior quality.

"THE GUNS OF BARRISAU."—Of all the strange and mysterious sounds which astonish and puzzle man, none have given more reason for speculation and research than those loud explosions, similar to the distant boom of a heavy gun, heard in India during the rainy season, in the Sunderbunde, at Backergunj, at Dacca, and in other localities, called—why no one can explain—the guns of Barrisau. The sounds, usually heard in the night, seems always to come from the south; but even on the sea-coast they are not appreciably louder than at one hundred miles inland. Mr. Knox Wigat, who lately wrote some notes on the subject of these nocturnal noises, having, as he thinks, detected a faint rumbling sound after the explosions, attributes them to the meeting of thunder clouds at a very great elevation above the earth's surface.

A NEW USE FOR CARRIER-PIGEONS.—That which gives value to carrier-pigeons is not only fancy, but use. The homing or Antwerp pigeons have long been among the messengers of Generals, and their use is not superseded by the telegraph. The invention of micro-photography made them indeed, during the sieges of Paris, even more useful than at any of the earlier famous sieges in which we know them to have been employed. It is only since 1846 that a great London banking-house ceased to despatch pigeons as a regular post between London and Paris. The pigeons for this service flew in relays, but single birds have been sent from Rome to Belgium, a distance of nine hundred miles. Pigeons are now being trained for another useful purpose. The brethren of the Trinity House have instructed Mr. Tegetmeier to have some birds reared at Harwich and taken out to the lightships on the Shipwash, the Sunk, and other sands, in order that they may be the means of communication between the lightships and the shore. In two great wrecks upon the English coast—the one off Harwich, the other on the Scilly Island—it appeared probable that more might have been done to save life if there had been some means of communication—and there is great difficulty in the way of laying telegraphic cables. It remains to be seen by experiment whether the thick or tempestuous weather the pigeons will often be able to rise above the fog, and, in the spite of such difficulties, find their way across.