



CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

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TERMS: \$1.50 per annum in advance.

CATHOLIC NEWS.

The Mayor of Auxerre has come to the decision to prevent religious processions in the streets.

To the great regret of his flock, Right Rev. C. H. Burgess, Bishop of Detroit, has resigned his see.

During his sojourn in Rome, the Archbishop of Toulouse presented to the Pope £2,850 as Peter's Pence.

The Voca della Verita of Rome reports that the next Consistory will not be held until the middle of May.

The Pope's donation of \$20,000 to the school fund is a first annual contribution from his private fortune.

There are now four Catholic Dioceses vacant in the United States—Chicago, Hartford, Marquette, and Columbus.

The agitation got up in Clifton against the proselyting schools there has led to the burning down of two of the school houses by a mob.

Mr. Squires, Catholic bookseller, who died recently in Chicago, left the bulk of his property to found a Catholic Newsboys' Home.

CATHOLIC CHAPLAINS IN PRISONS.—Mr. Sullivan is likely to obtain Catholic chaplains for the English prisons as well as for the English navy.

The subscriptions opened by the Semaine Religieuse of Cambrai, to furnish Peter's Pence for the present year, have already reached £2,800.

The Holy Father, moved by the sufferings arising from the Hungarian floods, has sent five thousand francs as a charitable contribution to the relief fund.

Afghanistan has just been constituted an Apostolic Prefecture by the Holy See, its administration being confided to the missionaries of St. Joseph's Mill Hill.

The priests of the Diocese of St. Louis, U.S. have organized an Ecclesiastical-Historical Society, the object of which is to collect and preserve historical materials not yet committed to paper.

The Pope has sent a specially inscribed piece of marble, taken from the Catacombs, to be the key of the arch of a magnificent church erecting at Toulouse, to Mary Immaculate, by the Abbe Bavary.

The Italia says that Mgr. Haynata, Primate of Hungary, Mgr. Freppel, Bishop of Angers, and an Irish prelate, will receive the Cardinal's hat. The total number of new Cardinals will be twelve.

The Holy Father has sent a medal, with his blessing, to the Catholic Indians of Maine, who, on his accession to the Papal throne, despatched him an offering of beautifully embroidered moccasins.

ORFÈVRES.—We hear that a number of ornamental trees on a property adjoining the St. Patrick's Cemetery, Bergeronville, were cut down and carried off by some unknown persons during the course of Monday night.

The chaplains of Pa ray-le-Monial have obtained from Rome the following privileges:—To give the Papal benediction with plenary indulgence; to have a privileged altar in the chapel of the Visitation; and a plenary indulgence for the faithful making a pilgrimage to Paray.

Leo XIII., accidentally learning that all the valuable forced vegetables in the Vatican garden were appropriated by the cardinals, desired that the lettuce, artichokes, &c., be sent to the market, where all could purchase them who desired, and that the proceeds be kept for the poor.

The Pope is making great reductions in his personal household, observing that it is useless to keep up an enormous kitchen where nothing is cooked. His dinner consists of a soup and one plate. Of personal service he requires very little so that his retainers will be reduced to one-third of their number.

His Holiness the Pope has written to Mgr. Merillod, Bishop of Hebron, and Vicar Apostolic of Geneva, congratulating him for ably defending, whilst in exile, the rights of the Catholics of Geneva. He also felicitates the clergy and people on the firmness of their attitude, in which he encourages them to persevere.

The solemn opening of the magnificent organ of the Church of St. Eustache, Paris, which was much injured during the sad event of 1871, but which has been recently reconstructed, took place on last Friday, His Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Paris presiding at the ceremony and blessing the instrument. A sermon was delivered by the Rev. Father Olivier, O.P.

A young Japanese, fifteen years old, born a Buddhist, has been received into the Church by Cardinal Caverot, Archbishop of Lyons, who in the Cathedral baptised, confirmed, and gave him the first Communion on the same day. The neophyte was one of a batch of Japanese lads sent to Lyons for a European education, and they were confided to a former Consul at Magasaki who is an excellent Catholic.

When, in composing, Haydn felt his imagination decline, or was stopped by some difficulty which then appeared insurmountable, he rose from the pianoforte and began to say his rosary; and he said he never found his method to fail. "When," said he, "I was employed upon the Creation I felt myself so penetrated with religious feeling that before I sat down to the instrument, I prayed, through the intercession of His Holy Mother, that God would enable me to praise Him worthily. This masterpiece was the fruit of nine years' toil."

DEAN STANLEY.—It is freely stated in London society that Dean Stanley, who recently

visited this country, is about to join the Church of Rome. His sister, who was converted many years ago, has, since the death of his wife, assumed great sway over his mind, and has turned it toward the study of Roman Catholicism, especially as announced in the works of Fenelon. The Dean has frequently refused a Bishopric, and has set himself up as the supporter, if not the actual champion, of all who have proclaimed themselves opponents of the Anglican Church, as Bishop Colenso, Dr. Voysey, and John Stuart Mill. Even Bradlaugh has been shielded by the Dean's specious reasoning on his right to assert his faith.

LEO AS A WORKER.—Pope Leo XIII. is a hard worker, and labours incessantly. His admirable letters are all well written by himself, and he devotes many hours of the night to solitary study. It is his custom to dismiss his chamberlains a little after 10 p.m., and to sit down to his writing table. In the morning he rises early, dresses himself, and summons his chaplain to assist at Mass. One morning recently, at 7 a.m., the chamberlain-in-waiting, perceiving the usual hour to be passed for the ringing of the Pope's bell, knocked lightly at the chamber door, and getting no answer, entered the room of the Pontiff, whom he found sitting at his table with his head supported on his arm, and sound asleep. The candles were still burning. His Holiness, when writing, had had been overcome with sleep, and not been in bed at all that night.

The question has often been mooted in France as to whether a priest who has renounced his vows can get married civilly. Some months ago the Court of Cassation decided in the negative. The case before it was that of a priest who, having left the Church in 1847, got married before a Mayor under the republican regime of the ensuing year and having lived thirty years in an acknowledged wedlock, died leaving several children. At his death collateral heirs started up to claim his property, but the deceased's children argued that, having been registered in many legal documents as born "in lawful wedlock," that they had every right to consider themselves legitimate. A court of first instance found in their favor, but on appeal this decision was reversed, and eventually the Court of Cassation upheld the doctrine laid down by the Court of Appeal that a priest can never lay aside his sacred character, and that no civil functionary has a right to perform the marriage right for him.

Catholic Countries.

The London Tablet regrets that whatever propriety there was in former times in designating France, Austria, Spain, Italy, Dalmatia, Belgium, and Portugal as Catholic States, it has almost entirely disappeared. In Spain alone is the Government influenced by the Church, and even in Spain "the Catholicism of the State is superficial and formal, and nothing like a warm support of Catholic interest at home or abroad is to be looked for from those in power." In France, "the eldest daughter of the Church," five of the Ministers of State are Protestants, and of the remaining four not one is a "practical Catholic," while since Austria became a constitutional State "the Government can no longer be said to have any particular religious character."

A Colored Convent.

It may not be generally known that we have colored Sisters in this country and that they belong to an order or congregation which in Rome includes some of the first ladies of the land. The Oblate Sisters of Providence (all colored) formed, strange to say, not in the Hub of the universe or New England, but in the South, a local habitation and a name, and there they are and have been now a full half century one of the settled institutions of our holy religion in Maryland. They fill a void among five millions of their race—a void that no other religious body in the United States would fill and exist, by inviting colored vocations, pupils and orphans into institutions for the other race. This is their noble mission and well they discharge it; to moral and religious females of color a goal to be reached, a consummation devoutly to be wished, an elevation to the respect and dignity of nuns; to parents of the better class a boarding-school with all the security of home for their daughters, and to the orphaned, raiment, shelter education and a mother's care. Surely this, the only house of its class in the United States, is worthy of support, and it is because we think so that we reproduce the following appeal from the Catholic Review:

The colored Sisters of Providence, in full confidence of a noble and generous response, appeal to the Catholics of the United States in behalf of themselves and their orphans.

This asylum deserves every Catholic's patronage; for if it fail—and much depends on this appeal—there is no hope for Catholic orphans of color.

Help the Sisters that they may celebrate their golden jubilee—July 22 next—free of their present immense debt of \$18,000 and also be certain of support for their orphans.

For all benefactors, besides a share in the Sisters' good works, during the three years subsequent to their jubilee, a monthly Mass will be offered. Every Sister will weekly receive Holy Communion and recite the whole Rosary; in addition, the orphans will on every Saturday recite the beads and Litany of the Blessed Virgin.

Contributions and annual subscriptions will be thankfully received by

Rev. Mother MARY LOUISA NOEL, St. Francis Orphanage, Forest and Chase streets, Baltimore, Md.

Or by Rev. JOHN B. SHATTERY, Director, 51 Courtland street, Baltimore, Md.

IRISH NEWS.

A new church at a cost of £3,000 is about to be built in Castleisland, County Kerry.

Handsome subscriptions still continue to flow into the Cardinal Cullen Memorial Fund.

A site for a new convent has been procured in Cork by the Sisters of Good Help. The work will commence immediately.

While the hounds of the Cork United Hunt Club were hunting on Friday week near Malrow, nine of the dogs fell dead, having been poisoned.

THE IRISH FRANCISCANS.—Very Revs. James P. Hanrahan and Martin A. Holdhan left Dublin on Monday for New South Wales, there to enter upon missionary labours.

At the weekly meeting of the Monaghan Young Men's Society, last Sunday night, Mr. Joseph McKenna in the chair, Mr. Thomas Reilly read a most interesting paper on "Easter."

In the Grand National Steeplechase at Liverpool, the Irish horse, "Liberator" (Mr. G. Moore) came in first, "Jackal" (Mr. J. Beasley) third. Eighteen ran. "Liberator" won by ten lengths.

The Holy Father has not yet ratified his degree of the Propaganda which appoints the new Archbishop of Dublin. The decree was submitted to the Pope on the evening of the 10th, and will not be signed by His Holiness before the evening of the 23rd of March.—Freeman.

THE NEW WATER SUPPLY AT CLOYNE.—A copious and abundant supply of pure water at Cloyne is at last an accomplished fact. Some time since a reservoir was constructed on the lands of Mr. Litton—about a half mile from Cloyne—and pipes laid from them to the centre of the town. A handsome fountain had been erected, and presents a very ornamental appearance.

It is proposed to erect a monument to the late holy and gallant Father Baccibus, Passionist, of Mount-Argus, Dublin, who fought like a hero in the Papal Brigade before he donned the habit of St. Paul of the Cross. Dr. O'Leary, M.P., presided at an influential meeting on Monday, in Dublin, and it was resolved, as a memorial of the departed priest, to provide confession-boxes for the church at Mount Argus.

The death is announced of the Very Rev. W. D. Madden, O.P., of the Black Abbey, Kilkenny, in his 63rd year. Father Madden was ordained in Rome in 1839, and till the day of his death was a retiring, hard-working priest, who had no other ambition than to serve his Master. High Mass was celebrated for the repose of his soul, in St. Mary's, Tallaght, on Tuesday morning, the Lord Bishop of Ossory presiding.—R.I.P.

RETREAT IN EXMISTORTY.—The retreat for the Holy Family of men and the members of the Temperance Association in the Cathedral of Exmistorthy was conducted by the Rev. Fathers McLoughlin and O'Neill, of the Redemptorist Order. It was brought to a close, under circumstances of special interest, on the 16th inst. At half-past eight o'clock Mass, took place the general Communion.

A conference was held in Limerick, under the auspices of the South of Ireland Temperance League. A considerable number of clergymen and others attended. Resolutions were passed in favour of closing on Saturday nights, the establishment of temperance association, refreshment rooms, and the vesting of increased powers of control over public-houses in the ratepayers as the most effectual means of coping with the evil of drunkenness.

The directors of the Queenstown Gas Company have given their reply to the demands of the Town Commissioners in respect to the new Gas Bill. They are prepared to have an auditor, and submit the gas to the tests required by the Commissioners. But they will not reduce the Parliamentary standard price below 5s. 9d. per thousand feet, with water retent, and they will not reduce the invested capital. As regards the electric light, the directors will submit to the decision of Parliament the views of the Commissioners. A special meeting of the Commissioners is to be held on Monday, to consider the directors' letter.

St. Patrick's Day in the House of Commons.

Writing on Monday, the London correspondent of the Irish Times says:—

A lively shindy, while it lasted, marked the national festival in the House to-night. Sir Patrick O'Brien urged once more the standing grievance, which the gallant baronet has been urging these eight or nine years past, relative to the insufficient recognition of the Irish element in the British Army. He made the most of his theme. In order that Irishmen should no longer be robbed thus, and also in order that they should hold a distinct and honourable place in the army, he demanded the establishment of a regiment of Irish Guards on the footing of the Coldstream and Fusiliers. His ground point was that while Scotland gave but fifteen thousand men to the army eighteen regiments bore Scotch titles, while Ireland, which furnished forty-four thousand men to the military force of the empire, could only boast of six regiments bearing Irish titles. Mr. O'Donnell demurred, insisting that there should be no Irish Guards until there was an Irish monarch to open an Irish Parliament. An English member expressed the desire to see a regiment of Irish Guards officered by hon. gentlemen below the gangway, and despatched to the Zulu war. On this Mr. Biggar rose and calmly declared that the majority of Irishmen would be very well satisfied to see England whipped by Russia. There was an uproar at this, but no rejoinder, not even when Lord Elford indignantly appealed to Mr. Biggar's colleagues to contradict his statement. For a time it seemed as if there was to be warm work, but the thing fizzled out, and the House relapsed into the dreariness of the Estimates.

NATURALIST'S PORTFOLIO.

LONGEVITY OF THE TORTOISE.—It is generally received among naturalists; that of all the various races of animals by far the longest lived is the tortoise. It is believed that some of these animals have attained the wonderful age of four hundred years.

A SMART FISH.—An incident tending to prove the existence of cleverness in fishes was related by the curator of the Manchester aquarium not long since at a meeting of an association of anglers in that city. He told how a skate which was unable to reach a bit of desired food, owing to its position near the glass at an angle in the tank, lay still as if in thought for a while, and then cleverly floated the food into his mouth by waving his fins in such a manner as to cause a current that would bring it to him.

THE INDIAN SHAMA.—Of all the imported song-birds the Indian Shama (called the "long-tailed copsychus" or "paradise grackle") at the Zoological Gardens is said to be incomparably the best, thriving well in confinement under judicious treatment. In Calcutta they are common cage-birds. Their movements are very graceful, and they are handsome to look at, and become exceedingly tame. They appear to sing all the year round, but in a more subdued tone through their autumn moult, and they are very good mockers.

THE FORESTS OF THE UNITED STATES.—Within ten years 12,000,000 acres of forest have been cut down or burned over the United States. Much of the timber is used for fuel, twenty-five cities being on record as consuming from 5,000 to 10,000 acres each. Fences use up much timber, and railway sleepers require the product of 150,000 acres per annum. The amount of pine and lumber timber yet standing in the forests of the timber states is estimated at 225,000,000,000 feet. The sum of 144,000,000 dollars is invested in the timber industry, employing 200,000 men.

MIGRATION AND GREAT CATCH OF EELS.—One day recently there was a great migration of eels at Mollington Hall, Cheshire, from the lower pool to the upper. They were probably in search of air, which they could not get under the ice, though it was broken in several places to enable the fish to find air. The eels made their way into a narrow gullet of some length, and there they were stopped by the ice. Seven hundred of them were taken out alive, filling a very large hamper and weighing two cwt. More were taken out on the following day, and hundreds were to be seen at the edge of the pool under the ice seeking a breathing place.

DISCOVERY OF THE PETRIFIED REMAINS OF A DINOSAUR OR EXTINCT WALRUS.—Lately, when digging out a cellar at Schonegg near Salmbausen, in Swabia, the workmen came, at a depth of fifteen metres, upon the petrified remains of a huge monster embedded in the sandstone. Intelligence of the discovery reached Munich, and one of the curators of the Geological Museum went down to the spot, and secured the fossil. Professor Dr. Zittel pronounces the remains to belong to a colossal mammal of the middle tertiary period—the diotrotherium or walrus-cloak. This animal was distinguished by extremely stout and strong tusks, having an outward direction in the lower jaw, a specimen of one of which is preserved in the fossil. It had also large back teeth, each of which was furnished with two or three square protuberances admirably suited for masticatory purposes. Three splendid specimens of these formidable grinders are in the fossil. It belonged to the proboscis order of pachydermata, and was probably like the Nile-horse an amphibious animal.

A CATAMOUNT HENTRESS.—Miss Susie Jones, daughter of Capt. Jones, a pioneer settler of the county, last week noticed that the dogs had "treed" some animal near the house, armed herself with a gun, and proceeded to investigate the matter. No sooner had she approached the tree than a gigantic catamount sprang to the ground. The dogs followed in close pursuit over tangled wood and through the dense willows and forest of the Tuolumne for near a mile, when the animal again took to a tree for protection. The brave girl trudged on alone, with her gun on her shoulder; and, on coming up with the dogs, soon discovered his catbird in unusually close proximity; but, not daunted by his glaring eyes and ferocious appearance, took deliberate aim and fired. The cat made a spring, but fell to the ground dead. Swinging the monster over her shoulders, she carried him home in triumph as a trophy of her prowess. A friend sent us the animal, and we found it to be one of the largest of his species. The young lady hunter has only seen some 14 or 15 sumners, and is a native of our county.—Modesto (Cal.) News.

EFFECT OF THE FROST ON TREES AND PLANTS.—Mr. Craig, the head gardener of Levens Hall, near Kendal, Westmoreland, in a letter to the Gardener's Chronicle, says that, although the present winter has not as yet been so severe as that of 1859-60, he thinks it will prove more destructive to trees, shrubs, and plants. The destruction at Levens he described as something fearful. "Elm, ash, Spanish chestnut, sycamore, and many grand oaks are split from almost the top to the bottom of the stem, into three, and in many instances four quarters, and the whole completely spoiled as regards timber for use. My pines, the roses, I am afraid to look at, although they are well cared for. Such charming varieties as La France, Baronesse Rothschild, and Comtesse d'Oxford, already look black and worthless. Marechal Neil still holds good, and should a change take place soon, which I trust it may, all will be well with him, although he is in some quarters rather exposed. Hardy heaths are cut to the ground. Some grand and old specimens of the Golden Queen holly look much cut up; and even the ivy, particularly the Irish, looks much damaged." Since writing the above, the carpenter informs me that a very large oak has burst in the park near his cottage, and he describes the noise as being like the sound of a cannon in the distance.

SCOTCH NEWS.

Mr. Alex. Macdonald, wine merchant, Aberdeen, has been returned as Catholic representative on the School Board of Inverness.

DEATH OF A DISTINGUISHED SCOTCHMAN.—The Glasgow Herald of the 24th ult. says:—"Sir James Lumsden, of Arden, died at his Glasgow residence in Bath street."

The following gentlemen were ordained deacons by His Grace Archbishop Lyre in St. Peter's College Chapel, Patrick Hill, Glasgow, last week:—Messrs. Arthur Baiert, Thomas Cunningham, James McCarthy and Joseph Van Heeke; and on Sunday the first-named gentleman was ordained priest.

JUBILEE DEVOTIONS IN ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, EDINBURGH.—There was commenced in the Church of St. Patrick, Cowgate, Edinburgh, a week's special devotions, undertaken with the like object to that announced in the Church of the Sacred Heart. In both churches the special services and sermons are being very largely attended.

A large picture, believed to be a genuine work of Turner, has just been brought to light in Scotland. It was procured the story goes, directly from the artist by the late H. P. Mills, and was bequeathed by him to a relative. This man had been ignorant of its great worth, but on showing it to a connoisseur was informed that it was a genuine Turner. The picture will be put up at auction, and the representatives of several public galleries are expected to be present.

A CATHOLIC ATHLETIC CLUB FOR GLASGOW.—The Glasgow Catholics have this week inaugurated an athletic club under the name of the Union Athletic Club, which intends to play both cricket and football. On Monday night the members held their first meeting, when the following office bearers were elected:—Mr. P. McHardy, president; Mr. W. V. O'Brien, captain of the football team; Mr. Frank Wilson, captain of the cricket team; Mr. Fred. J. Kelly, 23 Monteth-row, match secretary; Mr. James McDonald, 123 Hope-street, treasurer. The club has not yet required a park, but they expect to do so on an early date.

JUBILEE MISSION IN EDINBURGH.—On Passion Sunday last, a fortnight's mission was commenced in the Church of the Sacred Heart, Curviston-street, Edinburgh, on the occasion of the Jubilee granted by His Holiness Leo XIII. After Vespers, Father, S.J., explained that this mission was being preached at the express wish of His Grace the Archbishop, and its object was that of bringing the people together at this holy season of Lent, and giving them every opportunity of approaching the holy sacraments before Easter. Father Charley then conducted a meditation, which was followed by Benediction. The mission was brought to a close on Palm Sunday.

THE SCOTCH FERRAGE.—The peers of Scotland met in Holyrood Palace this week to elect a representative peer in the room of the late Earl of Lauderdale. The Earl of Glasgow, Lord Clerk Register of Edinburgh, presided. The corporation of Edinburgh were present in official robes. Protests against the Earl of Mar and Keillie voting as the Earl of Mar were handed in from the Earl of Crawford, the Earl of Stair, the Earl of Galloway, the Marquis of Huntly, Viscount Stormont, Viscount Arbutnot, on the ground that the ancient earldom of Mar was extinct, and that the House of Lords' decision did not reinstate the old earldom. The Earl of Dundonald was elected the representative peer by a large majority as against the Earl of Lindsey and the Marquis of Tweeddale, the votes being—Dundonald, 35; Lindsey, 5; and Tweeddale, 1.

THE CHURCH IN DUMFRIES.—The Edinburgh Daily Review, a Protestant paper, bears testimony to the growth of the Church in Dumfries. It says:—"The Roman Catholic Church is making great advances in Dumfries—not in the way of converting, but of natural increment, and the acquisition of property. A few years ago the old infirmary was purchased, and made into a college of the Marist Brothers; later, the beautiful little suburban estate of Lauricourt was purchased for a 'retreat' in connection with the same Order; last year it was made the seat of the new Roman Catholic Bishop of Galloway. The Corbally Hill belongs to Lord Herries. It is situated on the Galloway side of the river, and commands a magnificent panorama. It has long been advertised for feuing purposes, but the expense of building on such an elevation has proved an effectual discouragement."

CHANGE ROWDYISM IN GLASGOW.—For several weeks past passengers and residents in the central district of the city have been greatly annoyed at night, with disturbances, raised by flute bands parading thoroughfares such as the Saltmarket, High-street, the Gallowgate, and London-street. The bands, composed of boys and young men, are believed to belong to the Orange party; and the petty annoyance which attended their passage along a street, not to mention the danger involved, is known only to those quiet pedestrians who have been unfortunate enough to be near at the time. They seem to be ubiquitous, starting their tunes in the most unlikely places, after having been dispersed by the police. A young man was convicted at the Central on Saturday of having taken part in disturbances in the Saltmarket on the preceding night. Mr. Boyd said it was high time that these disturbances were put an end to, as they were most annoying to the people resident in the vicinity of the Saltmarket, and dangerous to the public peace. The stipendiary remarked that had it not been for certain circumstances he would have imposed upon the prisoner a sentence of imprisonment without the option of a fine; but should another offence of the same kind be brought before him he would deal with it in a different manner than he intended to do in the present case. He hoped it would prove a warning to others. A large was then fined five guineas, with the alternative of 30 days imprisonment. About five

o'clock in the afternoon flute bands began to parade the streets in the locality above indicated, and as they were usual followed by noisy crowds of young lads and girls innumerable disturbances occurred between that hour and half-past ten that night. Constables from the different divisions generally accompanied the bands in case of a row. On the square before the Royal Infirmary a riot took place, and several constables were more or less injured. Stones and brick-bats were thrown freely, and one policeman was so severely hurt that he had to be sent home. In the long run the police had the best of it, as it succeeded in capturing a dozen of the rowdies. As the crowd marched along Abercrombie-street stones were shied at the Catholic Church, the windows of which were smashed. As one time in the course of the night the streets converging on the Cross were completely blocked with an excited mob, and in one or two instances blows were exchanged between rival parties. The police find it very difficult to apprehend handsmen, for no sooner do they make a rush into a crowd than the players mysteriously hide their flutes about their persons, and can easily scatter and skulk out of sight. One man was caught in the act of throwing a stone in High-street, and his hand another stone in his hand. Two others were apprehended in the Gallowgate whilst actively taking part in a scrimmage.

The New English Cardinal.

A meeting of the Irish Catholic members took place this week in the conference-room of the House of Commons to consider the expediency of sending an address of congratulation to Dr. Newman on his elevation to the dignity of Cardinal. They were present:—Sir P. O'Brien, Messrs. O'Shaughnessy, O'Donoghue, Synan, Sullivan, Brington, Callan, Nolan, Colthurst, Brady, O'Leary, Biggar, Arthur Moore, &c. Letters expressing concurrence in the object of the meeting were received from Messrs. O'Keilly, McCarthy, Martin, Cogan, Gray, Dence and others. It was resolved to present an address of congratulation to the new Cardinal, and a committee was appointed to draft it in time for a meeting for the 24th inst.

Major General Clifford.

I find the following among the answers to correspondents in the Book:—"Major-General Clifford (T. H. P.) We do not know whether this gallant officer is a Roman Catholic." I am happy to give an affirmative answer to the correspondent's question. The Major-General is brother to Lord Clifford and to the Bishop of Clifton, being the son of Lord Clifford, who married a Miss Weld Lisworth. On both his father's side and his mother's, therefore, the Major-General comes of old Catholic stock. In company with him on board the "Egypt," which is due at the Cape in a fortnight are other Catholic officers, among others, Major W. F. Butler, C. B., well known as a writer, and the husband of the painter of the "Roll Call" and other military pieces.

A Russian Railroad to Afghanistan.

The Russian Grand Duke Nicholas Constantinovich, in a work just published, recommending the construction of the Orenburg and Tashkend railway, announces that he is preparing an expedition to pursue a study relative to railway matters beyond the boundaries of Asiatic Russia, across the Amu Daria, as far as the delta of the Boian, in Afghanistan, and in the direction of Cabul. The Times says the expedition is doubtless the same as that announced to start this summer. It will be remembered that it was announced some time since that the Grand Duke had been exiled for publishing the work in question, but his views now seem to have found favor and great preparations are making for the expedition.—New York Herald.

The Naturalist and his Father.

A story is told of Agassiz, the great naturalist, which, we believe, has never yet appeared in print.—His father destined him for a commercial life, and was impatient at his devotion to frogs, snakes and fishes. The latter, especially, were objects of the boy's attention. His vacations he spent in making journeys on foot through Europe, examining the different species of fresh-water fishes. "If you can prove to me," said his father, "that you really know anything about science, I will consent that you shall give up the career I have planned for you." Young Agassiz, in his next vacation, being then eighteen, visited England, took with him a letter of introduction to Sir Rodolick Marchison. "You have been studying nature," said the great man, bluntly. "What have you learned?" The lad was timid, not sure at that moment that he had learned anything. "I think," he said at last, "I know a little about fishes." "Very well. There will be a meeting of the Royal Society to-night. I will take you with me there." All of the great scientific savants of England belonged to this society. That evening, when the business of the meeting was over, Sir Rodolick arose and said: "I have a young friend here from Switzerland, who thinks he knows something about fishes; how much, I have a fancy to try. There is, under this cloth, a perfect skeleton of a fish which existed long before man." He then gave him the precise locality in which it had been found with one or two other facts concerning it. The species to which the specimen belonged was, of course, extinct. "Can you sketch for me on the blackboard your ideas of this fish?" said Sir Rodolick. Agassiz took up the chalk, hesitated a moment, and then sketched rapidly a skeleton fish. Sir Rodolick held up the specimen. The portrait was correct in every bone and line. The grave old doctors burst into loud applause. "Sir," Agassiz said, on telling the story, "that was the proudest moment of my life—no, the happiest, for I knew, now, my father would consent that I should give my life to science."