

The walls of Babylon are said by Herodotus to have been 350 feet high and 100 feet thick at the base.

Jeru-alem is still supplied with water from Solomon's pools through an aqueduct built by the Crusaders.

Two handsome silver alms dishes have lately been presented to St. John's Church, Portsmouth, diocese of Ontario.

An ancient Egyptian scythe, found near the Nile in 1890, is on exhibition in London. It is of wood with a set of fine flint saws.

Rev. C. C. Kemp, curate of Grace Church, Toronto, has been appointed incumbent of a church in Cleveland.

The Rev. George Johnson, rector of All Saints' Church, Durham, has returned from his trip to England.

Mr. Pullman made a wedding present of a handsomely decorated car to his daughter, who married a young Californian and moved to the Pacific coast.

Bishop Lewis has appointed Rev. A. H. Whalley, of Bell's Corners, to preach at the annual missionary services through the Petawawa sections of the diocese.

Gen. Raum estimates that the United States pension office will require \$200,000,000 during the next fiscal year to pay pensions.

W. stminster bridge, built in 1750, was the first in which the foundations were laid by the aid of caissons.

A hotel is being erected on top of the Mountain, Hamilton, in the east end, where it is intended to construct another incline railway.

Some of the English pumping engines perform work equalling the raising of 120,000,000 lbs. 1 foot high by the consumption of one cwt. of coal.

Queen Victoria is having carpets made from patterns designed by the Prince Consort.

Rev. Charles Clark, the Unitarian divine, best known as a chartist and radical reformer, died at Birmingham on Thursday.

The search light on top of Mount Washington is so powerful that one can read by it at a distance of seven miles.

The first of the World's Fair half-dollars was struck off at the Philadelphia mint on Saturday.

The Rev. F. G. Newton, the newly appointed rector of St. John's Church, Strathroy, entered upon his new charge on the 13th inst.

It is stated that the Rev. S. B. Rees, formerly pastor of the Baptist Chapel, Denmark Place, has joined the Church of England, and will shortly seek for admission to the diaconate.

No Austrian can procure a passport to go beyond the frontier of his own country without the consent of his wife.

The Church of St. Philip, Stepney, built by the vicar and a few friends at a cost of about £40,000, was consecrated by the Bishop of Wakefield.

Rev. W. Faber, for nine years pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Jamestown, N.Y., has resigned to join the Church of England.

The late Thomas Nelson, publisher, Edinburgh and London, has bequeathed £10,000 to the Free Church of Scotland, and £5,000 to the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

The rumbling of the recent coal-mine explosion in South Wales was heard nine miles. Of one hundred and forty-three men, only thirty-two were rescued.

The Duchess of Sutherland, who already is known as an authoress, is engaged on a story dealing with English social life. She hopes, the *Bookman* says, to found a literary *salon* in London.

Bishop Kingdon was enthroned as Bishop of Fredericton last week. Bishop Neilly and Dean Alexander, conducted the services; Canon Brigstocke preached the sermon.

Rain has fallen but twice in Aden, Arabia, in twenty-nine years. Previous to 1888 it had been twenty-six years.

The indignation in England on the proposed sale of *The Foudroyant*, one of Nelson's favourite ships, is most natural. Such economy is an insult to all the people.

The Rev. Eustace A. Vesey and Mrs. Vesey, of Sault Ste Marie, who have been on a visit to England, returned last week.

A volume of essays by the Archdeacon of London, bearing on "Christian Character and Conduct in the Present Day," and entitled *The Servant of Christ*, has been published by Mr. Elliot Stock.

The fifteenth anniversary of the opening of the Church of Ascension, Toronto, was celebrated last Sunday.

A gentleman has signified to Bishop Potter, of New York, his intention to give half a million dollars to-

ward the fund for the building of the new Protestant Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

A petrified man has been found in a cave in the foothills of Godaloupe mountains, 15 miles west of Eddy, N.M. This is said to be no "Cardiff giant" scheme, but a genuine case of petrification.

A window, designed as a memorial to the late Mr. W. H. Smith, has been unveiled at Portsea Church, to which the right hon. gentleman was a generous patron, having contributed close upon £80,000 to the building fund.

A whaling ship has returned to San Francisco after an absence of two and a half years, bringing bone and oil worth \$400,000. From July, 1890, until August, 1892, they were without news from home.

It is said that the Rev. C. C. Owen, of Toronto, and the Rev. J. W. J. Andrew, of Hamilton, have refused good offers of churches in the Diocese of Huron.

According to statistics just made public there are 950,000 persons imprisoned in 875 jails in Russia. Ninety per cent. of the prisoners are men. The prisons were built to hold only 570,000 persons.

The Rev. Dr. David Greer, pastor of St. Bartholomew's Protestant Episcopal Church, New York, having a sufficient private income for his own needs, turns over his entire salary for the relief of the poor, and as his salary is \$15,000 a year, the relief is a substantial one.

His Lordship Bishop Lewis has been talking to a reporter at Ottawa in favour of a division of the diocese, with Kingston as the see of one of the new bishoprics and Ottawa no doubt the other.

James Eddy, of Troy, New York, makes all the ink used in printing Government money. It is the only kind suited to the paper. It was invented by his deceased father, and nets him fifty thousand dollars a year.

A feather-merchant of Paris lately received six thousand birds of paradise, three hundred thousand Indian birds of various kinds, and four hundred thousand humming birds. Forty thousand birds have been recently sent to Paris from America, and over one hundred thousand from Africa. This means slaughter of the innocents.

British and Foreign.

It was reported that a very valuable religious and antiquarian relic known as St. Columkille's stone has been stolen from Garvagh Church-yard, in the north of Ireland, and that it is now on its way to be offered for exhibition at the World's Fair, Chicago.

A correspondent of the *Guardian* rejoices over the fact that "for the first time an English cathedral has opened its doors to welcome as faithful sons of the Church of England members of the English Church Union," the annual festival of the Gloucester branch of the E.C.U. being held on Thursday in the cathedral.

It has been stated that Mr. Moody has received a cordial invitation to hold a mission in Cambridge for University men, the names of Professor Ryle and the Rev. Handley Moule being mentioned in connection therewith. We have reason to believe that the announcement is quite unauthorized, and is not only premature, but misleading.—*Rock*.

The translation of the New Testament into Ganda or Luganda, the language of the Uganda territory, has just been finished, and the complete book will soon be issued. The Gospel of St. Matthew was printed in 1888; in 1890 a second edition was prepared; in 1891 an edition of 2,000 copies of St. John was published; the Acts, some of the Epistles, and the Revelation were subsequently added, and now the remaining portions have left the hands of the translator.

In his address to the members of the Synod of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, Bishop Gregg pointed out that the state of uncertainty with regard to the political future of Ireland was affecting injuriously the best energies of their country in every direction. Some feared a continuous angry battle; some looked forward to a terrible and destructive cyclone; while others believed there would be an equinoctial calm. If they, as Protestants, were to address the people who dwelt around them, and who differed from them as regards politics and religion, all they would ask of them was, 'Allow us to live in peace, and deal with us as honest men.'

The Indian *Churchman* says:—'The religious census in Ceylon shows some curious results. It appears that, while the general increase of popula-

tion in ten years has been nine per cent., that of the Hindus has been only 3.75, and that of the Mahomedans 6.6. The Christians have gained considerably with 12.7, but the Buddhists much more with 15.4. This looks as though the efforts of Colonel Olcott and Sir Edwin Arnold to bring about a revival of Buddhism were really beginning to tell, and conversions were taking place from Mahomedanism and Hinduism, but it must be remembered that the three religions are so much blended in the island that the passage from one to the other represents an infinitesimal amount of actual change. Still the mere fact that so many should be willing to register their names as Buddhists is remarkable.'

The annual meeting of the Diocesan Synod of Derry and Raphoe has been held at Derry. The Bishop presided. His Lordship, in reviewing the general position of the Church, said that sometimes he had been accused of being a prophet of evil, but he really did not think he had been more a prophet of evil than other people, and he heartily wished sometimes that his prophecies had been fulfilled in less measure than they had been. But the more the prospect was dark outside the more he said he should desire to turn to such signs of encouragement as one might see in the stormy sky. There were a great many things to encourage one in the condition of that diocese. There were many people who had trembling hearts, and feared for the future of the landlords of Ireland, who were in such large measure members of their Church, and many of whom—not least in the diocese where his Lordship was speaking—had proved themselves her warm and sincere friends.

The Archbishop of Dublin furnished his Diocesan Synod, which was recently held, with some interesting statistics, which serve to illustrate the condition of the Irish Church since the year 1869. It appears that in these three-and-twenty years 85 churches have been built or rebuilt, and 375 restored, by voluntary contributions, at a total cost of over half a million. Cathedral restoration in the last fifty years has further attracted money offerings, which also amount to more than half a million. In this way above a million pounds have been raised by voluntary gifts to the Church during a period in the latter half of which the extra burden has been thrown upon Irish Churchmen of raising a quarter of a million annually for the support of their clergy. His Grace spoke hopefully of the future of the Irish Church, resting his confidence on the record of her career in the immediate past, and on her Catholic character.

The Church Association has held a conference to consider its policy as affected by the Lincoln judgment. It has come, we are glad to say, to the very wise resolution that it is manifest that at present it is useless to go to law. It could not have taken much time or much argument to arrive at this conclusion. Still, that it has been arrived at is so much to the good, and the Church Association is so far to be congratulated on having allowed the counsels of common sense to prevail with it. But the Association goes on to add that circumstances may arise in the future when prosecutions may once more become necessary. The future is a vague thing. All sorts of difficulties may arise in the future which may call for all sorts of unforeseen action. The *addendum* of the Association, looked at simply in itself, has little that need astonish one or make one complain. But, looked at in the light of the Association's past, it has a nasty sound about it. The Association has been badly beaten, and it does not take its beating with any good grace. Its energy is stopped for the present, but its old spirit is still alive, and, as it hopes, will yet have an opportunity of bursting out. The Association has not yet learned charity or common sense. It has only been forcibly prevented having its own way.—*Church Bells*.

Nothing in connexion with the 'Congress' of the Church in Scotland, was more striking than the general feeling which was manifested in favour of a very much larger use of the laity in Church work, and an extension of their powers and duties. Canon Body, in an evidently carefully prepared and powerful paper, showed what these powers should be, and how they should be restricted, and he was followed by others who urged the advantages of lay help. Special stress was laid on its importance in reaching scattered members of the Church, recovering those who have lapsed, and evangelizing the masses in the great towns. It is notable that the question of lay preaching was not directly referred to, but it was implied by several of the speakers that they were not opposed to lay workers preaching, subject to certain restrictions. If the Congress was at all representative, it seems not unlikely that some definite steps will be taken to extend the powers of lay readers and to increase their number.