

Nearer Home.

A sweet, sweet thought invades my mind This eve, as 'mid the fading light I feel the busy cares of day...

JUNIPERO SERRA'S CENTENARY.

RESTORATION OF THE SAN CARLOS MISSION.

Fully 5,000 people, of whom many were non-Catholics attended the religious and civic celebrations, a telegraphic summary of which appeared in last week's Pilot...

It will be appropriate here to outline briefly the life of Padre Serra. The Christian history of California dates back to 1569, when its colonization by the Spaniards was attempted...

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In earnest terms he spoke of California's debt to Padre Serra as the founder of all the missions in the State. The present state of the mission was minutely described, the great progress of California proudly illustrated...

The Author of the "Imitation of Christ." In the metropolitan basilica of Verucelli, Rome, on the 31st of July, a monument was inaugurated to John Gerson, Benedictine monk, born at Cavaglia in 1180...

"Great credit," says the Very Rev. J. Adam, "is due to Father Casanova, the pastor of Monterey, who in his untiring way has gathered material for the restoration of Carmelo. To this end, he not only emptied his own purse, but worked as a common laborer..."

immense concourse of the laity, the following clergy were present—active or passive attendants: Archbishops Alemany and Riordan, of San Francisco; Bishop Francis Mora, of Los Angeles...

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Mr. T. C. Berchard, public school teacher, Norland, writes: "During the fall of 1881 I was much troubled with Biliousness and Dyspepsia, and part of the time was unable to attend to the duties of my profession..."

FOR THE COMPLEXION.—For Pimples, Blisters, Tan, and all itching tumors of the skin, use Prof. Low's Magic Sulphur Soap.

IRISH SCHOOLS.

Rev. Bernard O'Reilly writes: In 1861 there were in all the schools in Ireland 804,974 pupils of both sexes; in 1871 there were 994,810, and in 1881 there were 1,100,108. Since 1881 the attendance at schools of every grade has increased more rapidly than ever before...

Education is, therefore, leaving rapidly the entire mass of the population, the only obstacle to its complete success being the fearful poverty of the farm laborers in Ireland—a poverty which I have already been able to see with my own eyes...

On March 31st, 1881 Ireland possessed 9,965 educational establishments, 2,308 being destined for the male sex, 1,662 for the female and 5,485 for males and females (mixed schools). In these 632,882 Catholics, representing a total Catholic population of 3,969,591 were receiving instruction, and 504 of these establishments were classed as superior, that is, as schools in which other languages besides the English are taught...

There are two other features of the national education which deserves special mention here. Last year the Government sanctioned the establishment of two training colleges for Catholic teachers. One is at Drumcondra, near Dublin, under the direction of the Lazarists, who have acquired an enviable reputation as educators...

THE OTHER GREAT FEATURE to which I call the attention of Americans is the recent establishment of the Royal University of Ireland, substituting this for the former Queen's Colleges. Of this the "Catholic University of Ireland" is now an integral part. The governing body is the Catholic hierarchy. It is to consist in future of several colleges, St. Patrick's, Maynooth, the chief centre of the faculties of theology and philosophy; University College, Stephen's Green; and Cardinal McCabe has given over to the Jesuits, in which the fellows of the Royal University will in future give their lectures. Five other existing colleges and the medi-

cal school in Cecilia street are to be also nurseries for this great Catholic centre of the highest culture. This arrangement is in a partial measure due to Monsignor Neville, Dean of Cork, who is one of the most scholarly men in Ireland. The thirteen Catholic Fellows have each a salary of £2,000 a year, placing the existence of the central body on a secure basis.

THE EPISODE THAT STIRRED A CROWD OF SPECTATORS AT TRIPPLETON A FEW DAYS AGO. There were about fifty strong swimmers sporting in the sparkling waters of the Narrows yesterday off the old ferry dock at Stapleton, Staten Island. An old diver, John Taylor, who had been in the service of the Coast Wrecking Company for years, stood on the dock. By and by the swimmers began to scamper ashore and Taylor said "Sharks." Sure enough a shark was after the men, who managed to get safely in. When the spectators were gawping a sign of relief, however, a cry of horror broke out from the diver. He pointed far out over the water on the other side of the pier. There was another swimmer frisking about all alone in the water, all unconscious of what had been going on or what a terrible foe had been encountered so near. This was a young man named Thomas Kohler. The shark set up a yell at him and beckoned him back with frantic gestures. He did not understand at first, and paddled slowly in. The crowd kept up their excited cries, and finally he, although not understanding the meaning of the commotion, started back with all his energy, evidently satisfied that there was some good cause for this solicitude in his behalf. The shark, meantime, had been scouting the other side of the pier, where he had lost his game by so close a shave, and seemed reluctant to leave so rich a ground. "The shark will get onto him, sure," said the diver to the excited spectators. "He's only got to sweep around the end of the pier to head him off as he comes in on the other side." The situation was now thrilling. The swimmer at last had got at the shark. He knew there were sharks in the water and as he swam it was noted that he looked apprehensively at times from side to side to learn from which quarter he might expect the attack. His face wore an expression of desperation. A shriek went up from him as he drew near and saw the shark rolling around on the opposite side of the pier to that he was approaching. He swam for dear life and the crowd encouraged him with its frantic cries and advice. "It sees him! It sees him!" yelled the spectators. "Sure enough the monster turned about and pointed its nose toward the incoming swimmer. It was apparent that the young man could not reach the pier in time. The shark glided along rapidly and the swimmer, too, was making excellent time. The spectators could calculate that the converging lines on which the two were traveling would meet within a few feet of the dock and there would doubtless be enacted a horrible scene. The diver, Taylor, seemed to take a sudden resolution when it became apparent that there was no escape for Kohler. He took off his hat, coat and shoes and borrowed a long sheath-knife from a sailor. He then ran out the extreme end of the pier, where the shark, it was seen, would pass close by on its course to its victim, who was now near that point. As it came nearer the crowd saw that it was a monster more than eight feet long and one of the shovel-nose species. Taylor is a large man and an expert swimmer. As the shark swept up and was rushing direct for Kohler, turning on its back at the same time, Taylor sprang from the pier with the sheath-knife in his right hand. He jumped about eight feet before striking the water. He landed about one foot on the opposite side of the shark. The whole weight of Taylor's body was thrown on the knife, which he plunged as he touched the water into the stomach of the shark. Instantly Taylor's arm, the hand and the knife were almost hidden in blood. The shark made a terrible plunge and rolled over on its stomach. The shark was at this moment within three feet of the young man, whom the crowd expected to see caught. Then he turned and disappeared in deep water. Taylor swam ashore without the knife. "I left it sticking in the cuss," he said.—New York Star.

A RACE WITH A SHARK.

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CATHOLIC MUTUAL BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.—The regular meeting of the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association, No. 4 of the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association, will be held on the first Friday of every month, at 8 o'clock, in our rooms, Castle Hall, 41, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. Members are requested to attend punctually. ALEX. WILSON, Pres., C. HEVEY, Sec.

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