

The interior of the Council Chamber has been very elaborately fitted up. The side arches have been filled in with wood, and made into galleries. The one on the left hand was for the Royal personages, and over it is a picture of the Council of Nice; the one on the right was for the Ambassadors, and over it is a picture of the Council of Jerusalem. These large pictures have been painted on cloth, and hung up as appropriate decorations. There are small galleries, one on each side of the Pope's throne; the one was for the orchestra, and the other for the Roman Princes, who had to draw lots as to which would get in, as it was not large enough for the whole number. Above their gallery, the one on the right of the throne, is a picture of the Council of Trent, and over the other is one of the Council of Ephesus. A picture of the Day of Pentecost is over the throne, that being considered as the first Council of all, when the Divine Spirit descended upon the whole Church, as there assembled. In medallions there are twenty-two portraits of Popes who have held Councils; and high up between the pilasters there are four full-length figures of four Fathers of the Church—two Latins and two Greeks. The Pope's throne is white, and there is a white ground on the wall behind, with stars or ornaments glittering upon it. On each side of the throne are seats for the Cardinals and Patriarchs on the dais; the seats for the main body are in seven rows, extending down to the end of the chamber. There were 321 Bishops summoned; but as many were too old to come, some were prevented by sickness, and many were Bishops only in *partibus infidelium*, there were only seats prepared for about 800. At the south end was the altar, at which high mass was celebrated by Cardinal Patrizi at the opening service. But the arrangement was altered for subsequent meetings of the Bishops, to enable them to hear each other better. A temporary gallery, or tribune, was erected in the Council Chamber; six additional seats were placed in the centre between the gallery and the steps leading up to the throne; and the altar was removed to where the Pope's chair had been on the opening day. The official notaries sat at the sides of the chamber, near the Patriarch's seats; while the Cardinal Legates appointed to represent the Pope at these meetings were seated in front of the altar. The former arrangement will be restored for the Grand Sessions on the days when the Decrees are to be proclaimed. The Latin inscription, in gold on blue mosaic, which is seen on the frieze above the walls of the Council Chamber is a part of that which runs all round the interior of St. Peter's, and, being permanent, has no particular reference to the present Council. It is an extract from the Vulgate, in that passage of St. Luke's Gospel where Christ says to Peter, "Rogavi pro te, ut non deficiat fides tua; et tu, quando conversus, confirma fratres tuos;" with one or two sentences beside.

The "first sitting" illustrated in this number, took place in the Council Hall, where all the grand sessions of the Council will be held; but, for greater convenience and expedition in the transaction of business, the deliberations are conducted by four Congregations or Committees, into which the Council is divided. These congregations have the following separate places of meeting assigned to them: the Sistine Chapel of the Vatican; the Hall of the Scala Regia; the Hall of the Scala Ducale, and the Pauline Chapel, which is situated over the portico of St. Peter's. The following is the interior arrangement in the Hall when the Council is in General Session:—His Holiness, Pius IX., seated on a throne at the north end, presides over the assembly, having Cardinal Antonelli standing to his left, while attendant Bishops are grouped on the steps. Right and left of the Pope on the dais are rows of Cardinals and Patriarchs, above whom are two small galleries, one for the orchestra, the other for the few Roman Princes privileged to be present. The seats for the great body of the prelates are arranged on each side of the spacious chamber, the altar being at the south end. Official reporters take note of the proceedings from the table advantageously placed in front of the Bishops' benches nearest his Holiness; and Ambassadors look down upon the congregation of white-robed and mitred Bishops from the gallery on the right.

A FATHER'S ADVICE.

In this number we copy "A Father's Advice" from the new illustrated London journal, *The Graphic*, as an illustration of the style of this latest competitor on Metropolitan ground, with the long established and as yet unrivalled *Illustrated London News* (to whose pages we are indebted for the view of the south transept of St. Peter's.) The "Father's Advice" is interpreted by its critic in *The Graphic* to be illustrative of Venetian intrigue and conspiracy in former days, the "father" being engaged in the attempt to worm out an important secret affecting the fortunes of some plot then on the tapis. Without disputing the penetrating judgment of the writer, it may be remarked that his conception is belied as well by the title of the picture as by the countenances of the characters therein represented. The attitude and the expression of the elder figure is that of serious thought, more compatible with the notion of imparting paternal advice than of extorting information, while the youthful listener does not look by any means as being under the ruck of a skilful cross-examination. On the contrary, she wears the submissively attentive expression of one who was listening to words of sound counsel, and had already made up her mind to make a good use of the advice she was then receiving.

AN OPEN POLAR SEA.

Prof. J. B. Maury expresses his belief in the existence of an open Polar Sea, and that it can be easily reached by following the Gulf Stream, and will give open water all the way. He asserts on the authority of the Transactions of the Royal Society of London, for 1775, that two Dutch whalers in 1655 penetrated to the Pole itself. He quotes from a captain of an American whale ship, who says he had gone "several hundred miles to the northward and eastward from Behring's Strait, and three hundred miles beyond the limit of his chart, and with an open sea still before him, as far as could be seen in that direction." Kotzebue, in 1815, says, as he attempted to pass to the west round the coast of Asia:—"The sea was open to the northeast as far as the eye could see," and Commander John Rogers, of the U. S. North Pacific Exploring Expedition, in 1854-55, says of the same waters:—"As far as I went to the northward and eastward beyond the Straits, I had an open sea, with a current flowing to the northward, and with a temperature of the water much above that due to the latitude." Prof. Maury holds that there is a Pacific warm current sweep-

ing through Behring's Straits to the Pole, to correspond with the Atlantic Gulf Stream, which sweeps around Spitzbergen, and that by either of the routes the Pole may be reached in safety, and an open channel found between the Atlantic and the Pacific. In confirmation of his theory, he treats of birds and fishes and seaweeds as "dumb guides to the Poles." He shows that birds which feed only on grain and marine plants, and can not endure the winter cold of the Atlantic coast, have been seen flying northward beyond 80 deg. of latitude; and that vast quantities of marine vegetation are carried by the Gulf Stream toward the Polar Sea.

The story of another terrible murder is told by the *Cologne Gazette*. A country girl in Schrimm, in the government of Posen, had received her inheritance of 300 thalers from the authorities, and on her return home she spent the night in a village; having no acquaintance there, she took refuge at the house of the village justice, to whom, in virtue of his position, she gave her whole confidence, and informed him of the subject of her journey. He was ready to take her in, and advised her to go to bed with his wife. When all were in a deep sleep, the covetous host got up, went into the garden, and dug a hole there. He then took a sharp knife, went to the bed where the women were sleeping, and cut the throat of the person lying furthest from the wall, took up his victim and buried her in the garden. When he came back he found the bed empty. He had murdered his own wife instead of the stranger. The wife lay close to the wall during the evening, but had afterwards moved to the outer side of the bed. The girl had got out of bed after the murder, and hastened away with her money.

At a meeting of the Council of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, on the 30th ult., a letter from Mr. Graves, M. P., urging the Chamber to memorialize the Premier and the Postmaster-General in support of the half-penny stamp for two-ounce packages in the forthcoming postal reform, was read. Mr. Graves stated that Mr. Gladstone was in favour of it, but that the Chancellor was opposed, and they were in danger of losing it. The Chamber agreed to forward a memorial to the Postmaster-General.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A project is on foot in Halifax to establish a cotton factory by a joint-stock company with \$10,000 capital.

"Sugar weddings," four weeks after marriage, are the latest device of married Vermonters to keep themselves happy.

During her career as a painter of animals, Rosa Bonheur has received for her paintings upward of \$200,000.

Vivier, the horn player, is among the celebrities now in Egypt. He played the horn at the Khedive's banquet to Lesseps.

Verdi has sent a gift of ten thousand francs to the daughter of the late Signor Piave, who wrote the librettos of several of his best operas.

Choral service has been commenced in Wales in the Welsh language. The prayers are intoned and the hymns sung in that outlandish tongue.

Frederic Cowen, a young composer, aged seventeen, has given a concert in London, at which he produced an elaborate symphony of his own composition. The work is highly spoken of by the London press.

A repast consisting entirely of asses' flesh was lately served up in a hotel in Rana, Lombardy, to disprove the popular opinion that it is tough and unwholesome. The result of the experiment is not stated.

Sessi, the new Paris sensation, who is sometimes called "the blur de Patti," has been secured for the Royal Italian Opera in London, for the next season. Signor Vianesi is to be the conductor of the orchestra.

The British Museum has received two remarkable stone statues from Easter Island, in the Pacific, which exhibit on the backs a marking like that of the crescent and triangle, so common on the sculptured stones of Scotland.

As accidental poisoning by phosphorus is rather common, owing to the general use of lucifer matches, and the paste applied to the destruction of insects, it may be useful to remember that oil of turpentine is an antidote against phosphorus.

A few days since it was positively and officially announced that M. Raspail, one of the leading members of the Radical party in the Corps Legislatif, was dead. The report was contradicted, and deputations which were on their way to Paris to attend the funeral, have been notified. There is much indignation expressed at the unknown author of this cruel hoax.

A man can give his neighbour a promissory note, moistened by a fluid just invented by a French chemist, and in a month afterwards the holder will have nothing to show for it but a little dust. If this fact becomes generally known, short credits will become the rule—in order that the borrower may be compelled to come down with the dust before his note does.

The Prince Imperial of France, on New Year's Day, sent to the Prince of the Asturias, as a present, a mechanical organ, the keys of which, when pressed, set in motion figures of personages richly attired and in every variety of attitude, grouped in the upper part of the instrument. The Infante Don Alfonso, on his side, presented to the Prince a marvellous specimen of Spanish mechanical art, dating from the end of the sixteenth century. It is an equestrian statue of a knight in a complete suit of armour, the pieces of which are admirably chased in gold and silver.

Quite a romantic incident recently occurred at the court of the ex-Queen Isabella. One of the maids of honor, a young girl of great beauty, lost a portmonnaie containing 800 francs, which was brought to the Queen a few days afterwards by a young and handsome peasant. Nothing was missing, and the Queen asked the lad what reward he wanted for his honesty. The young fellow had observed the fair owner of the portmonnaie, and her great joy at his recovery, and made bold to say: "I want no reward but one kiss from that young lady." Her Majesty smiled, and turning to the young girl, said: "Will you grant his request, Carmen?" Carmen hesitated for a moment, but finally, she resolutely went up to the young lad, and throwing her arms around his neck, kissed him three times, amidst the general laughter and applause of the assembled company.

The latest accounts from Melbourne state that the meat-preserving companies are steadily prosecuting their operations. Another meat-preserving company is about to be established in that city, and in the meantime the Melbourne Meat-Preserving Company during the month of October, have killed at the rate of 6,500 sheep per week. The number of the tins manufactured each week is 12,000, representing about 7,000 lb. of meat and 150 casks of tallow.

Emile Ollivier, the French Premier, receives his friends only at breakfast, goes out at half-past 1, and when he dines at home, returns at 7. He goes to bed early, and rises at 6 or 7 o'clock. He drinks nothing but water, never smokes, seldom goes to the theatre, and only to hear music. He has never, hitherto, given dinner parties or *sotrees*.

Albert Phelham Clinton is a festive young lord, up to his ears in debt. A few days ago he walked ten miles against time for the amusement of his creditors, won the wager, and immediately passed the purse of \$250 over to them. The *Pall Mall Gazette* thinks that, by his earnings as a pedestrian, he may in time pay off all his debts, and it accordingly urges him to keep on as he has commenced.

The Nottingham magistrates have fined a baker and miller in that town, £5 for selling flour which proved to be adulterated with alum. The defence was that the flour came from America, and that if it contained alum the defendant was innocent of all knowledge of the adulteration. The town clerk, who prosecuted, replied that the law "considered that a baker knew what he was selling and dealing in"—a view in which the bench appear to have concurred.

Eugenie got up a lottery on her yacht to relieve the tedium of the canal passage. All the winning tickets were written by herself, and were divided into two classes—one for the officers and one for the men. Some of the winning numbers have the following inscription: "This ticket entitles the bearer to travel up the Nile with me. (Signed) Eugenie." Others were endorsed with the words: "I invite you to the reception at Compiegne—Eugenie."

PUNCH'S PREDICTIONS FOR 1870.

There will be the usual number of seasons, five—Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter, and the London; and probably an extra one at the Opera.

Peace will be generally maintained, but there will be engagements in all quarters of the world.

The Queen's Speech will contain some queer Queen's English.

The Irish Land Question will either be settled or fall to the ground.

Dr. Temple will turn out the best Bishop they've ever had in the West.

Any theatre having a successful piece will do well in the long run.

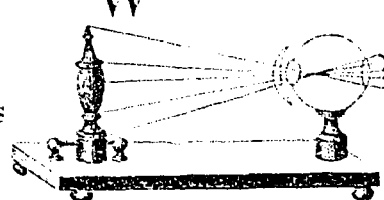
The Emperor of the French will have a new set of studs and a new set of ministers.

Oysters will be sixpence a piece, and the natives in New Zealand troublesome.

Macaulay's New Zealander, Moliere's Frenchman who had been talking prose all his life without knowing it, Sydney Smith's bishop who has yet to be roasted alive in a railway carriage, Mrs. Grundy, Mrs. Partington, with her mop, the British Lion and Constitution, and other old friends, will be all about again and get into the papers.

The camp at Wimbledon will be bigger than ever, the cattle at the Cattle Show fatter than ever, the streets of London dirtier than ever, the Christmas pantomimes more gorgeous than ever, the feminine fashions more wonderful than ever, the Boat Race, the Derby, and the Royal Academy, more crowded than ever, the girls prettier than ever—and *Mr. Punch* wittier than ever.

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