

News and Notes.

The Joint Committee on Ecclesiastical Relations and Religious Reform has been duly organized, as follows:

MEMBERS.—The Bishop of Connecticut, Chairman; the Bishop of Ohio; the Bishop of Pennsylvania; the Bishop of Western New York; the Bishop of Long Island; the Bishop of Central New York; the Rev. Benj. I. Haight, D.D.; the Rev. Noah Hunt Schenck, D.D., Secretary; the Rev. George Leeds, D.D.; the Rev. Thomas L. Davies, D.D.; the Rev. John Fulton, D.D.; Mr. Samuel B. Ruggles, LL.D.; Mr. Cambridge Livingston, Treasurer; Mr. Robt. M. Mason; Mr. John A. King; Mr. Courtland Parker, LL.D.

SUB-COMMITTEES.—1. On Oriental Churches: The Bishop of Ohio, the Rev. Dr. Fulton, and Mr. Ruggles. 2. On the Alt Catholic movement in Europe: The Bishop of Western New York, the Bishop of Long Island, the Rev. Dr. Schenck, the Rev. Dr. Leeds, Mr. Mason, and Mr. King. 3. On the Jansenist Church in Holland, and the Scandinavian Church: The Bishop of Connecticut, the Rev. Dr. Davies, Mr. Livingston. 4. On Religious Bodies at home and abroad looking to a return to primitive order: The Bishop of Central New York, the Rev. Dr. Leeds, and Mr. Parker. 5. On Correspondence with Foreign Chaplains: the Rev. Dr. Schenck. Communications for the Secretary should be addressed to Brooklyn, N. Y.

The sub-committee of the special congressional committee on the condition of the South, which has investigated the Louisiana complications, has made its report. It unqualifiedly condemns the action of the returning board as illegal, and the Kellogg government as despotic and as having used the Federal troops to maintain its power. The alleged intimidation on the part of the conservative element is disproved, and actual intimidation on the part of the Kellogg government is asserted. The full committee will go to New Orleans to obtain further information.

There is a great deal of excitement in Washington over the recent testimony in the Pacific Mail investigation. Several members of Congress have indignantly denied the rumors coupling their names with any fraudulent transactions.

There has been trouble in New Orleans, as the secular papers abundantly testify. Bishop Wilmer felt called upon to put his name to a document, which was also signed by the first citizens, including Bishops and other ministers of the city. Thereupon some one in Washington sneeringly writes that this same Bishop Wilmer "distinguished himself several years since, by ordering the name of President Lincoln erased from the Prayer Book, in his diocese." Unfortunately for our historian's facts, first, the name of President Lincoln was never in the Prayer Book; and secondly, President Lincoln died six months before Dr. Wilmer was made Bishop!

A convention of the various charitable societies of the city, has brought to light the fact that there are many families who have been living in perfect idleness, supported by the unwise charity of some half-dozen churches and societies. Matters have now been so systematized that the Observer emphatically declares that "there is not an individual within the limits of the city, for whom provision is not made by public and private benevolence; and to give to a man, woman or child, begging in the street, or at the door, is wrong, a positive evil, unnecessary, inexpedient and injurious."

Commodore Vanderbilt has entered a protest against the cruel practice of clipping the hair of horses in cold weather, and calls upon Mr. Bergh to act in the matter.

If the curious things in science were communicated rather than the materialistic, presented by Prof. Tyndall and others, both profit and great pleasure would be the result. Take in its contrast the effects of a unbeam, for example, and one sees the grand result of the most gentle and powerful, and yet variable and versatile forces. As painted by an artist pen, we see that the most delicate slip of gold leaf, exposed as a target to the sun's shafts, is stirred to the extent of a hair, though an infant's faintest breath would set it in tremulous motion. The tenderest of human organs—the apple

of the eye—though pierced and buffeted each day by thousands of sunbeams, suffers no pain during the process, but rejoices in their sweetness, blesses the useful light. Yet a few of those rays, insinuating themselves into a mass of iron, like the Britannia tubular bridge, will compel the closely-knit particles to separate, and will move the whole enormous fabric with as much ease as a giant would a straw. The play of those beams upon our sheets of water lifts up layer after layer into the atmosphere, and holds whole rivers from their beds, only to drop them again in snows upon the hills, or in fattening showers upon the plants. Let but the air drink in a little more sunshine at one point than another, and it desolates a whole region in its lunatic wrath. The marvel is that a power which is capable of assuming such a diversity of forms, and of producing such stupendous results, should come to us in so gentle, so peaceful, and so unpretentious a manner.

A PECULIAR FISH.—The fish of Paradise is one of the most peculiar of Chinese fresh water fish. It is small in size, a pale gray in color, and at first sight, having but little about it to attract attention. As soon as the animal becomes excited, however, the long fins on the back and belly straighten out and assume a rich purple hue, tinted with green. The long and forked shaped tail spreads into a kind of fan, and the stripes under the side of the fish become yellow, red and blue, constantly changing in color. The scales seem to become opalescent, and reflect the light with the greatest brilliancy, while the eyes seem to be illuminated with a bluish green fire. The habits of the animal are as odd as its appearance. The males take charge of the young and build the nest. The latter is simply a clot of foam floating upon the water, and is made by the fish rising to the surface and alternately absorbing and expelling the air, until a little cluster of fine bubbles, hardly three-tenths of an inch square, is formed. The female then deposits her eggs, which are at once seized upon by the male, who carries them in his mouth to the nest. Then he watches their incubation, carefully guarding and distributing them with wonderful sagacity evenly throughout the mass of foam. When they clot together, he pushes them apart with his nose, and, beside, keeps up a continual manufacture of bubbles until the eggs are lifted up above the water and rest only upon their soft couch. As soon as the embryos appear, his care is doubled. He watches that none escape; and in case some become separated, he chases them, catches them in his mouth, and replaces them carefully in the nest. If one becomes hurt, he removes it from the others, and gives it a separate bubble by itself, apparently nursing it until it regains its strength.

SMITH'S ASSYRIAN DISCOVERIES.—Biblical students will remember with the liveliest interest the excitement caused a year or two ago by the publication of the translation of some inscriptions deciphered by Mr. George Smith of the British Museum, from Assyrian tablets in that institution. The tablets in question were found to bear inscriptions giving the Chaldean account of the Noachian deluge. Such singular and unexpected confirmation of the accuracy of this part of the Biblical narrative, at once attracted wide attention, and with the permission of the authorities in charge of the British Museum, Mr. George Smith was at once commissioned by the London Daily Telegraph, to go to the East to make further researches, in the hope that the remarkable record might be completed. Mr. Smith, during 1873 and 1874, accordingly made two journeys to Assyria, and his explorations on the site of Nineveh were rewarded with notable success. Missing parts of the tablets bearing the record of the deluge were found, so that the account was reproduced as the Chaldeans had it, almost intact; and, besides this, numerous other extremely interesting inscriptions were brought to light, and for the first time translated in this remarkable volume. Wood-cuts exhibit the character of some of the relics which Mr. Smith unearthed, and maps show the route he travelled and the places he visited, and the most important tablets are reproduced by the infallible aid of photography. To scholars the volume is invaluable; to the student it is of deep interest; and the general reader will find much in it extremely curious and instructive.

HAS THE SOURCE OF THE NILE REALLY BEEN FOUND? Col. Long, an American officer in the service of the Khedive of Egypt, claims to have discovered it. He is the first white man who has ever visited the lake Victoria Nyanza, in moving from the delta up the river. In latitude 1 deg. 30 min. north he entered that lake, which is at least from twenty to twenty-five miles wide. The water of the lake he found to be pure and fresh. There were no signs of tides and no shell-fish. The Colonel was rowed around to the outlet, and endeavored to sail into the river, near what is known as Ripon Falls, but the natives refused to accompany him. He was escorted on the lake by thirty canoes propelled by forty paddlers, an escort of 1,200 savages. He returned with two canoes, two soldiers, and two servants, after having been robbed, and then deserted by those sent to take care of him, and having with his four faithful followers, fought courageously with a large party of savages from the banks of the lake.

Lieut. Col. Long begins his report to Gen. Gordon of the affair at M'rooli, dated at Fowetra, Sept. 3, 1874, by saying that on the morning of the 17th of August, he accomplished the navigation of the Nile, from Urondogani to Uganda, (a navigation made for the first time,) and that he has "discovered an immense basin—a lake—the true source of the Nile, (?) which delayed him, and also prolonged his route."

There is nothing in the way of modern discovery so wonderful or so meritorious as that great Labor Saver, Dobbins' Electric Soap. It tells its own story at the first trial, and is sold solely on its own merits. Try it. Sold by all wholesale grocers.

Publishers' Department.

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SPECIAL NOTICE.

In consequence of the new Postal law—which requires that the postage on all publications shall be prepaid at the office of mailing instead of at the office where they are received—we have to request our subscribers, in remitting for advance payments, to add 20 cents for one year's postage. This arrangement, of course, will not add to the present price of subscription, and will be a convenience to subscribers. Advertisements to secure insertion the same week, must be in our office not later than 2 o'clock on Mondays.

The Order Department of THE CHURCH JOURNAL is discontinued. Mr. W. S. Thompson continues to purchase, on orders, and will give prompt attention to the favors of correspondents.

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The following back numbers of THE CHURCH JOURNAL are wanted to complete files now in hands of the binder:

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