

THE NEW CATHOLIC DAILY.

THE VOICE OF THE HOLY FATHER.

"We urgently beseech of you to assist, with all good will and favor, those men who, animated with a Catholic spirit, and possessed with sufficient learning, are laboring in writing and publishing books and journals for the defense and propagation of Catholic doctrine."—Encyclical letter of Pope Pius IX, in 1853.

THE VOICE OF THE BISHOPS OF QUEBEC.

The Bishops of this Province, in the fourth Council of Quebec, urged the reading of good books and good journals as an antidote against the poisonous books and papers ever at hand.

"Therefore, that pastors may, more easily and efficaciously, remove their flock from bad and forbidden books, as well as from wicked journals, let them be careful to supply them with good books, nor let them omit to induce such as wish to read journals, to subscribe to some paper of sound principles and truly Catholic."

The Holy Father Pius IX said:—"Flood the world with good reading."

To this we have the satisfaction of adding the special encouragement of his Lordship the Bishop of Montreal, and we present it to our readers as credentials which do us too much honour:—

DEAR CAPTAIN KIRWAN,

We hear with pleasure the progress of your project of a Catholic Daily. Confident that in matters of faith and morals, you will ever be submissive to the Pastors of the Church, we encourage you, and do most cordially bless all generous Catholics who contribute to the success of your undertaking.

EDWARD CHARLES, Bishop of Montreal.

Further SUBSCRIPTIONS Received.

The good-will and firm determination manifested by the struggling class to have a Daily paper to defend their civil and religious rights, shows us plainly that this blessing must come. All regret that they cannot give more, and promise to do so when times are better.

Table listing subscribers and amounts: Bernard Gunning 5 00, J. Tobin 1 00, Thomas McEnally 5 00, Wm. McPherson 1 00, Francis Lyott 3 00, P. White 1 00, Bridget Foley 2 25, John Conway 1 00, P. O'Neill 1 00, E. McGillis 1 00, M. Haynis 1 00, Edward McKown 3 00, Per Mr. J. Stewart 1 00, Jeremiah Shea 1 00.

Yearly subscriptions in country places are \$3.00. If papers are delivered in the city \$4.00. Any notice of error, omission, or correction will be cheerfully received.

SLAINTE MAIT AGAD.

J. T. HENDERSON, 191 St. Peter Street, (NEXT TO CRAIG)

Begs to call the special attention of the Irish Ladies to his new Irish-Canadian Christmas Card, which he has just published, and is now selling rapidly—the design is emblematic of love of the Old Country and Canada—being a combination of the Shamrock, Autumn Maple Leaves, and Birch Bark, executed by Prang, the well-known Artist.

PRICE: 10 cents each, or \$1.15 a dozen.

BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF MONTREAL.

THE undersigned duly appointed LICENSE COMMISSIONERS for the City of Montreal, under the authority of an Act of the Local Government, passed in the City of Quebec, HEREBY GIVE PUBLIC NOTICE that they are prepared to receive, in the forms prescribed by law, all APPLICATIONS FOR THE SALE OF SPIRITUOUS LIQUORS within the Limits of the City of Montreal, for the year beginning May next.

Applications will be received at their Offices, 175 ST. JAMES STREET. The necessary blanks may be had from the Secretary.

THOMAS S. JUDAH, Chairman. JAS. SIMARD. JNO. C. BECKET. M. P. RYAN.



CATHOLICS OF MONTREAL! Read the list of Books we are offering at twenty-five cents per week: Elegant Family Bibles, 'Life of the Blessed Virgin,' 'Father Parker's Lectures and Sermons,' 'Lives of the Saints,' 'Life of Pope Pius IX,' and a fine assortment of Mission and other Prayer Books.

JAMES JORDAN'S BOOK STORE, 574 CRAIG STREET, (nearly opposite Cote) By dropping a note or Postal Card will send samples of the above-named books to any address for examination, free of charge. A choice selection of Albums may be had on the same terms.

THE APOSTOLIC DELEGATE IN BOSTON.

GRAND RECEPTION BY THE CATHOLIC UNION.

The Catholic Union of Boston honored itself on the evening of the 18th inst. In honoring the Apostolic Delegate, Bishop Conroy, of Ardagh, who paid a passing visit to the city. Although the reception was necessarily devised somewhat hurriedly, it was carried out in the invariably finished and agreeable style of this organization.

The hall was filled by a pleasant gathering of the members and lady friends, as well as a good proportion of the clergy, the Delegate occupying a seat in front with the Most Rev. Archbishop Williams, the Spiritual Advisor, and the President of the Union. The musical exercises comprised choruses by the Catholic Union Choir, Mr. Charles Lewis directing, and Mr. Frank Dunbar accompanying in the usual artistic manner; and solos were also rendered by Mrs. Chas Lewis, Miss Ida Welch, Mr. Samuel Tuckerman, and Mr. P. H. Powers.

At the conclusion, Rev J. P. Bodfish made a few introductory remarks, alluding to the appropriateness of honoring the Apostolic Delegate on the Feast of St. Peter's Chair, and then reading in English the reply of the Holy Father to the address sent him by the Catholic Union on the occasion of his Golden Jubilee, as follows:—

POPE PIUS IX. to JOHN JOSEPH, ARCHBISHOP OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON:

Venerable Brother—Health and apostolic blessing. We received with sincere affection the most excellent sentiments which on the approach of the fiftieth anniversary of our episcopal consecration the clergy and faithful of your Diocese, together with yourself, expressed in the letter given to us at the time of your visit to the shrine of the apostles. The fitting tone which you have all adopted in writing your letter shows clearly your tender attachment to our person and the unspoken devotion which binds you to this Apostolic See. You manifest how much you have at heart the promotion of the dignity and freedom of our sublime office, and that while you are deeply grieved on account of the sufferings which we have to endure, you desire nothing more sincerely than to offer us some consolation by the assurance of your filial and devoted love. We are constrained in the Lord, venerable brother, to commend most earnestly the sentiments, which, led on by you, the clergy and laity of your flock, have been moved to express towards us, and we desire to make known to you and to them how much we are pleased by them. We were also much gratified to read in your letters those prayers for unity of faith and obedience among Christian nations, and for the peace and victory of the Church, and we desire above all things, that, for the glory of the Divine name, your wishes may be entirely and abundantly fulfilled. In the meantime, venerable brother, while we return sincere thanks to you, and all those over whom you preside, for your devotion to us, we pray God, from our heart, that He may graciously grant unto you the riches of His goodness! That He may strengthen and console you by His help every day more and more in the happy accomplishment of His will; and as a pledge of our sincere love, and in the hope that it may be productive of every heavenly grace, we most affectionately and from our heart bestow upon you the Apostolic Benediction.

Given at Rome, at St. Peter's, on the 21st day of July, 1877, and in the 31st year of our Pontificate.

John C. Crowley, Esq., President of the Union, then formally welcomed, in an eloquent, and exceedingly appropriate address, His Excellency the Rt. Rev. Dr. Conroy, Bishop of Ardagh, and Apostolic Delegate from the Holy See. After addressing him as the first Irish delegate who ever came to these shores Mr Crowley said that, taking advantage of his presence as the representative of Pope Pius IX., the members of the Union desire to express through you their love for him, as Catholics, and to reassert their rights as Catholic citizens by declaring that the patrimony of St. Peter, of which he has been dispossessed by brute force, can never validly be recognized by us as divested from his office, and taken from the service of the Most High. We shall constantly renew our protests, as American Catholics, against the tyrannical practices in Germany for the purpose of subverting the relations of Church and State. He referred to the influence exerted by the children of St. Patrick in making this country what it is, and concluded his remarks with a reference to Boston as the "Hub of the Universe," so many of the inhabitants of which are devoted to the centre of faith, the chair of St. Peter.

The Apostolic Delegate, who was received with enthusiastic applause, said: "I received with great pleasure the cordial address with which the Catholic Union has welcomed to this city, the Delegate of the Apostolic See. I account myself happy in the opportunity which I enjoy of making a personal acquaintance with the Catholics of Boston, and of seeing for myself the splendid progress, material and moral, which our holy religion is at present making in this city under the eminently prudent administration of your beloved Archbishop. How splendid your material progress has been, you state in your Cathedral, and the sister churches bear witness. Of the moral progress I need no better proof than the presence in which I stand. I know that I am addressing gentlemen who spend busy days in the markets of commerce, or who are engaged in the absorbing pursuit of the liberal professions, in the foremost ranks of which I am aware that Catholics now stand, and I see that, side by side with the material interests, which it is their duty to advance they carry those of the Catholic Church. I see that no labor of mind and brain is enough to occupy the large heart of the Catholics, for they also cherish the Church and her interests, which the Catholic Union has in view. Foremost among these interests I place that of looking to the liberty and the dignity of him who fills St. Peter's Chair.

The welfare of the world, depends upon religion. It is in vain that the statesman plans, it is in vain that the philanthropist labors without it. In religion is the secret of the world's welfare, and we know that the home of religion is the Catholic Church, and we know that the centre and authority of the church is in St. Peter's Chair; and your words to me to night prove that the honor, the liberty, the dignity of St. Peter's chair occupy a firm place in your hearts.

Religion in its true sense is embraced only in the Catholic faith. Outside you will find religious sentiments, which is to be respected wherever found, and religious opinions without an authorized guide; but the faith of a Catholic is not merely an opinion on a religious sentiment, but the ready and willing obedience which an immortal soul yields to the guide of Divine authority. In our Faith there is the Grace of God and the strength which the faith gives to the intellect and the heart. Our Faith is a gift, a grace of God; but we must protect our graces, and this may be done by the co-operation of intelligence.

The Catholic Union meets this want, and their is great need of such aids at the present day. It is difficult for a man to pass through society to-day without finding often a need of pausing to note its tendencies, and to determine how he is, to adjust its requirements to the immortal tenets of his Faith—and were to the man who rashly exposes his Faith in these exigencies! Here you are taught that there is nothing so high in intellect, nothing so grand in art or science but belongs to the Catholic Church and is fostered by her, because all these things are from God and she is of God.

You were pleased to speak of me in connection with Ireland, and with the See of Ardagh which I represent. I can tell you that we in the old land, follow with beating hearts every fortune that comes to you here, and there is nothing you can undertake, and nothing that may befall you, in which we do not partake in sympathy, with this great American branch of our race, so that it may truly be said that "one in name, and one in fame, are the sea-divided Gael." In regard to my dignity in the ancient See of Ardagh, I feel that it is an awful position to stand the latest representative of a line of bishops and of saints, the first of whom received his Episcopate at the hands of St. Patrick himself; and I can only rely on the assurance that as the hand of Pope Celestine strengthened St. Patrick, so the hand of his latest successor, Pius IX strengthens the hierarchy of Ireland to-day.

There is a legend of how St. Brendan, whose name is frequently found in Irish chronicles, venerated on the West in Sea, seeking souls in this new land to bring to God, and there is one portion of it on which I love to dwell. When he returned to tell his people what he had seen, bringing with him the aroma of the spices and the sweet vegetation of the land he had visited, the people had said, "Surely you have come from the Paradise of God." When I return to Ireland, I shall bring with me the fragrant flowers or the sweet spices of your bounteous land—I will bring back the good wishes you have tendered me, the memory of this meeting the joy that came to your faces when Ireland was mentioned, and my people will say that I come, not perhaps from a paradise of God, but what is to them fresh assurance of it, a land where Catholic men, in the fervor of their lives and the vigor of their intellects, are neither afraid nor ashamed to bless God for being Catholics.

The Bishop's happy eloquence and beautifully chosen sentiments, as well as the grace of his manner, made an admirable impression on all who heard him, and this was enhanced by his genial words to those who were afterwards introduced to him—Boston Pilot.

CATHOLIC NEWS.

THERE ARE 16,000 Catholics in Toronto, Canada, one fifth of the whole population.

THE VATICAN announces that no change has been effected in its relations with the Italian Court by the accession of King Humbert.

THE CATHOLICS of Cork are to present an address or testimonial to Bishop Delany on the occasion of his Golden Jubilee.

THE CATHOLIC Church in England to-day, in proportion to its numbers, is by far the most powerful Church in England.—Bishop Spalding.

THE SCOTTISH HIERARCHY.—The leaders of Protestant organizations in London are much pleased at the Vatican's supposed abandonment of the Scotch hierarchy scheme. It is said that the scheme was abandoned because steps were taken to enforce Scotch laws against Papal jurisdiction.

THE CHURCH continues to make steady advances in England and Scotland. During 1877 nineteen new churches were erected in England and fourteen in Scotland. Sixty-four priests have been ordained in England and five in Scotland. The whole number of priests in England and Wales is now 1392, and there are 1055 churches. In Scotland there are 265 priests and 253 churches.

CONVERSIONS IN ENGLAND.—At the Church of the Fathers of the Most Holy Redeemer, at Clapham, England, on the Octave Day of the Immaculate Conception, the following clergy-men of the Anglican Church were received into the Holy Catholic Church.—The Rev. Douglas Hope, of Christ Church Oxon (nephew of the late Hope Scott, Esq.), and the Rev. Mr. White, of Pembroke College, Oxon, both of whom were curates at the Church of St John the Divine, Kennington.

PETER'S PENANCE.—THE DIOCESE OF CLONFERT.—The Bishop of Clonfert forwarded to Monsignor Kirby a few days before Christmas the sum of £236 19s 10d, the Peter's Pence of that diocese, for presentation to the Holy Father. In Monsignor Kirby's reply dated Christmas Day, 1877, he says—"His Holiness received your noble offering with evident signs of the gratification he felt at this fresh demonstration of the Catholics of the diocese of Clonfert, so indicative of their attachment to the Chair of Peter and to his Holiness himself, now doubly greater on account of the critical position of the Holy See."

MONASTICISM IN SCOTLAND.—Holy Father seems to be taking a special and lively interest in the restoration of monasticism in Scotland. He has already more than once blessed the great work of the English Benedictines engaged in at Fort Augustus under the presidency of the Right Rev. Abbott Burchall. To the Rev. Dom. Jerome Vaughan he has now sent, through his Eminence Cardinal Howard an autograph blessing, begging God to prosper the fresh efforts which Dom Jerome will be compelled to make to raise further funds necessary for the progress and completion of St. Benedict's Monastery, College and Hospital.

LECTURE ON THE REFORMATION.—In his lecture at Chicago, on the 6th inst., Bishop Spalding, referring to the Reformation, said—"In Germany it never succeeded. In Belgium but poorly. Two-thirds of them are still Catholics. It succeeded but poorly in Austria, in Poland, in Prussia; in Bohemia it was likewise driven out. In Switzerland it succeeded in the beginning, and but little in Holland. England, in point of doctrine, and in point of religious practices, separated herself less than any other nation. They held to all our doctrines. They held to the Seven Sacraments. They held to the priesthood. They adhered to Catholic discipline and Catholic teaching. It was only little by little that the Church of England separated herself from the Catholic Church.

THE REV. FATHER FABER, the celebrated English Oratorian, a convert from Anglicanism, widely known through his work on mystic theology, "All for Jesus," "Growth in Holiness," "The Blessed Sacrament," etc., and who died in 1863—a short time before his death, concluded the last sermon but one, which he ever preached, with the following remarkable passage: "The devil's worst and most fatal preparation for the coming of Antichrist is the weakening of men's belief in eternal punishment! Were they the last words that I might ever say to you, nothing should I wish to say to you with more emphasis, than this—that next to the thought of the Precious Blood, there is no thought in all your faith more precious, or more useful for you, than the thought of eternal punishment." These words of the holy mystic possess an ominous import, in view of the widespread and simultaneous rejection by Protestant ministers of the belief in the existence of Hell.—Buffalo Union.

CENTENARY OF CATHOLICISM IN BOSTON.—During the present year will occur the centennial of the introduction of Catholicism in Boston, and the Pilot, reviewing the growth of the Church there and in New England, suggests that it would be a happy thing for the Catholics of the "Hub" to commemorate the event. Immediately after the Revolution the Catholic population of Boston consisted of about thirty Irishmen, with a few Frenchmen and Spaniards. From that time, when the old laws of intolerance were repealed, the Church made rapid progress. In 1825 there were in New England 15,000 Catholics (about half of whom were in Boston), 3 priests, and 8 churches. Ten years after, according to Father Fitton (the oldest priest in New England, who recently celebrated his

golden jubilee in Boston), there were 40,000 Catholics, 27 priests, and 22 churches. The statistics of 1877 have been computed as follows: 549 priests, 508 churches, 167 chapels and stations, 2 colleges, 108 ecclesiastical students, 32 academies and select schools, 86 parish schools, 15 asylums, 6 hospitals, and a population estimated at 900,000.

THE LORD BISHOP OF CORK.—On Tuesday his Lordship, the Most Rev. William Delany, the venerated and beloved Bishop of Cork, completed his fiftieth year in the priesthood and entered on his golden jubilee in the ministry of the Church. The occasion is one which was a matter for joy to every Catholic in the land, and will be sure to bring to his lordship many a hearty congratulation, and many an earnest wish of multos annos for him in the lofty office he so well and worthily fills. It does not surprise us to hear that the event is one that has caused a peculiar pleasure to his Lordship's spiritual children in Cork, and that they are preparing to celebrate it with an affectionate evidence of their love and regard for their distinguished prelate. And in a city where pastor, priests, and people have been so long and intimately bound together as Dr. Delaney, his priests, and his flock have been in Cork, such a testimony is but the natural outcome of the relations that have subsisted between them. But the special ties that linked together the good prelate and his clergy, both secular and regular, seemed to require from the latter a special manifestation of their feelings towards him. They have lived on terms of the most unbroken affection, and have been to each other, in every event, as kind and gentle father and devoted and obedient sons. That their sentiments may find a fitting utterance, a committee has been organized by the priests of the diocese assembled at a meeting for the purpose, and has been authorized to prepare an address of congratulatory presentation to his Lordship next Sunday, and do such other acts as may be deemed advisable for making the celebration of the golden jubilee a memorable one in the ecclesiastical annals of Cork. A solemn High Mass of thanksgiving will be celebrated in the Cathedral at twelve o'clock on Sunday, and at its conclusion the address will be presented to his Lordship.

IRISH NEWS.

AT THE levee in DUBLIN CASTLE the Lord Lieutenant conferred the honour of knighthood upon Mr. John Prator, Mayor of Belfast.

MONSIEUR KIRBY has presented his Holiness with the sum of £1,700 from the Bishop, the clergy, and faithful of the diocese of Waterford and Lismore.

DR. BERT, the Home Rule leader, will not be able to attend the present session of the English Parliament on account of his health.

THE FOLLOWING public boards have, since the 1st of January, adopted petitions in favour of Sunday Closing:—Boards of Town Commissioners—Carlow, Drogheda, Mullingar, Ballyshannon, Rathfriland, and Blackrock. Poor-Law Boards—Euniscorthy, Ballymahon, Carlow, Kilkenny, Thomastown, and South Dublin Union.

THE ROMAN correspondent of the Tablet states positively that the Very Rev. Dr. McCarthy, Vice-President of maynooth, will be raised to the episcopacy as Bishop of Ardferd and Aghaboe (Kerry) in succession to the late reverend Dr. Moriarty. The correspondent adds that some changes in the boundary of the diocese will be made.

NO ARMISTS have yet been made in reference to the attempt to murder Mr. Tighe, bank manager near Ballina. It appears that he owed his escape to the fact that the horse, which was shot with a number of slugs, continued to run for a quarter of a mile before he fell dead. Mr. Tighe took refuge, with his cash-box, in a priest's house, while the wounded driver ran on to Ballina.

DARING ROBBERY OF ARMS.—A daring robbery was committed on the military barracks at Dunmore (County Galway). It appears that on a certain evening, while the officers and men of a detachment of the 14th Hussars, who have been for some time stationed in that quiet little town, were amusing themselves by dancing, &c., some person or persons yet unknown entered the barracks and extracted therefrom eleven carbines and other matters.

ALDERMAN GREGG, CONSERVATIVE Mayor of Cork has set a good example. On Sunday he not only attended in his official capacity the annual meeting of the Cork Catholic Young Men's Society, but proposed, as was the custom with the Catholic mayors for years past, the first resolution, adopting the annual report. It would be too much to present to expect any general imitation of this "dangerous" innovation. The Mayor of Cork, however, has done a gracious act.

AT a meeting of the committee for erecting a memorial monument to the late Right Rev. Dr. O'Hea, Bishop of Ross, held in the sacristy of Skibberen church January 3rd, it was proposed by Mr. M. Conroy Downing and seconded by Very Rev. J. Donegan, and was unanimously adopted:—"That a marble statue of the late Dr. O'Hea be erected in a suitable place in the church or outside the east not to exceed £250, the remainder of the sum (about £300) to be expended on either a high altar or memorial window, on such suggestions as may be made by the architect or sculptor."

LAMENTABLE SUICIDE BY A BANKER.—An inquiry was held in Bushmills by Dr. Dunlop, coroner for the district, in regard to the distressing death by suicide of Mr. Thos. M'Comb, bank manager at Bushmills. It appears Mr. M'Comb's genial manner caused him to over-indulge till about a fortnight ago, when he suddenly became a total abstainer. It is presumed the sudden change preyed on his nervous system, and his acquaintances noticed his strange, altered manner. It soon became evident that he was incapable of transacting business in his usual style, and Mr. Wales, from Baltist, took charge on last Monday. Mr. M'Comb spent Tuesday between Bushmills and Coleraine, and on Wednesday, after conducting himself in an excited manner, though not so violently as to lead parties to suspect that he meditated self-destruction, went into his library at two o'clock and shot himself in the head, as already reported. A very accurate inspection of the books, bills, cash, &c., was made by the bank officials, and it is satisfactory to learn that not one penny was astray. The jury returned a verdict of temporary insanity.

CORK YOUNG MEN'S SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of the Cork Young Men's Society was held on Sunday at their hall, in Castle-street under the auspices of the Right Rev. Dr. Delaney, whose presence in renovated health was the subject of general congratulations. The mayor, and many leading citizens took part in the proceedings. Mr. John George MacCarthy, M. P. one of the founders of the society, retired from the presidency, which he has held for the period of twenty-six years, and is succeeded by Tannan Coghlan. The gratitude of the society to their late president was expressed in a warm vote of thanks, proposed by the Bishop, to whom it was a source of regret that Mr. MacCarthy should have been obliged by other avocations to relinquish the office in which he had done so much good.—The Mayor moved the adoption of the report in an admirable speech, and was very cordially received, his participation in the proceedings being regarded as a graceful compliment to his Catholic fellow citizens and a token of his determination to set aside political and religious distinctions in the discharge of his official duties.—The Bishop delivered a splendid discourse upon the functions of the society as an exhortation to the members.—Addresses were also delivered by Mr. Murphy, M. P. Mr. John George MacCarthy, M. P., Canon Coghlan, and the Dean.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE CONFESSIONAL.—The London correspondent of the Manchester Guardian says—"The attention of the House of Lords is to be called to the book on the Confessional, by Dr. Pusey.

A CHINESE CATHOLIC NEWSPAPER.—China has come to be possessed of a newspaper whose title is the Hong Kong Catholic Register, and as it is, the first Catholic journal published in that country we hail its advent with pleasure. It will clear the way by-and-by, and promote the foundation of others.

THE VISIT TO NEW YORK AND BROOKLYN, of Mgr. Conroy, Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise, Ireland, and Delegate of the Holy See to the Church of Canada, will probably be shorter than will be desired by his friends and admirers, for here, as well as every place in which this language is spoken, the learned and able Bishop of Ardagh has admirers of his genius and his work. But short as it will be, it will afford his former children of All Hallows Missionary College an opportunity of offering him an honor which next to the favor of the Pontiff of whom he is a special representative, may well touch him as the most prized and honorable of all the distinctions of a career, which marked by great services to his Church and his country has been crowned by surpassing honors. In this case the reward is the grateful remembrance of men whose youth he trained for the honorable service to which Heaven has called them.—Catholic Review.

THE IRISH COLLEGE IN PARIS.—This was the theme of a lecture delivered on the 10th inst, by R. B. Farrell, late United States consul in Spain, at St. Joseph's Hall sixth Ave., for the benefit of the poor of St. Joseph's parish, New York. The lecture opened the subject by recalling the arrival on French coast in 1878 of the Rev. John Lee' and the Irish students, who were admitted in the name of charity, to the College de la Montagne, while was the first to open its doors to, and the last to close them upon, the refugees who went their during the time of Elizabeth and Pope Gregory. The lecture described, in a conversational way, Irish College—which is an outcome of the College de la Montagne—the difficulties and dangers that in fifteenth century attended the landing of these devout Irish students in France, and the generous encouragement given by Louis the Grand' and other French Kings and statesmen.

AN OFFICIAL ENUMERATION of the Methodists throughout the world reveals the somewhat surprising fact that this sect numbers all told but 28,714 ministers and 4,383,998 lay members. This, it is true, is exactly 4,412,602 too many; but, after all, what an insignificant number it is compared with the 250,000,000 who rejoice in being members of the Roman Catholic Church? The United States are the stronghold of Methodism. There are here no less than thirteen different kinds of Methodists, and they number 2,974 ministers and 3,315,311 lay members. But they are a persevering people, and they apparently carry their sectarianism into politics, for one of their newspapers boasts that while five years ago there were only three Methodists in Congress there are now twenty-five—eight in the Senate and seventeen in the House. If the American Catholics were equally well represented we should have twenty Senators and forty-two Congressmen. The Methodists, however, are vastly more numerous than the members of the Protestant Episcopal sect in the United States. The "Church Almanac" of that sect, just issued for the year 1878, gives the total number of its communicants in the United States as 281,971. How many Senators and Representatives they have is not stated.

A WONDERFUL PIECE OF MECHANISM.—A Capuchin friar in Turin has constructed a large and complicated work of mechanism by which the pain and sufferings of the Saviour from His condemnation before Herod to His death on the cross, are marvelously represented. On a constantly receding platform the figures appear and the scenes change. Not only are the movements of the automata lifelike, but the figures and scenery are masterpieces of art. The crowd clamoring for His death is represented by a very numerous group of figures, which are wonderfully distinct in action and appearance. The falling beneath the cross on the way to Calvary is painfully graphic. To render quite audible the lashing of the whips of the soldiers is one of the functions of the machinery. The scenes at the place of execution and the death of the Saviour are said to be beyond praise, and a writer in a Turin paper declares that the extraordinary mechanism has but one imperfection—the incapacity of making the figures articulate intelligibly. This imperfection is chiefly evident when the words are exchanged between the Redeemer and the penitent thief. The sounds emitted from the figures are in this instance ludicrous; but the friar hopes to remedy this defect, and his mechanism will in all likelihood be an object of wonder at the Paris Exhibition.

AN ENGLISH DEFENCE OF CONSTANTINOPLE.—Here the possession of Constantinople and the mastery of the Dardanelles will, if the war continues, be fought for, and it is here that English interest will, for many months, be centered. The line between Chatsaïda and the Bosphorus is naturally very strong. The hills rise sharply, and a series of earthworks judiciously placed, and held by thirty thousand good troops, ought to be able to resist the efforts of the Czar. We have seen in Plevna that earthworks resolutely held out in these days of breechloaders all but impregnable, and the Cheekmadgee line are naturally vastly stronger than are those round Plevna. This position, lying as it does twenty miles from Constantinople, and enclosing a track of country twenty miles from sea, to sea would afford ample space for the population who would fall back upon Roumelia with their flocks and herds on the advance of the Russians, and Constantinople, open to the sea and to the Asiatic shore, would be free from any pressure of famine. The invader, therefore, would have none of the advantages which enabled the Germans to take Paris. As the guns in the fleet of the Dardanelles and Gulf of Saros could cross fire over the whole line of defence, it is evident that comparatively weak works here would enable an army of fifteen thousand men to hold it against all comers. Were the tongue of land flat enough to be seen from the decks of the vessels of the fleet, mere field works would suffice; but the ground is high and broken, and regular fortifications would, therefore, be required. Gallipoli lies nearer to Adrianople than does Constantinople, and it would be absolutely necessary to defend this point as well as the capital, or the Russians arriving there would be able to command the Dardanelles, and although the guns they would be able to place in position would not be considered by ironclads, they would render the passage of the Straits a dangerous process for merchant vessels. The channel is tortuous, and winds from side to side of the Straits; therefore all vessels going up are obliged at one or two points to pass very close to the western shore. The defence of Gallipoli is, therefore, as essential as is that of Constantinople. Thus, Constantinople and the Dardanelles can be rendered secure from attack by a moderate force, well supplied with artillery and protected on its flanks by a powerful fleet—just such a force, in fact, as England could place there at a minimum of effort and expense. As we pointed out the other day, against such a defence as this the whole scheme of attack would break up like a wave upon a rock. We sincerely hope that this will not be the future of the war, but it is well that Englishmen should make themselves acquainted with the main features of the position.