

The Church Guardian.

"Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity."—Eph. vi. 24.
"Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."—Jude: 3.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1879.

One Dollar a Year.

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TUESDAY, the 25th November, is the 25th Anniversary of Bishop Horatio Potter, of New York, not Seymour, as misprinted in issue of Oct. 9.

SIGNOR LOMBARDI has been exhibiting lately in London a process, styled the poikilographic process, by which oil paintings can be reproduced in fac-simile. Its results are said to be surprisingly satisfactory.

THE *Academy* state that Mr. Heath Wilson and Mr. Pullan have forwarded to London from Florence their design for the decoration of the cupola of St. Paul's. The design is a voluntary contribution towards the solution of the problem of the interior decoration of the cathedral.

THE Crown Princess of Germany, during her stay in Styria, visited a mine at Bresno, going up the mountain to it in one of the trucks, thoroughly inspecting the works, and evincing much acquaintance with geology and mountain phenomena. She took tea with the overseer.

At Wissek, in Prussian Poland, a girl who professed to have seen the Virgin by a haystack attracted a crowd of 6,000 or 7,000 persons, although the priests warned them against the imposture. Gendarmes, however, were sent down; the hay was removed by the owner, and in it was discovered a bottle of water so corked as to leak slightly. This was apparently intended to fulfil the Virgin's promise to discover a sacred spring. German and Polish prayer-books and tracts were also found in the stack done up in a handkerchief. The girl was arrested.

THE Holy Synod of Russia is contemplating a reform of the monasteries and nunneries. The abuses in the former are said to be very grievous. Instead of leading a devout life the monks are accused of reveling in worldly amusement. Monks in Russia do not take the vow of poverty. Aside from their private property the monks hold a vast amount of corporate property. Their annual income exceeds 3,000,000 roubles. But all this is said to be as nothing in comparison with the gold and silver ornaments, pearls and jewels, costly plate and vestments. It is the intention of the Synod to take away the privilege of holding private property, and to curtail if possible, the amount of their corporate possessions.

It is estimated that the Jews are still about as numerous now as they were in the days of King David; that is to say, they are six or seven millions strong. Of these there are in Europe about five millions; in Asia, 200,000; in Africa, 80,000; America, from a million to a million and a half. More than half of the European Jews (2,621,000) reside in Russia; 1,375,000 in Austria (of whom 575,000 in the Polish province of Galicia); and 512,000 in Germany (61,000 in the Polish province of Posen, Roumania is credited with 274,000, and Turkey with 100,000. There are 70,000 in Holland, 50,000 in England, 49,000 in France, 35,000 in Italy; Spain and Portugal have between 2,000 and 4,000; 1,800 in Sweden, 25 in Norway. The population of Jerusalem is given as 7,000 Mahomedans, 5,000 Christians, and 13,500 Jews.

THE Rev. the Earl of Mulgrave, vicar of Worsley, will preach the sermon in St. Paul's Cathedral on the occasion of the consecration of the Rev. A. W. Sillitoe, the bishop of New Westminster. The consecration will take place on the Feast of St. Simon and St. Jude, October 28.

THE seventh of eight stained-glass lights in the window over Shakespeare's tomb has been placed lately. It is said to represent the "seven Ages of Man." This window has been so far filled with pictures by means of subscriptions given by citizens of the United States who have visited the church at Stratford-on-Avon.

THE tusk of Ivory sent by Cetowayo to Lord Chelmsford as a peace offering, or rather as an evidence of his desire for peace, has arrived safely at the Colonial Office, Whitehall. The tusk is 7 feet in length, and about half a yard in circumference at the girth, and it is the finest specimen of an elephant's tusk that has probably ever reached England.

It is related of the German Emperor that, inspecting a machine for tossing up glass balls used in substitution for living pigeons, at the Industrial Exhibition, he observed, "The man who has thus devised a substitute for the unhallowed sport of pigeon-shooting deserves a special distinction." A quiet-looking man was recently much to his surprise, saluted as the millionth visitor to the Exhibition, and as such was solemnly photographed.

An aeronaut, making an ascent from Rostow, on the Don, recently, was about to alight, when shots were aimed at him, and on nearing the ground found a crowd armed with scythes, hatchets and stones, preparing for an attack. On assuring them he was a mortal like themselves, a priest, extending a crucifix, told him to cross himself if he was a man and a Christian. He did so, and presently some one arrived and explained the mystery of ballooning to the people.

THE *London Pall Mall Gazette* contains the following item:—

"The War Office authorities have, it is stated, granted an application for a pension on behalf of Mrs. Butler, the widow of the late Roman Catholic Chaplain of the Forces at Devonport, and her two children. It is stated that as the marriage was legally solemnized, though uncanonical, according to the discipline of the Roman Catholic Church, the authorities had no alternative but to grant the pension."

SWITZERLAND has been visited this year by 1,400,000 strangers, a number which exceeds by several thousands the average of the last four years. German visitors have increased, but the English have diminished, on the other hand, one-half. The former—350,000—stayed only a very short time, and it is believed spent no more than 50f. each. The remainder are supposed to have spent at least 200f. each, which makes a total of 9,100,000f. left in the country this year by foreign tourists. The part of England in this voluntary tribute, according to the foregoing computation, is 1,820,000f.

Foreign Missions.

AFRICA.

BISHOP CROWTHER: HIS LIFE AND WORK.

(CONTINUED.)

ON THE NIGER.

Most great rivers have been discovered at their mouths, and their course traced up stream. It was not so with the Niger. That there was such a river somewhere in Western Central Africa was known in the last century; but in the edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica* published in 1797, it was confounded with the Senegal, which flows westward into the Atlantic Ocean. On July 21st of that very year, however, Mungo Park struck its upper waters near Segou, the capital of Bambarra. "I beheld," he says, "the long sought-for majestic Niger, glittering in the morning sun, as broad as the Thames at Westminster, and flowing slowly to the eastward." But thirty-three years more passed before its whole course was determined. Park was killed in the attempt to complete the explorations; Clapperton died in making a similar attempt; and it was not till 1830 that the brothers Lander, having travelled overland through the Yoruba country to Boussa, where Park met his death, descended the river from that point to its mouth in the Gulf of Guinea.

In 1841 the British Government fitted out the celebrated Niger Expedition, the main purpose of which was to aim a fresh and effectual blow at the slave-trade. "It is proposed," wrote Lord John Russell, then Colonial Secretary, under whose auspices it was undertaken, "to establish new commercial relations with those African chiefs and powers, within whose dominions the internal slave-trade of Africa is carried on, and the external slave-trade supplied with its victims. To this end, the Queen has directed her ministers to negotiate conventions or agreements with those chiefs and powers; the basis of which conventions would be: 1st, the abandonment and absolute prohibition of the slave-trade; and 2ndly, the admission, for consumption in this country, on favourable terms, of goods, the produce or manufacture of the territories subject to them." In this project, Prince Albert, then a young man, took a lively interest; and one of the three steamers of H.M. Navy fitted out for the expedition was named after him.

The Church Missionary Society saw in this scheme an opportunity for inquiring into the openings for the spread of the Gospel which the great river might present. Permission was obtained for two agents of the Society to accompany the expedition; and the men selected for this service were the Rev. J. F. Schon, an experienced Sierra Leone missionary, and Samuel Crowther. He was then still a young schoolmaster, thirty years of age. We have gone back from our last chapter sixteen years, in order to tell the story of his connection with the great river from the beginning.

The three steamers composing the expedition, the *Albert*, the *Soudan*, and the *Wilberforce*, sailed from Sierra Leone, on July 2nd, 1841, under the command of Captain (afterwards Admiral) H. D. Trotter. The ascent of the Niger was begun August 20th. Through the slimy mangrove swamps, with their fever-

breeding miasma, for the first twenty miles—then through a region of dense tropical forest, palms, bamboos, and gigantic cotton-trees—then past the first plantations of plantains and sugar-cane, with here and there a mud hut—the three vessels slowly steamed up the principal channel of the river; the natives in terror running away from the wonderful floating towns. At Ibo, 100 miles up, the expedition was warmly received by Obi, the king. Simcn Jonas, the Christian Ibo from Sierra Leone whom we mentioned in the last paper and who acted as interpreter, read to him some verses of Scripture, which astonished him greatly. That the white man should be able to do the same was more than he could believe. He seized Simon's hand, and exclaimed, "You must stop with me and teach me and my people." Both with him and with the King of Idda, another 100 miles futher up, treaties were concluded for the suppression of the slave-trade and of human sacrifices, and for the promotion of lawful commerce. At the highest point reached by the expedition, Egan (pronounced Egga), it fell to Crowther to communicate its objects to the king.

After a hearty salutation, by shaking of hands in the name of the king of the ship, and telling him the reasons why the ship could not then come near, I commenced my message: That the Queen of the country called Great Britain has sent the king of the ship to all the chiefs of Africa, to make treaties with them to give up war and the slave-trade, to encourage all their people to the cultivation of the soil, and to mind all that the white people say to them, as they wish to teach them many things, and particularly the Book which God gives, which make all men happy. I added, likewise, that there are many Nuff, Haussa, and Yoruba people in the white-men's country, who have been liberated from the Portuguese and Spanish slave-ships; that they are now living like white men; that they pray to God, and learn His book; and consequently are living a happier life than when they were in their own country, and much better off than their country-people are at present. [To this many of them said that they could judge of their happy state merely by my appearance. I added, moreover, that our country-people in white-men's country had written a letter to the Queen, who lives in Great Britain, expressing their wish to return to their country, if she would send white men along with them; but the Queen, who loves us all as her children, told them to stop till she had first sent her ships to the chiefs of Africa, to persuade them to give up war and the slave-trade; and if they consented to her proposals, she would readily grant the request of our country people. The ships are now come; the King of Ibo, and the Attah, King of Igalla, had consented to all that the Queen of Great Britain sent the king of the ship to say to them; and that if all the other chiefs would consent to do the same, they would soon see their people, whom they had lost for many years, and supposed to have been dead, come up this river with their property, and some even in their own ships to carry on legitimate trade with them, as they do in the white-men's country.]

But the expedition closed in sorrow and disappointment. A daily fever struck the crews, and 42 white men out of 150 died in two months. Egan was only reached by one of the steamers, the *Albert*,