

CATHOLIC INTELLIGENCE.

THE POPE.—The cablegrams, once more announce the illness of the Sovereign Pontiff.

CATHOLIC FAITH.—A work on Catholic Faith and doctrine is announced from the pen of His Grace Archbishop Lynch at an early date.

A FIZZLE.—The meeting called at Ottawa on the first of August to take steps to put down party processions was a grand failure, both as regards numbers and representation.

THE CASE OF ALLEGED PERJURY AT MANCHESTER.—Josephine Morris, the girl who some time ago brought a charge against Father Jackson S. J., and Mr. Shippey, solicitor, of having administered to her a drug, was tried at the recent Manchester assizes for perjury. She was acquitted on the ground that she was at the time she made the charge suffering from hysteria, and was not responsible for her actions.

HARD MEASURE.—A committee of Posen Catholics was formed last March, for the purpose of collecting subscriptions to procure a Reliquary which should be presented to the Holy Father, as a memorial of his jubilee. The collection not being authorized by the Governor of the province, was stopped by the police, and each member of the committee was fined 30 marks with the option of five days imprisonment. But on appeal this punishment was annulled.

THE NEW CRUSADE.—The following cablegram can be taken for what it is actually worth:—The Vatican has settled upon a new crusade, called the International League, for the defence of their rights and freedom, in view of anti-papal laws, the re-establishment of the temporal power, the restoration of the rights of Holy See, and the organization of Catholic press in every considerable centre. The new scheme causes extraordinary excitement on the Continent.

NEW CONVENT.—On the 8th July, Arthur Moore, Esq., M.P., laid the foundation stone of the new convent of Mercy in Chair, under the most favourable auspices. There was High Mass, which was celebrated by the Rev. Mr. Mooney, at which a very eloquent and appropriate sermon was preached by the Very Rev. Dean O'Brien, P.P., V.G., Newcastle West. The ground on which the new convent is being built close by the Catholic church and schools, and will constitute a memorable monument of the zeal of pastor and people.

THE HOLY CROSS SOCIETY.—The *East Sussex News* says that the Rev. E. H. Cross, recently appointed rector of one of the parishes in Lewes, and whose name was mentioned in the House of Lords, asking the Lord Chancellor knew that he was a member of the Society of the Holy Cross, has waived upon the Churchwarden of the parish yesterday afternoon, and expressed his determination after serious reflection, to entirely discontinue his connection with that society. The Rev. J. S. Curtis and Rev. J. S. Gardner, curates of Seven Oaks, whose names were recently published in the list of members of the Society of the Holy Cross, state that they have ceased to be connected with that society, recent statements and enquiries having convinced them that by such a connection they were committed to a line of action in matters both doctrinal and ceremonial with which they entirely disagree.

BELGIAN SOCIETY FOR THE CIVILIZATION OF AFRICA.—This Society, which has been established under the auspices of the King of the Belgians, already possesses a paid up and invested capital, producing an annual income of nearly £20,000. The society has decided on forming a scientific station near Tanganyika, to be presided over by an officer of the Belgian army. The society will also establish a permanent commercial depot at Zanzibar, and three missionary stations, one of which is to contain an establishment of Catholic missionaries, while the other two will be devoted to establishments of Protestant Missionaries. Relations have been entered into with the Sultan of Zanzibar and other able potentates, who it is hoped will patronize the projects of the society. The disproportionate liberality shown to Protestant missions has caused surprise and regret amongst Catholic supporters of the society.

THE EARL OF ONSLOW AT THE LEAGUE HALL.—The usual weekly meeting was held in the League Hall, St. Anne street, Liverpool. Father Nugent occupied the chair, and was supported by the Right Hon. the Earl of Onslow, the Very Rev. Canon Daly, and Messrs. C. McArdle, A. Allan, F. Murphy, E. Hennin, and J. J. Fitzpatrick. A new and extremely agreeable feature in the programme of amusements was introduced in the performances of a brass band. A really good selection of music was given in an excellent manner, and gave the utmost satisfaction to the audience. The remainder of the concert was fully equal to former occasions. Father Nugent, in a short address delivered between the parts of the concert, said two very important events had lately occurred in the town. He alluded to the Agricultural Show and to the July race meeting held at Liverpool. Those were both uncommon events in their own way, but he feared they were attended with evil influences to many of the people of the town.

ANGLO-AMERICAN DIGNITARIES ON CONFESSION.—The Bishop of Worcester says:—"In the year 1874, I then stated my belief, in a letter which subsequent experience has fully confirmed, that the systematic use of confession and absolution in private is calculated to move, more than any other practice which was deliberately laid aside by our reformers, the aversion and indignation of the people of this country." Canon Farrar, preaching in Westminster Abbey on Sunday afternoon from the words of the morning lesson as to St. Paul's converts "confessing their sins," denounced in strong language the practice of private confession. He said he knew several excellent persons who adopted the practice, but he could not help thinking they would be better in a Church where it was recognized. He thought any young person might as well confess to a parent as to a priest. Imagine, he said, a young man plucked at the university, and just scraping through the Bishop's examination, probing the tenderest feelings of the heart!

NEW CONVENT.—The following apocryphal intelligence has been sent over the Atlantic cable from Europe:—The Vatican has settled upon a new crusade, called the International Catholic League, for the defence of their rights and freedom, in view of the anti-papal laws; the re-establishment of the temporal power; the restoration of the rights of Holy See; and the organization of the Catholic press in every centre, and the supporting of a "General Correspondent," who shall receive his instructions from Rome, whose duty it shall be to transmit them to the newspapers of his district. The columns of the opposition press are to be met by legal proceedings. The Pope, in a private circular, expresses the hope that all Catholic Associations will unite in the League, and the nobility and clergy are ordered to unite in battling for the freedom and the universal sway of the church. The priests and bishops are urged to agree all for one and one for all. All the centres of the home organizations are to be in telegraphic communication, direct with the Vatican. The new scheme causes extraordinary excitement on the Continent, and, may, in some measure, account for the increasing friendliness of Italy and Germany. It is a curious fact that not one London journal has any information on this remarkable topic, but it is nevertheless a fact which I have on the best authority.

IRISH NEWS.

BANKRUPT.—Forbes L. Story, a Captain in the 69th Regiment of Foot, stationed at Kilkenny, in the county of the city of Kilkenny, was on the 29th of June, adjudged bankrupt.

JOSEPH'S HAT.—Mr. Joshua Jacob, a Limerick Quaker, who is wearing his hat in court, was expelled from the building by Judge Keogh, who had no respect for the scruples of Mr. Jacob. The latter has memorialized members of Parliament on the subject.

ABSENCE OF CRIME.—The Irish judges of assizes are one and all congratulating their grand juries on the remarkable and most creditable absence of crime in the country. Every man with decent vision knows that Ireland is in an admirable condition. Nevertheless, Lord Oranmore want the Government to believe that something very like a state of siege is called for. Some people are never satisfied unless they are tyrannizing.

LONGEVITY AMONG THE IRISH PEOPLE.—Wonderful is the longevity of the Irish people in America. Every week gives evidence of this in the column of our exchanges. On the 26th ult., Mrs. Anne Henry, an Irishwoman, died in New York at the age of 105. At a golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kelly, of Freedom, Pa., recently, the proceedings were graced by the presence, in excellent health, of the bride's mother also an Irishwoman, who had attained an age somewhere near 110 years.

STATISTICS.—The number of births registered in the Dublin district during the three months ended the 30th of June, 1877, amounted to 2,410 divided into the nearly equal numbers of 1,223 boys and 1,188 girls, an annual ratio of 1 in 326 inhabitants. The deaths for the quarter amounted to 2,361—1,50 males and 1,211 females; so that, contrary to what takes place in other countries, more females than males die in Ireland. The total death rate was 30 in every 1,000 of the population.

LIGHT CALENDAR.—At the opening of the Assizes for the county of Kilkenny, on July 12th, there were only four bills to go before the Grand Jurors, and these related to charges of a trivial nature. A few minutes sufficed to get through the Grand Jurors' business, and they then were dismissed by Sergeant Armstrong. In the City Court but one criminal case was on the calendar, and this was but a charge against a prisoner in the jail for committing an assault upon a warder.

SCIENCE AND ART MUSEUM.—The Dublin Corporation have passed a resolution protesting against the placing of the intended Government Science and Art Museum of Dublin under the Science and Art Department of South Kensington. They argue that it should be managed by Irishmen directly responsible to the Government. Institutions so venerable and valuable as those proposed to be transferred would be lowered by subjection to a mere mere show like that of South Kensington.

MEETING.—A special meeting of the Limerick Corporation was held on July 11, the Mayor in the chair, when the Law Adviser, Mr. P. S. Connolly, stated that the long continued contest between the Corporation gas works and that of the United General Gas Company had ceased, the latter agreeing to sell to the former for £27,000. The Corporation unanimously ratified the agreement, and the Law Adviser was authorized to take the necessary steps to give effect to the resolution of the Corporation.

SURVEY.—Captain Hall, R.N., hopes to have the survey of the Shannon from Limerick to Foynes completed before the end of the present season. His exertions, hitherto, have been attended with the utmost success. The survey has been made under his directions, on the largest scale, and the hidden dangers of the river are now so clearly revealed and mapped that future navigators can very easily avoid them. Captain Kerr, R.N., superintended the survey from Foynes down, which is not on so large a scale as Captain Hall's.

PILGRIMAGE.—The proposed pilgrimage to Mellifont and Monastereboice is creating the greatest interest in all circles. It will take place on Wednesday, the 15th of August, the festival of the Assumption, and the procession will start from Drogheda at 12 o'clock, noon, immediately after the tolling of the Angelus bell, and proceed to Water-under, Tullyallen village, and on by Lanchecross, to Mellifont, and after a rest there of an hour or so, it will proceed to Monastereboice. It is thought that the procession will be one of enormous length, as letters are being received from persons and religious bodies requesting information on the subject.

IMPORTANT AUCTION.—Mr. Goff auctioneer, held an important sale at Raheenbeg Geashill, King's County, for Mr. Herbert J. Bellamer, on July 11th. The interest in the farm house, and offices, of Raheenbeg, containing 165 Irish acres, held for ever, under fee farm grant, at about 32s. per acre, was sold for the sum of £2,000 to Mr. Michael Dawson, Newton, Naas, County Kildare. The sheep, about 300, sold in pens of ten each, brought fair prices. Hoggets, 48s. to 51s.; the ewes, 47s. to 53s.; lambs, 30s. to 33s. Mr. Goff also disposed of a short time ago, for Mr. B. W. Dunne, his interest in the farm of Kilantogul, containing 105 Irish acres, held by lease for the unexpired term of 90 years. Mr. J. G. Coffey, of Mullingar, was the purchaser, for the sum of £1,640, and auctioneer's commission.

SALMON FISHING.—The *Freeman's Journal* writing from Enniscorthy, on July 6th says:—"Large numbers of salmon, on both Saturday and Sunday, were seen making their way into the river Slaney. The Messrs. Cortley, the men who fish the draught off the quay of this town were consequently on the *qui vive* this morning, and before noon they captured the immense number of eighty-one salmon, thirty-nine having been taken in one hour. The weight of the fish ranges from 4 lbs. and 17 lbs., some splendid salmon being among the take, and the whole in tolerably good condition. Very large takes have also been made at several of the fishing places along the Slaney. At Kilgobbin, Raheen, Milehough, Cornwall and Ferrycarrig, I have been informed immense numbers have been captured lately. This has been one of the best seasons for salmon fishing with the net known for some years, but the worst for rod fishing. Some of the licensed rodmen, did not up to the present time, catch a single fish. I have been told the fish taken here to-day are worth from £35 to £40."

BLACKER ESTATE.—The Listowel correspondent of the *Cork Herald* says:—"I have been informed that Mr. St. John Thomas Blacker, the owner of an extensive property in North Kerry, has notified his tenants of his intention of re-adjusting the rents and valuations of their holdings. We understand the majority of the tenants held under leases, which have just expired, and the expiration of the term has made the occasion of the proposed rise of rents all over the property, and for this purpose a Mr. Scholard, surveyor and valuator, has already gone over the lands to make his calculations for the basis of the new rents. Some of the tenants have been apprised of the amount of their future rents, which, it is said are so much in excess of the former rents, that the tenants have some reason for the murmurs of dissatisfaction which have reached us. What gives additional hardship to the cases of those tenants is that they were compelled by a covenant in their leases to improve and reclaim the land, and now, after having effected those improvements, they find they are not to enjoy the well-earned fruits of their labor and industry, without taxation, in the shape of increased rent."

WAR NEWS.

It is reported the Czarwitich's army is retreating towards the river Yantra.

MOBILIZATION.—The mobilization of 90,000 Austrian troops is officially sanctioned.

DEFIED.—Col. Wellesley has addressed a report to the British Government categorically denying the cruelties with which the Russians are charged.

RUSSIANS AGAIN DEFEATED.—The *Telegraph's* special agent gives an account of another defeat of the Russians before Plevna on Wednesday.

TROUBLE.—If the reported Russian defeat is true serious trouble may be expected at St. Petersburg where orders for new levies are causing a panic.

MONITORS CAPTURED.—Two Turkish monitors have been captured at Nikopolis nearly ready for service. Sailors have arrived from St. Petersburg. Grand Duke Alexis will command the Danube flotilla.

EXPLANATION.—Andrassy demands an explanation of Russia's action in Bulgarian affairs, and her cooperation with Roumania, declaring they are contrary to the understanding with the Reichstadt Convention.

THE GREAT BATTLE.—A hundred thousand were engaged on each side in the great battle of Plevna. The Russians were routed and discouraged and pushed across Sistova bridge into Roumania.

POOR ROUMANIA.—Grand Duke Nicholas blames the Roumanians for the Russian defeat at Plevna; he says the Roumanians failed to obey the order to occupy Nikopolis, consequently preventing the Russian garrison from attacking Osman Pasha.

MORE TROOPS FOR THE DANUBE.—The Russian Minister of War has issued orders, directing army corps not yet mobilized to furnish a division each to the fighting army, to be at once despatched to the Danube.

UNNECESSARY.—In the House of Commons Sir Stafford Northcote said a special vote on account of sending troops to the East was unnecessary, and it was doubtful whether it will be necessary to ask any further sum this year.

TREATY RIGHT.—H.M.S. Flamingo and Condor, which went to assert Great Britain's treaty right to maintain two gunboats on the Danube, were accompanied to the Black Sea by the iron-clads Shannon and Agincourt, to support them should their passage be opposed.

RETREATING.—The Cossacks on approach of Suleiman Pasha's scouts fell back toward the river Tieto, which shows that the Russian corps which on July 27 held Tieto Saum had fallen back on the Yantra. Communications have been re-established with Rastchuk.

SOMEbody TO BLAME.—The Grand Duke Nicholas blames the Roumanians for the Russian defeat at Plevna. He says the Roumanians failed to obey orders to occupy Nikopolis, consequently preventing the Russian garrison from attacking Osman Pasha.

THE LANDWEHR NOT CALLED OUT.—The Russian journals say the Czar sanctioned the decree calling out the Landwehr, because there is a law providing the Landwehr will not be called out until the entire army is mobilized. All hitherto done consists in preparation for mobilization of the Landwehr whenever called out.

BATTLE OF PLEVNA.—A detailed narrative of the battle of Plevna gives the Russian forces as 32,000 infantry, 60 field guns and three brigades of cavalry and says this defeat makes the Russian hold in Bulgaria extremely precarious, and must compel the withdrawal of troops from some other point where they are nearly as badly needed to beat the Turks as at Plevna.

FURTHER RUSSIAN DEFEAT.—The Russians have been defeated in various encounters, but will not permit the news to be reported. The Czar is overwhelmed with grief at the Russian disasters. The hour which was to reveal the Turkish astonishingly effective plan of defence between the Danube and the Balkans has come. Osman Pasha seems to be its hero.

THE GREEKS MENACING.—An Athens despatch says letters describing outrages at Kavara are causing much indignation; the accounts, though exaggerated, are believed substantially true. The Spoketes in Crete are defying the Governor-General; the Greek Government with difficulty restrain the Thessalonians from rising before the Kingdom is armed.

AVENGERS.—Official papers laid before Parliament contain the following:—"The English Consul at Slious informs Minister Layard, under date of July 14, that the Russians stir the Bulgarians and arm them; that they tore out the eyes of Mussulmans whom they killed at Sistova and filled the sockets with bread; men, women and children are outraged and murdered in a horrible manner. Valachians and Bulgarians accompany the Russian army in bands calling themselves avengers."

A GREAT BATTLE.—Arief Pacha has resigned the Foreign Ministry and is succeeded by Zervir Pacha. Osman Pacha telegraphs from Plevna July 30th:—"Three strong Russian corps attacked us this morning; the cannonade lasted two hours, then a general engagement ensued, which lasted until ten o'clock at night, when the Russians retreated; prisoners say the Russians numbered 60,000 infantry and three regiments of cavalry and had 50 guns. It is expected the battle will recommence to-morrow."

AUSTRIA ARMING.—The Ministerial Council under the Presidency of the Emperor, to-day decided to mobilize three army-corps, which it is said will be stationed on the frontiers of Dalmatia, Croatia and Slavonia; it has been left to Count Andrassy to fix the time when these measures will be put into execution. The importance of the resolution is not that two or three army-corps will be placed on a war footing, but that the Empire is going to drop its passive attitude for one of armed neutrality.

TALK OF PEACE.—The *Times* cables say the Czar and Gortschakoff are anxious for peace and desire to send Ignatieff to Constantinople to make terms with out interference from other powers. Details of settlement include the independence of the Christian states defended by the Balkans; the cession of half of the Turkish fleet in the Black Sea; that Batoum shall be a Russian port and that all Daurbian forts be destroyed. Austria's declaration that since Roumania crossed the Danube she must take the consequence has depressed the Roumanians; their Minister of War has gone to see the Austrian Emperor.

HOW PLEVNA WAS LOST.—The *Herald's* cable despatch says the Plevna repulse is the only serious reverse the Russians have yet encountered. It occurred through the neglect of Gen. Krudener to protect his flank by failing to send cavalry to occupy Plevna when he was proceeding against Nicholas. The only opportunity of the Turkish column, marching from Widdin too late, to relieve Nicholas, was to occupy Plevna. Krudener, intending to repair his blunder in failing to seize Plevna, sent three regiments to occupy it, which they did after a severe fight, and then laid aside their accoutrements and scattered through the streets. Suddenly a dreadful musketry fire was opened on them from a hundred windows, and the Russians precipitately fled from the town. Another correspondent attributed the Plevna defeat to the Russians being flanked and attacked in the rear by the Turkish division. The Russians saved their cannon. Osman Pasha admits both sides lost enormously. Austrian officers ascribe the victory partly to the superiority of the Martini-Henry rifles used by the Turks.

MISCELLANEOUS.

SWEDEN ARMING.—The *Political Correspondence* states that Sweden, in view of the political situation contemplates some military preparations.

SUSPENDED.—The *Herald* says Surveyor-General Kimball, of Utah, has been suspended, after an investigation by the Interior Department.

POLITICAL CLUBS CLOSED.—Numerous clubs and departments have been closed in Paris, because they are centres of political propaganda. Prosecutions against newspapers continue.

AUSTRIA EXCITED.—Austria and Hungary are arming. A regiment of engineers left last night for Lania and other points on the frontier. War is considered probable.

SPLIT IN THE CAMP.—A complete split has occurred in the Bonapartist camp in France, owing to Paul de Cassagnac's refusal to recognize the authority of the Bonapartist Committee.

FIRE.—A fire broke out in St. Patrick's Hall and several banners were destroyed. The origin of the fire is unknown, but it is said the Orangemen had some hand in it.

CEREBRATION.—Last Sunday being the feast of St. Alphonsus, the founder of the Redemptorist order, the clergy of that order in Quebec celebrated it well becoming solemnity. The Delegate Apostolic participated.

FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY.—Sir Michael Hicks Beach will become First Lord of the Admiralty, and Hon. Mr. Plunkett, present Solicitor-General for Ireland, will succeed Sir Michael as Chief Secretary for Ireland.

STARVED TO DEATH.—Last year the metropolitan district was marked by no less than forty-four deaths from actual starvation. Seven of the victims died in the St. Pancras Workhouse. This is not complimentary to London.

THE EMPRESS EUGENE.—The Empress Eugenie left Lisbon, for England, on board the royal mail steamer Elbe, which proceeded to Southampton. Her Majesty met with a cordial reception from the King and Queen of Portugal.

ITALY'S INTERESTS.—A despatch says it must be remembered that Italy is more directly concerned in what is going on in Western Europe than in the Eastern difficulty; she has a joint interest with Germany in the result of the approaching French elections. Italy will follow Germany in the Eastern question.

REINFORCEMENT.—The Russian Centre, which has been reinforced by 14 battalions of infantry and 3 field batteries has resumed the offensive. There has been continuous fighting on the advance lines before Kars. Gen. Terogoukoff has also been reinforced by 5 regiments of dragoons. The Russian Right is marching on Penck.

THE REDEMPTORIST ORDER.—On Sunday next the reverend clergy of this order will celebrate the feast of St. Alphonsus, the founder of their order, with grand ceremonial at St. Patrick's Church. His Excellency the Delegate Apostolic and the Archbishop, are expected to be present and take part in the observance of the feast.

ORANGEMAN ASSAULTED.—Mr. Porter, who had charge of the Ottawa party in Montreal was assaulted by one DeBoucherville, who struck him with a stick, without, however, injuring him. Mr. Porter asked DeBoucherville why he acted as he did, and was told that it was none of his business. DeBoucherville was arrested, but upon his apologizing the charge was withdrawn.

THE MEXICAN BORDER TROUBLES.—Gen. Benavides, a distinguished Mexican officer appointed by Diaz to make an inspection of the Rio Grande, had a most satisfactory interview with General Ord. Negotiations with the Mexicans are progressing for extradition of raiding Lipan Indians. It is believed the recent reported raid into Texas was delayed by Valdez to draw Naranjo's forces from Piedras Negras so that Valdez could capture it.

THE STRIKE.—The *Times* says the prompt resistance of a party of citizens to the mob at Scranton on Tuesday saved the city from Pittsburg's fate. Not one third of the miners favor the strike, but are overawed by a few irresponsible young rioters. The *Sun* reports that warrants have been issued at Scranton for the members of the citizens' military who fired on the mob. At Shenandoah the miners' meeting yesterday resolved on a general strike.

BUSINESS RETRIVING.—From all quarters of the region affected by the recent labour troubles in the United States reports are coming in of resumed activity on the railway lines, railroad employees asking to be employed at the old rates, and in many being refused. In Pennsylvania and the mining districts of Maryland the disturbances by miners still continue, and in the first named State the Molly Maguires are at work fomenting further trouble. At Wilkesbarre the state of affairs is especially bad. The engineers have been driven from the pumps and several of the mines are flooded. In the Lehigh region the suspension of collieries is complete, and at Audenried twenty thousand miners and labourers are out of work and there is great suffering among the people. The New York evening papers yesterday stated the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers have organized a general strike, which will take place before the end of next week.

THE LONDON IRISH VOLUNTEERS.—On the 16th July last, the London Irish Rifle Volunteers held their annual inspection in Hyde Park. The corps mustered in the square of Somerset House, whence they marched, under Major Farnival, to the ground opposite the site of the Knightsbridge Barracks. Here also was the Marquis of Donegal, the colonel of the regiment. The corps, having marched upon the ground, was formed into line by Colonel Warde, and very shortly afterwards Col. Fielding, of the Guards, rode in to inspect them. The number present was 815 all told, and Colonel Fielding expressed himself as highly pleased with their appearance, and especially with the excellent care taken of their arms, which in this corps are in charge of the men themselves, not being consigned to the care of an armorer. The marching past which followed was excellent, the twelve companies moving past with complete regularity, and in such style as to elicit frequent cheers from the spectators. After having performed some evolutions and gone through the new attack drill very creditably the corps were dismissed.

THE STRIKE IN THE UNITED STATES.—Quiet has now been restored in nearly all the States of the Union with the exception of Pennsylvania, where matters are as bad as ever they were. A serious riot, excited by an outside mob, broke out yesterday at Scranton, during the course of which a furious attack was made upon the Mayor, who was seriously injured and would undoubtedly have been killed but for the interposition of a Catholic priest. The volunteers were ordered out and fired upon the mob, after having been first assailed with sticks and stones. Four of the rioters were killed outright by the first volley, and several wounded. The mob then dispersed. At Wilkesbarre the mines are being flooded, and fresh trouble is anticipated at Pittsburg, where a strong force of military is kept on guard. At Fort Wayne the Pittsburg and Fort Wayne road is more tightly blockaded than ever, and at Plymouth the rioters refuse to allow trains to pass on the Lackawanna and Bloomsburg divisions. In West Virginia the strike has been completely broken down, and the late strikers are now begging for work.

NATURALISTS' PORTFOLIO.

A GIGANTIC FIR TREE.—A fir tree, 139 feet high and 71 inches in diameter two feet above the ground has been cut down in Hungary. This, for a European tree, is of a size very rarely met with. In America such trees are more common.

ANTARCTIC SEAWEEDS.—In the Antarctic seas there are seaweeds which have stems about 20 feet high, and with a diameter so great that they have been collected by mariners in those regions for fuel, under the belief that they were driftwood. They are about two feet in circumference.

SPIDERS AND THIS WEATHER.—It is asserted that when the weather is wet and windy, spiders spin only very short lines, but when a spider spins a long thread, there is a certainty of fine weather for at least ten or twelve days afterwards. It is very singular thing that, excepting the chief lines, the webs of spiders are sometimes taken down by the little constructors, with as much care as they are formed, and that this is always before rain.

CONVEYANCE OF LIVE SALMONS.—Mr. Carrington, speaking of the introduction of a salmon to the Westminster Aquarium, says: "This is the first experiment of conveying a live salmon to London," and puts the distance travelled at 112 miles. We may remind him that in April, 1873, three full-grown salmon were successfully conveyed alive from the Usk to the Aquarium at Brighton, passing through London, and in this case the distance travelled considerably exceeded 200 miles.

CAPTURE OF A MOTH IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.—A brightly-coloured East Indian moth, of the species known as *Ophidera materna*, was lately exhibited at a meeting of the Entomological Society. It was chiefly remarkable for having been met with and captured at sea, in the Southern Indian Ocean, three hundred and sixty miles from the nearest land, which was the island of Mauritius. The same species of moth is widely distributed, having been found in Brazil, and quite lately in Florida.

A WHALE HUNT.—Letters from Lerwick describe a successful whale hunt which took place last Friday at Sandwick Bay, west coast of Shetland. A large shoal of whales was discovered swimming at a rapid speed through the narrow neck of the bays. Boats were immediately manned, and the whales were hemmed in and driven on shore. Men, women, and children took part in the attack which followed, and no fewer than 81 whales were despatched with fish knives attached to the end of boat-hooks. A large quantity of blubber was secured, of which the proprietor of the island claims a third.

PINE-TREE OIL.—Between Bordeaux and Bayonne there is a large stretch of sandy desert, where there is a little vegetation, save here and there patches of pine-trees. From these trees there runs a resinous matter, which is collected and sold by the inhabitants of the region. This substance has recently been studied by M. Guillemae, and he has now announced to the French Academy of Sciences that he has produced three kinds of oil from the material, all rich in carbon, containing respectively 80, 90, and 92 per cent. of that element. The light yielded on burning the oils is remarkable for its whiteness and steadiness, and it is said to be suitable for lighthouse illumination.

A HORSE FROG.—Amongst the donations recently received by the Royal Zoological Society of Ireland is a singular animal the—horned frog (*Phrynosoma Cornutus*). Another name proposed for it is *Diabolus ipso Cornutus*, to which the singular animal seems well entitled. At present, in cold weather it is kept for warmth by one of the council. The creature is in body shaped like a frog, but carries its head erect, and has a most intelligent eye. Its feet, instead of terminating in soft toes like the frog's has each toe armed with a claw. It has a tail shaped like a crocodile armed along each side with sharp spines. On its back running along each side of the spine, are several dark-coloured discs. From the centre of each disc rises a spike such as worn by some knights of old on their armor. On his head he carries four horns, and on his chest a semicircle of spines, resembling a necklace of claws of the grisly bear. Altogether the creature, which comes from Texas, is one of the most singular of the reptile tribe.

KILLING FISH WITH DYNAMITE.—The inspectors of salmon fisheries for England and Wales held two public enquiries at Newark and Nottingham last week into the alleged practice of using dynamite for the purpose of taking fish. The inquiries at both towns are numerously attended, and some extraordinary evidence was adduced. It was shown that for some time past the Trent had been infested by gangs of men who made it a practice under the cover of night, or very early early in the morning when no persons were astir, to fling in four or five charges of dynamite, or cartridges, and a few minutes afterwards the surface of the water was found covered with roach, dace, club, and brawd. The bones of the fish, when cut open, were found to be pierced by small holes the size of a pinhead, and the flesh assumed a yellow tint. Fish, it is stated could easily be killed within twenty yards of the spot where dynamite was thrown in. There was no lack of evidence of the nefarious practice at both towns, and the persons interested in obtaining the enquiries were recommended by the inspectors to get a bill drafted out, and then get their members to go to the Home Secretary and ask him to support it. It was too late to do anything in this session, but they would move in the matter next January. Meanwhile it is the duty of every angler to watch the river and denounce all offenders.—*Fishing Gazette*.

FATAL TIGER HUNT.—Two tiger stories come from India, the one very melancholy, the other amusing. At a village in Mofussil, about eighty miles from Nusserebad, a ferocious male tiger had recently been reported as prowling about in quest of prey. A hunting party of three Englishmen set out on their expedition, mounted on a pair of elephants. The beast was one of the fiercest sort, and openly showed himself, as if in challenge to the party. His first act was to seize one of the native beaters by the shoulder, and fling him almost dead at his feet; a bullet was fired at him, but he managed to "dedge" it, and then rushing at one elephant, which ran away terror-stricken, he made a sudden stop and sprang on the back of the other, tearing off its rider, Captain Bolden, a powerfully-built man and an experienced abikore. The poor gentleman was fearfully lacerated in his lower limbs, but the tiger did not seem to desire to kill him for he set off immediately after the elephant, and was soon lost to view. The wounded officer was carried to his tent, medical aid was sent for, and arrived in a couple of days, the painful operation of amputation of a thigh was performed, but to no good avail. The *Delhi Gazette* states that "Captain Bolden sent a last greeting to his colonel in reply to a letter that had just come in from Nusserebad, moved his panic-stricken frame a little as he turned his weary head and died."—In the other case three keen sportsmen related to have gone on the trail of a couple of tigers that were making havoc with the cattle of Mount Aboon in the Bombay Presidency; they lay in ambush with rifles ready, when, just as the moon shed its silvery light on the ravine where the monsters were expected to come and feast on the carcass of a bullock. The tread of the velvet paws was heard. Stealthily the tigers neared their doom; when suddenly a "pop" alarmed the beast, and they beat a retreat. A servant had carelessly opened a soda-water bottle. That servant passed a very unpleasant five minutes, but one cannot help regretting that Captain Bolden had not a single bullet in his train.