

CATHOLIC INTELLIGENCE.

NEW CHURCHES.—Two large, handsome, new Roman Catholic stone churches are now in course of construction in the adjoining county of Lewis, one at St. Telisphore, and the other at St. David de Laurivière.

JESUIT RELICS.—A Detroit, Mich., despatch says: "The bones found in the ruins on the Straits of Mackinac are believed to be those of Father Marquette, the celebrated Jesuit missionary, who died in 1675, and was interred under a chapel."

THE POPE AND VICTOR EMANUEL'S SON.—The cable says:—"The Pope has sent a long and affectionate letter to Prince Amadeus, in which he rejoices with him that Divine Providence has seen fit to preserve him from the serious peril to which he was recently exposed, and expresses his hope that the Prince's life may long be spared for the good of his children and of his country."

DEATH OF CARDINAL BIZZARRI.—His Eminence Cardinal Bizzarri died in Rome on the 15th August. He was born in Paliano, in the diocese of Palestrina, on May 11, 1802, created Cardinal in the Consistory of March 16, 1863, with the title of St. Balbina, which he exchanged in 1875 for that of St. Girolamo degli Schiavoni. His Eminence was Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars and of that of Regular Discipline.

AMERICAN ECCLESIASTICS.—A good number of American prelates and priests who have been spending some of their holidays in Ireland, took their departure for the scenes of their ministry on the 24th August. They will leave Queenstown by the City of Berlin, which starts on that day. Amongst them will be the Right Rev. Dr. Gahberry, Bishop of Hartford; the Rev. T. R. Morgan, Princeton, New Jersey; and the Rev. Mr. Callan, Newark.

INTERESTING DISCOVERY.—A Genoese, for many years settled in South America, writes to the *Courier Mercuriale* of his native city to say that there had been recently found during the repairs of a subterranean vault in the Cathedral of San Domingo (in the Republic of the same) a leaden coffin containing a body, with the following inscription:—"Amante Don Luis Colon, Duque de Veragua Ao . . ." The date could not be deciphered, as some nails had been driven in the space occupied by the figures. The remains are stated to be of Don Luis Colon (or Colombo), son of Don Diego, who, as may be remembered, was the son of the navigator Christopher Columbus.

THE COLORED CATHOLICS IN WASHINGTON.—Speaking of the colored Catholics of Washington, D. C., the *Washington Capital* says:—"The age of miracles, we are told, is past, and, yielding to the materialism of the times, few hesitate to accept the dictum. When, however, such a spectacle is presented as that of a young Italian priest, Rev. Felix Darotti, unaided by divine assistance coming among a poor, despised people, and yesterday almost homeless, certainly in a state of vassalage, gathering them together as a father indeed, and, as if by magic, erecting for them the most magnificent church edifice at the federal capital, attended, as it constantly is, by a numerous congregation of devout worshippers, fortified by faith against the world, the flesh, and the devil—in our day, and in this meridian, looks much like a miracle."

THE JUBILEE TRIBUTE TO THE POPE.—Only now has there been time to realize the exact proportions of the magnificent outburst of generosity which caused the whole Catholic world to pour its offerings at the feet of the Holy Father last Spring. From Ireland to Japan deputations of pilgrims arrived in such rapid succession in the Eternal City with the munificent gifts of their co-religionists that little more could be done at the moment than make a hasty note to each tribute of money and consign it to the immense depository prepared in the apartments of Cardinal Simeoni, the Papal Secretary of State. The presents which took forms other than that of money were, of course, exhibited at once to the admiring gaze of the faithful, and no estimate of their intrinsic value can ever be arrived at. The actual coin has, however, just been counted, and it is found to have amounted to 16,476,381 lire, or nearly £600,000. Considerably more than half of this was handed in gold to the treasurer, the rest being in notes and drafts. It is stated that the Pope, with his characteristic liberality, has retained only four million lire (£150,000) to meet the heavy demands on his exchequer, and has ordered a distribution of the remainder as follows: Four million lire to be invested for the benefit of the present and former servants and soldiers of the Holy See who have remained faithful to it; a similar sum to be devoted to the restoration of churches and the execution of works of public usefulness; and the rest to be given in subsidies to benevolent institutions, and to aid poor priests, monks, and nuns. A more noble contribution was never made by the Catholic world—a more generous disposition of the gift could not have been made.—*London Cor. of Freeman.*

THE ELECTION OF A POPE.—The scene of all recent conclaves has been the Pauline Chapel, in the Palace of the Quirinal; and if the walls of that chapel could tell tales, we should hear many racy anecdotes of Italian wit and diplomacy. A Bull of Gregory X. regulates the ceremonial even to its minutest detail, and that Bull prescribes that the cardinals, entering the conclave with a single attendant, shall be kept in close confinement till they have made a Pope, and if they have not agreed upon a name within three days, that they shall be restricted to one dish each at dinner and supper till the fifth day, and that after the fifth day they shall be reduced to bread, wine, and water. Perhaps it need hardly be said that the mode of election is the ballot. The voting takes place in the presbytery, in front of the altar, and the cardinals are seated within the railings of the presbytery, with all the conveniences for writing. A canopy of green silk marks the stalls of those cardinals whose creation dates back before the last pontificate. The creations of the last Pope are distinguished by violet. The Bull of Gregory X. recognizes three modes of selection—by inspiration, by compromise, and by ballot; but the principal mode to use is that of the ballot. This is taken with the greatest secrecy; and it is seldom known out of the conclave, and not often within it, how the cardinals individually vote. The electors are strictly forbidden to confer with anyone, even with their colleagues; and the voting takes place through sealed papers; that is to say, each cardinal at the first ballot writes upon a slip of paper the name of his candidate, and in order to identify it, if necessary, adds a text of Scripture at one end of his vote, and his name at the other end. These ends are both folded up, and the vote with its open name is placed in the consecrated chalice standing on the altar of the chapel. If in the first ballot any one comes out with two-thirds of the votes, there is an end of the matter—the Pope is made. But if no one has a majority, a second ballot is taken, in order to give those who wish an opportunity to accede to the vote of another. This is called voting by access. It is the second form of ballot; and it is generally taken in the afternoon. It is possible that in this way the majority may be produced. But if it is not, the papers are burnt, and the conclave adjourns. The next day the votes are taken afresh, and taken, if necessary, day after day. It is the common process of casting out, and the only restriction upon the voting is, that no cardinal shall vote for himself. This is why the votes are required to be signed, in order, if necessary, to ascertain that the requisite majority, when it is an exact majority, has not been made up by the vote of the cardinal himself.

IRISH NEWS.

VICEROYALTY AND ORANGE LIGES.—The statement in the *Ulster Examiner* of the fact of her Grace the Duchess of Marlborough and Lady O'Neill carrying Orange lilies through Randalstown lately, excited much comment.

BURNING EFFIGIES OF LUNDY AND KING WILLIAM.—In Ballymacarrett, one of the suburbs of Belfast, August 13th, the Protestants burned the effigy of Lundy, and tar-barrels, in celebration of the relief of Derry. There was a good deal of disturbance, and the Catholics in the same district had prepared an effigy of King William, and had it ready for burning, but the police of the district, who were augmented by numerous detachments from County Donegal, succeeded in preventing the burning of the effigy.

THE IRISH CONSTABULARY.—CADET REGULATIONS.—Inspector General Hillier has just issued the Regulations under which gentlemen are to be admitted as Cadets of the Royal Irish Constabulary. The physical requirements are not severe. The candidate must be five feet five inches in height; in good health and free from blemish; unmarried; and between 21 and 26. When he has been nominated—the system prevails in this branch of the Queen's Service still—he will present himself for examination when required. The successful candidate must be provided with £50 yearly until he is appointed Sub-Inspector; that is to say, while he stays at the Depot, Phoenix Park. While in this probationary position he will be allowed to occupy the quarters, and to wear the uniform of an officer; but his appointment depends on his seniority, his proficiency, his conduct, and the approval of the Lord Lieutenant. He may be sent away without notice, without appeal, without cause stated, and without compensation. The subjects of examination are few and simple, and apparently the test is very light indeed. Three hours reading a day for six months would certainly qualify any man not an absolute fool for the examination; and even now it is a little stiffer than heretofore. A couple of pleasant books touching criminal law and the law of evidence are now in the course. Roughly speaking, any man who can read, write, spell, and, who knows a little geography, a little Latin, and a little law, may be a Sub-Inspector of Constabulary.—*Irish Paper.*

SEMPER IDEM.—A correspondent writes to the *Dublin Freeman* from Greenislands, Londonderry:—"The virus of Orange ruffianism is beginning to spread to this hitherto quiet village. Last 12th July the Catholic inhabitants were insulted by an orange arch suspended in their very midst, and injury was added to insult, as the cut heads of several Catholics testify. From that time till now Orange bigotry has been in a ferment, and on Saturday last burst out with great fury. An Orange Band in connection with the shipbuilders, accompanied by the usual rail-raff of blackguards, paraded the village, and not content with annoying the feelings of the peaceably-disposed Catholics by playing party tunes and cursing the Pope, amused themselves by throwing stones at any who were pointed out as Catholics, and by wrecking Catholic houses. Mr. McGarry's hotel at present has the appearance of a place besieged, all the front windows being completely smashed, and the very freestone sills destroyed. One of his servants has received a severe cut in the face. The police were too few in number to be of any use, and one of them—Sub-Constable McKinney—who bravely rushed into the crowd to arrest a man, was badly abused, his cap and baton being taken from him, and he himself severely cut in the face. One reason for the periodical visits of these Belfast rowdies is their desire to do honor to their employer, Mr. McLaine, and to a man named Yates, a bookkeeper in the concern and a noted Orangeman, both of whom have lately come to reside in this locality."

CRIME IN IRELAND.—LORD ORANMORRE AND BROWN.—It has been truly said that "it is a dirty bird that fouls its own nest;" and, such being the case, the status of Lord Oranmore and Brown is at once established. This worthy, one of the herd of Anglo-Irish peers, who delight in vilifying the country which gives them unearned bread took it into his head it appears, not long since in the British House of Lords, to make a rapid and uncalled for attack upon the fair fame of the green Isle, charging it with increase and immunity of crime, and, after speaking for an hour on gasty stories of assassination, threatening letters and all the other stock bogies, with a demand for the renewal of the Corricion Acts. Fortunately on this occasion the law set itself firmly against the heaven-born legislator. Lord O'Hagan in his place in the House of Lords quoted as follows, indignantly contradicting the statement of the bigoted and unworthy peer of the realm:—"The Recorder of the City of Dublin spoke of the 'small number of cases for trial since last session,' and added: 'This circumstance, taken in connection with the satisfactory criminal statistics, as exhibited by the reports prepared by the various Crown solicitors for the grand Judges of assize, was one calling for universal approbation, an evidence of the happy change in national affairs.' In the county of Cork, there was at the Macroom Quarter Sessions, in the East Riding, no criminal business, while at the Cork Quarter Sessions, in the West Riding, the chairman congratulated the grand jury on the 'absence of crime since last session,' no offence of any kind having been reported to the constabulary from April 29th to June 21st. In the County Clare, Mr. Justice Keogh, addressing the grand jury said:—"Your duty on this side of the Court is very light. There are in all but six specials to go before you, none of which calls for any special observation whatever." In the County of Limerick the Judge said:—"The state of your county with two exceptions, is a matter of congratulation. I believe the number of bills to go before you will not exceed seven or eight." In the City of Limerick there were only two bills—one for concealing the birth of a child, and the other for passing counterfeit coin. At the Westmeath Assizes Baron Denay congratulated the grand jury on the "tranquil state of the country. In the King's County Mr. Justice O'Brien spoke of the 'peaceable state' of that district. Sergeant Armstrong, who presided at the Assizes in County Kilkenny, said there was 'every reason to be satisfied with the orderly condition' of the county. In the city of Kilkenny, Mr. Justice Lawson, addressing the grand jury, said he was happy to say the calendar showed an almost total immunity from crime, there being only one case to go before them—namely, an assault on a warder, which had been committed a few days previously. In the County of Longford, in the same way, the Chief Baron told the grand jury that their duties would be extremely light, there being only three bills of a simple character to go before them. In Fermanagh, the Chief Baron congratulated the grand jury on their being no criminal case to go before them. In Leitrim the Chief Justice of Ireland observed to the grand jury that there was but one bill to go before them, and that it was not likely to engage their attention long." Since the delivery of these speeches, the Irish police report continue to show a gradual and extraordinary decrease of crime. In a population of nearly six millions there were, in 1870, 4,321, outrages reported to the police; and these "outrages" included not only murder and manslaughter, but such offences as endangering the safety of railway passengers, unlawfully abandoning children under two years of age, &c. In 1873, the case reported was only 2,048. With regard to agrarian crimes, there were 767 in 1870; 236 in 1863; and 212 last year.

WAR NEWS.

NEAR COMPLETED.—The new bridge over the Danube at Nikopolis will be completed on Monday.

EGYPTIAN TROOPS.—The Khedive of Egypt will send a further contingent of troops to Turkey

OSMAN PASHA HOPEFUL.—Reassuring despatches are received from Osman Pasha.

SERVIAS REASONS.—The Servian Government has prepared a circular to the Powers explaining the reasons for entering the war.

SUBMITTING.—It is announced from Ragusa that the majority of the Bosnian insurgents have submitted to the Turkish Government at Bosna Serai.

BRATE MONTENEGRO.—The Montenegrins on Tuesday at Jeser defeated Haliz Pasha, marching to the relief of Nicisic; 600 Turks were killed and 100 captured.

CARRIED BY ASSAULT.—The *Political Correspondence* of Wednesday, announces that the Russian and Roumanian armies carried by assault the heights of Grivica, Osman Pasha's strongest position.

MOVEMENT OF TROOPS.—The departure of regulars from camp near Belgrade, for Alexinatz, commenced yesterday. A park of artillery and an ammunition train have gone.

THE EMPEROR AND GRAND DUKE NICHOLAS.—The 12th inst. says the Emperor and Grand Duke Nicholas were on the battle field until nine o'clock last night. The Emperor returned to head-quarters.

MEHMET ALI.—Mehmet Ali's central column is still at Kazelevé. The general himself has gone towards Esik Juma, and may be making westward to compel the Russians to abandon Tirnova and Balkans.

FIGHTING AT PLEVNA.—Since the capture of the Grivica redoubt before Plevna there has been only continued bombardment of the town and the other positions of the Turks. Preparations are being made for another assault. There is an immense number of wounded and but few surgeons.

SULEIMAN PASHA.—The Constantinople war office has a telegram from Suleiman Pasha on the 10th, reporting that on the previous day a reconnoitring party from Shipka pushed through the Balkans to the rear of the Russian position, and captured a village ten miles from Gabrova.

FORCES ENGAGED AT PLEVNA.—It is estimated the forces engaged in the battle amounted to 57,000 Russians and 50,000 Roumanians to 70,000 Turks. The valor of the Russian troops was the only thing to be praised, as the attacks were unskillfully directed, and the waste of life unnecessary. The Turks were very skillfully handled.

SUCCESSFUL ATTACKS.—An official Parenna despatch states that the Russians cannonaded Plevna on Tuesday till afternoon, when an assault was made. Three Turkish redoubts were taken, besides Grivica redoubt. General Rodenoff was wounded slightly. Adjutant Schlitar, General Dobrowsky, killed. The Russians captured two standards and five guns. The Russian wounded exceeded 5,000, killed not ascertained.

COUNCIL OF WAR.—The battle field of the last five days is silent. This morning there is talk of submitting the Turkish position to a regular siege and sapping the redoubts, while a close blockade is instituted with the intent to starve Osman Pasha's forces. The villages enclosed within Osman Pasha's line are full of supplies, and fields of grain with heavy crops of maize. The losses spoken of here are about 50,000 to 60,000, but there are no details. The emperor this morning has gone back to the battlefield.

BAKER PASHA.—The following is a Turkish official despatch:—"Shumla, Sept. 13.—Baker Pasha, advancing north-west from Garnasondeir yesterday, encountered four battalions of Russian infantry, supported by cavalry, near Karaghatz. Aided by a Circassian detachment, Baker attacked the enemy who, reinforced by five infantry battalions, repulsed the Turks. Later, the Turks received cavalry and infantry reinforcements and compelled the enemy to retreat with heavy loss."

OFFICIAL DESPATCH.—Russian headquarters, Paredin, Sept. 11.—Our batteries cannonaded Plevna all Monday, and until late in the night. The left wing, under Skobelev, captured another of the neighboring heights, which will enable us to bombard the enemy's position, and the town of Plevna itself. The enemy opposed Skobelev's feat. Our cavalry on the Sappian road defeated a detachment of Circassians from Plevna. Our losses to the present time are insignificant.

A GREAT RUSSIAN VICTORY.—Various accounts of the fighting around Plevna concur in showing that the Turks up to 5 o'clock in the evening of the 13th repulsed the continued assaults along the whole line. The Emperor had left the field, when an aid-de-camp brought news that fresh Russian battalions had carried the central salient redoubt and another redoubt, and thus retired the day. A correspondent says:—"The capture of the redoubt changes the whole affair and converts a bloody repulse into a final and perhaps permanent success. In any case subsequent attack must be by sap of the trench, for the last reserves were engaged on the Russian side."

FIGHTING ROUND PLEVNA.—The following Russian bulletins effectually dispose of the wild stories about the capture of Plevna: Russian Headquarters, Paredin, Sept. 10.—Our batteries cannonaded Plevna on Sunday night; the Turks made a considerable sortie against our left, but were repulsed, losing heavily. The Roumanians made a bold reconnaissance of the enemy's redoubts, which opened a heavy fire, but were silenced by a concentrated fire from our batteries. The position of one of our eagle batteries was changed on Sunday evening to enable it to cannonade a fortified Turkish encampment. Heavy cannonading continued through the night, and increased in extent and activity from five in the morning. All is quiet at other points of the theatre of war. At the capture of Lovatz we took two Turkish standards, a quantity of arms and ammunition. We buried 2,200 Turkish dead; large numbers were sared by our cavalry during pursuit; our loss was 1,000.

ASSAULTS AND REPULSES.—A Plevna correspondent writes on Saturday: The fire of the Turkish redoubt of Grivica has not slackened in the least, though an enormous number of shells have been thrown into it. Only a few men are kept in the redoubt, and as fast as killed are replaced by others. The fire in the Turkish batteries in the hollows between Grivica and Plevna is less steady than before. The Russians had mounted only a hundred, or a hundred and twenty guns, and the effect was very slight. On Sunday and Monday the firing continued, and on Sunday dismounted four guns in the Turkish redoubt which were replaced, but the firing there was afterwards slacker. The correspondent describes General Skobelev's attack on one of the Plevna redoubts on Saturday: The Russians drove in the Turks, but near the foot of the slope the Turkish fire became terrible. After twenty minutes the Russians withdrew and the Turks made a sortie but were repulsed. A second attack by the Russians also failed. The correspondent further states that the Plevna defences have been strengthened since the last battle, and it will be necessary to take them in whole, as taken in part they would be of no avail. An assault was contemplated on Tuesday. The Czar and Grand Duke Nicholas slept at Paredin on Monday, in order to be at hand.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A POLYGLOT.—Cardinal Manning speaks and writes six languages.

STATISTICS.—The population of Ho-nan, China is 23,600,000, of whom 5,000 are Catholics, attended by nine missionaries and four native priests.

COMPLAINTS.—Complaints are made that the English burying ground opposite the Marine Hospital, in St. Roche, Quebec, has been turned into a lumberyard and a pasture for cattle.

PILGRIMS.—It is estimated that the number of pilgrims, who visited the shrine of La Bonne Ste. Anne this season, exceeds 20,000 up to date, not taking into account those who neglected to inscribe their names upon the register.

A PROBLEM SOLVED.—The Turkish Minister sends to the Press the following: "In view of the various accounts circulating about the origin of Osman Pasha, the Turkish Legation has the honor to inform the Press that the Marshal of that name was born in Asia Minor of Mussulman parents."

AERONAUT FIRED AT.—As Mr. Grimley the balloonist, returned to Ottawa; he landed at Cumberland about twelve mile from the city. Shortly before landing he made the descent some unknown person fired at the balloon, the bullet passed between his head and the foot of the balloon.

THE RESUMPTION ACT, WASHINGTON.—It is believed an effort will be made the coming session of Congress to amend the Resumption Act by authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to fund legal tender notes on 1st January, 1877, into bonds bearing not more than 1 per cent, interest to run less than 30 years.

GREAT CHURCHES.—Among the large churches in the world the following are first:—St. Peter's Church, Rome, holds 54,000; Milan Cathedral 37,000; St. Paul's, at Rome, 32,000; St. Paul's, at London, 35,000; San Petronio, at Bologna, 24,000; Florence Cathedral, 24,300; Antwerp Cathedral, 24,000; St. Sophia's, Constantinople, 22,000; St. John Lateran, 22,000; Notre Dame, Paris, 21,000; Pisa Cathedral, 13,000; St. Stephen's at Vienna, 11,400; St. Dominic, at Bologna, 12,000; St. Peter's, at Bologna, 11,400; Cathedral of Vienna, 11,000; St. Mark's at Vienna, 7,000.

AMERICA VICIROSUS.—The following is a continuation of the scoring in the International match at Cremoor yesterday. At 900 yards the first eight shots of the American team scored 32, second eight shots 23, and third eight 34; total 89. British team—first eight shots 35, second 35, which reduces the American lead up to the end of the second shooting of both teams from 10 to 6. At 900 yards range the British team began to fall behind. The scores of the British team, 5 shots each, are as follows: Evans, 2; Ferguson, 19; Milner, 20; Rigby, 21; Humphrey, 24; Col. Fenton, 23; Lieut. Fenton, 2s; Halford, 25. Halford on the seventh shot, at 900 yards, failing to put a bullet in his piece, failed to count, to the disgust of the British team. The Americans were the victors.

ROSSMANIA.—Pinkerton's detectives have discovered between 190 and 200 boys in various parts of the country, each of whom answered to the description of Charlie Ross. The subscription of \$20,000 made by prominent citizens of Philadelphia has been also entirely expended in the search.—*American Paper.* If these boys who are periodically discovered are not Charlie Ross, who are they? People having them give no satisfactory explanation how they came by them. They all look alike and resemble the missing son of the grief-stricken German town parents: Nobody knows whence they came or whether they go after Mr. Ross declines to identify them. What is done with them? Who else has a lost boy with making any fuss about it? There is a mystery in the entire business, which should have been cleared up long ago, if the American detectives desired to preserve their credit.

DUNKIN ACT A FAILURE.—This evening's *Express* and *Courier* contain the following letter from James Grace, License Inspector: "In view of yesterday's experience I have come to the conclusion that it is impossible to enforce the Dunkin Act in the City of Brantford. Up to a recent date I held the opinion that it was impossible to state correctly whether it was a failure or success, but I have now no hesitation in saying that it is and will be a failure, and the sooner it is repealed the better for all parties. This being my deliberate opinion I can no longer consent to hold the position of Inspector and have therefore tendered my resignation to the Government, retaining the office nominally for a short time merely to adjust some unsettled claims against the license fund; and no further proceedings will be taken by me for any infractions of the law. Signed, James Grace."

GIRL OF THE PERIOD.—The girl of to-day is taught to play the piano, and to dance the glide. She stares about her, and there is no occasion for her to peep under her bonnet. At present she chokes herself with scarfs and standing ruffles, and sometimes manages to give them anything but a modest effect. She makes no secret of despising old people, and at a party goes about hunting up her beaux. When she dances, she tells her partner to hold tighter and not let her fall, and she is rouged too highly to blush. When she has an offer, she laughs, refuses it twice, and accepts it the third time, saying: "Don't tell any one we're engaged yet, especially pa and ma," and having flirted to the end of her tether, tells all about it herself to all the girls of her set, declaring that Tom was dead in love the first day they met, but she could hardly make up her mind between him and that handsome Ned Jones, until Ned's father failed. When she is married she whispers to her bride-maids to see if her ring is right and thinks to herself, as her wedding train is slipped on, how jealous poor Ned Jones is.

IRISH CATHOLIC BENEVOLENT UNION OF CANADA.—The fifth annual Convention of this organization, which consists of Catholic Beneficial Societies located in various parts of the Dominion, opened its first session in St. Patrick's Hall, in this city, on Tuesday, at 3.30 p.m. The following delegates attended on behalf of their respective Societies:—No. 1, Toronto, T. Harnett; No. 3, Toronto, C. J. Murphy; No. 3, Peterboro', J. Griffin; No. 8, London, J. Spereman; No. 9, Kingston, W. J. Garrigan; No. 11, Toronto, W. Louney; No. 17, Oshawa, D. Barry; No. 18, Barrie, M. J. Framley; No. 19, Guelph, J. L. Murphy. Besides the above named delegates, the following officers of the Union also attended:—P. B. Flannagan, Oakville, President; J. D. Troy, Toronto, 1st Vice; John Corkery, Peterboro', Secretary; John Giblin, Treasurer. An address of welcome to the delegates of the Convention was read by Mr. J. Giblin on behalf of three of the Union Societies in this city. The Convention remained in session on Tuesday evening until ten p.m., when an adjournment was made to nine a.m. on Wednesday, when the general work of the organization was proceeded with, and the following officers elected for the current year:—President, J. Louis Troy, Toronto; 1st Vice-Pres., W. J. Garrigan, Kingston; 2nd Vice-Pres., J. L. Murphy, Guelph; Secretary, John Corkery, Peterboro'. The Convention adjourned at 6.30 p.m., to meet in the Young Irishmen's Hotel, Bathurst-st., at 10.30 a.m. to-day. A grand banquet in honour of the delegates by the Toronto Society of the Union was held in St. Patrick's Hall last night, which was largely attended, and was an enjoyable affair.

NATURALISTS' PORTFOLIO.

TREE FROGS.—These are very peculiar animals. The construction of their feet enables them to traverse the branches of trees and even to hang on the under surface of a pendent leaf which it so resembles in colour that the unwary insect passes by, and is instantly seized by the watchful frog. The green tree frog is the most common and is plentifully found in Southern Europe and Northern Africa. There are several specimens in the Zoological Gardens, which present a most absurd appearance as they stick against the pane of glass forming the front of their cage.

A NEW USE FOR TORTOISES.—A gentleman in the country had a fine tortoise which was allowed to creep about the kitchen. Some time ago he was obliged to change his servant. His new maid-of-all-work was a raw Scotch girl, who had never seen or heard of a tortoise in her life. One day he said to her, "Margaret, what is become of the tortoise? I have not seen it for some days." But Margaret "dihon ken aught about it." "You had better light a candle then," he directed, "and see if it hasn't got into the coal-hole—poor thing, it will be starving!" A caudle was accordingly lighted, and looking over her shoulder, he saw it, as he expected, snug among the coals. "Ah, there it is, poor creature! Take it out, and place it near the fire." "Is that what you ca', the tortoise?" quoth Margaret, in astonishment. "Oh, sir, I've been breaking the coals of this fortnight past!"

THE BROWN BEAR.—This animal inhabits the North of Europe, Switzerland, and the Pyrenees. It was extirpated from England many centuries ago, but it is recorded to have been found in Scotland so late as 1057. The inhabitants of Northern Europe hunt it with much skill, and take it in traps and pitfalls, availing themselves of its love for honey. It is said there exists a practice of placing the hive in a tree and planting long spikes around its foot. A heavy log of wood is then suspended by a cord just before the entrance of the hive, and the trap is complete. The bear scents the honey, and comes to look at the tree. The spikes rather astonish him, but he sniffs his way through them and commences the ascent. When he has reached the hive, he is checked by a log hanging before the entrance. This he finds is movable and pushes it aside, but it is just so long that a mere push will not entirely remove it, so he gives it a tremendous pat, and looks in at the entrance. Just as he has succeeded in putting his nose to the hive, the log returns and hits him very hard on the head. This makes him exceedingly angry, and he pokes it away harder than ever, only to make it return with a more severe blow than before. He now has a regular fight with the log, hitting it first to one side and then to the other, the perverse block invariably striking his head every time, until at last a severe blow than usual knocks him off the tree on to the spikes below. In the time of Queen Elizabeth the bear used to be baited, that is to say, the bear was tied to a pole and several dogs were set at him the object being to see whether the bear could bite the dogs or the dogs bite the bear with the greater force, but this cruel sport is now happily extinct.

AFFECTION IS BIRD-LIFE.—A correspondent, having read our recent article on bird affection, kindly sends us the following singular instance of intelligence and affection on the part of a duck. "We have," he tells us, "two white ducks; the one designated Mr. Yellowbill being wonderfully intelligent, yet fond of fun. My little son and I have great games together. The lad throws out an india-rubber ball a longer or shorter distance, leaving it for the bird to decide whether it shall be pursued with a flying or a running movement. In either case, the ball is swiftly seized by duckie and returned to the thrower, who keeps up the game until both have had enough of it. Another peculiarity of Mr. Yellowbill may be mentioned. At the splashing of water from an adjacent well he is aroused, and will instantly fly towards the scene of action, plunge in, bathe, jump out, flap his wings joyfully, and "like a bird" take himself off again. But the story of affection for his kind must now be told. The other day, when swinging on a gate, my little boy felt something tugging at his trousers, and on looking round discovered the duck, who he supposed, invited him to a game at ball. So down he got, and caressed his feathered friend as the preliminary. The duck, however, continued pulling away in so unusual and persistent a manner that the lad decided to go whither he was led; and lo! at the corner of an out building was found poor Mrs. Yellowbill, lame of a leg, and quite unable to waddle along. Meanwhile her husband continued to manifest the greatest concern about her, yet did not forget his manners and grateful acknowledgments, but bowed, and better bowed, to those around who had now come to the rescue; showing that even a duck may act and feel as a gentleman. The cause of hurt referred to has not been ascertained; but happily Mrs. Yellowbill is now quite well, and her husband is as lively as ever."

BIRDS.—THE RANGE OF THEIR FLIGHT.—It would seem at first sight that no barriers could limit the range of birds, and that they ought to be the most ubiquitous of living things. This, however, is far from being the case; many groups of birds are almost as strictly limited by barriers as the mammalia. The petrels and the gulls are amongst the greatest wanderers, and most of the species are confined to one or other of the great oceans, or to the Arctic or Antarctic seas. The sandpipers and plovers wander along the shores as far as do the petrels over the ocean. Great numbers of them breed in the Arctic regions and migrate as far as India and Australia, or down to Chili and Brazil; the species of the Old and New Worlds, however being generally distinct. In striking contrast to these widely ranging, we find many of the smaller perching birds, with some of the parrots and pigeons, confined to small island of a few miles in extent, or to single valleys or mountains on the mainland. These groups of birds which possess no powers of flight such as the ostrich, cassowary, and apteryx, are in exactly the same position as the mammalia as regards their means of dispersal, or are perhaps even inferior to them, since, although they are able to cross rivers by swimming, it is doubtful if they could remain so long in the water as most land quadrupeds. A large number of short winged birds, such as the tuscans and wrens, are perhaps worse off, for they can fly very few miles at a time, and on falling into the water would soon be drowned. It is only the strong flying species that can venture to cross any great width of sea; and even those rarely do so unless compelled by necessity to migrate in search of food, or to a more genial climate. Small and weak birds are, however, often carried accidentally across great widths of ocean by violent gales. This is well exemplified by the large numbers of stragglers from North America which annually reach the Bermudas. No less than sixty-nine species of American birds have occurred in Europe, most of them in Britain and Heligoland. They consist chiefly of migratory birds which in autumn return along the eastern coast of the United States, and often fly from point to point across bays and inlets. They are then liable to be blown out to sea by storms, and it is almost always at this time of the year that their occurrence has been noted on the shores of Europe. Birds which frequent forests and thickets are secure from such accidents, and are restricted in their range by the extent of the forests they inhabit. Mountain chains, and even large rivers like the Amazon, limit the range of many birds.