

RELIGIOUS.

CATHOLIC.

The habit of the Christian Brothers was recently conferred on Ambrose Carey, at the Villa-de-la-Salle Novitiate, in Mortinez, Cal. This gentleman is a native of Prince Edward Island.

The boys of St. Patrick's Juvenile Reformatory enjoyed a sleigh drive, the gift of Rev. Father Biggs. This Reverend gentleman has been and is accomplishing a meritorious work in looking after the spiritual as well as the temporal training of the wayward Catholic youth of this city.

The fourth anniversary of the consecration of the Archbishop of Halifax was observed by the pupils of the Sacred Heart and Mt. St. Vincent Academy respectively, who tendered his Grace and Clergy a reception, followed by a musical and literary entertainment.

Negotiations between Germany and the Vatican are about concluded. The anticipated result of such is that Emperor William will announce a revision of the May Laws in the Landtag.

The Sultan of Turkey has presented to the Holy Fathers, through the Patriarch of Armenia, a costly jewelled ring, as a gift for the Pope's Jubilee.

An Irish Prelate Bishop, McCormack, complains that Catholic Nationalist prisoners in Sligo are tried by juries, which are composed of "Loyalists," packed for the purpose of obtaining conviction in spite of justice. This does not sound well in our age of religious equality and freedom.

It would appear that Henry George has undertaken the task of pulling down the notable structure of 1900 years existence—the Catholic Church. Alas! poor Yorick.

METHODIST.

The Rev. Saml. Small, the Georgia Revivalist, is in Nashville, making arrangements to assume the duties of Commissioner of Education for the colored race in the South, under the auspices of the Southern Methodist General Conference.

The Ladies' College at Sackville has 125 students enrolled—a much larger number than for any previous term.

During the past few weeks missionary meetings have been held throughout the Province, in connection with the Methodist Church, with good results.

PRESBYTERIAN.

Rev. Adam Gunn has resigned the pastorate of the Presbyterian Church at the Gore and Kennetcook.

A call has been received by the Rev. Isaac Baird from the Presbyterian congregation of Little River.

The reports presented at the annual meetings of the several Presbyterian Churches in this city, show those congregations to be in a prosperous condition.

On Sunday, the 16th inst., two Presbyterian Churches were dedicated in this Province—one at Elmsvale, Middle Musquodoboit, and the other at Oxford.

A special effort is being made by the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland to secure for its ministers a minimum stipend of £200.

BAPTIST.

The Annual Meeting of the Halifax and Dartmouth Women's Missionary Aid Societies was held about a fortnight ago. Mrs. J. W. Manning read a sketch of the formation and progress of those Societies in connection with the Baptist Church. Previous to 1870 the Baptist denomination in Canada worked in connection with the American Baptist Missionary Union. The first Women's Aid Society in America was organized at Canaan. There are now in connection with the Missionary Union 72 of those Societies in Nova Scotia, 37 in New Brunswick, and 12 in P. E. Island, containing 3,000 members, who raised over \$3,000 last year. In the Upper Provinces there are 148 Societies, which raised last year double that amount.

Last Wednesday was set apart by the Baptist Convention for special prayer in behalf of the Educational institutions in connection with the denomination.

The Rev. Mr. Spurgeon, who was compelled to go to Mantone, France, on account of ill-health, is still unwell. At last accounts he was suffering so from rheumatic gout, that he was obliged almost entirely to keep his bed.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

The Venerable Metropolitan has quite recovered from the accident he met with some few days since.

The Anniversary Festival of the Church of England Institute will be held in St. George's Church, on Tuesday, the 8th of February. Rev. Dr. Hole will be the preacher. The prospects of the new building are excellent. Over \$7,000 of the \$10,000 required has been subscribed, and there will be no difficulty in raising the remainder. The work will be begun as soon as the season permits.

The Church Army continues to do good in a quiet way. It is gradually at surely reclaiming the outcast and fallen, and is proving itself a trustworthy handmaid to the Church. This is its great strength.

Rev. John Patridge, of Ship Harbor, has been in town for the last few days.

CHIT-CHAT.

ECLIPSES.—During the year 1887 there will be four eclipses: two of the sun and two of the moon. Of these only one, a partial eclipse of the moon, will be visible here. Those who are up early enough on the morning of February 3rd, if the sky be clear, will behold this phenomenon. The eclipse commences ten minutes before 4 o'clock and continues until the moon sets.

The Sultan of Morocco is fond of tricycling, but too lazy to work the pedals himself, so he has had a gorgeous machine constructed, propelled by slave labor. He sits cross-legged upon an embossed couch, curtained and canopied with silk and silver and gold. At his right hand is a clock and at his left a compass, in order that when beyond the reach of the muezzin's call the faithful Mohammedan may observe the exact hour of prayer and the exact direction in which his orisons are to be addressed.

THE STAMP-COLLECTING MANIA.—The mania for collecting postage stamps seems to be gaining more ground than ever in France, writes the Paris correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*. Among the most famous collectors in France is a man who has over a million postage stamps preserved in 130 richly bound volumes, and another who keeps two clerks employed in classifying and arranging his enormous collection. Added to this, there are in Paris about 150 wholesale firms employed in the trade, and one of the best known of these has lately offered from £20 to £40 for certain stamps of the year 1836. Tuscan postage stamps dated before 1860 will be paid for at the rate of £6 each, while stamps from Mauritius for the year 1847 fetch £80, and French stamps of 1849 are quoted at £1 each.

FORMIC ACID AND HONEY.—At a recent meeting of the Physiological Society of Berlin, it was stated that when the bee has filled the cell either with pure honey or a mixture of pollen dough and honey, and has completed the lid, a drop of formic acid obtained from the poison bag connected with the sting is added to the honey by perforating the lid with the sting. Numerous experiments show that this formic acid preserves honey and every other solution from fermentation. If this be well established, it will show that the sting and the poison apparatus of the bee has a further purpose than that of a defensive or offensive weapon. Another interesting fact suggests itself in connection with this. So far as is known, most of the insects that have stinging apparatus similar to that of the bee are collectors and storers of honey.

WHAT BECOMES OF THE PINS?—For a solution of this rather old problem a London journal recently offered a prize of \$10, and paid the money for the subjoined and by no means novel answer: "A surface ten miles square contains, roughly, 310 millions of square yards. Assume this as the area of London. To include the area of floor service in houses, it may safely be trebled—say 1,000 millions of square yards. If every five square yards contained one stray pin, who would be aware of it? Here, then, we have in London alone a receptacle for 200 millions of stray pins unperceived by anybody. The answer, therefore, is that thousands of millions of lost pins can be, and are, scattered about the land unnoticed. Half of these being out of doors are gradually destroyed by rust; the other half pass out of doors by degrees."

JAPANESE JOURNALISM.—Mr. Inazo Ota, of Tokio, Japan, who is a graduate student of the John Hopkins University, is making a study of American newspaper methods. He says that in Tokio, Japan, which is the center of the wealth and culture of the country, there are over twenty daily newspapers. Most of these are four pages, though some are eight. The Conservative, Liberal and Radical parties have each their organs, and several papers are also published in the interest of the Christians, towards whom the Liberals incline. There are also military, banking and agricultural papers. The papers do not circulate in Tokio alone, whose population is over 1,000,000, but go all over the rural districts, where some weekly papers and a few dailies are printed. Of the Tokio papers six are published in English, of which four of the editors are Japanese, one is an American and one an Englishman.

FOREST POLICE IN GERMANY.—In Germany the woods have their police, whose duty it is to see that no devastation is wrought by inconsiderate owners. No man may cut down his trees without the sanction of these authorities. The reason is that wood is the staple fuel of the country, and if the government did not step in to protect the people against their own improvidence, the peasants would speedily sweep away all their forests to enable them to clear the mortgages which the Jews hold on their lands. In Bavaria the price of fuel rose, between 1830 and 1860, as much as sixty per cent., and building timber rose seventy per cent. In the sixteenth century the forests had dwindled so much, and the cost of firing had risen so high, that the princes took the forests under their sovereign protection, and appointed a class of officials, whose duty it was to see after the fuel supply in their provinces, and look to the protection of trees just as the police have to see to the protection of citizens. One result has been that no trees are allowed to grow longer than when they have reached maturity. After they have attained a certain age their rate of growth is so slow that their room is needed for younger plants, and they are cut down. Thus a pine reaches its perfection after its thirtieth year, and goes back after its eightieth. As a rule, a forest is cleared and replanted every thirty years; and it is an exception anywhere to see an older pine or beech. But the Bohmer wald has not been subject to this police, and there do remain in it magnificent pines several hundred years old.—*Cornhill Magazine*.