The Century for August has paper describing the celebration of Mass on the summit of the Matterhorn, Sept. 24, 1908, by Abbe Auguste Carrel. The writer that this event is an occurrence so out of the ordinary as to nerit more than the mere passing mention it received four years ago in a few of the Swiss and Italian local jour-

Down to the middle of the last tury the Matterhorn, which is feet high, the "horn" or peak, being 3000 feet, was thought to be absolutely inaccessible, but in 1865 it was ascended although four of the party which made the ascent were hurled into eternity in the at The summit of the Matterhorn is not, properly speaking, point, but a ridge with precipitous sides. The ascent must be made along the ridge, and that is so narrow that two parties going in opposite directions have to use the greates ecaution in passing each in the steps cut in the snow. Yet it is on this ridge, towering into the air, and beset with so much difficulty in its ascent, that mass was celebrated on a temporary altar in 1902 and it is on this same dizzy ridge that on the same occasion the zeal and devotion of the priests and peo ple of Valtornenche on the Italian side of the mountain and of Zermatt on the Swiss side, erected an iron cross which still stands raising its arms aloft in a posture of eternal

"Anyone," says the writer, "fami liar with the Matterhorn summit which is the natural butt for every thunderbolt within range, and where every rock bears marks of lightning must feel surprise that this cross has survived in such a position without damage. It seems that at the start it had been carefully lightning-rodded, but that by the following year this protection had disap-The only possible explana tion is that the wires must have been fused by lightning, as was the case with the chains which were first fastened at the dangerous part of the Swiss ascent, which now been replaced by fixed ropes It hardly seems possible, though the idea has been suggested, that these wires were carried off by curio hunters; the men who climb Matterhorn belong, I venture to hope, to a different class from the trippers who visit ordinary places of interest, and who first inscribe their names therein, and then clip off a piece to carry home. this may be, there that cross has stood unprotected and absolute ly unharmed on a peak that to the knowledge of everyone is raked by every thunderstorm that comes along.

The writer describes in detail how the energetic young priest with party of seven guides climbed mountain, the guides bearing a section of the iron-work of th cross, and the Abbe himself carrying the articles needed for the mass These made no little burden for man who had had no breakfast. The altar-stone alone weighed nine "a full load in itself" the writer says, "on such a climb." A makeshift for an altar was constructed by setting up a portion of the cross at one end of a bench. few stones at the other, and laying on these two uprights a longer pi of the cross horizontally. On this over which were spread the cloths. The articles for the Mass were then placed in their proper positions, the two candles were serted in guides' lanterns so that they would burn regardless of wind which at that altitude strong even on the calmest day. The priest put on his robes, and egan shortly after ten o'clock. After the mass the cross was set

In September, 1904, the writer tells us, the parish priest of Courmayeur, Abbe Clapasson, accomplish ed a similar exploit by setting up an gin, four feet high, and by having a mass celebrated on the occasion, on the top of the Aiguille du Geant, a precipitous rock 13,170 feet high range between Courmayeur and Chamoniz. The occasion the erection of this statue was the fiftieth anniversary of the promulgation of the dogma of the Immacul-ate Conception. Eleven guides took part in the affeir, which was considerably hampered by a snow-storm and bad weather; but in spite of all difficulties the strate was fastened in position, and Mass was said by Father Clanesson's vicaire (or curate), Abbe Vesen, who was eld by two ropes for security.

MASS ON THE MATTERHORN COLOGNE'S CATHEDRAL IN

Cologne Cathedral, the glory of the famous Rhenish city, is, it appears, in a really dangerous state.
Recently several pieces of carved stone fell to the street, and passers by had narrow escapes. The central portion of the cathedral was immediately closed. Since then great blocks of masonry have fallen away A committee of architects was sum moned, and scaffolding erected. From tive examination and discovered that the masonry of both the chief trance and the south entrance loose, and has crumbled to such extent that two portals were danger of falling. Should this have occurred the damage might have been enormous. The facades have been shored up and the work of restoration will be at once begun Rain is believed to have hasten the crumbling, but the architects blame the German Romanesque build ers of the thirteenth century, for the columns are found not to be solid pillars, but pilasters or piers. these at least 400 blocks are found

to be loose

Cologne Cathedral is almost well known in America as in Eufrope. So greatly is it admired that two of the finest churches on this continent, St. Patrick's Cathedral, in New York, and the Church of Our Lady in Guelph, Ont., have followed its main lines. It took over 600 years to complete, largely because of the apathy of the church authorities in the three centuries preceding the nineteenth The Cathedral is knowledged to be one of the finest specimens, and probably the largest of Gothic architecture in the world There have been modern critics who while conceding its beauty and terming it a noble and impressive example, still declare it disappoints because the compass had been much for the creative genius. The Cathedral stands on the lite of a previous structure built in the early Christian era, but burned down in the twelfth century.

In 1248 the present Cathedral wa egun. The choir was finished in 1322, the nave in 1890, and south tower in 1447. Then enturies of neglect. In 1796 the French army used the Cathedral to store hay in, and also stripped the eaden roofs in order to make bullets.

In 1823 an attempt was made to enovate and complete the structure, but little work was done until 1842 when the work was seriously taken in hand. The final touches were given in 1880, and on October 15 of that year the completion was lebrated by a service at which the Kaiser, William I., was present. The building has cost over \$10,000,000. The Cathedral is 440 feet long, and the famous spires, the highest in the world, are 528 feet. The central portal is 93 feet high and 31 feet wide, and the south portal 38 feet high and 18 feet wide. These are the two portions at present in danger. In shape the cathedral is a cruciform basilica. There are choirs, the eastern dedicated to St. Peter, the western to St. Mary. Sur rounding the choir are eight chapels A feature of great beauty is an external gallery round the apse.

A BEDE MANUSCRIPT A mediaeval M.S. of Venerable

Bede's "Life of St. Cuthbert," dated from about 1180, was sold by auction at Sotheby's, London, recently, for \$7500. The Daily Telegraph says: "Over 1200 years ago Cuthbert was bishop of that swept see, Lindisfarne, or Holy Island, and at his death the Venerable Bede wrote down the account of the life of this holy man, afterwards to be canonized as a saint. Just 500 years after his death, when Richard Coeur de Leon set forth on his crusade, a patient monk sat'down his Durham cell and, in Gothic letters and red rubrics, transcribed afresh Bede's life of Cuthbert, keep the memory of the saint alive. And another brother worked for days and months in illuminating miniatures in grisaille, heightened with primitive tones of red and blue and to illustrate the austere life of the pious bishop. Yesterday the stout vellum manuscript appeared in Sothe by's, and, although nearly 800 years old, is probably still in young lifetime. The critical ex-perts of the market apparently held this opinion, for not until Mr. Quaritch had bid \$7500 did Mr. Leighton lose hold."

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AN INCONGRUITY

((From the Christian Advocate.) gruity of a Church's attempting to maintain institutions of learning gruity of a Church's atten whose professors are agnostics, out-right infidels or theosophists, which have no religious services and in no anything about it in their curriculum except as one of many religions to discussed comparatively, though all were of strictly human If this be true it would follow

that if any institution established by Christian people were to reach that state where the religious body that had established it should no longer have any effective control over the teaching and the spirit of the institution, when its trustees and faculty nominations or of none, and its president or faculty not be responsible for the exerting of an unmistakable Christian influence over the students, there would be no controlling reason why such religious denomination or its individual members should the support of such continue an institution, either by reco dation, by the placing of their child ren, or by gifts or bequests. The in troduction of this question is called for for there are universities and colleges in Europe and in the United States which were founded by godly men who believed with all their hearts and minds in the union of learning and vital religion. They gradually drifted away from these landmarks, until now these instituhotbeds of irreligion Among their professors are avowed atheists, and views are unreservedly taught which, in the minds of stu dents who follow their teachers, will reduce Christianity to a level with all other religions or consign it to the refuse hears of civilization. In this country, in several institutions not many years since avowedly and positively Christian, the drift strong. The temptation in institutions of learning is to imitate the successful, and when vast sums are given to institutions over which organized Christianity has no control and withheld from those over which it has, the temptation to cut loose from their moorings is in deed strong.

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A QUEER IDEA OF HUMOR

Agnes Repplier, writing in Life the articles, "Seeing France With Uncle John," written by Anne 'urner for the Century Magazine, bas this to say of that ; edd' ar sense of humor which forgets that there is also a sense of reverence:

"It's 'be funny or die' with Uncle John, just as it was with the 'Innocents' forty years ago. (Ie witty at the expense of Norman architecture, of Coeur de Leon's heart, of the burning of Joan of Arc. Joan especially presents herself to hum as the humorous feature of Pouen. Strikes me it was an enterprising thing to burn Joan in the rarket, anyhow-good business for the market. Folk come to see 'ae statue, and incidentally buy some peanuts

"Perhaps this is American numor but we hope not. Perhaps if Frenchman came here and split his sides over the assassination of President Lincoln, we should find his sprightliness agreeable, but chances are against it. Everything is not laughable, else where would be the point and pleasure of laugh ?"

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(This article is pu We think its appeal to our reader Mr. Chairman, Rev. and Gentlemen:

The American Fede tholic Societies presentitution principles w ceptance by every C stated, it recommends ing of the bonds of fr the fostering of Cath tion and charity; stud; in our social life; dis Catholic truth; encoun spreading of Catholic the aid of the Cathol accomplishment and f these principles must moral force for the p Catholic interests in Union; aye, more than cial and economic life will be improved and It will cause our non-C citizens to learn and u views on questions wh citizens are interested i

It is highly important tholics should be united organization to be ef strong. A federation of lic societies offers the it be understood that we do not mean antago ple outside the pale of Church, but what we d square deal when our is right and our deman feel that every man in ought to wish to know about the Catholic Chur no secrets which she de ceal. We say to our friends, Do not look upo suspicion and hatred unt ful historian has furnish the data and facts wh adverse criticism. I spe truthful historian in ord may distinguish between who prefers truth and th

accepts error through pr Catholics feel that th which guide them will st ticism of every just and l Our earliest lessons, taug childhood by our Church, planted in our minds a love for our fellowman, w

or Gentile, Christian or I We do not wish to be occasions of this kind, b convinced that great inju often been done to Cathol the historian or author h blinded by prejudice or le by ignorance of the facts. need in this century of g gress and development is a

who is truthful and exact A great duty rests upor laymen in this country. to-day a mere handful of t tion, but we are fourte strong, composed of all nat Our responsibilities as cit nembers of society require assist the Church and bec liar with the social and conditions of our country. not expect our non-Cathol to assist us if we are indif not united on questions of portance to ourselves. We expect to be strong when the tion of all societies shall he

ascomplished. There is something gloric act that on occasions of Americans, English, Germa Irish, French and Italians, preserve their national cust yet meet on a common pla cognizing but one faith a earthly ruler, the Successor Lowly Fisherman.

Catholicism has shown her Pable of taking root on eve She has flourished and pros every clime. She has very storm and increased bership under persecution.