

etc., were paid as time permitted, and in the evening service was held at the residence of Mr. T. Howard. There was a very gratifying attendance of about 27 persons, many driving in from several miles away, although the weather was very cold, and the state of the trails not very encouraging. The lay reader, Mr. J. Parkinson, assisted at the service, and the Rev. J. Williams preached from the Lenten parable of "The barren fig tree," St. Luke xiii. 8, 9. Mr. Howard played the organ, and the singing was heartily joined in by those present. This service may be quoted as an instance of what can be done in the matter of church attendance, even on a week evening, in a sparsely settled district, and it also points to the influence which may be exercised, and was successfully exercised on this occasion, by the lay people of the Church in bringing their friends and neighbours, especially those of the sterner sex, within the reach of the ministrations of the Church.

BRIEF MENTION.

The Volga is the largest river of Europe. England gave £1,363,153 to missionaries last year. There are estimated to be 240,000 varieties of insects in the world.

Rothschild requires of his cook a different kind of soup for every day in the year.

Dent, Allcroft & Co., London glove manufacturers, employ 15,000 people.

Oranges are now selling cheaper than apples in apple-producing regions.

The title of prince dates from the early Roman empire and signifies a leader.

Over 27,000 students are estimated to be attending the leading German universities during the present term.

Shrew was originally the shrew mouse, an animal noted for her vigorous defence of her young.

The first public library in the world was founded in Athens by Pisistratus about 540 B.C.

The Rev. Ernest Chilcott, B.A., of Bradford, has been appointed to Duck Lake, in the diocese of Saskatchewan.

An advocate of electrical cooking claims that of every 100 tons of coal used in a cooking stove 96 tons goes to waste.

Noon-day Lenten services are held in the business part of Chicago by the various city clergy in turn, as in former years.

Diamonds have been found on all continents and in nearly every country on the globe.

Edison claims to have in his laboratory every substance, organic and inorganic, in the world.

When the vote of a jury in Germany stands six to six, the prisoner is acquitted.

It is said that on several Russian railways iron telegraph poles are to be substituted for those of wood.

The amount of silk produced by each spider is so small that Reaumur computes that 663,522 would be required to produce a pound of thread.

The Bishop of Qu'Appelle is delivering a course of addresses on the Spiritual Life in St. Barnabas Church, Toronto, on Friday evenings at 8 o'clock, during Lent.

In a Welsh tin factory has been produced the thinnest sheet of iron ever rolled. It would require 4,800 of them to make one inch in thickness.

So far as is known the Mediterranean Sea is deepest between Malta and Crete, the depth being 14,486 feet.

Mr. C. F. Complin was made a lay reader by the Bishop of Huron at St. John the Evangelist's Church, London, Sunday evening, February 18th.

A donation of \$150,000 has been made to McGill University, Montreal, composed of three equal gifts from Sir Donald A. Smith, H. R. Molson and W. C. McDonald.

Sir Walter Raleigh felt bitterly the ingratitude of a king who sentenced him to death for carrying out the instructions that had been given him.

Rev. Canon Pettit, Cornwall, is improving in health and able to walk about on fine days.

The colour of the turquoise varies from pea-green to greenish-blue and almost black-blue. The best colour is a clear sky-blue.

The Rev. J. E. Graham, lately returned from the mission field of Frenchman's Head, has been appointed by the Bishop of Huron to the mission of Sarawak, Grey county.

At the mission house of All Angels' Church, New York, a novel plan is in operation for helping the unemployed. Men are paid, by an arrangement with neighbouring householders, for keeping the streets in the vicinity clean.

The Rev. Ernest W. Hunt, late of Southampton, has been appointed rector of the Trivett Memorial Church, Exeter, to succeed the Rev. F. H. Fatt, who has gone to Merriton.

Mr. Yates Thompson, formerly owner of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, has offered £38,000 for the addition of a large chapel to Westminster Abbey, where future memorials and monuments may be erected.

The Rev. T. A. Teitelbaum is, by permission of the Bishop of Qu'Appelle, in England with the object of collecting funds for an extensive mission in the Northwest Territories of Canada.

At the beginning of the century the Bible was accessible to but one-fifth of the population of the world. Now it may be read by nine-tenths of the people or the globe, so rapidly has its translation been carried on.

Caroline is the feminine of the Latin form of Charles. Its signification is the Noble Spirited One. It has always been regarded as an exceedingly fortunate or lucky name, and has been borne by seventy-seven queens.

The Rev. A. L. Beverley, of Essex, has been offered the incumbency of the Church of St. Albans, at Prince Albert, in the Saskatchewan district, at the stipend of \$1,100 yearly.

Primitive Methodism had its origin in England in 1810, Mr. Hugh Bourne, a Wesleyan lay preacher, being its founder. The sect has now 592 stations in the United Kingdom, and a membership second only to the Wesleyans.

The citizens of Dijon, France, have just voted a tax for putting a railing around a tree which stands within the city limits. The tree bears a label which informs the sightseer that it is the oldest poplar in France.

The speed of a falcon in full flight is about sixty miles an hour, of a pigeon from forty to fifty, while frigate-birds are said to be able to move at the rate of one hundred miles per hour on fixed wings. Man is not adapted for flying, nor have any of his attempts at inventing flying machines been attended with success.

No animal burrows to a greater depth than about eight feet underground, while man, by the aid of steam, electricity and explosives, has obtained a complete mastery over the crust of the earth, limited only by temperature.

British and Foreign.

The Rev. J. J. Thomson, of Derby, who recently resigned his membership in the Presbyterian Church of England, has been ordained by the Bishop of Liverpool.

An anonymous gift of £5,000 forms the nucleus of a fund for building a new church at Heckmondwike, Yorks.

An anonymous donor, a lady, has sent £1,000 to Archdeacon Blakeney for the Church Day School Aid Association.

There is a prospect of the recrudescence of religious rioting in Crete, where the Christians are incensed at the alleged partiality of the Governor-General in the treatment of Mussulmen.

A Communion-table, made by Jewish converts at Jerusalem, has been presented to St. Catherine's Church, Edgehill, Liverpool, by the Rev. Sidney Pike, late vicar of the parish.

The Archbishop of Dublin will preach at the third Irish Church Congress. Among other speakers who have promised to attend are the Bishop of Edinburgh, the Dean of Worcester, and the Provost of Trinity College, Dublin.

The Sixth Synod of the diocese of Antigua has been held in St. Kitts. It was attended by thirty-eight clergy and laity. Bishop Branch's charge took an hour to deliver, and was most comprehensive and exhaustive. The Bishopric Endowment Fund has now reached £19,000. Efforts are to be made to repair and keep up Church property.

A plan is under the consideration of the Government of India which, it is hoped, will reduce to a minimum the likelihood of a recurrence of the recent deplorable religious riots. The difficulty, of course, is to combine respect for the deep-seated superstitions of the Hindus with due regard for Mohammedan liberty.

It has been arranged that the Third Church of Ireland Congress shall be held in September at Cork. The two previous Congresses were held in Dublin and Belfast respectively. It may be taken

for granted that the southern city will not be outdone by either the capital or her northern rival. A healthful spirit of emulation will, we are quite sure, stir up Cork to make her Congress not less successful than those which have already taken place.

There were the usual proceedings at Cork recently, varied by an attempt of the open-air preachers to evade both police and mob in carrying out their legitimate plans. They were speedily surrounded, however, and being at once "moved on" and protected by the police, had to content themselves with peripatetic preaching. Many of the party, numbering nearly fifty persons, sustained, however, considerable personal violence from the ruffianly crowd.

We suppose that Colonel Tottenham, of Ballycurry, county Wicklow, is a Protestant Churchman, judging by the extravagant delight of the Romanists of New Ross at his gift, valued at over £2,000, of land and money for their new church. Whether the gallant Colonel's generosity is wise and well-timed or not is another matter. At all events, Cork Romanists might learn a lesson in mutual toleration.

A meeting of the Committee of the Association for the Furtherance of Christianity in Egypt was held at 7 Dean's-yard, Westminster, recently, attended by the Archbishop of York (in the chair), the Bishops of Ely and Southwell, etc., at which exhibitions of £15, £12 10s., and £10 to promising Divinity students in the Ek-tissad Coptic School, Cairo, were confirmed; and it was decided to take steps for aiding materially in the higher education of the daughters of the upper classes of the Copts, for which purpose a sum of £2,000 is now required.

The Harrison Trust.—By the will of the late Mrs. Harrison, a sum of £1,000 has been left in trust for the publication and dissemination of the controversial works of her late husband, the Rev. Dr. Harrison, well known as an able and staunch upholder of the principles of the Reformation. This trust, which also includes about 1,700 volumes and pamphlets, has recently been handed over to the committee of the Protestant Reformation Society.

The following resolution has been adopted by the Protestant Defence Association in favour of proceeding in the forthcoming session of the General Synod to amend Canon 36 by adding to it the following words: "Nor shall a cross be in any way so erected, suspended, placed, or depicted in any church, as to be, or appear to be, between the communion table and any of the congregation, or anywhere within the chancel of the church." It has been decided to appeal to the parishes throughout Ireland to support the movement by petition, and not to elect as their representatives any who will not support it in the General Synod.

It is with extreme regret that we record the death of the Rev. Frederick J. Ponsonby, vicar, since 1877, of St. Mary Magdalene, Munster Square, and Rural Dean of St. Pancras. Mr. Ponsonby will long be remembered as a good friend to rich and poor, a priest of wide influence, whose gifts caused him to be much sought after, yet a man of most modest bearing, untiring in his devotion to duty, faithful in his teaching, and a zealous promoter of education in his parish. Under him, as under his predecessor, Mr. Stuart, St. Mary Magdalene's Church has been the centre of a work conducted on thorough Church lines. The place left empty by Mr. Ponsonby's death it will be very hard to fill.—*R.I.P.—Ch. Times.*

The real seat of Italy's insecurity is the religious, or rather, irreligious state of her people. The great mass of the Italian men are absolute unbelievers. Infidelity has leavened their minds, and it is difficult to get them to believe in any religion as a reality. Consequently the moral tone of the people has been lowered. The Pope attempts, in a recent manifesto, to represent immorality and anarchy as the results of the loss of the temporal power. But, so far from this being the case, it was perfectly notorious in former times that the States of the Church were morally and criminally the worst in all Italy. Murders were of almost daily occurrence in the streets of Rome. It was not safe to pass through many parts of the Papal States unprotected. The state of things has immensely improved since Rome became the capital of Italy, though there is much still to be desired.—*Rock.*

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