

"Although there are very arid mountains, particularly to the south, they are generally verdant. It is from these mountains that is procured the wood, necessary for building and for fuel. The Kannacks, naturally lazy, because they have no encouragement, take no trouble to make plantations about their dwellings. They prefer to go seek the wood of which they have need, at two or even three leagues distance. It is true, that if they had a piece of land well cultivated, and covered with trees, the chiefs would soon take it from them. Some of the natives have learned trades; but they are very few. Moreover, the deterioration of manners, hunger, and wretchedness, make here such ravages, that the population is daily diminishing at a frightful rate: I am certain that for ten deaths there is scarcely a birth.

"I have said that the indifferent islanders adhere still to the old superstitions. It is not rare, in effect, to meet doctors of the country, who, when they visit a sick person, order him to offer a sacrifice to the old divinities, a sacrifice which consists in killing a cock, a hen, or a pig, and burying it in the earth after having dressed it. Sometimes they take their hair from the sick person and make a small parcel of it, which they inter with a religious care: we have been witnesses ourselves of these extravagances.

"The things which would excite the greatest disgust in Europe, are an excellent food for the Sandwichers. If a dog, a pig, or a horse happen to die, they devour it to the last bit; they don't even take the trouble to wash the intestines; after having thrown them on the coals they swallow them in the twinkling of an eye. I should, however, apprise you, that nothing of the like occurs amongst our children."

PROGRESS OF RELIGION IN FRANCE.—A recent number of the *Univers* has brought us a most interesting narrative of a touching scene, and one calculated to affect the feelings of every man having at heart the improvement of society and the progress of morality. From the account of our zealous French contemporary, it appears that for some years past the learned and eloquent Father de Ravignan has laboured during the entire season of Lent in inculcating the Doctrines of Christianity with a success annually increasing. The lectures of the learned abbe, which have been closely attended by the young gentlemen of rank, and by the members of the learned professions, had been, each year, followed by results the most desirable. The course of lectures was generally concluded by a series of instructions, during the last week of Lent, to those who wished to prepare for the parochial communion, the number of whom gave evidence of annual increase. In the present year, however, the amount has been

unusually numerous, no less than three thousand men principally of the classes we have above mentioned, having received the Eucharist in the church of Notre Dame. According to the statement in the *Univers*, the immense nave of Notre Dame was insufficient to contain the throng of persons who crowded for the purpose of performing their paschal duty. For more than an hour and a half his grace the Archbishop of Paris and the rev preacher were employed in distributing the blessed sacrament to the vast number who presented themselves. From the same sources we learn that numerous other churches of the French capital exhibited, each of them, a similarly gratifying and edifying spectacle.

CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY, 20 AVENUE, N. Y.—The Sacrament of Confirmation was administered in this church on Sunday last, at 8 o'clock Mass, by the Right Rev Bishop Hughes, to more than two hundred and seventy-eight persons, many of whom were adults, and five of them converts to our Holy Faith. Before administering the Sacrament, the Right Rev Prelate addressed those who were presented for this holy sacrament, in a feeling and eloquent manner. During the administration he was attended by Rev Messrs O'Neill and Rien, (the Rev gentlemen attached to the Church.) After the administration of the sacrament the Right Rev Prelate gave their first communion to more than 300 persons. The Bishop preached also at the high mass to a crowded congregation. This discourse was founded upon the Gospel of the day; it was eloquent instruction and eminently befitting the Christian Bishop—no vindictive or relationary feelings—a lucid and convincing exposition of the faith and dogmas of the Catholic church. It was strange to us, to see a Catholic Bishop officiating in an edifice in which, not 4 years ago, we did hear even all that Catholics hold sacred, misrepresented in the most uncharitable manner. It was indeed a proud day for the Church of the Nativity. (lately Presbyterian.) —[Ib.]

GERMANY.—The Rev. Arthur Franke, a Protestant Theologian of Berlin, Prussia, has been converted to the Catholic Faith, and is preparing for the reception of the priesthood. The Ecclesiastical Gazette of Berlin expresses a lively regret for his fall, and remarks that "other defections may yet be expected."

The *Journal de Lille* announces that M. Wicart, Grand Vicar of the Archbishop of Cambrai and Archdeacon of Lille, has been nominated Bishop of Frejus.