

operation of a Public Library for the benefit of Catholic young men of that city. The legatees relinquished their claim to the legacy, and Archbishop Riordan has formed a diocesan committee to take hold of the project.

— ACCORDING to the *Illustrated Church Annual* for 1900 (non-Catholic), there are now 310 dissenting churches in England. Five new sects were registered this year. These are the Baptist Brethren, Church of God, Hebrew Congregationalists, Ambulance Gospel Mission, and the Brotherhood Church. And the Bible is held responsible for all of them!

— THE Empress of China, who has been displaying such kindness towards Catholic missionaries, requested the Vicar Apostolic of Peking, Mgr. Favier, shortly before his recent visit to Rome to express her sentiments of deep respect and veneration for the Sovereign Pontiff. In return for this kindly act, His Holiness sent the Empress a magnificent porcelain vase made by the Italian artist Ginori.

— THE new commercial treaty between Mexico and China has been drafted in English. This makes some writers think that English will, in the near future, supplant France as a diplomatic language. The spread of English during the 19th century has been marvellous. In 1800, only 22,000,000 spoke this language. In 1900, 127,000,000 use English as their mother tongue; an increase in the century of 477 per cent.

— THE most promising recent characteristic of public opinion in America, says the *Sacred Heart Review*, is the general interest shown in the Catholic religion by non-Catholics. The war with Spain has sharpened the distinction between the deeds of a Catholic nation and the principles of the Catholics in that State. Religion has gained by this new popular distinction. Concomitantly, a spirit of unrest, has undermined the doctrinal prestige of the Protestant churches, and problems of social morality have awaked thinking men to the logic of the Church's teachings.

— THERE are 1,400 Brahman students at the Jesuit College at Trichinopoly, in India. The conversions among them are few, says the *English Messenger*, but it is a great matter to have any at all, by reason of their caste exclusiveness. However, a beginning has been made among former students. There is now a small division in Trichinopoly entirely for converted Brahmans; these converts keep up exclusiveness even in their Catholicity. But they still continue intercourse with non-Christian Brahmans; their relations visit them and even eat with them. This is an immense gain, and opens the door to further conversions.