

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

In every 1,000 men in the British Army there are 18 over six feet. 377,000 miners are employed in the mines of the United Kingdom.

The London suburban trains carry every year over 400,000,000 passengers. The system of promotion by selection is about to be adopted in the British army.

Though Bank of England notes are legal tender in England and Wales, they are not so in Scotland or in Ireland.

Father Rock, who was Roman Catholic priest in Selkirk until recently, has left the Church of Rome and become a Protestant.

Rev. George Mackenzie, parish minister of Ettrick, has been elected minister of the Coats Quoad Sacra Church, Coatbridge.

The Dumbarton Free Church, who are ordered to give up possession of the U. F. High Church, are to worship in the Parish Church halls.

The Rev. Arthur Bell Nicholls died at Banagher on the 3rd inst., aged 90 years. He was the husband of Charlotte Bronte, the famous English novelist.

The Very Rev. Dr. James Cameron Lees, C.V.O., on the 27th ult., attained the jubilee of his ministry in the Church of Scotland. Fifty years ago the minister of St. Giles' Cathedral was ordained to the small Highland parish of Carnock, Ross shire.

Up till date the Church Commission has allocated 96 cases of church property to the Free Church, and 882 cases to the United Free Church, together with 9 cases where the property has been divided. There are still 120 cases undisposed of.

The proprietors of the Daily Graphic and Graphic offer £1,000 to the inventor who first produces a machine which, being heavier than air, shall fly with one or more human passengers between two given spots not less than one mile apart.

The total area burned in San Francisco was about 3,000 acres, or about 4.7 square miles, containing 520 blocks and 25,000 buildings; one-half of these were residences. The amount of insurance covering property in the burned district was \$235,000,000 (estimated). The value of buildings and contents destroyed must have been about \$350,000,000.

After an interval of 367 years, the Franciscans have returned to Oxford. The friars were driven out in the reign of Henry VIII. The Order has opened now a training college at Cowley, within 200 yards of the city boundary. A message was read from the Pope, in which he expressed his pleasure at the event.

A great attraction to Portrush is the world-famed Giants' Causeway, six miles further along the coast. An electric tramway, the first of its kind constructed in Great Britain, conveys passengers to the Causeway, running most of the way by the shore. About half-way is the picturesque old ruins of Dunluce Castle, standing on a detached rock 100 feet above the sea.

The Education Committee of the London County Council have actually recommended that classes in Irish literature, history, and languages be held, providing twenty students be forthcoming in each case. Mr. Stuart Sankey opposed the proposal on the ground that the Irish language was as dead as Sanscrit. The Irish language, he said, was only heard in benighted places in Ireland, where it was used to annoy people. Sir T. Brooke Hitching remarked, in moving an amendment, that the money of over-burdened ratepayers should be used for the purpose of teaching Gaelic to the English people was too absurd for words. The amendment was lost.

CHRISTMAS DINNER.

Cream of Celery Soup.
Roast Turkey. Giblet Gravy.
Cranberry Sauce. Olives.
Creamed Cauliflower.
Sweet Potatoes. Mashed Potatoes.
Lettuce and Cabbage Salad.
Plum Pudding. Hard Sauce.

Fruit.
Nuts and Raisins.
Cafe Noir.

Hard Sauce—Cream three-fourths cup of butter, and add gradually two cups of fruit sugar. When all the sugar is added, beat into it the stiffly beaten whites of two eggs. Flavor to suit the taste.

Christmas Plum Pudding—Grate half a pound of stale bread (nearly three cups) chop fine half a pound of beef suet. Add to the suet two cups of seedless raisins, one cup of currants, half a cup of thinly-sliced citron, the grated rind of an orange or lemon, and one cup of sugar. Mix together thoroughly with the hand, then add the bread, three-fourths a teaspoon of cinnamon, one-fourth a teaspoon of cloves, and one-third a teaspoon of mace. When well mixed again add the well-beaten yolks of four eggs, with half a cup of milk, and lastly the stiffly beaten whites of the eggs. Steam six hours in a two-quart mold well buttered.

Christmas Fruit Cake—One pound of sugar and three-fourths pound of butter, creamed together; add dozen ground cloves one-half nutmeg, one tablespoon cinnamon ground, one-fourth pound sliced citron, yolks ten eggs well beaten, two pounds washed currants rubbed in flour, one pound washed raisins, seeded and cut fine, second of sifted flour and one-half pound raisins seeded and not cut up and one teaspoon of quick yeast (baking powder); mix all thoroughly, then five whites of well beaten eggs, some more flour and the other half-pound of whole seeded raisins flour and raisins to be put in alternately till there is enough flour to make a thick batter. Add lastly the other five beaten whites of eggs; if this makes the cake too thin add a little more flour. Bake in a moderate oven for two hours. The best pans with holes in the centre are preferable to any other kind for fruit cake. Line the pans with buttered paper and cover the cake with a thick can of heavy brown paper while it is cooking. Cut the paper an inch larger than the top of the pan and fold it down all around the edge and pin in place to keep it in place. This cake should be made November 1.

In an article printed in the Western Christian Advocate on "The Bible in Sunday school," a "Sunday school superintendent" says: "I believe we should expel the lesson text and quarterly from our classes, and, so far as in us lies, insist upon every child reading the lesson directly from the Word of God. I believe every evangelical church should insist upon teaching its catechism in the Sunday Sunday."

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SPARKLES.

"He said he would lay the earth at my feet," said the sentimental girl. "Yes," answered Miss Cayenne, "it sounds good, but it is not practical. You already have the earth at your feet. What you want is a two-storey house over your head."

An English Want—"Wanted, baby or very small grand piano, . . . condition equal to new."—Bazaar. It is, of course, the advertiser's own business, but for ourselves we think the piano would be preferable. We do not care for the idea of a second-hand infant, got up to look like a new one.—Punch.

It was in a downtown restaurant that the short little woman and her tall husband went for dinner. "Will you have oysters?" asked he. "Yes," said the short little woman, as she tried vainly to touch her toes to the floor. "And John, I want a hassock," John nodded and, as he handed his order to the waiter, said, "And bring a hassock for the lady." "One hassock?" asked the waiter, with what John thought more than ordinary interest. The waiter did not go, while his face got red. Then he came around to John's side, and speaking sotto voce, said: "Say, mister, I haven't been here long, and I'm not on to all these things. Will the lady have the hassock broiled or fried?"

DULY ENDORSED.

Lord Roberts tells how, on one occasion, finding himself short of cash, he drew a cheque for fifty pounds to the order of his soldier servant, and sent him over to the bank to get it cashed. The servant handed it in, and the cashier examined it.

"You will have to endorse this," he remarked, as he pushed the cheque back. The soldier stared.

"What for?" he asked. "Well, I can not pay the money unless you do," replied the clerk.

"Where shall I endorse?" asked the servant.

"There," was the reply, as the clerk pointed to the back of the cheque.

The soldier took the pen and wrote as follows: "I beg to say that I have known Lord Roberts for several years and he has proved himself, times without number, to be as brave as a lion, but always kindly and considerate towards all who serve under him. And I have therefore great pleasure in respectfully endorsing his cheque. —James —" —Tit-Bits.

The discontented man always has his harp on the willows, except when some one is willing to listen to him; then the old strings do service until he succeeds in making every one around him unhappy. It is not new harps that many of us need, but new temperaments and dispositions.

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