

It is reported that Sir Charles Dilke, M.P. for Chelsea, has sent the dead body of his wife to Vienna for cremation. The report created quite a sensation.

It is rumored that the Dowager Queen of Bavaria is about to embrace Catholicism.

It is estimated that every trout caught in the Thames has cost the votaries of the art more than its weight in gold, so scarce has this description of fish become.

A Tai Ping Chinese rebel chief, who has been travelling about the country since the capture of Nanking, in 1854, was taken recently near Amoz. He refused to perform the "Ko Tow" before the Viceroy, and was summarily condemned and executed about five days ago by the humane process of slicing to pieces, a punishment which the unhappy man is said to have borne with remarkable fortitude.

In Britany there is said to prevail a curious matrimonial custom. On certain fete days the young ladies appear in red petticoats, with white or yellow borders round them. The number denotes the portion the father is willing to give his daughter. Each white band, representing silver, betokens one hundred francs of rent; and each yellow band denotes gold, and stands for a thousand francs a year. Thus a young farmer who sees a face that pleases him, has only to glance at the trimmings of the petticoat to learn in an instant what amount accompanies the wearer.

A feat in swimming was performed lately which is believed to be without parallel in England. Mr Drinkwater, of Trinity College, Cambridge, diving into the river there, swam under water a distance of eighty-three yards, and was immersed for one minute seven seconds. Upon emerging, he appeared little the worse for the exertion.

Under the French military system, merit is recognised before money, and brains before birth or station. There are at the present time 314 generals of division and of brigade in the French army, of whom 80 have risen from the ranks. Since September, 1870, 139 colonels have been appointed brigadiers.

In Italy the finest violin strings are made by soaking silk-worms in vinegar for a short time to soften them, when they may be pulled out to almost any desired length and fineness; they are then sometimes slightly twisted.

There are rumors of complications having arisen between Germany and Russia.

The King of Ashantee is to be deposed. Half of the capital city has been destroyed by fire.

In a case heard at the Guildhall, before Alderman Besley, in which a sempstress sued her employer for 14s. 9d., for work and labor done, it was adduced in evidence that her remuneration for each pair of trousers was at the rate of seven farthings.

The Archbishop of Tuam is truly an extraordinary man. He is now eighty-two years of age, and will in another year be in the fiftieth year of his episcopate. Yet he is as active in the performance of his sacred functions as if he were but forty or fifty. For three weeks of late he has been continuously on a Confirmation tour, travelling through the wildest regions of the west—often in a boat across the Corrib and other lakes—examining minutely and at length the children presented to him, about 2000 in all, and then saying Mass and preaching long sermons, chiefly in Irish. And, after all his labors, he is said to be in robust health and in the best spirits!

RATTLESNAKES AND THEIR HABITS.

ORDINARILY, the rattlesnake is extremely sluggish, and unless disturbed there is little to fear from it during the greater portion of the year. Just before and just after its winter sleep, however, it is more active, and often assumes the offensive. In order to strike it must lie in a close coil, with its head and neck erect. In this position it throws itself forward three-fourths of its length, supporting its weight entirely upon the remaining fourth.

When molested or alarmed, or when about to attack, the rattle is violently shaken; but practically this serves little purposes as a warning, since when excited the creature strikes at the intruder with the quickness of lightning, and almost simultaneously with the sound of the rattle. The statement that the noise of the rattle is peculiar, and once heard will never afterwards be mistaken, is emphatically denied, the writer averring that he has known the opinions of those who had frequently heard the sound, "divided as to whether a certain ominous clicking arose from the grasshoppers which were there in great numbers, or a rattlesnake." Contrary to the common belief, the reptile also often leaves its hole and moves about after sundown, not seldom crawling into tents, and even into beds, during the night. The notion that venomous snakes do not bite twice in immediate succession is also pronounced erroneous, the writer mentioning a case where he saw the rattlesnake strike three times with electric quickness, each time leaving the marks of its fangs on the trousers of the person attacked.

But with its quickness and irritability, the snake frequently refuses to bite, even when crowded to the closest quarters. It is related that often when trod on it fails to retaliate; and one remarkable instance is given where a gentleman on coming out of the River Platte after a bath, and entirely naked, sat down upon a rattlesnake, and discovering his mistake suddenly resumed his legs, without suffering any harm beyond a severe fright. The peculiar odor of the rattlesnake is vouched for, and we are told that when one is irritated and made to bite the rake or hoe with which it is intended to kill him, the implement will retain the same unpleasant smell for months. Once known, the odor is always recognizable.

The bite of the rattlesnake, according to this observer's experience, is neither so rapidly fatal nor so incurable as most people suppose. Of thirty persons bitten by the rattlesnake, he states that all recovered but one, and he lived twelve days after the accident. Of the whole thirty this was the only case which received surgical

advice; but whether it was the bite or the advice that killed the patient we are not informed.

Whiskey the writer regards as a specific for the bite of the rattlesnake, and relates numerous instances which illustrate the wonderful power of this agent when administered in sufficient quantity. It is well known to physicians that persons suffering diseases attendant with severe pain will often tolerate much larger doses of opium or other narcotic than could otherwise be borne. Persons poisoned by the bite of a rattlesnake manifest a similar tolerance for immense doses of whiskey, quantities sufficient to make a well person stupidly drunk, or even to destroy life, often producing no visible effect upon the sufferer from snake bite. Yet, to be of any service to the patient, it is asserted that he must be made thoroughly drunk before it is safe to suspend the administration of the remedy. A quart or more of raw whiskey is frequently required to bring about this condition; but when once it is attained, no further danger need be apprehended.

While the rattlesnake is found spread over a large portion of North America, it is much more abundant in some localities than in others. Texas probably holds an infinitely larger proportion of these reptiles than any other State in the Union. The district lying between the Rio Grande and the Nueces, two streams which flow in the same direction and some sixty or seventy miles apart, is a desert region, literally swarming with poisonous serpents. "In summer," says one writer, "one cannot go fifty yards in this locality without seeing a rattlesnake. In other parts of the States the moccasin is the prevalent snake, while centipedes, scorpions, tarantulas, and alligators infest various localities, and are each a terrible scourge."

All writers have hitherto concurred in saying that rattlesnakes are never met with at an elevation of more than 6,000 feet above the sea level. The surveying party of Mr Morley killed numbers of them last year at an elevation of about 8,000 feet; it is added, however, that they were never found so high before. The mountain snakes possess more vivid colors than their brethren of the prairies, and of the two are more dreaded on account of their supposed ferocity.—'Scientific Miscellany from April Galaxy.'

WHO CAN STOP A BALL ON AN INCLINED PLANE?

OUR excellent contemporary, the 'Presbyterian Banner,' is grieved that the scientist Tyndall has endorsed the monistic hypothesis of human existence, and the 'Methodist' comes out with all its power to stay the fearful current of infidelity and atheism. We are of opinion that the conclusions of Professor Tyndall are, to a certain extent, the result of principles constitutionally inherent in Presbyterianism and Methodism, and that Mr. Tyndall is only a bolder, braver, and more outspoken man than his fellows. The limitation which we place to our assertion is that Tyndall should have halted before the God of Nature as manifested by the light of reason, for says St. Paul (Rom. i. 20): "The invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made: His eternal power also and divinity: so that they are inexcusable." When, however, we consider that to the mind of Tyndall the scientists have swept away the God of Revelation with the power of an avalanche, we might, were it not for the Holy Scriptures, hold him excusable in wiping out the God of Reason.

The Reformation started (better, perpetuated) the emancipation of the human spirit from the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the Church, and consequently placed the reason of man on the throne of the Holy Ghost. Having usurped the office of God, it began to examine the sayings of God, and in judging God by His words pronounced that He was not. What follows? The human spirit filled with vanity and blinded with pride, looked into itself, emancipated itself from the saying of David: "The light of Thy countenance is written on us, O Lord," and though it had eyes, it saw not, for the imprint of the face of God was invisible to its gaze. Then followed the theory of evolution, the eternity of matter, and the gross materialism which are the shame and sorrow of our age. The Evangelical Alliance wished to stay infidelity on one hand and superstition on the other; but having disowned the infallible teaching, living, ever-abiding power of the Spirit in the Church, and having been dispirited of the seven living streams of sacramental grace, and having been without a sacrifice, we ask the members of the Evangelical Alliance churches, "Who can stop a ball on an inclined plane?"

The pagans of Greece and Rome had a more exalted notion of man's origin and dignity than Tyndall, Darwin, Tyler, Lubbock, and that class. Ingrained in their very language was what our scientists of the nineteenth century call the dualistic hypothesis. Anima, or the breath of life, was common to men and animals; *animus*, or soul, superadded feeling or passion to the breath of life; or *mens* or mind, was the intellectual principle by which beheld the sequence of cause and effect, forejudged in the future, and remembered in the past. The English language has no three words of precisely the same import as the above, a fact which goes to show that the ancients studied the hypothesis of evolution in the light of reason with more precision than Professor Tyndall and the clairvoyants of our day. Human consciousness, the common sense of mankind, the testimony of ages, and the innate absurdity of the monistic theory of Tyndall are God-given, irremovable obstacles to materialistic phantasmagoria. Remove away from Tyndall and Kant their pomp of terminology, and their ideas, when placed in plain English, fall by their own weight.

The work of the scientists will do one good at the least; it will bring reason and revelation into full view of each other, and show our Protestant Christians that there are but three depots between the cradle and the grave; first, revelation in its fulness in the Catholic Church; next, natural theism, and lastly, blank black atheism. Outside of sacrificing God's truth, the Catholic Church would do anything to throw its temple doors open to all mankind. That it cannot do, for only by intolerance in truth can it withstand the current of atheism, infidelity and materialism, which is desolating so many lands in our age.—'N. Y. Tablet.'