

GENERAL NEWS.

Justiano Roxas, the Californian centenarian, died at Santa Cruz in that State recently at the age of one hundred and twenty-two years. In his latter days he became almost hideous to look upon, being very like a living skeleton. His eyes were sunk deep in their sockets, and his hands had shrivelled and shrunken away till they resembled the claws of a hawk. For many months previous to his death the old man slept upon a hearth, keeping himself warm by a wood fire, which was never allowed to go out. A special feature of his case was that his age was well authenticated, as eighty-six years ago he was baptised in Mission Church at Santa Cruz, and the record shows him to have been thirty-six years of age at that time.

Four hundred thousand pounds for a head of hair is a startler. Our readers do not believe it? Well, then, they must have a suspicion of the correctness of what appears in the newspapers. If we are to believe a paragraph which has gone the rounds of the press, Madame Nilsson possesses a head of hair which she might readily turn into £400,000. According to a medical journal (says the Universe) there are from 160,000 to 200,000 hairs in a lady's head. Madame Nilsson possesses a splendid head of hair, and probably has the full complement of individual hairs. We are informed by the same journal that the gifted Nilsson sold a hair from her head for £2, and that "in a few moments the Swedish songstress was surrounded by admirers anxious to buy a hair at the same rate." The sale took place at a fancy fair in New York, and, we are glad to find, in the cause of charity. Just imagine the number of charitable institutions that might be established if the 200,000 hairs were sold at the same rate? A valuable natural head-dress, truly.

A recent letter in the 'Germania' gives the following account of the process of "conversion" to the Russian schism, which is still in full operation in Podlachia. "A band of Cossacks rides from a 'converted' village to an unconverted one, where it puts in practice the scourging system until the peasants seem to perceive that the Orthodox Church must be the true one, and declare their willingness to subscribe a statement that they are members of it. 'Now, Kam, you are at last Orthodox, says the Converter, but see that you do not forget that you have willingly subscribed the declaration, for otherwise it would be necessary for you to feel the knout again.' Conversions of this kind took place on the 5th and 6th of May in the village of Rudnia, near Biala. The Cossacks beat the poor peasants so unmercifully without convincing them that a fine young man was three times beaten to the earth, so that at last he expired under the blows. The name of this victim is Josaphat Spus. Those who doubt the story of this and similar 'conversions' may refer to one of the Consuls at Warsaw, who are in a position to verify them." According to the Russian theory, all this resistance is caused by a simple attempt to restore the liturgical purity of the Slavonic rite. The Ruthenians of Podlachia must indeed be a strange people. They let themselves be knouted and shot rather than allow their liturgy to be assimilated to the Russian, and yet they declare themselves "willing to be converted" to the Russian Faith.

The Brussels correspondent of the 'Pall Mall Gazette' writes:—"A marvellous exhibition is taking place at present at the Cercle Artistique Litteraire at Brussels. Some months ago, Frederick van de Herkhove, the son of a corn merchant of Bruges, died at the age of ten and a-half years. He had always been sickly, and, therefore, was not sent to school, but allowed him to roam about. His chief amusement was to paint with such rough painting materials as he could procure. The paintings left by him, of which about a hundred are now exhibited at the Cercle, were discovered since death to be productions which the best landscape painter of the age would not disown. In Brussels good judges of art are astonished that an untutored child should have equalled and even surpassed some of the most celebrated masters. In all those of the pictures where there is a river, a little boy is represented angling representing, of course, the deceased. Large sums have been offered for the collection, but refused.

HIBERNIAN AUSTRALASIAN CATHOLIC BENEFIT SOCIETY.

(Registered under the Friendly Societies Act of Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, New Zealand, and South Australia),
and at present
NUMBERING ONE HUNDRED AND TEN BRANCHES,
AND ABOUT
FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED MEMBERS.

CLEARANCES ARE GRANTED AT NO EXTRA CHARGES TO MEMBERS.

THE SOCIETY IS FOUNDED UPON THE FINANCIAL BASIS OF OTHER BENEFIT SOCIETIES.

THE ENTRANCE FEES AND RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION

Will be found to compare favorably with those

CHARGED BY OTHER SOCIETIES,

And are as Moderate as practicable, having due regard to the

benefits secured, a synopsis of which is subjoined:—

A Benefit Member receives during illness £1 per week for twenty-six consecutive weeks, 15s for the next thirteen weeks, and 10s for further period of thirteen weeks; on death of wife £10, at his own death his relatives receive £20. He has medical attendance and medicine for himself and family immediately on joining. If a single man with a widowed mother, and brothers and sisters (under 18 years of age), he has medical attendance and medicine for them. A Member removing can have a clearance which will admit him into any branch of the Society in the locality to which he may remove. Honorary and Life Honorary Members are provided for, and may, on payment of a small weekly contribution, secure medical attendance. The Society is also for the purpose (as its name indicates) of cherishing the memory of Ireland, and promoting the religious, social, and intellectual condition of the members. Any person desirous of having a branch opened shall make application to a branch, verified by signatures of not less than thirteen persons not members, who wish to become members thereof; also the signature of the resident Priest, if available, and at the same time forward the sum of 10s each as proposition fees.

Branches are established at Invercargill, Lawrence, Dunedin, Naseby, Oamaru, Christchurch, Greymouth, Charleston, Addisons, Brighton, Greenstone, Waimea, Hokitika, Wellington, Reefton, Onehunga, Otahuhu, Auckland, Napier, Akaroa, and Lyttelton.

BUSINESS NOTICE.

I BEG to notify to my numerous Friends and the Public generally that I have this day

RECOMMENCED BUSINESS

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CORNER OF HOPE AND STAFFORD STREETS,

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JOHN GRIFFEN.

July 26, 1875.

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Cheap Tartans

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Cheap Underclothing
Cheap Skirts
Cheap Waterproofs
Cheap Hats and Caps
Cheap Ties, Collars, &c.

NOTE.—TWENTY-FIVE CASES New Tweeds and Cloths added to the Tailoring Department. Perfect fit Guaranteed.

NOTE.—Our large shipments for this season, coming in during re-building, compels us to use every means to move our stock as soon as possible. To effect this, we are marking everything at very low prices this winter, in order to induce all buyers to assist us to reduce our immense stock.

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