

GENERAL NEWS.

A STATISTICAL report, prepared for circulation by the Government of Fiji, shows that the white population is approximately 859 males, 270 females, and 530 children, or a total of 1650 souls. The enterprise of the settlers has during the last 10 years advanced the value of Fijian exports by annual increments of £10,000. In 1874 81 ships of tonnage of 9,732 tons, entered the port of Levuka. The exports from the group last year amounted to £110,000, of which £99,594 were shipped from Levuka. The exports consist chiefly of cotton, copra, beche-de-mer, cotton, and coconut oil. The great difficulty which has existed up to the present moment in Fiji is the difficulty of transit and inter-communication. Cases of eggs and crates of fowls, tons of maize, and hundreds of pounds worth of oranges and other tropical fruits annually go to waste because there are no means of regular and speedy communication with Levuka, and still less frequent opportunities of communicating with the neighboring colonies of New Zealand or New South Wales.

THE EUCALYPTUS.—“Our readers are aware,” says the ‘Lancet,’ “that the result of extensive administration of the eucalyptus globulus in intermittent fever has hardly corroborated the promise of early and more limited experience. It appears to have very little power of arresting the frequency of the attacks, or of warding off the grave organic consequences of the disease. But it is interesting to find that its alleged influence on malaria has received some substantial confirmation. Dr. Cossan recently announced that its effect in Algeria had been marked. Since the growth of plantations of this tree around the lake of Fezzara, the malaria, which formerly was intense, has almost disappeared. The village of Ain Mokra, according to Captain Ney, furnishes an equally striking instance. The station was formerly so unhealthy that it was necessary to change the French garrison every five days on account of the number of men attacked. Fever has, however, become much more rare since plantations of eucalyptus globulus have been made on the shores of the lake and the sides of the railway, which include altogether 60,000 trees. A writer in the ‘Temps’ mentions a still more singular effect—namely, that parasites (phyloxera, &c.), disappear from vines growing near the eucalyptus. The experiment, made during several years and in several vineyards, had become uniform in its results.”

DIED FROM JOY.—The ‘Bangalore Spectator’ relates that a Komery, who was in the habit of risking his money in lotteries, met his death lately from excessive joy. The man lost several times, and as a last chance staked all he had, including his wife’s tali as well. When the drawing took place he is said to have 100,000 rupees. Excited, he exclaimed “Govinda!” and fell on the ground, and was taken up a corpse.

THE CATHOLIC VOTE.—The determination of the Catholic body to vote only for those Parliamentary candidates in favor of an amendment of the Education Act has excited considerable vexation in certain quarters. These candid critics are well aware that some sections of the community always vote in a body at elections. No one is found to complain of the Rechabites or licensed victuallers when giving their unanimous support to their chosen candidates. But it is simply shocking that Catholics should combine to resist an invasion of their political and religious liberty, and to procure redress. Such a course tends to keep before the eyes of the public the working of the Education Act. But this is not desired by certain candid critics who have lauded that measure to the skies. Sooner or later a large part of the community will see that the opposition of the Catholic body has been a common advantage by directing general attention to its working, despite the desire of some journals to blink the question. Having failed to create dissension amongst the Catholic body they are somewhat vexed. All this, however, will only encourage and embolden faithful Catholics to pursue the end they have in view. When struggling for Emancipation the following lines of a well-known poet were often cited by O’Connell: “Who would be free, themselves must strike the blow.”—Advocate.

A very large and fine-looking palace is now being built at Wellington, close to the Catholic Cathedral, for bishop Redwood; and a residence for the Christian Brothers, who are expected to arrive shortly to assume the direction of the Catholic schools of the city, is also being built.

Last year Great Britain, by its drinking, provided the revenue with (in round numbers) the handsome sum of £32,000,000, and by its smoking and snuffing another £7,000,000. This enormous sum, derived entirely from luxuries, is considerably more than half the public income of the United Kingdom. The teetotallers and anti-tobaccoists may have some little difficulty in suggesting sources of revenue equally profitable.

The ‘Taranaki Herald’ of the 3rd inst. says:—“Yesterday the labouring men engaged on the railway had notice that their wages would be reduced from 8s. to 7s. a day. They accordingly struck, and were paid off during the afternoon. To-day, fresh hands will be taken on at the reduced rate of wages.”

Brickmaking is one of the industries of Wellington, though a stranger visiting the town might not see the necessity for bricks. But house building is constantly extending, and modern houses to be complete must have chimneys, hence the demand for bricks. It has been noticed, however, of late, that landowners in some parts of Wellington have overcome the fear of building dwelling-houses entirely of brick. In several directions this material is being used in the erection of houses; and there should be little fear of their being in danger from earthquakes, which have very much decreased in violence of late years, and are less violent. In other parts of the colony where earthquakes were experienced in the early days, the inhabitants have come to regard them as curious and interesting matters of history. Here shocks are occasionally felt, but not of sufficient importance to be

dangerous, and it seems a pity that the many fine buildings of Wellington should be built of such perishable material as wood.—Mail.

Cardinal Manning, speaking lately at a temperance demonstration at Liverpool, said he would support the opening of museums and places of amusement on Sundays in Ireland, but not in England.

Four thousand children, Catholic and Church of England, were treated at Cardiff, in celebration of the birthday of the Marquis of Bute.

THE ‘Sun’ says: “The Roman Catholic priests and prelates who are abused and put under ban in Switzerland take refuge in Savoy. All the world may change, but Savoy keeps up her ancient pious ways, and her mountaineers go to church regularly every Sunday. When there is no room in the chapels and churches, the peasants sit out at the doors or stand around on the squares until services are over.”

DEATH OF A CONVERT.—The wittiest and most genial priest in England is dead—Dr. Marshall, Catholic priest of Ross. He was one of the first converts in the Oxford movement, and was curate to the late Dr. Wilberforce, Bishop of Winchester. He was a splendid preacher, a holy priest, and a cheerful companion. R. I. P.

THE BANK OF CALIFORNIA.—The financial situation in San Francisco is represented as being very encouraging, and the feeling cheerful. Measures are rapidly maturing to put the Bank of California again in operation on a secure basis, and nearly 5,000,000 dollars has already been subscribed towards the capital stock.

The Catholics of Italy complain, very naturally, that whereas the Popes and the religious orders founded magnificent libraries in one and the same manner always, namely, by writing books themselves, and then purchasing the works of others, “Young Italy” makes up her library by stealing from others. Signor Bonghi, the new minister of instruction, is determined that the rising generation shall have books; and, being a man of “progress” and “advanced ideas,” he has not the least difficulty in settling the question of how to obtain them. The “Victor Emmanuel Library” is to contain 1,400,000 volumes, it is to be one of the show places of modern Rome. Whereas the English and American tourists come to inspect it, the librarian will, if he tell the truth, speak as follows:—“Those are the books stolen from St. Hilary’s library—and those belonged to Nicholas V.—that is the Calixtine collection, and that other was amassed by Sixtus IV.—we have also stolen the library of the Roman College (*di primissimo ordine*), for you see we were engaged to form something literary which was to bear the name of Victor Emmanuel. What more natural than that we should make him a library, as he has made himself a kingdom, that is, by indiscriminate pillage.”

The ‘Voce della Verita’ of Rome gives a very sad account of the present condition of that magnificent relic of antiquity, the Colosseum. Since Signor Rosa’s useless attempt to excavate its foundations, it has been flooded with water; an evil which was predicted by the Roman press when Rosa’s so-called restorations were undertaken. In 1802 the Colosseum was thoroughly excavated down to the ground-works by order of the French government. It was then as now flooded and rendered dangerous to public health, owing to the putrid condition of the water which entered it from the sewers and the Tiber, and it was immediately filled up again. The water which came in during Signor Rosa’s excavations has risen to a considerable height and flooded the entire arena. It has become stagnant and smells so intolerably that no one can inspect the building without running the risk of being asphyxiated. This is all the good that Signor Rosa has been able to do the stupendous old amphitheatre, and the Italian government, which has squandered many thousands of francs, has here earned another title to the ill-will with which Romans regard it. For political motives it placed at the head of archaeological affairs in Rome, an ignorant like Rosa, who, some few years ago, was only a porter in the employ of Prince Borghese, and who, it will be remembered, caused the beautiful *fauna* of the Colosseum to be destroyed under the pretext that the roots of the plant injured the building, whereas in many places they served to keep it standing.

“IS IT IN THE BIBLE?”

WHEN our Lord cured the the blind man by the use of spittle and clay, he showed us that the material is conducive to the spiritual; that as a man is composed of matter and spirit, the use of material things is lawful in order that the souls of men may be saved. Respect, therefore, to material things, as to relics and holy pictures, is praiseworthy, and should never be confounded with what modern Protestants understand by the term “worship,” which they so frequently bandy in attacking the Catholic veneration of relics. We have just been reading a passage in Trench’s “English, Past and Present,” in regard to the word “worship,” which may be as interesting to the rhetorician as to the theologian: “There is another passage in one of our occasional services, which sometimes offends those who are unacquainted with the early uses of English words, and thus with the intention of the actual framers of that service—I mean the words in our marriage service: ‘With my body I thee worship.’ Clearly, in our modern sense of ‘worship’ this language would be unjustifiable. But ‘worship’ or ‘*worship*’ meant ‘honor’ in our early English, and to ‘worship’ to honor, this meaning of ‘worship’ still surviving in the title of ‘your worship’ addressed to the magistrate on the bench. So little was it restrained of old to the honor which man is bound to pay to God, that it was employed by Wickliff to express the honor which God will render to his faithful servants and friends. Thus our Lord’s declaration, ‘If any man serve me, him will my Father honor,’ in Wickliff’s translation reads thus: ‘If any man serve me, my Father shall *worship* him.’”