

NEWS BY THE MAIL.

The latest mail advices from England contain gloomy reports. During the recent floods in the Midland Counties, at Nottingham thirteen persons were drowned, and more than 3000 houses were inundated, and fifty factories stopped. At Burton-on-Trent six persons were drowned, and at Derby the water is still several feet deep in the streets. Above Gainsborough the Trent has burst its banks, and all the surrounding country is flooded. The loss of property is enormous. The main line of the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railroad was washed away. All traffic was stopped for a time.

The type for the ninth edition of the "Encyclopedia Britannica" is being set by machinery, and is working successfully.

Nearly the whole of the city of Virginia has been swept away by fire. There is considerable distress amongst the burnt-out citizens. The railroad lines, placing carriages at their disposal free of charge, take them to other parts of Union. Most of the mills have been burned, and work will be limited during the present winter.

A letter from Homy Stanley, explorer, dated Victoria Nyanza, Africa, March 1, 1875, giving a highly interesting account of his 103 days' journey across the wilds of the African interior during his journey from Bagamogagi. At Kagohali some of the party died of fatigue, famine, dysentery, and fever, while a number had to be left at Urimo. In the interior the people are noted for their manly forms, and are entirely naked. Pocock, a young English explorer, died at Chivyn. Five of the party died after four days' march. Several fights occurred with wild tribes, in which both sides suffered. The natives of Natura fought a three days' battle against the explorers. Stanley lost 21 men, and the natives 35 altogether. With wars, famine, and disease, he had lost 125 men, all Africans, except Pocock.

Two hundred dwellings, a synagogue, and five schools in Widsy, Russian Poland, have been burned. Some persons perished, and 3000 persons are homeless.

Hope is entertained that some of the passengers by the Pacific may yet be found.

Over 200 sailors have been lost during the late gales in the North Sea.

26,000,000*fr.* were subscribed to relieve the distress caused by the recent inundations in France.

Mrs. Black, the original of Byron's "Maid of Athens," died in Greece, aged 76.

The King and Queen of Denmark and Princess Thyra intend visiting England shortly.

Sixty tons of small arms and ammunition for the Chinese have been shipped at London as merchandise. The Government is after the shippers.

It is thought the Government will prosecute the consignees of arms shipped hence to China during the recent negotiations. Several cargoes are now en route.

They are betting in London that the Prince of Wales will be assassinated in India.

A man in Dusseldorf, Prussia, lately murdered his wife and daughter because they ridiculed his red hair.

There is said to be an average of 690,000 foot passengers cross London Bridge, and more than 116,000 horses in a week.

Two-storey railway coaches is the latest Swiss idea. Twelve cars are now being made for a branch line, which weigh ten tons, and have sixty-six seats each.

During one week recently the London health authorities seized and destroyed two tons and twelve hundred weight of meat as unfit for human food, that had been exposed for sale in the market.

Mr. Plimsoll's war upon owners and agents of rotten sailing ships has produced some good effect at least. German consuls at all British ports have received orders to prevent unseaworthy ships flying the German flag from putting out.

The Russian Government has published an edict compelling all Polish proprietors in the provinces of Vienna, Grodno, Koons, Minsel, and Wilepsk, to sell to Russian tenants the property leased by the latter.

Russia limits its exhibits at the Philadelphia Exhibition to specialties unknown out of Russia.

A special from Alexandra reports that the people of Kuda and White Nile have revolted, and defeated the Egyptian troops, killing 400 of them. Reinforcements will be sent.

SHIPPING.

For Otago—loading, cleared, and sailed:—Corona, 1,190 tons, at London, August 15; Margaret Galbraith, 840 tons, sailed Sept. 28; Clive, 846 tons, at London, September 6; Oxford, 1,281 tons, at London, September 29; Oamaru, 1,393 tons, at London, September 24; Rakaiia, 1,022 tons, sailed, September 33; Theseus, 948 tons, at London, September 21; Wiltshire, sailed, September 29; Sir Lancelot, 1,600 tons, to sail, November 10; Orpheus, 2,000 tons, to sail, December 10; Meridangen, 2,000 tons, to sail, November 30. The Oamaru is to sail on the 28th October.

Freight to Otago from Glasgow, 35s to 40s per ton; hull and box goods from London, rough measurement 30s, fine 40s; liquids, 45s; cement, 50s; per cask-weight, 30s; bottled beer, 1s per doz.; salt, 35s per ton.

IMPROVING THE DANUBE.—The Austrian Government has commenced a series of improvements in the Danube River, to make it navigable as far up as Vienna. The plan of General McAlpine, of Albany, N.Y., was chosen by the Austrian Government as the best, and he was instructed to contract for the work in accordance with his specifications. A firm of New York contractors have agreed to do the work, and have just received their contract from the Austrian Government. The contract amounts to 5,000,000*sol.*

PREVENTION OF SCARLET FEVER AND CONTAGION.

The above was the subject of a lecture recently delivered in the Victoria Hall, Drummond street, Carlton, by Dr. Girdlestone, the health officer of Melbourne. Alderman O'Grady occupied the chair, and there was a numerous attendance. The lecturer observed that scarlet fever was a disease more easily prevented than cured, and this being the case it behoved every parent to study the leading principles of hygiene, and also that these principles should be made part of the elementary instruction in schools. Scarlet fever could not be so virulent in a clean well-ventilated house as in a place where cleanliness and ventilation were neglected, and in these cases the words of scripture were most applicable, "As a man soweth so shall he also reap." The disease was given off in enormous quantities by persons suffering from it, and the patients required to be isolated. The abolition of cesspits, the drainage of streets, and the clearing away of filth by the public bodies, were good remedies, but to make the remedy complete, assistance must come from within as well as from without. The authorities and householders ought to work together. To keep off attacks of fever, the water used by a family must be pure. The appearance of water was no guarantee of its purity. Pure water was necessary for health; if people drank impure water the tone of the health was lowered, and they were more likely to catch an epidemic. He therefore advised everybody to boil water before using it, as the heat of boiling destroyed the poison it might contain. He believed that numbers of people placed dark blinds at their windows to save their furniture from the action of the sun, but he recommended them to consider their health before their furniture, and warned them that the sun must enter if a room was to be kept sweet and healthy. Speaking of the back premises of houses, Dr. Girdlestone urged that the authorities should appoint an officer whose duty should be to see the plans of every house before it was built, and ascertain whether there were proper means of drainage before allowing the building to be erected. Under existing laws, it was often the case that half a dozen houses were put together where there should be only three, and it was found to be impossible to drain them, and the occupants suffered in health in consequence. Above all, the lecturer urged upon his hearers to allow a continuous supply of fresh air to enter the rooms of their houses, as it diluted the poison of the disease.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN IRELAND.

In round numbers there are five and a half millions of a population in Ireland. Of these nearly four and a half millions are Catholics. Then about half a million are Episcopal Protestants, and the other half million Presbyterian and Methodists, with a very few Baptists, Congregationalists, and Quakers. Now the Episcopal Protestants never yet joined in with the National School System of Ireland. They have "the Church Education Society Schools."

It is only twelve years since the Wesleyans of Ireland united with the National Education System. Prior to that they and Cardinal Cullen were in the same boat on this question. The Primitive Wesleyans are still the very bitterest opponents of the national schools and would not send their children to them, because the Bible is not allowed to be read at all hours or any hour each day. The entire Orangemen of the North of Ireland are opposed to the national schools, as one man, and want denominational schools. These "Northern Protestants," then, would not dread a change to denominational schools for them. Their objection is to allowing any other schools, in the whole of Ireland, except intensely Protestant schools where Papists should be whipped into learning passages of the Bible by the yard; being daily pointed out therefrom "the errors of Popery."

All that Cardinal Cullen has ever demanded has been a division of the public school funds amongst each religious denomination, *pro rata*; and each church or sect to have entire control of their own schools, with general government inspection in secular branches. This is about what the Catholic hierarchy demands also in America. This is the system, too, which practically exists in England, and to which the Cardinal always points as an illustration of all that he desires.—N. Y. Independent.

Father Cazet, S.J., Prefect Apostolic of Madagascar, has written the following letter from Tananarive:—The Catholic Church has had in Tananarive, the capital of Madagascar, a most signal triumph, one indeed which she has never before experienced in this island where heresy reigns supreme. We have been able to celebrate the procession of the Most Holy Sacrament. Our expectations were more than fulfilled. The procession was really very beautiful. It was long, and our neophytes, carrying splendid banners, walked in it singing hymns of praise to our Saviour. But what we most rejoiced at was that the procession no longer takes place in the grounds of the farm-house of Ambohipou, but we felt we might make it quite public; so we conducted it round the largest public square in the city, the Champs de Mars. I asked the privilege and it was readily granted me. The Christians flocked to see it from many miles around, and their joy can be well imagined. As the church of St. Joseph of Mahanassina, although very large, is too small to accommodate so vast a crowd, we erected in the public square a most beautiful altar. It was almost entirely constructed of flowers and banners, and was very effective indeed. Around it was a kind of enclosed space made with garlands of the most beautiful description. You would have been greatly touched by the dead silence which reigned during divine service. The crowd was very great and consisted of Catholics, Protestants, and Infidels, and everybody seemed much affected by what they saw. I trust the edifying spectacle of the first public Corpus Christi procession in Madagascar will produce its effect and bring some souls into the flock.