

tures; and that, even though those armies are in so large a proportion recruited from the Irish soil. If he ventures at least to ask for prayers for England, he receives one answer—a prayer that she may receive her due. It is as if the air rang with the old Jewish words, "O daughter of Babylon, blessed shall he be who shall repay thee as thou hast paid to us!"—DR. NEWMAN.

HOW A WOULD-BE MURDERER WAS THWARTED.

A VERY strange occurrence lately took place near Bordeaux, France, an account of which comes in the most authentic form. It seems that a woman employed at the Chateau of London recently inherited 1,000 francs by the death of a relative, and the money was paid over to her in gold. A peasant, employed as gardener upon the grounds of the estate, hearing of the woman's good fortune, determined to possess himself of the money. The woman filled the position of housekeeper, and it appears that the family were a short time since passing a few days in town, and had taken the house servants with them, leaving the housekeeper alone. This chance was seized upon by the gardener to effect his object relative to the 1,000 francs. He entered the woman's room and locked the door, after which he demanded her money. This of course she refused to give him; but he threatened to kill her instantly unless she gave him the 1,000 francs, and to save her life she finally did so. Then the man declared that he must murder her to keep her from bearing witness against him, but gave her the choice of dying by the knife or the rope, and summoned her to decide quickly.

The poor woman prayed for mercy, making all sorts of promises; but the man was inexorable and peremptorily told her that her time had come—she must die by one of the means he had named. The woman at last chose the rope as the least horrible to her imagination. The man then tied her arms behind her and fastened her to the bed-post securely, and, mounting a chair, fixed the rope he had brought with him over a beam, making a noose at the end, designed for the woman's neck. Having fastened the rope securely, he put his arm in the noose to try and see if it would slip properly, as he designed, and so choke her to death. The chair was near the bed and the woman suddenly kicked it with all her strength from under the would-be assassin, so the man remained securely suspended by the arm. They continued thus until morning, not being able to release themselves, and the robber being all the while in an agony of pain. At last their cries attracted some labourers, who came to the room and burst in the door. They heard the woman's story and, tying the gardener, delivered him to the police. He was promptly tried and condemned to the galley for a term of ten years.—New York Freeman's Journal.

RETURN OF THE POPE FROM AVIGNON.

IN 1876 occurs the fifth centenary of the return of the Popes from Avignon to Rome, after an absence of seventy and more years, a period known in the mediæval history of the Eternal City as "the Babylonish Captivity." On October 18, 1376, Pope Gregory XI. arrived in Genoa on board a galley, manned by knights of the celebrated order of St. John of Jerusalem. St. Catherine of Siena had written many letters to the Pope entreating him to go back to the capital of the Church; and at last he yielded to her entreaties and to the inspiration of God. In 1376 she went towards France to meet the Pope; but in Genoa she stopped some days in company with the Blessed Raymond, a Dominican, who was her confessor. They stayed in the house of Madame Orietta, a most pious and noble widow and the mother of two sons, one of whom took the name of Centurione, and became the founder of the illustrious family of that name which still exists in Genoa. The house in which the saint remained during these days has been destroyed and an oratory built over it, which is dedicated to her. On October 18 the Pope arrived. He was met by several priests and ecclesiastics from Rome who endeavored to persuade him not to proceed on his journey as they declared it might prove dangerous to him. The Pope, who was much agitated by their representations, insisted upon seeing St. Catherine and went privately and in disguise to the house where she was staying. St. Catherine comforted him and assured him that no danger would attend his return to the capital. He was much struck by her confidence and after waiting eight days in Genoa set out on his journey and reached Rome five days later. The Italian Catholics propose keeping the centenary of this most important event with much solemnity and it is even thought that it will be celebrated beyond the city of Rome by the Catholics of all nations.—Catholic Review.

Four German priests have been already punished by the German Government for refusing to give absolution in the confessional on the accusation of their "penitents." Father Gabriel, a Capuchin of Ehrenbreitstein, to three months imprisonment; Chaplain Richter, of Eberseof, in Silesia, to a fine of fifteen marks, or five days imprisonment; Chaplain Nietsch, of Katscher, to a fine of 150 marks, or fifteen days imprisonment. Penalty has not been yet awarded in the fourth case, that of the parish priest Nitschke, of Moschin, in Posen. The mouths of the accused being perforce shut by the seal of confession, their accusers and the government had it all their own way. These are the famous laws which "do not in any way attack the purely interior domain of the Catholic Church." St. John Nepomucene taught their lesson to these confessors of the faith. What Catholic Germans think of the May laws may be inferred from the action of the parishioners of Berglicht, near Treves, who, having learned that their pastor had signified to the government his acceptance of them, will no longer have anything to do with him. They even bury their own dead, not asking for assistance. The parish church was closed all through the Jubilee.

ENCOUNTER WITH A SHARK.

FATAL as the white shark is to the unarmed, those who carry weapons of defence very frequently cope with and master him; even women, undaunted by their teeth, have been known to stab and destroy them in their bath. One day a little boy happened to be washed from a catamaran which was managed by his father, who was then initiating him into the hardships of the mode of life which he intended him to pursue; and before he could be rescued from the turbulent waters a shark drew him under, and he was seen no more. The father lost not a moment, but calmly rose, and placing between his teeth a large knife which he carried sheathed in his summer-band, plunged beneath the lashing waves. He disappeared for some time; but after a while was occasionally seen to rise, and dive under the billows, as if actually engaged with his formidable foe. After a while the white foam was visibly tinged with blood, which was viewed with a sensation of horror by those who could only surmise what was going on under the water. The man was again seen to rise and disappear, so that the work of death was evidently not yet complete. After some further time had elapsed, to the astonishment of all who had assembled on the beach—for a considerable crowd had collected—the body of a huge shark was seen for a few moments above the white spray, which it completely crimsoned, and then disappeared. An instant later the man arose above the surf and made for the shore. He seemed nearly exhausted, but not a single mark on his body, which bore no evidence whatever of the perilous conflict in which he had been so recently engaged. He had scarcely landed when an immense shark was cast upon the beach by the billows. It was quite dead, and was immediately dragged by the assembled natives beyond the reach of the surf. As soon as the shark was drawn to a place of security it was opened, when the head and limbs of the boy was taken from his stomach. The body was completely dismembered and the head severed from it, but none of the parts were mutilated.—Cassel's Natural History.

WAIFS AND STRAYS.

If we now turn to the sun, we find that there are three distinct forms of motion which animate his surface-particles. In the first place, each particle is carried round by the rotation of our luminary. Secondly, each particle is influenced by the gigantic meteorological disturbances of the surface, in virtue of which it may acquire a velocity ranging as high as 140 miles a second; and lastly, each particle, on account of its high temperature, is vibrating with extreme rapidity, and the energy of these vibrations communicated to us by means of the ethereal medium produces the well known light and heat effect of the sun. Now, is it philosophical to suppose that it is only the last of these three motions that influences our earth, while the other two produce absolutely no effect? On the contrary, we are, I think, compelled, by considerations connected with the theory of energy, to attribute an influence, whether great or small, to the first two as well as to the last. We are thus led to suppose that the sun must influence the earth in two ways, one depending on his rotation, another on his meteorological disturbance, and a third by means of the vibrations of his surface-particles. But we have already seen that, as a matter of fact, the sun does appear to influence the earth in three distinct ways—one magnetically and meteorologically, depending apparently on his period of rotation; a second, cyclonically, depending apparently on the meteorological conditions of his surface; and a third, by means of his light and heat.—Monthly for November.

The London 'Times' says:—"Consul Bidwell, in his report this year on the Balearic Islands, states that the *olea* tree of Majorca, upon which the olive is grown, originally grows wild in the mountain land as a shrub, producing a fruit which bears no oil. When brought under cultivation grafting is practised. The ancient historians of Majorca represent that in olden times the olive was unknown in these islands, and that the art of grafting was taught to the islanders by the Carthaginians. But the Consul states that the appearance of some of the enormous and ancient looking olive trees in Majorca tempts him to believe that their existence dates a long way back. He asked an intelligent Majorcan farmer how old he thought some of the trees were, and the answer was: 'I believe they may well date from the time of the flood.' These magnificent trees assume in the course of time most grotesque forms, and in Majorca they have in some places attained proportions which remind one of the forest trees of the tropics. The Consul says he has more than once walked round such trees, whose trunks, now rent open, would require the outstretched arms of half a dozen men to encircle them, and the wild growth of the trunks makes one doubt whether the branches proceed from one tree, or from two or three congregated together."

The phonometer, an invention of an Englishman, Captain R. E. Harris, promises to be an important acquisition to the safety of ocean navigation. Without describing it in detail, it suffices to say that it is intended to afford protection to vessels in case of fog. The danger of running, even in mid-ocean, at full-speed—and it is almost or quite as dangerous to lie-to—in a dense fog, is perfectly understood by navigators, and somewhat appreciated by passengers. By means of this invention, the captain of a steamer may know in which quadrant of the compass his vessel is steering. That is to say, he can not only make known the presence of his vessel, but the direction of her course. The steam-whistle, by the duration of its blast, gives certain information to all vessels furnished with the phonometer of the course of the ship giving notice.

By taking revenge, a man is but even with his enemy; but in passing it over, he is his superior.—Lord Bacon.