

will be ten miles long. Dynamite is used for the purpose of blasting, and all the drills are the ordinary chilled steel, the diamond drill being unemployed. The usual machine for driving the drills is employed, and works entirely by means of compressed air, which is brought from the reservoir by means of a large iron pipe. The reservoirs are supplied by a number of condensing engines, turned by water, for which purpose a mountain stream is, some way above the mouth of the tunnel, diverted into a sluice-way. A pressure of ten or twelve atmospheres is always maintained. The St. Gothard tunnel will be the shortest route from England to Italy, and will, doubtless, be part of the direct route from India to England. There will be a heavy grade on the lines before entering the tunnel, but engineers have proved that it will not impede travel. The success of the tunnel is already so admitted a fact that a competitive route has been arranged in France, to run through the Rhone Valley and the Simplon Pass to Italy.

The 'Germania' of Berlin gives the official statistics of desertions in the Prussian army. From these we learn that in 1874 there were 16,539 desertions and 17,112 attempts at desertion. In the navy the number of deserters was 714, and those who unsuccessfully tried to follow their example amounted to 783.

The "bread-basket law," by which the stipends of all Catholic priests are stopped—save of those who prevaricate, and give Mammon the preference to God—has had this one beneficial effect of drawing out the innate energies of the Catholic people, and rendering the clergy practically independent of the powers that be in the State. A splendid example of this kind was given quite recently at Cologne. The vicar-general of the archdiocese, Mgr. Bandri, was turned out of his official residence for refusing to give in his adhesion to the "May Laws." Thereupon a lady of his congregation placed a house at his free disposal, which had until then been let for £240 per annum—a very high rent for Germany—adding that if he could find a more convenient residence near the cathedral she would pay the rent for him up to the amount named. This is genuine practical Christianity, which beats all the languid twaddle of Exeter Hall to atoms.

From the 'Voice of Maria Laach,' an official organ of the Society of Jesus, we learn that that order has scattered all over the world, and numbers 9,290. According to the 'Tablettes Statistiques,' the Freemasons have 796,250 members—210,891 in Europe, and 585,269 in America. The proportion of Jesuits to Freemasons is then as 1 to 86, but, notwithstanding their immense numerical superiority, the Freemasons fear the Jesuits. The latter are clothed with the armour of truth, while over the former is thrown but the thin web of falsehood.

They have a strange way in Prussia of making prisoners pay for their own keep. Last year the Coadjutor-bishop of Posen, Mgr. Cybichowski, was kept in duress for nine months for having done what the Church wanted him to do, and which did not meet with favour in the eyes of Bismarck. Scarcely had he got out of prison when a demand note was presented to him for the amount of £7 9s. 2½d. for "cost of imprisonment" (Haftkosten.) To this the prelate made no objection on principle, but having had his salary stopped by the Prussian Government, he declared he could not afford the luxury of nine months' prison out of his private means. The obtuse provincial government were about to distrain Mgr. Cybichowski's property when an anonymous benefactor paid the amount into the Gnosen Court, and the bailiffs were sent, about their business, or rather away from their business.

When our Protestant brethren of the better class obtain an insight into the real work of the Catholic Church, their admiration for it is as unbounded as it is just. Occasionally we find a pebble among the debris of our anti-Catholic exchanges which leads us to hope that all the writers for them are not so malevolent as misinformed. As an example, here is an appreciation of the work of the Holy Childhood from a Chicago Presbyterian, the 'Interior': "Bishop Ryan (Catholic), of Buffalo, among other charities, commends the 'Society of the Holy Infancy'—a little folks society for the relief of abandoned children. We think this idea a very beautiful one, in every view. The little ones are reminded that Jesus was once a child like themselves, and they are taught to give to other children for His sake. "For Jesus' sake" is made the mainspring of their benevolence. That is sweet and impressive training which will go with them through life."

Seven million pounds sterling spent annually in London upon "charity." So says a gentleman who has set himself up as an authority on such matters, namely, Lord Claud Hamilton, the Conservative M.P. for Lynn Regis. And yet we hear continually of deaths from destitution. Is it possible that those who complain of the little good that is done with such enormous funds cannot see the cause of what they so justly condemn? There was a time in England—long before the Reformation and the hundreds of "isms" that have sprung therefrom—when charity was dispensed as a matter of religion and love by the Catholic religious houses which then overspread the land. Well may the poor of England long for a return of that time.

The directors of the Liverpool Philharmonic Society have had to pay a fine of forty shillings (copyright fees) for allowing Mlle. Zare Thalberg to sing "I'm alone" in Benedict's "Lilly of Killarney" at one of their concerts. A curious circumstance connected with this matter is the fact that Sir Julius Benedict himself was the conductor at the concert, and thus it appears that a composer may not perform or assist in the performance of his own music with impunity.

The population of China is 405 millions, with 28½ millions of outlying people. Hong Kong seems to have decreased by upwards of 2,000 since last year, the number now given being 121,985. Japan is set down at 33,299,014.

Lord Beaconsfield has completed his 71st year, having been born on December 21, 1805; and Mr. Gladstone his 67th year, his birthday being December 29, 1809.

There is in San Francisco an organization of atheists, com-

munist, agrarians, and female suffragists who devote several hours of the first day of the week to miscellaneous gabble. On December 10, after two young women had played on a piano "Is my darling true to me?" there was a debate on the topic, "Is the Republic a failure?" One lunatic remarked that a bishop, who produced nothing, got \$4,000 a year—as much as eight working-men could earn. "I have suffered as much as anybody," he exclaimed; "I have had starvation and want staring me in the face, but the next time I get in that fix all I have got to say is, 'Look out.'" Another lunatic said that all men were born honest except those with crooked intellects. Another lunatic insisted that all men were born liars and scoundrels, and every man would steal were he not afraid that his neighbors would find it out. Another lunatic said that Rome rose and fell; a blade of grass rises and falls; stocks rise and fall; man rises and falls; everything rises and falls—the American Republic likewise.

According to the 'Germania,' Abdul Kerim, the Turkish Commander-in-Chief, who is stated to have taken a leading part in investigating the "Bulgarian atrocities," is a Prussian. He was formerly a captain in the Prussian army, and a relation of his is now a member of the German Parliament.

Lord Waveney has issued a pamphlet in support of Lord Stratford's proposal that Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria should be governed by a European Commission. He suggests that Russia, Austria, Germany and Italy should be invited to furnish the principal corps of occupation, and that to England should be entrusted the guardianship of the Sea of Marmora and the Dardanelles.

The following is an illustration of the development of English spelling in the Punjab. The 'Punjab Advertiser' is assured that it is a verbatim copy of a letter recently received by a schoolmaster in the north from a householder in his locality:—"Cur, ass, you are a man of no legs and I wish to inter my son in your skull." The obscurity and seeming offensiveness of this address disappear on translation. What was intended to be written was—"Sir, as you are a man of knowledge, I wish to enter my son at your school."—"Hindoo Patriot."

Congress passed in July last a joint resolution requesting the President to ask the pardon of Edward O. M. Condon, now imprisoned in Great Britain on a life sentence for complicity in an attempt to release Fenian prisoners. The resolution was transmitted through Sec. Fish, and Minister Pierrepont to Lord Derby, who laid it before the Secretary of State for the Home Department, and was told that "Her Majesty's Government were not prepared to advise Her Majesty to extend her clemency to the Fenian prisoners."

With the exception of two persons, all the Catholics of St. Mark's Church, in Wilmington, N.C., numbering about 100 souls, are recent converts to the faith. They have a good Catholic school, and the non-Catholics of the vicinity come in large numbers to attend the monthly services in the church.

The poet Algernon Charles Swinburne is rather severe on the ferocity of Thomas Carlyle. Swinburne believes in the Turks, and in a pamphlet about them thus berates Carlyle, who believes in the Russians:—"Cruelty in Ireland, cruelty in Jamaica, cruelty in the plantation, cruelty in the jail—each of these in turn has deservedly incurred the indelible condemnation of his praise."

There is now staying on a visit to Captain Kerrieh, at Geldeston, an old lady who was actually present at and took a passive part in the battle of Waterloo. Madame Van Cutsem, now the farmer of Hougoumont, was at that time the gardener's daughter at the Château of Hougoumont, and aged five years. Her father, the gardener, stuck to his post, retaining his little daughter as company. The château itself was occupied by the British Guards, and was throughout the whole of the memorable 18th of June, 1815, the grand and principal object of attack. Madame has a very vivid recollection of the kindness of our soldiers, who treated her as a pet, and kept throwing her bits of biscuit out of their haversacks wherewith to amuse her. At last the château was shelled in the afternoon and set fire to by Jerome Bonaparte. Madame was then conducted by a sergeant of the Guards to a back gate, and her retreat secured into the forest of Soignies. Madame is a widow, of course advanced in years, but hale and hearty, and now visiting England for the first time in her life.—'Norwich Argus.'

Of the Jesuits who have been exiled from Germany for the last four years, we find some account in a late issue of our contemporary the 'Germania.' Prior to 1872, the German province of the Order had about 150 members; and since their banishment these have spread over all parts of the globe. About twenty of them are now living in the United States, whilst in Central and South America five of them have settled. The vast majority of the German Jesuits, however, have selected British India for the field of their exertions. There are a hundred of them in the Peninsula, and the Catholics of the whole presidency of Bombay are entrusted to their spiritual leadership. The school established by the German Jesuits at Bombay numbers no less than 600 scholars, most of them heathens, and has been incorporated with the university of that city. In this way they go, putting Bismarck to shame.

"Nearly every day," says the 'New York Herald,' "the papers have to chronicle the mysterious disappearance of some stranger in the city, either male or female, and though the police are applied to and the city is searched from end to end, often no traces or tidings can be found of the missing persons. Sometimes it is a merchant from some far off city, sometimes a young girl, strange to the ways of New York life and oftentimes a poor distracted wife in search of a husband who has deserted her and left her to subsist on the cold charity of the world. It is odd that the police authorities so often fail to obtain any clue to these mysterious disappearances, when the system of obtaining information is claimed to be so perfect."

After having admirably performed the functions of the "devil's attorney-general" in the Marpingen affair, the Prussian authorities have ignominiously abandoned all their positions. The priests Neu-