

# San Francisco Mail News

(From our Exchanges.)

Mr. Sebastian W. Bingham was received into the Catholic Church this week at Florence by Father Weld, S.J.—*London Tablet*, April, 19.

Dublin is again returned by the Registrar-General as having the largest mortality in the United Kingdom, its death-rate for the last week being 35 per 1000, which is 6 in excess of that of Manchester, Plymouth, and Leicester, which show the highest rate in England.

Gratifying news has reached Dundee in regard to the Newfoundland seal fishery. Three of the Dundee fleet, the *Aurora*, Arctic, and *Narwahl* have been very successful, the former having secured 26,000 seals, the Arctic 11,000, and the *Narwahl* 8,000. Previously all the Dundee vessels prosecuted the Greenland fishing, but it was believed that fishing was becoming less and less remunerative, hence the despatch of a number of the Dundee vessels to the Newfoundland ground. The change has been, on the whole, highly satisfactory.

We take the following from the *London Statist*:—"We gravely regret that the prospects of English farmers for this year, at a time when the depression of their industry is the harder to bear because it has lasted and continued to deepen for several years, should be again clouded by the persistent rains which now flood a large part of the grain-growing counties. A prolonged and hard winter, which pulverised and improved the soil, and laid the foundation for good cereal crops, wanted a genial spring and warm summer to result in a fine harvest; but the spring is late, ungenial, and so damp that the wheat and barley plants begin to show unpromising signs."

An infamous attempt was made on the 9th May to burn down the Sisters' school adjoining the Catholic Church at Wyandotte, Kansas. The building was set on fire by means of coal oil being poured against the rear walls, which after being ignited soon enveloped the building in flames, besides sending volumes of smoke through the building. Most of the inmates rushed into the street in their night clothes, but by the aid of a bucket brigade the fire was finally got under control. There were between 50 and 60 children in the building at the time, and it is considered miraculous that no lives were lost.

Forty-eight days after being bitten by a dog, a man has died at San Juan in the agonies of hydrophobia.

The able Boston correspondent of the *Springfield Republican*, Mr. Frank Sanborn looks at the Pocasset murder with fearless and philosophic eyes. He says:—"The Pocasset child murder is a monstrosity and yet it reveals a vein of the New England character that it is well for us to notice a little, before we let it pass into the quick forgetfulness that awaits everything in this age, when the daily newspaper creates and terminates publicity by its swift-succeeding waves of news and gossip. The religious fanaticism which led the Freemans to murder their own child is a distinct trait of our people—less noticeable now, and perhaps less active than it was when our ancestors whipped Quakers and hung witches—but existing always in one guise or another among the descendants of the Puritans. In the olden times it was an intolerant spirit of persecution among a powerful class of the people; in the wretched clan of fanatics at Sandwich, without power except over their own families, it shows itself in the cruel bigotry which delights in sacrifice, even to the extent of making the father kill the child with his own hand. At such a deed nature has always shuddered, but the prevailing religion has more than once upheld it, upon the abominable theory that the Deity is an angry and bloodthirsty being, to whom the most exquisite cruelty of human sacrifice is a sweet offering."

The precise number of French Communists amnestied on Sunday, April, 20th, is 661. The Victor Hugo committee appeals for further subscriptions to supplement the 300,000 francs voted by the Chambers, and the 100,000 francs voted by the Municipality.

Visitors to the auld kirkyard of Alloway will regret to learn that "Wee Jamie," who, during many years past has acted as guide to the haunted ruin immortalized by Burns, is no more. James Crawford knew every foot of the place, and every legend connected with it. His great pleasure consisted in pointing out the various last resting places in the cemetery, the scene of the witches' dance, the "winnock bunker in the east" where his satanic majesty

"Screwed his pipes, and ga'd them skirl,  
Till roof and rafters a' did dirn."

the holy water font, and the old roadway by which Tam o' Shanter approached when he neared the scene of the uncouth cantrips. He had Burns at his finger ends, and latterly no one could disassociate him from the churchyard. He died in poverty, advanced in years, but he will long be remembered, not only by the townspeople, but by tourists from all parts of Scotland, and by many foreigners, in whose ears he often recited in the broadest west country dialect, the lays which came so readily to his lips.

Yellow fever is raging badly in Rio Janeiro, not only in the city but among the shipping also.

At the evening celebration of the 1800th anniversary of the destruction of Pompeii, a bottle of wine taken from the ruins, where it had lain since A. D. 79, is to be opened.

A report says:—"The Socialist leaders at Chicago assert that they, with the trades' unions, are organizing a strike, to begin July 5th, and to be general throughout the country. They will demand the universal adoption of the eight-hour system, and will settle the matter of wages after their demands on that point are acceded to. This strike has been decided on in their privy councils, but is no secret. Their purpose is political in its nature, and the purpose of the workmen is to secure better wages."

It is again announced that, in September next, King Alfonso XII will marry the Archduchess, Mary Christine, of Austria, born July 15, 1858.

A Catholic Congress was opened at Lucca on the 22nd April, under the presidency of the Archbishop. The sitting closed on the

following day with a *Te Deum*. The questions discussed were those of reanimating by sermons and circulars the zeal of contributors to Peter's Pence, the repression of blasphemy, and popular religious instruction. Everything passed off tranquilly, notwithstanding that placards against the Congress were affixed at the street corners.

A fire having destroyed the sole Church Antouimina, province of Reggio, the Holy Father sent the sum of 300 francs, and a letter of sympathy, for which the people are very grateful.

The *Univers* says that the celebrated statesman Lord Ripon, formerly a Protestant and a Freemason, now a fervent Catholic, has purchased the sanctuary and cloister of St. Damain, near the town of Assisi, in order to preserve those monuments for the piety of the faithful and the admiration of artists. He is about to establish an orphanage there.

The *Societe des Missions Etrangeres de Paris* has published statistical tables, showing the progress and position of their missions in the east during the years 1877 and 1878. The total number of Catholics among populations of some 134,000,000 infidels were in the former year 713,172, and in the latter 729,351. In 1877 there were in charge of these missions twenty-five bishops, 507 missionary and 358 native priests; and in 1878 the numbers were: bishops, twenty-four, missionary priests, 542, and native priests, 327.

Several persons who, under the influence of the Protestant propaganda in Spain, have denied the faith and left the Church, have lately returned. The other day, in the Church of the Holy Angel Guardian, at Barcelona, ten persons solemnly abjured Protestantism in the presence of a numerous congregation. Similar scenes have been witnessed at Alcoy, Ferrol, and other Spanish towns where Protestant agents have opened chapels.

Among the most extraordinary of the tyrannical regulations of the Russian police is one which strictly forbids any one to touch a dead or dying man without the direct sanction of the police. In consequence of this arbitrary enactment, it is no uncommon thing to see a man lying bleeding and helpless from a severe fall in the streets of Moscow or St. Petersburg without any one daring to assist him. To what an extent this curious tyranny is carried may be judged from a single instance. An English gentleman residing at Peterhof, a coast town about sixteen miles from St. Petersburg, one morning found his Russian groom hanging by the neck in the stable, and cut him down at once, just in time to save his life. The next day he received a visit from the local Inspector of Police, who, far from commending his prompt humanity, vehemently abused him for daring to transgress the law. The Englishman heard him to the end without a word, and then said quietly: "Well, Mr. Inspector, I'm extremely sorry to have done anything, but I'll make all the amends in my power. If I find you hanging anywhere, I pledge you my honour I won't cut you down."

Hillsboro', N.C., was the scene, on the 16th May, of the hanging of three desperados named Henry Alphonso Davis (white), Henry T. Andrews (white), and Lewis Carlton (coloured). For a long time these men had been the terror of Orange County, and a general feeling of relief was manifested when they had paid the penalty of death for their numerous crimes. Each of the prisoners proclaimed his innocence to the last moment. Carlton spoke an hour, and, as usual, said his salvation was sure. The parting between Andrews and his sister on the scaffold was most affectionate, and moved the witnesses to tears. All were firm, and showed no signs of wavering. The hanging was badly botched. The ropes around the necks of Davis and Carlton were too long, and their feet rested on the ground. They were raised, and the ropes re-tied, causing death from strangulation. A terrific thunderstorm raged during the whole proceeding, and the scene was wild and terrible. Fully 8,000 people were present.

The *London Daily News* has published the text of the ordinance issued by Sir Garnet Wolseley, providing "for the execution of works of public utility in the island of Cyprus by the labour of the inhabitants." The ordinance is dated December 16, 1878. All able-bodied men between the ages of sixteen and sixty, except Government officials and priests, are liable to labour for fifteen or thirty days in the year, at the rate of not less than 1s. per day. Substitutes may be provided, or a payment in lieu thereof of 2s per day be made. Every person wilfully absenting himself when summoned will be liable to a fine of 5s. per day. If the fine be not paid, a rate may be levied upon every house in the village. Any person quitting his work without permission is liable to a fine of £1, or to be imprisoned with hard labour for a month.

Berlin, May 8.—In the tariff debate in the Reichstag to-day Herr Lasker accused Bismarck of fomenting agrarian agitation. An angry scene ensued. Bismarck declared that deputies should mutually respect the laws of politeness. He said he merely wished to restore Zollverein, and must for this purpose remodel the railway goods tariff, which was unduly favourable to foreign products. He still adhered to the whole of his programme. Dr. Farenbeck, President of the Chamber, ruled that Lasker's attack on Bismarck was severe, but not insulting. Bismarck refused to retract his remarks, and quitted the house.

Four thousand nine hundred and fifty-three persons were killed during the past year in the north-western provinces of India and Oude by wild beasts and snakes, and of these 3,871 owed their death to snake bites. No less than 10,513 head of cattle were also destroyed, mostly by leopards, in the vast grazing plains of the Terai. Rewards to the extent of 10,000 rupees were paid by the Government for the destruction of 3,910 wild animals. The reward which used to be paid by Government for the destruction of snakes has been discontinued for some years now, but the mortality from this source is so alarming that the Government of the north-western provinces has addressed all district officers, urging upon them the necessity of inducing the landowners to act for themselves in the matter of protection against this danger, the remedy for which is entirely in their own hands.

Mr. Henry, inventor of the Martini-Henry rifle barrel and ammunition, is seeking in vain for adequate remuneration from the British War Office for the use of his patents by that Government.