

A Baltimore man recently wrote to Herbert Spencer for an explanation of the paradoxical customs of the Japanese, citing examples as follows: "A piece of cord in Japan is twisted from left to right in the process of manufacture. A plane is drawn toward the person using it. The teeth of a saw are so 'set' that it is the upward pull which cuts. Their books commence at what we would call the end, turning the leaves from left to right, while the lines run up and down the page, instead of across, and the pages are numbered at the foot. The face of their clock moves and the hands are stationary. They say 'It is 4 o'clock,' meaning that it lacks four hours of being noon, while with us it is always so much past the starting point." Mr. Spencer replied that the question involves "a wider range than at first sight appears," but declined to express his views, on the plea of lack of time.

There is in the island of Cyprus a journal called the *Cyprus* that is conducted in a queer way. It is in charge of two editors, one an Englishman and one a Greek. The English editor does not understand the Greek language, though the Greek understands the English. They have opposite political opinions. The Englishman writes articles favourable to the English policy, and the Greek editor puts them into Greek, but, at the same time, he prints his own articles attacking the new English masters of the ancient Greek island.

Of two revolutionary printing offices just discovered at St. Petersburg, one was detected in an imperial cartridge manufactory, and the other in an imperial custom house station. And what can be more significant than the following statement—"No furnished apartments can henceforth be had at St. Petersburg, unless maps showing the situation of the rooms and the doors of entrance have been previously handed to the police." This measure is intended to facilitate arrests.

The production of the salmon canneries of the Pacific coast last year was 584,000 cans, or 28,032,000 pounds. Specimens weighing sixty to seventy-five pounds were caught by Oregon fishermen. A peculiarity of the Oregon salmon is their contempt for all the anglers' lures. There is no salmon angling on the Oregon rivers. They are sometimes caught by trolling at the mouths of the rivers, but they never take the anglers' fly.

Of the diseases incident to humanity none is more appalling than glanders. A dreadful case occurred in London last month. A physician reported that he saw the young girl in hospital. A portion of her head was eaten away and the bone exposed in two places. The magistrate who examined the case said that he knew an engineer who died from glanders in three days, in consequence of the horse attached to a cab in which he was conveyed throwing off some matter which fell upon him. Twenty years ago a lady of high rank in Paris was caressing her beautiful carriage horses. She had a tiny wound in her hand and a little glandered matter from the horse's nostril got upon it. She died in dreadful convulsions. It is much better to put a piece of plaster over broken skin, however small.

The London *World* relates that a complaint was recently made to the Archbishop of Paris that a priest was living at an hotel in the Rue de Rivoli in a way that suggested an imperfect conception of his vow of celibacy. It turned out that the supposed backslider was a Ritualistic vicar of a living in Norfolk, England. As the discipline of the Western Church did not allow him an altar in Paris, and as he was too high for the Anglican clergy there, he performed mass on his dressing table, his wife assisting and substituting pastilles for incense. New York *Sun*.

The "Iame Achilles" (as the French have nick-named Garibaldi) has, like his great ancestor of the siege of Troy, been honoured with the present of a shield. Crispi (he of the "Crispi scandal") gave it him a few days ago on the part of the Palermians. "The good general" (says the *Daily News*) "shed tears." Crispi drawing tears from Garibaldi is something like Impey drawing tears from Warren Hastings. It is a matter of surprise to us how this estimable *duo* could restrain their laughter.

The Victoria Cross is a very excellent order in its way, and is one the more to be valued because it is not to everybody that it is awarded. Some of the brave defenders of Rorke's Drift have been the latest recipients of the honour. The cross carries with it an annuity of £10 to all except commissioned officers. The possession of the Victoria Cross is in itself an honour that every Englishman may well be proud of, but an unfortunate private, who has no well-to-do family connections or a good property to fall back upon, must have something more substantial to live upon, after being permanently disabled in the cause of his country, than pride and glory. A grateful, rich country might in such case make the annuity something more than £10.

Bismarck has repeatedly had it announced that he meant to make his peace with the Catholic Church, but the action of the Prussian Government constantly gives the lie direct to this promise. The persecution of the Church continues as bad as ever. Only within the last week several priests in the province of Posen have been exiled after undergoing various terms of imprisonment. A new "State priest" has been forcibly introduced into a village of Silesia. A printer at Cologne has been indicted for using the words "Archbishop of Cologne" on the title-page of a small book issued by that prelate years ago, and of which that printer had recently published a fourth edition; and another printer has got into trouble for reproducing the Holy Father's letter to the Cardinal-Vicar, in which the government beholds "an outrage upon the Protestant religion." If all those things are to be taken as preliminaries of peace, we only wonder what may be understood by preparations for war. Certain it is that Bismarck seems to have taken the action of King Pharaoh in Egypt for his pattern, and will have to be made to feel its consequences before he gives in.

The excesses of the Protestant propagandists in the capital of Catholicity are becoming a little too much even for those who have been foremost in proclaiming the principle of freedom of conscience. There is a *solo-disant* evangelical parson at Rome, a man called Ribetti, who has lately distinguished himself by foul-mouthed blasphemy against the Blessed Virgin. The *Avvenire d'Italia*, a ministerial paper, in writing on the subject, supports the Holy Father and the Catholics of Rome in their protest against the excesses, and the fol-

lowing passage from its article we consider well worth translating: "We are delighted, in contending against the sacrilegious utterances of Protestants who offend against one of the most pious beliefs of Catholics, to find an opportunity of showing clearly that according to the great and liberal principle of freedom of conscience, the Protestants, being an infinitesimal minority in Rome and Italy, ought all the more to respect the dogmas of the immense majority of the population." Such words coming from a quarter which has invariably been hostile to the Catholic Church, clearly prove that if the sectarians be given rope enough, they are sure to hang themselves.

The Pope has three times during the past Lent visited St. Peter's in the evening after the doors have been closed. Two Palatine Guards accompanied the Holy Father, and Monsignor Theodoli, clerk of the Chapter, received him. The Pope remained for some time alone, in prayer, in front of the altar of the Blessed Sacrament.

The multiplicity of conversions to Catholicity in the United States, and the number of churches and convents established there, have induced the Sovereign Pontiff to take action for the enlargement of the bases of the Church in that country. Exact statistics have been obtained, and a complete organization of the hierarchy and the means of more intimate union with Rome are being arranged. New bishoprics will shortly be erected.

POPE LEO TO THE ITALIAN PREACHERS.

ON the 24th of April the Holy Father received in solemn audience a deputation of two hundred Italian priests, who presented to his Holiness the Peter's Pence collected by them during the Lenten season. Through the Archbishop of Nyssa they asked the Pope to instruct them on the special matters requisite to make their instruction most fruitful to the people of Italy. He replied as follows:—

"We feel much consolation to-day in seeing you, chosen ministers of the Gospel, gathered about Us in such great numbers. We are consoled by the sentiments of respect and affection which your address just read so nobly expresses. We are consoled by the homage of your piety and of your filial devotion to the person and counsels of the Vicar of Jesus Christ. But we are doubly consoled by the sight of such a brilliant army of evangelical labourers, all consecrated to the ministry of the Divine Lord, of that word which in the order of the creation as well as of redemption has ever worked such wondrous things in the world. It was this Word of God which in the beginning brought forth the world out of nothing and adorned it with varied and supreme beauty, and although men, by the weakness and malice of their will had estranged themselves from their God and attempted to precipitate the ruin of the whole human family, it was the Word of God which snatched them from error and corruption and brought the entire world into submission to Christ. 'Go,' said the Incarnate Word to the Apostles, 'into the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.' And confident in the Mission confided to them, in the name of the Nazarene and with fortitude from above they scattered over the whole world, the tones of their voice reached the extremities of the globe and the world became Christian. And to-day, you well know, my dear children, the world seeks to remove itself from Jesus Christ and His Church and threatens, through its own malice, a return to paganism. Already, almost universally, governments are constituted without recognising God; already much has been done to efface the Christian character from the family in profaning marriage and in taking from the education and instruction of youth the beneficent influence of the Church. This, apostasy, which is rapidly being accomplished, prepares for society the most deplorable ruin. What, indeed, can be more lamentable for the world than that it should ignore Jesus Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life? Therefore, there is no better means of supplying the true needs of the present age than by applying ourselves to reclaim the world to Jesus Christ, and it is in this, well-beloved sons, that your work is most holy and most noble. To the word of God, as ever, belongs the glory of converting the world to the faith, according to the words of the Apostle of the Gentiles: 'Faith, then, cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of Christ.' Continue, then, dear sons, to preach to the world Christ crucified. Dissipate the darkness of ignorance which envelopes a large portion of mankind, and show, above all, the necessity the reasonableness and the excellence of the faith: make men know and love the Divine Redeemer; reveal to them His hidden beauties and those of the Church, His immaculate spouse; make known the inestimable treasures which the Church possesses; teach men to appreciate the world-wide and benign influence which she exercises on all classes of the human family; refute the outrageous calumnies of the impious, by which they seek to render her odious to kings and peoples. May the world know, through you, how joyous and prosperous the people would be if the religion of Jesus Christ were held in honour and were practised amongst them; how happy and tranquil the family circle would be if religion, which consecrates the bond of conjugal union, and which renders the parental authority sweet and respected, held its sway in their midst. And in this beautiful country, privileged of God, to which you are called to preach the Gospel, the political situation would be much less trying if a disloyal and unjust war were not carried on against the Church and the Roman Pontificate; for, as you have justly observed, our Italy above all other countries was prosperous and happy when the Church enjoyed the freedom of her peaceful sway. Filling your hearts and souls with these thoughts, continue the apostolic ministry of the Word, and seek, even by the attractive qualities of your discourse, by the grace of a style at the same time simple and dignified, to draw the multitudes to listen to you. The seeds deposited in their hearts, fructified by the action of Divine grace, will develop and produce the fruit of salvation. Oh! may the God of all mercy, who has committed to the hands of His ministers means so powerful and so salutary, may He deign to bless your labours; may He give to your voice that efficacy and that supernatural strength without which all human genius and the greatest aptitude would be vain and useless. At the same time, as a pledge of the favour of heaven, and as a testimony of Our paternal affection, We grant to you, and to all the faithful who have united with you in this demonstration of filial love, the Apostolic Benediction."