

hands at from L11 to L15 10s. We quote: Superior young draught geldings, L46 to L50; extra good prize horses, L52 to L60; medium draught mares and geldings, L32 to L40; aged do, L20 to L30; upstanding carriage horses, L25 to L30; well-matched carriage pairs, L70 to L80; strong spring-van horses, L28 to L35; milk-cart and butchers' order-cart horses, L16 to L24; tram horses, L12 to L18; light hacks, L7 to L12; extra good hacks, L18 to L25; weedy and aged hacks and harness horses, L2 to L5.

LATE BURNSIDE STOCK REPORT.

(Per special favour Messrs, Stronach Bros, and Morris.)

Wednesday, 5 p.m.

FAT CATTLE—100 head yarded, prices ruling about the same as last week. Best Bullocks, L9 10s to L11 10s; medium, L8 to L9 5s. Best cows and heifers, L6 to L7 15s; medium, L4 15s to L5 15s.

SHEEP—964 penned, prices showing an advance of 2s a head compared with last week. Best crossbred wethers, 21s to 23s 9d; medium, 19s to 20s 3d. Best ewes, 19s 6d to 21s 6d; medium, 16s 6d to 19s.

LAMBS—283 penned, prices ruling about the same as last week. Best lambs, 12s 6d to 14s 6d; medium, 11s to 12s 3d; others, 10s to 10s 9d.

PIGS—164 forward, all classes meeting with a fair demand. Suokers, 5s 6d to 9s; slips, 11s to 15s; stores, 18s to 21s; porkers, 22s to 27s 6d; baconers, 32s to 38s.

THE FLOWERY KINGDOM.

BITS OF CHINA OLD AND NEW.

DR. GEORGE MORRISON.

This gentleman is the *Times* correspondent in Peking whose dispatches have thrown considerable light on the situation in China. He is, by birth, an Australian, and was born in 1862. He has had a marvellously adventurous career, and in that direction greatly distinguished himself by a walk of 1900 miles across the Australian Continent, dressed as a Chinaman and without an interpreter. While exploring in New Guinea he was surprised by an ambush and wounded by a spear, the head of which was not removed from his body till some months later. His close acquaintance with China and the Chinese is not his least title to be regarded as the most capable correspondent in Peking.

IN THE PROVINCE OF SHANSI.

The London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* reports satisfactory news as regards the safety of the Catholic missionaries in the province of Shansi. The Catholics are very numerous in that province. The headquarters of the mission are at Hankow. There had been no troubles at Shansi up to the end of August, and the head of the mission at Hankow was inclined to be hopeful as regards the well-being of his brother missionaries in that province, as the Governor had proved himself to be a 'good man,' though the future of the mission is described as being 'very, very dark.'

AMERICA ALLEGED TO BE DISCOVERED BY THE CHINESE.

It is reported that an interesting discovery has been made among ancient archives unearthed at Peking. Documents, it is said, tending to prove that America was discovered by the Chinese centuries before Columbus were found after the occupation of the Chinese capital by the allied forces. Information of the discovery is said to have been given to the State Department by Mah Twah Win, a Chinese student. The documents are said to record that a party of Mongolian missionaries crossed the Pacific and landed in Mexico about 499 A.D. They spread the doctrines of Confucius, erected a number of temples, taught the natives many arts and crafts, thus affording an explanation of the evidences of Asiatic civilisation shown in the works of the Aztecs which have long puzzled antiquaries.

THE SIEGE OF THE CATHOLIC CATHEDRALS.

In a previous issue we gave an account of the siege of the Catholic Cathedral, Peking. The following narrative of events during the time the Boxers had control of the city will be found interesting, and will supplement to some extent the details which have already appeared:—

All summer the venerable Bishop Favier was desperately besieged in the Peh-tang, the North Cathedral of Peking. The Peh-tang is well within the walls of the Imperial city, in its northwest quarter. It was a beautiful church, surrounded by extensive grounds, where there were buildings for the shelter and occupation of many hundreds of native converts. Bishop Favier was one of the men who understood the signs of the times and made preparations. He it was who was responsible for the conversion of M. Pichon, the Minister, to a realisation of the gravity of the situation when every other Minister there was still doubtful that there would be trouble. The Bishop laid in supplies of his own when he found he could not move the French of the legation. He bought rifles for some of his converts and ammunition and prepared to defend himself. Then at last they got 30 French guards, with two officers and 10 Italians. This was the whole band then—Favier and two priests, three nuns and 42 guards, with about 2,000 native converts huddled in the huts around the grounds. The Chinese attacked them night and day and battered the face and east wall of the beautiful Cathedral almost to pieces with their shell fire. From the north and west they could not attack so fiercely for fear of firing over into the forbidden city just beyond.

How the graveyard grew behind the church! Once the Chinese exploded a mine they had laid under the corner of the lines held by the little garrison. It was a tremendous explosion and made a hole big enough to put a good-sized ship in. It killed nearly 300 of the converts, men, women and children, and delivered the garrison the worst blow it had in the loss of both of its officers and three of the guards. Still they held on so well that the Chinese could not come over the hole they had made; they had breached the line, but it did them no good.

Out in front of the Cathedral the Chinese mounted an old brass gun in the beginning which the besieged promptly sallied out and took from them. After that, whenever the Chinese fire was too heavy from the front or they were edging their barricades up too closely, the garrison would run out this old Long Tom and give them a few rounds. That always had the effect of holding them off.

It was not until the morning of August 16, the day after the American fiasco at the gates, that the British decided to send a force to the relief of the French at the Cathedral. Then they found that the Japanese had done the same thing already. The small French force went along with the British detachment and did not arrive until the work had been done. There was very little fight left in the Chinese. They had had enough in the last few days and flew on the appearance of the Japanese.

They were glad to be relieved, these Frenchmen and Chinese. They had had a long, hard fight of it, the real fight of Peking, but old Bishop Favier simply smiled and said: 'Yes, they have pulled through.'

The Tung-tang, or East Cathedral, was one of the first structures destroyed, and it was clear that the Nan-tung, the South Cathedral was in danger. Pere Garrigues, the aged priest of the Tung-tang, had refused to leave his post and had perished in the flames. But the Fathers and Sisters at Nan-tung might yet be saved. Their lives were in great peril; it was necessary to act quickly. A party of French gentlemen, led by M. Fliche, of the French Legation, accompanied by M. and Madame Chamot, rode out at night, and early the following morning safely escorted to the hotel every member of the mission—Pere d'Addveio and his two colleagues, a French Brother, five Sisters of Charity, and some twenty native nuns of the Order of St. Joseph. They were rescued just in time. Scarcely had they reached a place of safety when the splendid edifice they had forsaken was in flames. To the sky wreathed the smoke, a pillar of cloud marking the destruction not of a faith, but of a nation. This historic pile of great historical interest, the home of Verbiest and Schaal, with its memorial tablet given to the Cathedral by the Emperor Kang Hsi, was ruthlessly sacrificed. It continued burning all the day, the region round it, the chief Catholic centre of Peking, being also burnt. Acres of houses were destroyed and the Christians in thousands put to the sword.

DEFENDERS OF THE PAPAL STATES.

In connection with the Irish pilgrimage to Rome, the *Manchester Guardian* says it is of interest to note that the general election has removed from the House of Commons the last Parliamentary survivor of the Irish contingent which assisted in the defence of the Papal States in 1860-1. Mr. Bernard Charles Molloy, who has given place to Mr. Reddy, a nominee of the United Irish League, in the Birr Division of King's County, was in his younger days a private chamberlain at the Vatican, and during the stormy Garibaldi period he had enough excitement to last him for a lifetime. Mr. Jeremiah Sheehan, who sat for East Kerry from 1885 until 1895, and who now plies the peaceful avocation of hotelkeeper at Killarney, is another of the warlike spirits who enlisted in the Pope's service in the early sixties. When the news came that the Vatican was in danger Mr. Sheehan, then a youth of 18, promptly joined the contingent which was being organised by Major Myles O'Reilly. In the sanguinary engagement of Spoleto he was in the thickest of the fight, and when he was picked up on the field of battle it was found that a bullet had passed through his neck and that his thigh had been terribly torn. He was able to leave the hospital after six weeks, but it was 12 months before he was restored to health. He was also present at the battles of Perugia, Ancona, and Macerata. The total strength of the Irish Brigade in the Papal war was about a thousand rank and file. Major O'Reilly, the commandant, sat in Parliament for Longford from 1862 until his death in 1879, when Mr. Justin M'Carthy was elected unopposed in his stead.

Tussicura, the wonderful cough remedy—sold by all chemists and grocers.—\*.\*

Wanted, about 50 clerks to help read testimonials re Tussicura. Sole manufacturer, S. J. Evans, 2s 6d.—\*.\*

At the Christchurch Exhibition the following awards were made to the apprentices of Mr. W. Sey, oil and color merchant, Colombo street, Christchurch, for graining, sign-writing, and decorating: Owen, three silver and one gold medal; Buten, one silver and one bronze medal, and a certificate; Bradwell, one gold and one silver medal; R. Petersen, one bronze medal.—\*.\*

A shipment of the beautiful Sterling Bicycles—chain, chainless, and free wheels—has just been received. They are more beautiful, if possible, than ever. Intending purchasers of bicycles should certainly see the Sterlings before deciding on any other. Morrow, Bassett and Co., Christchurch, Ashburton, and Dunedin, sole agents.—\*.\*

Witohes Oil cures pains and aches, neuralgia, headache, sciatica, rheumatism. Price, 2s 6d. Try it.—\*.\*