

IRISH WIT.—The proverbial quickness of Irish wit is illustrated by an anecdote related by Captain A—. While on the Peninsula during the war, he came across a private belonging to one of the most predatory companies of Irish brigades, with the lifeless bodies of a goose and hen, tied together by the feet, dangling from his musket. "Where did you steal those, you rascal?" he demanded. "Faith I was marchin' wid Color Sergeant Maguire, and the goose, bad cess to it, came out and hissed at the American flag." "But the hen, sir; how about the hen?" "It's the hin, is it? The hin, bless ye! was in bad company, and laying eggs for the rebels."

WONDERFUL SPIDERS' WEBS.—Across the "sunny paths" of Ceylon, which constitute the bridle-roads of the Island in the place where the forest meets the open country, enormous spiders stretch their webs at the height of from four to eight feet from the ground. The cordage of these webs is fastened on either side to projecting shoots of trees or shrubs, and it is so strong as to hurt the traveller's face, and even lift off his hat if he is so unlucky as not to see the line. The nests in the centre are sometimes as large as a man's head, and are continually growing larger, being formed of successive layers of the old webs rolled over each other, sheet after sheet, into a ball. These successive envelopes contain the limbs and wings of insects of all descriptions, which have been the prey of the spider and his family that occupy the den formed in their centre. There seems no doubt that the spider casts the web loose, and roll it round the nucleus in the centre when it becomes over-charged with carcasses, and then proceeds to construct a fresh one which in its turn is destined to be folded up with the rest.

EMIGRATION TO NEW ZEALAND.—One hundred agricultural labourers and their families left Boston recently by Great Northern train en route for New Zealand. There was a lively scene at the station. Most of the men had bands on their hats with the words "New Zealand" printed in red letters. The emigrants were in capital spirits, and loudly cheered. There are rumours of another lock-out on account of the wholesale emigration carried on by the league.

A NOVEL SPELLING MATCH.—Boston, Mass., March 23.—Music Hall was crowded to its utmost capacity to-night to witness a match between fifty boys, selected from the higher schools of the city, and fifty editors, reporters, proof readers, and printers selected from various newspapers, in an old fashioned spelling match. The contest was spirited throughout, and finally narrowed down to one on each side, when a printer misspelled "conferrable" and the match was awarded to the boys.

LONGEVITY OF BIRDS.—Among the feathered creation the eagle and raven, the swan and parrot, are centenarians. An eagle kept in Vienna died after a confinement of one hundred and fourteen years, and on an ancient oak in Shelborne, still known as the "raven tree," the same pair of ravens are believed to have fixed their residence for more than ninety years. Swans upon the river Thames, about whose age there can be no mistake, since they are annually nicked by the Vintners' Company, under whose keeping they have been for five centuries, have been known to survive one hundred and fifty years and more. The melody of the dying swan is entirely mythological. Upon the approach of death, the bird quits the water, sits down upon the bank, lays its head upon the ground, expands its wings a trifle, and expires, uttering no sound.

FACTS WORTH REMEMBERING.—One thousand shingles laid four inches to the weather, will cover 400 square feet of surface, and 5lb. of shingle-nails will fasten them on.—One-fifth more siding and flooring is needed than the number of square feet of surface to be covered, because of the lap in the siding and matching of the floor.—One thousand laths will cover seventy yards of surface, and 11lb. of lath-nails will nail them on.—Eight bushels of good lime, 16 bushels of sand, and one bushel of hair will make enough good mortar to plaster 100 hundred square yards.—A cord of stone, three bushels of lime, and a cubic yard of sand, will lay 100 cubic feet of wall.—Five courses of brick will lay one foot in height on a chimney, six bricks in a course will make a flue four inches wide and twelve inches long, and eight bricks in a course will make a flue eight inches wide and sixteen inches long.

POLAR REGIONS.—Intensely cold, stormy and ice-bound, as all nature is at the Arctic circle, there are evidences in multiplied forms to prove that the climate in those inhospitable abodes of the white bear and walrus was once as mild, warm and delightful as the Island of Cuba. Vegetable productions of the soil, so ancient we have no data to reckon from, are abundant. These grew luxuriantly where it is almost impossible to sustain either plants or animals with all the appliances of art, and from their structure are particularly fitted for a tropical climate. This statement requires no proof, since the archives of geology verify them by preserved specimens in the rocks, the land and caverns of the frozen North. What forces produced the change from a mild to a terrific region of storms in their most fitful exhibitions of resistless fury? The polarity of the earth must have been suddenly changed.

THE "EMPEROR BELL."—The "Emperor Bell" which has been cast at the Frankenthal foundry near Worms, is to be transported to Cologne, as soon as the river navigation is fully established after the breaking up of the ice. The metal of which this bell is cast weighed 500,000 pounds, and was obtained from the cannon taken in the French war, and among the twenty-two pieces of ordnance which have been incorporated into it there were seven whose dates prove them to have been constructed in the time of Louis XIV. The bell, which is twelve feet in height and ample enough to shelter fifteen men under its dome, is adorned with a bust of St. Peter, the patron of church bells, and bears under the imperial eagle a Latin distich and a German verse, setting forth its purpose of calling together the people to attend the services of the church.

WHAT EVERY ONE OUGHT TO KNOW.—Every action and emotion depletes the physical system. Milk, the first food absorbed by men and animals, is the only natural mixture, containing all the elements of blood, save the coloring. Water constitutes three-

fourths of the body. To work well, either physically or mentally, we must be fed judiciously and thoroughly. Food properly administered stimulates the system as wine does, only more naturally. The long night hours empty the stomach, deplete the system, and chill the body. On arising, the physical system is low, and should be recruited. If we lose time in early morning in bringing the body up to its natural heat and strength, we cannot regain it during the day. A healthy man requires about one pound of nutriment per day to keep him in good condition. While a working man would need daily five pounds of solid mixed food; two and a half would be enough for persons who lounge and sleep much. Life, said the lecturer, can be sustained two or three weeks on two ozs. a day. A change of diet should follow a change of seasons—in winter, fat and sweets; in summer, fruits, fish, and lighter meats. Milk and eggs, a blood food; potatoes, wheat, which, being heating material, are fuel; and coffee, a stimulant.—From a lecture by Monsignor Pallis.

In his history of advertisements Mr. Sampson calculates that an average number of the 'Times' contains about 2,500 advertisements, and the receipts for last quarter are about £1,000 a day. A number of the 'Daily Telegraph' contains 1,444 advertisements, and these may be fairly calculated to produce £500 a day, or thereabouts. The 'Standard' advertisements, it is remarked, do not fall far short in number of those in the 'Daily Telegraph.'

It is not generally known that the eldest son of Mr. Ralph Disraeli, the brother of the Prime Minister, who was recently appointed second clerk of the House of Lords, is named Coningsby, after the hero of the cleverest and best of Disraeli's novels. Mr. Coningsby Disraeli will be the heir of his uncle's property, and it is hoped also the inheritor of the intellectual gifts of the Disraeli family.

GERMANY.

CALENDAR OF THE GERMAN CULTURKAMPE.

- Goetz.—A Dutch Religious, who was hearing confessions in the Church of Hülme, is arrested and conducted to Cleve.
- Coblenz.—Rev. Heit, a "suspended" and exiled priest, is arrested and transported to the district of Cologne.
- Aix-la-Chapelle.—The editor of the 'Geilenkirchzeitung' to 14 days' imprisonment, for publication of the Encyclical of 5th February.
- Dülken.—For containing an account of the debate in the House of Representatives, when the Encyclical was read, this day's issue of the 'Sprecher an Rhein' is confiscated.
- Posen.—Domiciliary visit at the house of Rev. Maczynski, the Vicar of the Cathedral.
- Dusseldorf.—Fuszmagit, the Editor of the 'Dusseldorf Volksblatt' goes abroad, leaving behind him ten press prosecutions.
- 28. Opladen.—The 'Bote' confiscated for publishing an account of the speech of the Deputy Baron von Wendt, in the Landtag, when he read the Papal Encyclical.
- 29. Breslau.—The Prince-Bishop, Dr. Foerster, received yesterday a summons from the President of the Province, inviting him to resign his episcopal charge.
- Posen.—For disobedience to the laws, 79 clergymen (of this diocese) are in arrest and exile.
- 30. Landau.—A private gentleman, Mr. Emmerling, 2 months, for offensive language against the German Emperor.
- Hildesheim.—Plüncke, of Klein-Lafferde, to the same penalty, for the same offence.
- 31. Mayence.—Three men of Nieder Ingelheim, to 3 months' each, for "breach of the peace." They had "invaded" the bell-tower of the Catholic Church, and had "violently" rung the bells for a funeral.
- April 1, Hamm.—Wiese, a merchant, who had been sentenced to three months' imprisonment for a speech he delivered at Dortmund, was acquitted on appeal.
- 2, Munich.—The appeal of Dr. Sigl against the sentence which condemned him to 10 months' imprisonment for offensive writing against Prince Bismarck is rejected by the Supreme Court. Moreover, he is additionally sentenced to a fine of 50 florins (£4 5s 6d) for frivolity.

Posen.—With reference to the criminal proceedings commenced against Mgr. Cybichowski, the Coadjutor-Bishop of Gnesen, for having consecrated the Holy Oils on Maundy Thursday (from which function the Government journals were so insane as to believe for a short time that he was the mysterious Apostolic Delegate who has been looked for everywhere in vain), the 'Germania' observes: The consecrated oil is the necessary matter of the Sacrament of Extreme Unction. If Mgr. Cybichowski is to be condemned for the preparation of this necessary matter, the administration of the Sacrament of the Extreme Unction must cease in the whole of the diocese of Gnesen-Posen, or Herr Falck will take steps with the view of enabling the Holy See to provide the necessary means for the administration of the Sacrament of the Catholic Church. There is no middle course. Dr. Falck will have very soon to decide as to the second alternative; otherwise it will be proved that in Prussia, in the whole of a vast diocese, the administration of the Sacrament of the dying is forbidden by the State. In this case, however, our adversaries will be obliged to admit that there are good reasons which justify our saying that there is a direct persecution of the Catholic Church in Prussia.

Police Tyranny.—At Herne, a village in Westphalia, there is no priest, and the curate (vicar) is "suspended" (by the Civil Government.) A Catholic miner died. His wife and his brother-in-law wished to bury him without any religious service—the vicar not being "legally" capable of assisting. But the Liberal clique summoned the "Old-Catholic" priest from Dortmund, who actually came up to the gate of the cemetery escorted by the police. The widow and friends, finding resistance useless, retired, and the body was interred in the presence of the police alone.