

THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. PETER, ROME.

In the sacred city of Rome there are 365 churches, one for every day of the year, dedicated to various saints, and over them all the magnificent Church of St. Peter holds uncontested pre-eminence. As there is but one St. Peter—Prince of the Apostles—so there is no other cathedral in the world which can compare with the glorious structure which bears name in the chosen scene of his apostolic labours, of his principal see, and his martyrdom. The Church of St. Peter is not only the largest and most beautiful church that has ever been erected, but also is the noblest architectural work which has been executed by man. Byron, apostrophizing this unrivalled structure, says:—

"But thou, of temples old or altars new,
Standest alone, with nothing like to thee."

St. Peter's is approached through a magnificent piazza or square, the buildings along which are concealed by a superb colonnade, forming two semi-circular porticoes, consisting of 284 columns, with an entablature which support the statues of 192 saints, each statue being eleven feet in height. On entering the church the interior presents a scene solemn, grand, and harmonious beyond conception. The extreme length within the walls is 607 feet in the central aisle, 445 feet in the transepts. The height from the pavement to the cross on the dome is 450 feet. The floor of St. Peter's covers five acres. The cost of erecting this splendid structure is estimated at £12,000,000. The rebuilding of St. Peter's was begun in A.D. 1506. Pope Julius II. laid the first foundation stone on the 18th of April of that year. It stands on the site of the old church of St. Peters, and the original plans of it were drawn by Bramante. Raphael was the next architect, and after him Peruzzi, who was succeeded by Antonia da San Gallo. M. Angelo was the next architect, and under his direction the dome was completed. Michael Angelo gave the plan its last touches, and it was made a condition precedent to their appointment with the architects who came after him that they should not deviate in the least from his plans. Lizzario was removed by Pius V. for wishing to alter them. During the brief pontificate of Gregory XIV., Della Porta completed the cupola and fixed the cross; and this greatest and most magnificent of Christian churches was eventually consecrated by Pope Urban VIII. in the year 1626, 120 years after the first stone was laid.

The Swiss papers express great surprise that Geneva and Berns continue to be so ill frequented by tourists. If they desire to attract strangers, we should advise them to vary the style of the religious entertainments that they offer. Pleasure-seekers would not be apt to be attracted by the spectacle of persecution for the faith. No wonder that sensible folks prefer enjoying their holidays elsewhere, especially after reading such a graceful passage as the following, which appears in the 'Oberland Bernois':—"We hope," says a writer in that charming paper, "that Don Alfonso and Dona Bianca, the brother and sister-in-law of Don Carlos, will visit our mountains this summer. If they do, we shall be able to give them by way of entertainments as good a beating with stout sticks as ever they heard tell of, and in a thoroughly republican manner."

Why is a thief your only true philosopher? Because he regards everything from an abstract point of view, is opposed to all notions of protection and is open to conviction.

A sharp-talking lady was reproved by her husband, who requested her to keep her tongue in her mouth. "My dear," she said, "it's against the law to carry concealed weapons."

All flesh is grass." Two farmers near Greenbush, United States, contesting the ownership of grass in a graveyard, fell to cutting each other with scythes, and one of them now is no mower.

Well, I always make it a rule to tell my wife everything that happens," said Brownwig. "Oh, my dear fellow, that's nothing!" said Smithwig. "I tell my wife lots of things that never happen at all."

A man's good fortune often turns his head; his bad fortune as often averts the heads of his friends.



SALE OF CONFISCATED LANDS, PATEA.

A SALE by public auction of suburban sections, Town and of rural allotments in the Okotuku District, Province of Wellington and Taranaki, will take place at the Courthouse, Thursday, the 16th of September next, at 12 o'clock noon.

Attention is specially called to the suburban sections on the east bank of the Patea river, which vary from 5 to 72 acres in area, and are conveniently situated on the main line of road, and near the Patea bridge.

From the excellence of the soil and their favorable position for commercial purposes, they afford combined advantages of an exceptional character for settlement and the investment of capital.

The rural allotments in the Okotuku District comprise sections of open land near the sea coast, between the Whenuakura river and the Hawke's Bay military settlement, and also a number of bush sections, lightly timbered and interspersed with patches of open land in the interior of the district between the Whenuakura river and the Moma-haki stream.

These vary considerably in value, and are priced accordingly.

The areas and upset prices have been published in the New Zealand 'Gazette,' of the 28th of July, and lithographed plans are being prepared, and will be distributed to intending purchasers on application.

Plans may be inspected at the Office of the Secretary for Crown Lands, Wellington, and at the Survey Office, Patea.

Regulations for the sale of the land may be seen in the New Zealand 'Gazette,' of the 1st of June, 1871, and all required information obtained at this office.

C. A. WRAY,
Officer in charge of Confiscated Lands,
West Coast.

Confiscated Lands Office,
Patea, July 28, 1875.

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NOTE.—Our large shipments for this season, coming in during re-building, compels us to use every means to move our stock as soon as possible. To effect this, we are marking everything at very low prices this winter, in order to induce all buyers to assist us to reduce our immense stock.

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