

Science Siftings

By 'Volt'

First Cultivated Rose.

It is said that the first cultivated rose was planted in Belgium in the year 1522. The damask rose was taken to England from France in 1573, the moss rose about 1724 and the China rose 50 years later.

Concerning Watches.

No watch keeps absolutely correct time, and even the most trustworthy chronometers used in observatories and on board ship must be regulated according to tables that are kept to fix the variations to which all timepieces are liable.

The 'Potato.

The Spaniards met with the potato in Peru, where it had long been cultivated by the natives, but it was well nigh a hundred before it was taken over to Europe. In 1557 we hear of its being introduced into Spain, while in the previous year Sir Walter Raleigh began to cultivate it in Ireland from seed which was taken over from North Carolina.

The Latest Skyscraper.

Plans have been filed for the completion of a new building in Madison-avenue and Fourth-avenue, New York. They provide for the construction of a tower 74ft square, 48 storeys high, with a dome 657ft above the pavement. It will be the loftiest building in the world, and its erection will cost £600,000.

Telephone in Pocket.

A pocket telephone for police purposes is the most novel thing in telephony. It is said to be seen in daily use in Vienna, where every policeman on duty is provided with the necessary appliance. In every street of importance are special call-boxes, and a man to communicate with his station has only to pull out his pocket apparatus and adjust it to the wire in the box.

Artificial Sponges.

Artificial sponges are made in Germany by treating pure cellulose with zinc chloride. The product swells in water and on drying becomes hard. But to prevent this action alkalihaloids are used. A pasty mass is thus obtained, which, being treated with rock salt, is then placed in a mould. When removed, it appears to be traversed by canals in all directions, and after having been washed in alcohol and water the sponge is ready for use.

Town Falling into a Lake.

The town of Travernola on the Lake of Isco, which saw several of its streets sink into the lake a few months ago, is now seriously alarmed because expert geologists have just declared that every house and street in the town will suffer a like fate because of the shifting clay on which the town is built. The authorities are trying to save the town by driving piles.

Strange Fish.

A naturalist in Colorado claims to have discovered a species of fish which lives and flourishes in a hot spring in a remote part of that country. How these creatures manage to exist in water almost hot enough to boil them is a mystery. The fish are described as being a light red color, about three inches long. They are shaped somewhat like a pike, with large mouth and bright prominent eyes. They move very slowly, having none of the swiftness and activity of ordinary fishes, which is perhaps hardly to be wondered at. The naturalist had great difficulty in securing specimens. Hook and line were useless, as the fish were indifferent to bait, however tempting. Finally a small net was procured, and two of the fish captured. The spring is well known to the Indians of the locality, who regard its waters as curative and hold the fish in superstitious awe, believing that from them the water derives the healing qualities.

MYERS & CO., Dentists, Octagon, corner of George Street. They guarantee the highest class of work at moderate fees. Their artificial teeth give general satisfaction, and the fact of them supplying a temporary denture while the gums are healing does away with the inconvenience of being months without teeth. They manufacture a single artificial tooth for Ten 'Shillings, and sets equally moderate. The administration of nitrous oxide gas is also a great boon to those needing the extraction of a tooth...

Intercolonial

On Sunday, February 17, his Lordship the Bishop of Sale blessed and opened a new church at Boolara.

Over 350 members of the Irish National Foresters' Benefit Society, received Communion at St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, on Sunday morning, February 17. All were in regalia. Afterwards the breakfast was held in the Cardinal's Hall, when his Eminence the Cardinal presided.

The Bishop of Ballarat a few Sundays ago laid the foundation stone of the new St. Mary's Church, now in course of erection in Woods street, Donald. The collection taken up amounted to £515 9s, which with the amount previously received, viz., £857 16s, makes the grand total of £1173 5s, for the building fund. The contract price for the building, which is a Gothic structure, in brick, with cement facings, is £2250.

The people of Wagga Wagga, and in fact the public throughout the diocese of Goulburn and in many parts of the State of New South Wales, learned with profound regret of the death on February 16 of the Very Rev. Michael Slattery, P.P., V.G., of Wagga. Father Slattery came to Australia with Bishop Gallagher over forty years ago, and was wonderfully popular throughout Riverina. He was a native of Tallow, County Waterford, and was educated at Fermoy, Clonliffe, and Maynooth Colleges. That he was held in affectionate regard by people of all creeds and classes was evidenced by the attendance at the funeral of the Church of England, Presbyterian, and Methodist ministers of Wagga.

His Eminence Cardinal Moran, in the course of an address on the occasion of laying the foundation stone of a church school at Bondi on Sunday, February 17, said: 'The erection of these edifices was one of the signs that there was no inaction or stagnation in the Catholic Church in Australia. The whole aim of the Holy Church was not, as their enemies said, to attain to material supereminence. The one purpose of the Catholic Church was to spread the Gospel and to bring to the hearts of her faithful children the knowledge of the love of God. He was pleased that the Church in Australia, as well as in other lands, was carrying out the great heavenly mission entrusted to her.' After referring to the triumphs achieved by the Church in other countries, the Cardinal said that now a new power in the Separation Law which was in operation in France assailed the Church. France, under the pretext of separating Church from State, was in reality aiming at suppression, but it was not against an empty phantom that war had been declared. As an evidence of the vitality of the Church, the Cardinal quoted statistics demonstrating the growth of Catholicism throughout the world.

Speaking at the Irish National Foresters' annual breakfast in Sydney his Eminence Cardinal Moran made some allusions to the recent mission of the Irish envoys. When Messrs. Devlin and Donovan inaugurated their campaign (said his Eminence) it was supposed they might, perhaps, reach the sum of £10,000, though this was considered to be an extreme amount. It was generally thought that £8000 would fully repay their Australian campaign. Well, instead of £10,000, they were able to announce that, after paying all expenses, the sum of £22,000 net recouped their many meetings. In New South Wales it was conjectured that £3000 would be the greatest amount that could be received, because they had already shown great enthusiasm in welcoming Mr. William Redmond, who had been richly recompensed for his eloquence in many centres. Instead of £3000, his (the Cardinal's) distinguished secretary, Monsignor O'Haran, who took such an active part in the organisation in New South Wales, was able, as the result of the campaign in New South Wales, to bring seven drafts of £1000 each on London, and hand them to the envoys as they were stepping aboard the vessel at Auckland for America. But the campaign of those young envoys was not only a financial triumph, but in its material influence, and in its political and social bearings, it was crowned with complete success. No element of disunion was introduced, and the greatest harmony and concord everywhere prevailed. Even those who were hitherto most opposed on principle to what they believed to be the aspirations of the Irish nation for Home Rule quitted those meetings with the solemn protest that no man in his right senses could question the aspirations presented by those Irish envoys.