

Science Siftings

BY VOLT

The Smallest Watch.

There lives in Cincinnati the proud possessor of the smallest watch in the world. It measures less than one quarter of an inch in diameter, and the face is about the size of the head of a large tack or nail. The case is made throughout of gold. The face is covered, the case being opened by pressing the stem as is ordinarily done. The length of both hands, if placed end to end, would not be more than five-twenty-fourths of an inch. The second hand is one-sixteenth of an inch in length. The numerals are in Arabic, and are engraved in red, to be more easily discernible. The works and hands are made of the finest tempered steel, and the works are set throughout in diamond chips.

A Volcanic Island.

A rim of land enclosing a fresh-water lake in the middle of the Pacific Ocean is a novelty in the way of islands (says a writer in the *Weekly Telegraph*). This small island is Ninafou, which is quite apart from other ocean lands. It lies midway between the Fiji and Samoan groups, and is under the government of the Tonga group, though it is 200 miles from these islands. Some time or other a volcano vent opened at the bottom of the ocean, and the lava that poured out of it piled higher and higher until it finally overtopped the sea. A great volcanic mountain had been formed, and the part of it that came into view above the waste of waters was, of course, an island. In the course of time this volcano was the scene of one of those tremendous explosions that sometimes tear mountains to pieces. The explosion had a remarkable result. The interior of the crater was blown out to a considerable depth, leaving only the narrow rim; in this is a nearly perfect ring around the deep central cavity. This is the island of to-day. Some years ago a thousand Tongans lived in the five villages that lie along the outer slope of that crater wall. The drainage from the inner slope partly fills the cavity, forming a lake. From the top of the crater rim one looks down upon the peaceful lake within, with its three little islands, and the curiously shaped peninsula jutting out into it; and outside the rim is the ever-restless ocean.

Cultivation in the Philippines.

Governor-General Smith of the Philippines recently made a tour of the mountain provinces of northern Luzon, chiefly inhabited by pagan tribes. On his return to Manila he said: 'The journey through the mountain country was a revelation. I have never seen such cultivation as we saw in the mountains. Those people have terraced the mountains in some instances a thousand feet high, and every bit of the land is under cultivation. I do not believe there is anything in the world that can equal the manner in which the people of the mountains have made their country productive. It certainly surpasses anything I have ever seen. The terraces in Japan are pig-mies compared with it. The earth and stone were brought for miles, and the most wonderful part about it is that the terraces are as solid and substantial as if they were part of the mountain itself. Some of them are seventy or a hundred feet high, and remain undisturbed through all sorts of weather and landslides.' And at the time these terraces were made the people were under arms, working with their knives and shields close at hand, and with sentries on every high point of land and mountain top.'

Characteristics of Lions.

If a lion or a tiger suddenly appears before you, just hold a chair out in front of him, and he won't do a thing. Allen Williams, who in the course of his experience with wild animals has been in that predicament often enough to know, says: 'These creatures have a much more limited intelligence than is generally supposed. They can take in only one thing at a time, and the four legs of a chair would keep any lion busy thinking for a long time. That is the reason why animal trainers carry two whips when they are in the circus ring. One for cracking and awing the performers, the other for emergencies. If one of the lions tries to attack him the trainer simply holds the reserve whip in front of him. The two objects together are too much for the lion's intelligence, and he is immediately subdued.' Another proof of the limited intelligence of the cat tribe, say trainers, is the fact that their performances must always come in the same order of succession. If by some accident the order is broken, the animals are completely lost, and the trainers are few who can keep them in submission once they become confused. In fact, most trainers consider themselves lucky in a case of this sort if they can get the lions quietly back into their cages. The whole cat family, moreover, is as treacherous as it is stupid.

Intercolonial

The estimated population of Victoria at the end of 1908 was 1,273,313.

His Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne is expected to arrive in Melbourne about the last week in May.

The Rev. Father F. Kiley, of Copmanhurst, has been permanently appointed parish priest of Coff's Harbor.

Monsignor Bourke, V.G., of Perth, celebrated recently his golden jubilee, and was presented with a cheque for £250 by the Catholics of St. Brigid's parish, West Perth.

The full total received in subscriptions towards the new Catholic Cathedral, Armidale, is £4027 5s. This is highly satisfactory, considering the scheme was only mooted on January 31 last.

Pope Pius X. has raised Messrs. J. B. Kelly (Lismore), Thomas McDermott (Lismore), and R. Campbell (Bangalow) to the distinguished Order of Knighthood of St. Gregory the Great (K.S.G.).

The total amount contributed by the various parishes in the Archdiocese of Sydney for the sufferers by the Italian earthquake was £563 odd. The amount was forwarded direct to the Archbishop of Messina by his Eminence Cardinal Moran.

Nine of the students of St. Stanislaus College, Bathurst, who are following the agricultural course as a preparation for settling on the land, have recently passed the theoretical and practical examinations in wool-classing, conducted by the Government expert at the Technical College.

Rev. Brother Walsh, who has been in charge of the Maryborough College, Queensland, has succeeded the Rev. Brother McGee as principal of the Christian Brothers' College, Lewisham. Brother Walsh was the recipient of many presentations before his departure from Queensland, including one from the Mayor on behalf of the Hibernian Society.

His Eminence Cardinal Moran presided at High Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, on St. Patrick's Day, and his Lordship Dr. Gallagher, Bishop of Goulburn, preached the panegyric. Afterwards the Cardinal went out to the Agricultural Grounds, where the Industrial Exhibition in connection with the celebrations was opened by Miss Rawson.

At the annual meeting of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Melbourne, it was reported that the receipts for the past twelve months had been £2017, and the expenditure £1653. During that period 937 families had been relieved, 6000 garments and 570 pairs of boots had been distributed, and situations had been found for 90 men and women.

St. Patrick's Day celebration at the Exhibition Building, Melbourne, was graced by the presence of Lord Dudley and his amiable consort. An address was presented to their Excellencies, in which their great services to Ireland were recalled, his Excellency being thanked for his help to the cause of Home Rule, and her Excellency for all she had done for the industries of Ireland.

His Grace Archbishop Delany blessed and laid the foundation stone of the new church at the Good Shepherd Convent, Lower Sandy Bay, Tasmania, on February 21. At the conclusion of the ceremony the Sisters entertained the visitors at afternoon tea. The contributions received amounted to £200. The gathering included his Excellency the Governor (Sir Gerald Strickland), the Premier of Tasmania (Mr. Evans), and representatives of all creeds.

On Wednesday night, March 10, a gathering of parishioners and friends of the Rev. Father H. J. Maguinness was held in the schoolroom, Bourke, for the purpose of bidding him farewell, prior to his leaving for a trip to Ireland. Father Maguinness was presented by his parishioners with a purse of sovereigns. He also received a beautiful travelling trunk from the Sacred Heart Society, and a set of Mass vestments and a silver-mounted umbrella from the Sisters and Children of Mary.

The executors of the estate of the late Michael Lennon, of Cohuna, Victoria, have forwarded drafts of £309 2s 6d to each of the following charitable institutions:—The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Melbourne; the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Bendigo; the Bendigo Hospital; the Fund for Infirm Priests, Bendigo; St. James's Asylum, Oakleigh; the Girls' Orphanage, Geelong; St. Aiden's Orphanage, Bendigo; the Foundling Hospital, Broadmeadows; the Home for Destitute Children, Surrey Hills; the Home for Old People, Northcote; St. Joseph's Receiving Home, Carlton; Nazareth House, Ballarat; Rosary Place, South Melbourne; and the Abbotsford Convent. The total amount divisible among these institutions was £4327 17s.

DEAR ME!

Forgotten that SYMINGTON'S COFFEE ESSENCE! Whatever shall I do? Call at the nearest Store and ask. They all keep it.