

The Inevitable Irishman.

The Church of Santa Maria in Ara Coeli (writes the Home correspondent of the Sydney 'Freeman's Journal') has been presented with a splendid new organ, the gift of the Rieger house of Jagendorf to Father Hartmann, the Franciscan composer, and to his Order. The new organ has been tried under the auspices of a Kerry man, Father David Fleming, the Vicar-General and—let us hope—the future Superior-General of the Order of St. Francis. A Highland priest of my acquaintance, who looks like an Irishman always replies to the inquiry, 'Father, you are Irish, are you not?' with a brogue, and 'Sure, is not the Church one, holy, Roman, Apostolic and Irish! Another friend of mine, who was travelling in the dominions of the Sultan in 1898, got into contact a bright Pasha. In the course of conversation the Turkish dignitary said quite rebelliously: 'Why, I am an Irishman, and I've just got permission to go home and take part in the celebrations of '98.' Some members of the present Polish pilgrimage were visiting San Pietro, in Montorio one day recently. The Guardian of the Irish Franciscan Convent of Saint Isidore de Urbe, Fr. Bohaventure Ahearn, was there with a friend of mine, Mr. O'Connor, of San Francisco—and Dublin. The Irish visitors were looking at the tombs of the princely exiles of the time of Queen Elizabeth, O'Donnell and O'Neill. They showed the monuments to the Poles, and explained that they covered the remains of two tombs of the princely exiles of the fatherland and the representatives of persecuted Catholic Poland all knelt in veneration around the priest and received his blessing with deep emotion and then rendered their homage of tears and prayers at the memorials of the heroic chieftains.

Blind Fishes.

Fishes, said an old fisherman, are especially liable to injury to the eyes. Among the fishes taken in nets there are always some that have suffered some injury to the eye, and the number in some cases would be large. The reason for this is very simple. The fishes travel in schools, many fishes together, and closely herded. Moving thus they are likely to jostle and rub against one another. If they are frightened, then the danger from this source is greatly increased. Take, for instance, a school of menhaden chased by bluefish. In their fright and their eagerness to escape they rush off wildly, crowding and smashing together, and sometimes actually pushing, in their wild rush, up out of the water on to the beach. Bluefish rush off in the same wild manner when sharks smash into a school of them, and begin biting and destroying right and left. All fishes are peculiarly sensitive to the motion of the water about them, they feel the impulse given by the slightest movement of it anywhere near them. They keep within the circle of the movement made by the school. They don't stray away, they stay with the crowd, and if the crowd gets anything to eat they get at least some of the fragments.

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Boys Who Make Great Men.

A Swedish boy fell out of a window and was badly hurt, but with clinched lips he kept back the cry of pain. The King Gustavus Adolphus, who saw the boy fall, prophesied that the boy would make a man for an emergency. He did, for he became the famous General Bauer.

A boy used to crush the flowers, to get their color, and painted the white side of his father's cottage in the Tyrol with all sorts of pictures, which the mountaineers gazed at as wonderful. He was the great artist, Titian.

An old painter watched a little fellow who amused himself making drawings of his pot and brushes, easel and stool, and said: 'That boy will beat me one day.' He did, for he was Michael Angelo.

A German boy was reading a blood and thunder novel right in the midst of it he said to himself: 'Now this will never do. I get too much excited over it. I can't study so well after it. So here goes!' And he flung the book out into the river. He was Fichte, the great German philosopher.

Generalship of a Cat.

The mastery of herself which a cat can show, when, having been caught in a position from which there is no escape, she calmly sits down to face out the threats of a dog, is a marvellous thing (says a writer in the 'Boston Transcript'). Everybody has seen a kitten on a street doorstep attacked by a dog 10 times her size, as apparently self-possessed as if she were in her mistress's lap. If she turns tail and runs down the street she is lost; the dog will have a sure advantage of her. Even as it is, if he could get up courage enough to seize her on the spot he would be able to make short work of her. 'You dare not touch me, and you know it' is what her position tells the dog. But she is intensely on her guard in spite of the air of perfect content. Her legs, concealed under her fur, are ready for a spring. Her claws are unsheathed. Her eyes never move for an instant from the dog. As he bounds wildly from side to side, barking with comical fury, those glittering eyes of her follow him with the keenest scrutiny. If he plucks up his courage and tries Fabian tactics and withdraws a few feet, settling down on his forepaws. Just then the sound of a dog's bark in the next street attracts his eyes and ears for a moment, and when he looks back the kitten is gone! He looks down the street and starts wildly in that direction and reaches a high board fence just as a cat's tail—a monstrous tail for such a little cat—is vanishing over the top of it. He is beaten. The cat showed not only more courage than he had, but a great deal more generalship.

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