

this city, nor the free institutions of this Republic be tarnished by any dastardly uplifting of your arms against those who have wrought you no harm, but whose blameless lives are their sure defence before God and man. Depart in peace to your homes, and sully not your honor in act so vile."

As the Bishop finished speaking, the mob withdrew in peaceful detachments, and thus ended this uprising of bigotry in that fair city which can boast to-day of some of the finest Catholic institutions in the country.

The story of the astounding labor of Mother M. Xavier Warde in the cause of religion forms very interesting and edifying reading for religious institutions and the family circle, and is a very useful addition to the list of prize-books for our Catholic schools.

The Church in Japan

When the mail left Japan on March 14 the Right Rev. Dr. Gallagher (Bishop of Goulburn), the Right Rev. Dr. Higgins (Bishop of Rockhampton), and the Very Rev. Dean Slattery (Newtown) were within a few days of their departure, which was fixed for the 18th. The following interesting remarks (says the Sydney 'Free-man's Journal') form part of a letter from Dr. Gallagher, dated Nikko, March 13:—

"I must say that Japan is well worth a visit. In truth, it is an all-important matter for Australians to realise what is being done here. I have hardly any hesitation in saying that, so far as a passing visitor can judge from what comes before him externally, Japan is fast becoming one of the most advanced nations on earth. The railway extension, the telegraph and telephone systems, electric lighting, both in streets and private houses, the hotel accommodation, the schools, primary, technical, and university—are all, I certainly believe, in advance of Australia, more like the United States. But they are all on purely secular lines. The immense number of temples, their wealth of adornment, and the care even still bestowed upon them, show that formerly the Japanese must have been, in their own way, a religious people. But, with the exception perhaps of remote districts, all that is now changed. The educational system is altogether based on secularism and materialism. I am told that the university students are intimately acquainted with such writers as Huxley and Spencer, and Kant and Hornack. It is to be feared even that those who attend the schools of the missionaries—Catholic included—come to learn the English and French languages, and to become acquainted with European habits and knowledge of business; but not many genuine and sincere conversions to Christianity. Japan is, in a word, a wonderful—probably the most surprising—illustration the world has ever seen of progress and civilisation in the purely material order. From all we can learn, the moral tone in private and social life is at a very low ebb. But externally, and so far as any casual visitor can see, there is nothing to offend the most sensitive. Everything is orderly, becoming and decorous."

"The Catholic missionaries are doing a noble work. In Tokio alone there are some 15 or 20 priests, with an Archbishop, Monsignor Osouf, at their head—all learned, laborious, devoted, and zealous men. The Sisters also have fine schools—the one we visited in Tokio having over 300 children in attendance. Among these Sisters we met an Irish lady, a cousin of Mr. McSweeney, of Chiltern, Victoria, strong, bright, cheerful, and happy. In all there are some 60,000 Catholics under one archbishop and three suffragans—not so very many, when we consider that Japan has a population of over 45,000,000. Some of the clergy seem to me to be depressed and to regard the future as gloomy; others are more sanguine and hopeful, and think that in the disruption of all indigenous religion and disappearance of Buddhism and Shintoism, there is a grand field for missionary enterprise. The missionaries received us everywhere with extreme kindness, speak English wonderfully well, and are as conversant with the outer world and trend of modern thought as we are in Australia. The great division and quarrelling among the innumerable sects that are here everywhere and from every country, are a great obstacle to the spread of Christianity. In Tokio alone there must be more than 20 religious sects, well provided with resources—each in its own way working zealously for the conversion of the heathen. The Russian Cathedral is by far the finest building. But probably the American missionary bodies have most money at their backs. The Catholics are poorest, but have more Japanese Christians than all the others combined. On the whole, and from every point of view, this is a most interesting country to visit."

"We have hardly seen the word 'Australia' mentioned in any paper or in any form since we left. Both China and Japan dislike Australia on account of the Exclusion Act. I believe the day will come when they will force its repeal—and then Australians must look out for the supremacy of the white race."

A little wonder is the Broadcast Patent Seed-sower, sold by Morrow, Bassett, and Co. For sowing turnip, rape, grass, and clover seed it has no equal, while for oats, wheat, and barley you have only to see it to know its value. A boy can work it. Sow four acres per hour, and any quantity up to six bushels per acre. Price only 20s.—***

King Edward and the Holy Father

A cable message under date Rome, April 30, states that responding to the Pope's wish, King Edward yesterday paid an informal private visit to the Vatican. He started from the British Embassy in a closed private carriage, declining an escort of carabineers. A procession of Papal officers escorted King Edward to the Pope's apartments, where Pope Leo advanced, shook hands, and asked King Edward to enter his private cabinet. Sitting in armchairs, they conversed in French for half an hour. At King Edward's request, the Pope promised him a signed photograph.

After the interview King Edward returned direct to the Quirinal. The crowds in the streets acclaimed him. Numbers of Irish pilgrims visiting Rome cheered enthusiastically.

The King wore a field-marshal's uniform and the Order of the Garter. The Pope wore a white cassock with a splendid diamond necklet and cross and a velvet mozzetta.

The Pope referred to Queen Victoria receiving him in London in 1846. He alluded to the Duke of Norfolk's recent visit to Rome.

The newspapers say King Edward was surprised at the Pope's clearness of mind and good health, and declared that he looked like a man of not more than 63 years of age.

Statistics of Divorce

The Most Rev. Dr. Kelly, preaching a few Sundays ago in St. Benedict's Church, Sydney, delivered a most impressive sermon on the evils of divorce. The advancing invasion of immorality due to divorce (said his Grace) is made evident even by figures. Statistics upon this subject show that the number of petitions at the beginning of divorce procedure has been multiplied by three or four, and in some places by five within twenty or thirty years.

For the five years, 1867 to 1871, marriages and divorces were: In England and Wales, marriages 905,000, divorces 724; in Scotland, marriages 115,000 divorces 177; in Ireland, marriages 142,000, divorces 4. For the five years, 1882 to 1886: In England and Wales, marriages 1,009,000, divorces 1891; in Scotland, marriages 128,000, divorces 390; in Ireland, marriages 108,000, divorces 17.

It is worthy of note that judicial separation only is legal in Ireland, also that of her 5,122,000 inhabitants in 1881, 3,952,000 were Catholics. Coming to home statistics, it is ascertained by our most trusted authorities that the rate of divorce for New South Wales is higher than that of any country of the world except two, the United States and Switzerland. The parent State is giving bad example to Australasia. For the five years, 1876-80, the rate of divorce per 10,000 marriages was 33.6 in New South Wales. For the five years, 1891-95, it was 272.3

Roman Catacombs

An archaeological discovery of great importance has just been made in the catacombs of St. Cecilia (writes a Rome correspondent).

Some laborers were engaged in removing a quantity of soil in the adjacent fields belonging to the Trappist monks, who act as custodians and guides to these catacombs, when their pickaxes struck what turned out to be the stone roof of a subterranean building.

Abbe Wilpert, the well-known archaeological expert, having been sent for, the excavations were proceeded with under his direction, and soon a number of ancient paintings, including a Greek portrait of Christ, were brought to light, all in a wonderful state of preservation.

Further search resulted in the finding of the tombs of St. Mark and St. Marcellinus, who were put to death in Rome for their adhesion to the Christian faith by the Emperor Diocletian at the beginning of the fourth century.

It was known from early extant records that these martyrs were buried in the region of the sandpits on the Appian Way; but the exact spot had never been ascertained until now.

The excavations are still being actively prosecuted. The diggers have unearthed a fine Damasine inscription, and, as it is believed, the actual tomb of the great Pope Damasus himself, who did so much towards preserving and ornamenting the Roman Catacombs.

Archaeologists on the spot are confident that what is now in process of discovery is a large underground basilica used by the early Christians. Traces of the altar and episcopal chair have been found.

Morrow, Bassett and Co. have been appointed sole agents in New Zealand for the Cochshutt Plough Company's famous 'Excelsior' arm implements. Champions all over the globe. Send for catalogue.—***

The 'Excelsior' plough is 'Champion of the World.' On hillside, lea, swamp, tussock, or stubble, it is equally at home.—Morrow, Bassett, and Co., sole agents in New Zealand.—***