

Disputed Honors.

The author of "Beautiful Snow" is authentically located now in pretty much every town in the union, but a special department will be needed in the next census to locate and enumerate the owner of the first Columbian fair souvenir half-dollar sold to the public. Only four of the proud possessors have shown up in Omaha, but each one has papers to show for his or her claim. Col. Moynihan received the very first coin sold from an election commissioner and county judge in Chicago, who bought it for him. An Omaha lady received it from a "gentleman friend" in Chicago. Judge Cooley's Chicago representative bought the actual first coin taken from the first keg delivered and sent to him by special engine. Another honorable gentleman received the very first coin by homing pigeon. One Omaha gentleman badly wanted the first coin sold, but the bidding went over his head. He had a camera with him, and took a snap shot at the coin as it was displayed between the fingers of the auctioneer, and now he proudly exhibits the photograph.

GRAY hair is so common now that one wonders what it comes from. Young men have it in profusion and young women are very proud when they have a coiffure in which gray hair is prominent. The prevalence of gray hair is attributed to frequent cutting and soap. The doctors speak of inherent tendencies, but soap and the barber do more toward taking color and strength out of hair than anything else does. The singeing of hair is done to prevent the oils from exuding from the ends of clipped hairs, and singeing it is in this regard better than cutting. But ammonia-loaded soaps are the worst factors. Many persons use ammonia when washing their heads, and it enters into all shampoo mixtures. It is also an ingredient of most soaps. It dries up the scalp and robs the hair of all its moisture. That is where most of the gray hair of to-day comes from.

THE craze of the day is for some odd little trinket to hang in the chain of the chain bracelet looked on the arm of every girl lucky enough to have a lover. Last year there were lucky belles, and "bleeding hearts," all diamonds, with a single ruby drop, but now the "battered heart" is the supreme thing. It is of hammered gold with the ruby gleaming in the midst. Glass lockets, too, are seen, and in their transparency a four-leaved clover appears. And tiny little lanterns with magic slides through which the girl that wears it, and she alone, knows how to find the face of the man who carries the key to the fetter.

KENTUCKY will make at the world's fair an exhibit of tobacco in all its forms from the seed up to the matured and manufactured leaf. There will be exhibits of different varieties of plants in various stages of growth, and illustrations of the manner of shipping and handling the weed from the time the seed is put in the ground until the produce goes into the chewer's or smoker's mouth. The people may be assured that it will be the greatest exhibition ever given of tobacco in the world. The various ways in which tobacco is used in manufacture will also be a feature of the display.

A BALTIMORE friend of the late Gen. Butler says: "All the eccentricities he possessed—such as chewing on the stump of a cigar in open court, puffing and blowing during the examination of witnesses, striding up and down in front of the jury, wearing boutonnieres on all occasions, and making a great stew when he entered any assembly—all these were originally done for effect, but as he aged they became a part of his nature."

A NEW Gotham paper has this to say about its subscribers: "We have a definite, valued circulation to-day among people who are accustomed to luxurious surroundings, who use costly things, who know the difference between common goods and fine." Immediately following this paragraph, by the irony of fate, is an advertisement of reversible collars and cuffs!

KANSAS society made an interesting innovation in anniversary celebrations at Hutchinson last week by celebrating a diamond wedding, from which the bridegroom was absent because of an untimely death. The bride was still alive, however, and capable of enjoying a good thing, so the anniversary was duly and becomingly celebrated.

CHICAGO has a Greek church which, in its membership, includes one thousand of the twelve hundred natives of Greece who make their homes in that city. No one but those of pure Hellenic extraction are allowed among the membership.

THE largest sheep ranch in the world is said to be in the counties of Dimmet and Webb, Tex. It contains upward of four hundred thousand acres and yearly pastures from one million to one million six hundred thousand sheep.

SOME of the cotton mills in South Carolina earned as high as forty-two per cent. on their investments last year, and all in all it was the most prosperous year in the history of cotton manufacturing in that state.

What the Florist Sees.

"Flowers to the sick," is a recognized department of a florist's business. Society, which would be burdened to pass a little time with an invalid friend, meets out its obligation with a drive to the flower market. "I can always tell," said a florist recently, "whether a customer is interested in the sick person for whom he orders flowers, or is merely returning some obligation or paying court for future favors. In the latter case a 'job lot,' as we call it—two dollars or three dollars' worth without regard to what they may be—is ordered in a moment. But in the former a care which must add to the enjoyment of the recipient is exercised, and a few choice, selected flowers, a potted plant of delicacy and real value, or something of that sort is selected. I have been sending a single rose daily for two weeks to the house of a sick girl, and it costs the sender one dollar and a half every morning."

WHAT were supposed to be fossil snakes, recently discovered in the peculiar rock formations near Canon City, Col., a noted scientist now pronounces to be the finest casts he ever saw of the trunks of giant palms or fern trees of the carboniferous age, on which grew leaves twelve or more feet long. The smaller specimens he regards either as rootlets of the larger trunks or new species of the palm family of that age. What were supposed to be the bulbous heads of the reptiles are now known to be the base of the trees where the monster roots started out, and the supposed enlarged tail is the top, from which rose clusters of fern-like leaves.

It is feared that the recent cold weather has resulted in great damage to the game in the state of West Virginia. Partridges are reported to have frozen in whole coveys, and hares have frozen and starved in large numbers. Polk Miller, the president of the Virginia Field Sports association, has published a circular requesting the farmers to feed the game and the association would pay for it; also to trap and save all the birds possible. A great many partridges have been shipped to Richmond and Mr. Miller is taking care of them. They will be liberated in different parts of the state as soon as the weather gets settled.

TWO MEXICAN women, Senoras Louisa Leglerly and Fortunata Ronlat, are reputed to have control of the recently discovered rich gold placer mining district at Magdalena, near Hermosillo, Sonora, to which something of a rush was lately started. The women are residents of the village of Magdalena, and were the original discoverers of the rich placers. They have denounced, or otherwise secured, the title to thirty-five of the richest claims in the district, and are putting in steam machinery for washing the gold. Woman's pluck and energy are winning the world over.

PATERSON, N. J., has in the falls of the Passaic not only the source of enormously valuable water power, but a piece of rare natural scenery. Unfortunately, however, for the city, the land immediately about the falls has been almost bare of trees, and rendered thoroughly unattractive. According to local tradition a resident of the neighborhood once inclosed and beautified a park about the falls expecting that it would be a popular resort. One day it was thrown open to the public, and next morning it was found in a state of ruin.

DURING a recent blizzard in Colorado a large number of elk—stated at over one thousand—driven by cold and hunger, invaded the cattle ranches near Steamboat Springs, and, driving the cattle away from their cribs, took possession of the fodder that had been provided for them. The ranchmen rounded up a large number of them without much difficulty, as their sufferings made them very tame, and propose to try to domesticate them.

STATUES in silver for the world's fair are not to be the only curios of the kind, for Lot's wife is to outdone by an Englishman of Winsted named W. H. Jones. He is now carving a copy of Bartholdi's "Goddess of Liberty" from a block of pure white salt mined at a depth of two hundred and fifty feet in the earth. The figure stands five and a half feet from base to top.

VERY close similarities in the lines of signatures are better evidence of forgery than variations in handwriting experts say. "When two signatures, purporting to have been written by the same person, are precisely alike," says one noted expert, "it is entirely safe to conclude that one of them is a forgery." No man does, or can, write his signature twice exactly alike.

A WEALTHY Iowa farmer who has just joined the church is puzzled to know what it profiteth a man to give food and lodging to a poor wayfarer, and lose nine hundred dollars in cash, his favorite mare, and a brand-new shotgun. It might be suggested that experience is worth something.

WHAT is said to be the largest sawmill in the world is in Clinton, Ia. It has ten saws, seven band and three gang, and two batteries of ten boilers each. Its capacity is five hundred thousand feet of lumber a day.

AN old smoker was made deathly ill by a cigar the other evening. A cigar dealer explained it right away: "There was a hair rolled in that cigar. It will make you sick every time."

CATHOLIC NOTES.

At the recent Brazilian elections several priests were returned as members of the Republican Congress.

Representatives of the Catholic press of Hungary have held a meeting to organize a league against Freemasonry. To the Catholics of Natchez, Miss., belongs the honor of having been the first who performed the Forty Hours devotion in America. This was in colonial days.

The Catholic population of the Indian Empire is 1,502,739 plus the Catholics of French and Portuguese India, in all 1,900,991. The Catholic population from 1881 to 1891 increased 300,000.

Replies to the circular of the Sacred Congregation of Rites on sacred music have now been received from nearly all to whom it was sent. The congregation will soon hold a general assembly to take action upon them.

It is not generally known, but it is a fact, that several Indian students are preparing for the priesthood in some of our western theological seminaries. There are already a small number of Indian Benedictine nuns in the far west, and there is a fair prospect that their number will soon be increased. There is also an Indian Catholic priest who is laboring among the Indians of Western Canada.

Monsignor Azarian, the Armenian patriarch who brought the Sultan's jubilee presents to Leo XIII., has arranged a concordat with the Holy See with reference to Catholic questions in the Balkan States subject to the Sublime Porte. It is confidently reported that Monsignor Azarian will receive a cardinal's hat in the course of the present year.

It has often been wondered what has become of the crucifix used by the Abbe Egworth at the execution of Louis XI. A Paris correspondent of the London Daily News says it is now in possession of the parish priest of St. Bedard de Guisere, to whom it was given by one of his flock, a Mme. d'Espilat, when she was dying. She enjoined him never to part with it because it was a sacred relic, and she expected that Louis the Martyr would one day figure in the calendar of the church along with his ancestor, St. Louis. The crucifix, with the Christ on it, is an old carved ivory, and was probably made at Dieppe.

The Church of Rome, wherever she is, will always be Roman. That she is republican and democratic in America is what one would expect. She may have been imperialistic in Spain and loyalist in France in days gone by; but the popular feeling is asserting itself, and is very democratic. Is she not on the side of the people in Ireland to-day? You say Rome does not live upon her traditions. She does, but her traditions do not poison her.—Cardinal Manning

DOMESTIC READING

Worth without wealth is a servant out of place.

Wicked men obey from fear, but the good from love.

On earth the broken are—in Heaven the perfect round.

Life is probation, this earth no goal but the starting point of man.

Those who are behind us in privilege may be before us in character.

Worth begets in base minds envy; in great souls emulation.

Modesty seldom resides in a breast that is not enriched with nobler virtues.

Life is largely made up of having the things we would not, and not having the things we would.

Every man is worth just as much as the things are worth about which he busies himself.

"I have nothing to offer to God," said a dying infidel to the Sister of Charity who was tending him. "Then offer this," she said, handing him her crucifix. If we have nothing else we have our crosses to offer God.

In you interiorly offer your sacrifice, Jesus Christ will unite it to that which He offered to His Father for us on the Cross; thus your particular sacrifice will have as much value as you shall have merited, even though the works be small.

Catholic Church Statistics.

The Catholic population is given as 8,806,095, with 14 archbishops, 75 bishops, 9,388 priests, 8,477 churches, 8,845 stations, 1,763 chapels, 36 seminaries, 127 colleges, 650 academies, 3,587 parochial schools attended by 728,209 children, 245 asylums caring for 26,538 orphans and 463 other charitable institutions.

The archdiocese of New York leads with 800,000 Catholics, an archbishop, a bishop, 525 priests, 208 churches, 43 stations, 40 chapels, a seminary, 4 colleges, 40 academies, 169 parochial schools attended by 40,524 children and 8 asylums caring for 2,514 orphans. The suffragan sees of the archdiocese contain one-eighth of the entire Catholic population.

Brooklyn, which has 280,000 Catholics, ranks above the archdioceses of Baltimore, San Francisco, St. Paul, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Cincinnati, Santa Fe and Oregon. It has 219 priests, 116 churches, 9 stations, 17 chapels, 1 seminary, 2 colleges, 22 academies and 105 parochial schools attended by 28,625 children. Newark has 200,000 Catholics, 210 priests, 126 churches, 12 stations, 75 chapels, 1 seminary, 3 colleges, 18 academies, 80 parochial schools, 26,692 school children, 6 asylums and 785 orphans.

Buffalo has 160,000 Catholics, Albany 180,000, Rochester 80,000, Syracuse 70,000 and Trenton 60,000.

Of the other archdioceses Boston has 550,000 Catholics, Chicago 500,000, Philadelphia 410,000, New Orleans 300,000, Baltimore 235,000, San Francisco 220,000, St. Paul 208,484, Milwaukee 200,000, St. Louis 200,000, Cincinnati 189,500, Santa Fe 128,000 and Oregon 88,000.

In point of population the dioceses of Charleston and Salt Lake are the smallest, having only 8,000. The diocese of Cheyenne is the smallest in the number of priests. It contains 80,000 Catholics and has seven priests.—Catholic Directory

CATHOLIC DOCTRINE.

IT IS SATISFACTORY TO THE INTELLIGENCE AND THE REASON.

Based Upon the Teachings of the Scriptures and Supported by Direct Tradition, It Fears No Comparison With Beliefs Taught Outside the Church.

Many converts to the church on being asked why they did not enter it sooner have replied that they might have done so had they known what the church was. There are thousands and tens of thousands who have but the most limited conception of what the Catholic church is. They have not given it the slightest examination, but take for granted all that is told them by others—the misrepresentations, the false stories, the foul calumnies.

More than half the prejudice against the Catholic religion is due not to willfulness, but to ignorance. There are people who have no reason to dislike the church. They have merely heard distorted tales—that the doctrines are unwarranted by Scripture and the rites superstitious. They have read a little about Luther and the sale of indulgences, vague narratives of Pope Alexander VI. misty recitals of Torquemada and thequisition, and they have not taken the trouble to look into these things and learn if there might not be something urged on the other side. Friends have said to them that Catholics are a class who believe in any wild and miraculous tale, and who, on the whole, for a variety of reasons, are a body to be distrusted and shunned.

Occasionally an intelligent person outside of the church examines for himself. He first attends divine service as performed by a Catholic priest. How impressive and beautiful the mass! When we look into the meaning of the various parts of the ceremony, how rich in significance! It is almost identical with the act of worship of the Christians who followed the apostles. The mass almost precisely as we now have it comes from the first century. Then as to doctrines. If the inquirer will take up some such book as "The Faith of Our Fathers," where everything is so simply and lucidly explained, he finds that not only do the doctrines satisfy the intelligence and the reason, and are supported by direct tradition, but they are based incontrovertibly and thoroughly upon the teachings of the Scriptures.

The further such a man proceeds in his inquiry the more he is sure to be pleased. His prejudices disappear like the exhalations of night before the morning sun. Dislike vanishes, and respect soon grows into admiration.

The Rev. Walter Elliott, the Paulist father of New York, is about to start out for the purpose of giving a series of missions chiefly to non-Catholics, and Detroit will be his field of labor for a year. "He will hire halls," says a New York paper, "speak in churches, distribute books, pamphlets, leaflets, go into villages and country districts and there expound and explain the doctrines and practices of his church in plain and simple language that cannot be misunderstood. His aim throughout will be to make better known the doctrines of the Catholic church to those outside his fold—to clear away the misconceptions which exist in thousands of minds."

This is all that Catholics ask—to have their religion fairly examined. "Make non-Catholics see and know us as we actually are," says Mr. Lothrop, who is himself a convert. No Catholic fears a test or fears a comparison of the Catholic doctrine with any of the multitude of fantastic beliefs taught outside the church.

After Death.

This beautiful and sadly prophetic poem was written by Miss Fanny Parnell not quite a year before her death:

Shall mine eyes behold thy glory, O my country? Shall mine eyes behold thy glory? Or shall the darkness close around them ere the sun blaze

Break at last upon thy story?

When the nations open for thee their quecnly circle, As a sweet, new sister hall thee, Shall these lips be sealed in caustic death and silence

That have known but to bewail thee?

Shall the ear be deaf that once loved thy praise, When all men their tribute bring thee? Shall the mouth be clay that sang thee in thy equalor,

When all poets' mouths shall sing thee?

Ah, the harpings, and the salves, and the shoutings Of thy exiled sons returning! I should hear, though dead and moldered, and the grave demands Should not chill my bosom's burning.

—Boston Pilot.

Echoes of the Jubilee.

All the church bells in Rome were set a-carrying during the celebration of the jubilee mass, and those who were condemned to remain outside the church say that the effect was most harmonious. In the evening a great number of the houses and all the churches were brilliantly illuminated. For the first time since 1870 the facade of St. Peter's was decorated with superb designs in fire. The palaces of ambassadors accredited to the holy see were illuminated with immense wax candles, two in each window, according to an ancient custom.—Exchange.

Catholics in the Senate.

There will be five Catholics in the United States senate, the largest number, we believe, ever in that body at one time. They will be Hon. William N. Roach, from North Dakota; Hon. Edward Murphy, Jr., of New York; Hon. Donald Caffery and Hon. E. D. White, from Louisiana, and James Smith, Jr., of New Jersey.—Catholic Review.

A Monument to Cardinal Manning.

A movement has been started for the purpose of erecting a memorial to the late Cardinal Manning in the Kensington pro cathedral in the form of a handsome bronze tablet. The subscriptions toward the public monument to the cardinal's memory amount to about \$30,000.

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