

Correspondence

CANANDAIGUA

Prayers were said Sunday for Mrs. Jane O'Connell, of Canandaigua, Mrs. M. Cross, of Elmira, Jerry Buckley, of Geneva, and John McManus, of Penn Yan.

Masses next Sunday at the usual hour.

Large attendance at the Christmas services, particularly the Midnight Mass. The collection amounted to \$220.

Everything this week is fair. Good entertainments are out on every evening. The booths are very attractive and everybody is hustling to make the fair a success and round up the financial work of the year with a showing that will be exceeding creditable.

The Christmas Star will keep you in daily touch with items of interest, past, present and future.

The pastor spent some time Sunday in his announcements explaining regulations in regard to pews, hat holders, kneelers, etc.

Practically all the sittings in the new church, are rented except those in the north transept reserved for the children.

Father Clark preached last Sunday on rash judgment from the text of the Epistle, "Judge Not Before the Time." I Corinthians, IV, 5.

AUBURN

Now that the holidays are nearly over with the exception of New Years, all thoughts turn to the coming concert of the Irish Ladies Choir of Dublin, in this city under the auspices of the Knights of Columbus in the State Armory. The concert will be the society event of the season. The different cities in which their work, and many cities have asked for a return date, but owing to a limited time this country it was impossible. The committee of the Knights are pushing the work forward and a crowded house should greet the singers. There will be a number of instrumental solos by different members of the choir. The one point in the concert that should appeal to the Irish people of the city is the different songs that will be sung in their native tongue. Tickets can be secured from members of the Knights of Columbus. A number of people from out of town will avail themselves of the opportunity to hear this concert. A fact that should interest the working people of the city is that neither house of amusement is hired for the concert on account of labor difficulties in both houses.

The Willing Helpers club of the Auburn Armory will continue to hold their series of snore parties each Wednesday afternoon in the C. M. E. P. A. rooms on Franklin St. This should appeal to all charity loving people of the city. For the small sum of ten cents will go to a good cause. Each week pretty and useful prizes are given.

The Christmas music in the different churches will be repeated on New Year's day.

Rev. Alexander McCabe, Andrew Byrne and Edward Byrne, former Auburn boys, were visitors in town during the week.

The parochial schools of the city will reopen on Tuesday morning.

The pastors of the several churches were remembered by their parishioners in the Christmas collection.

How This?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.

We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions, and financially able to carry out any obligations made by him. Walding, Kinnam & Marvin, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O.

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CURSE OF HASHEESH IN EGYPT.

Threatens to Become as Great a Vice as Opium Among Chinese.

The Egyptian government has failed in an effort to prevent the importation of hasheesh from Greece. The government had also failed to induce Greece to prohibit the growing of the pernicious drug on Greek soil. Greece objects because hasheesh produces a very large revenue and its cultivation employs thousands of people.

The smoking of hasheesh, or Indian hemp, has become as great a habit among the fellahs of Egypt as opium among Chinese, and the efforts of the government to eradicate the vice have failed. Greece, however, intimates it may consent to lay a heavy export tax upon the drug, in the effort to reduce its consumption, but that will not avail in reducing the prevalence of the vice, it merely will cause the slaves of the drug in Egypt to spend more to obtain it.

The Government of Egypt does not approve of the heavy export duty, because it will offer additional temptations to the smugglers of hasheesh. Smuggling of hasheesh into Egypt is now a large and profitable industry.

Not many years ago a high official of one of the consulates in Cairo was detected in a conspiracy to smuggle hasheesh. The customs authorities discovered that this official was receiving thousands of pounds annually, which he disposed of to the dealers in the bazaars at a great profit. The consular official received the drug under his consular seal.

Hasheesh is the curse of the Egyptian peasant, hundreds of thousands having learned to smoke the drug during the past five years.—New York Mail.

INDUCEMENTS TO EMIGRANTS.

The Barbados have become so full of people that the English government offers a cash bonus to any inhabitant who will agree to leave the island and stay away for five years. Ordinarily the offer is \$20, but during those months when Barbados people are least inclined to leave the island it is raised to \$25.

There is much red tape connected with this transaction. First the candidate must pass a medical examination, for the government will not, to all appearances, at least, take the responsibility of unloading invalids on other countries. Then there must be recommendations as to the character of the would be emigrant, and, lastly, there is the signing of an agreement that the money will be refunded to the government in case the person return to Barbados within five years, unless he comes with a written statement from a physician that the country he has selected is prejudicial to his health.

Barbados is principally an agricultural country, sugar cane being the chief product. There are but three or four villages on the island, and these have become so overcrowded that the government has found it necessary to adopt this means of thinning out the population. The people who accept the offer are by no means of the low class which so many European countries are glad to get rid of. There are many nurses, teachers, seamstresses and people of like occupation among the emigrants. In Barbados a seamstress earns twenty-five cents a day, and consequently the two or three dollars she can earn in New York is in itself an inducement for her to make the change. At first she may find it hard to eat American food, for in Barbados such vegetables as onions and tomatoes are never eaten raw, and she finds it hard to eat food prepared with cream, one declaring that she believed an American would not be able to cook an egg without putting a cream dressing on it.

NEW NAVY FOR RUSSIA.

It can be Created in Strength Within Five Years.

The naval section of the Imperial Russian Technical Society has just completed an investigation as to the possibilities of constructing a new Russian fleet in Russian shipbuilding yards and has arrived at the conclusion that this can be done. In five years time it is stated, that the Baltic works can build 8 first class cruisers, and the Galerny Island and New Admiralty yards 12 first class battleships. Kronstadt, with its Peter Dock, is in a position to construct armored cruisers of the improved Bayan type and sea going gunboats or torpedo transports. Torpedo cruisers and submarines may be ordered of the Neva works and of Lange's works in Riga. Sea going torpedo boats (including destroyers) and coast defence torpedo boats can be successfully built in the small shipbuilding yards of Finland, Riga, Reval, and Libau, which may take in hand the construction of part of the torpedo transports or storeships required.

The Putilov works can complete in the same period four cruisers of the Bayan type and a number of torpedo boats and gunboats. As to the works in the south of Russia, it is estimated that Nikolaisk and Sevastopol can complete 4 battleships, 4 cruisers of the Bayan type, and some torpedo boats. In regard to machinery, orders may be placed, beside the Baltic works, with the Franco-Russian, Sormovo; Brinsnk, St. Petersburg Metal Works and Nikolaisk works.—Page's Weekly.

Unclaimed Wealth in England.

How many millions of pounds worth of property lies unclaimed today in the form of shares, dividends, deposits of money, plate and jewels in the hands of bankers, companies, solicitors, auctioneers, and others?

This is the fascinating question raised by the writers of a letter, who urge the Chancellor of the Exchequer to lay hands upon the spoil and devote it to the increase of national revenue.

Unclaimed wealth in the hands of the Crown and funds in Chancery amount to more than \$50,000,000. Is it possible that the funds in private hands amount to an equally large sum?

Some of the examples of hidden wealth given by the writers of the letters suggest that the amount must at any rate be a large one. It is not, apparently, the custom of companies to search very far for the owners of unclaimed dividends. Occasionally the chairman of a company refers to unclaimed amounts. In the case of a building society the chairman announced at the annual meeting that certain unclaimed money had been utilized to form a reserve fund.

"In fifty-five years," explained the secretary of the society yesterday, "we have accumulated \$5,000 of unclaimed deposits. At any time we are liable to be asked to refund this, and should do so with interest."—London Daily Mail.

United States Pearl Fishing.

Pearl fishing in the United States has been carried on in many States, including Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Wisconsin, Illinois, Arkansas, Missouri, Georgia and Kansas. One pearl from a freshwater mussel was sold for \$1,500, while a round, pink pearl from Tennessee brought \$450. One of the finest pearls ever collected in the United States was the "Queen." It had a beautiful luster and weighed ninety-three grains. It was found near Paterson, N. J., in 1877 and was sold to the Empress Eugenie for \$2,500. To-day it is probably worth \$10,000.—Scientific

UNLUCKY NUMBER THIRTEEN.

Held in Superstitious Fear by all Nationalities.

By some persons of nearly all nationalities the number thirteen is regarded with superstitious fear, says an exchange. At Brighton, England, the Town Council has just granted permission to a householder to change the number of her dwelling place from 13 to 12A, so many and diverse have been the ills which the lady traces to the fatal number. Parisians so hate the "thirteen party" for dinner that there is a class of professional diners-out, called "quatorziennes," whose function it is to make the fourteenth at these symposia. The Turks so dislike it that the word is practically expunged from their language, the Italians will not even employ it in their lotteries. The Italian gambler's horror of the number proceeds apparently from the fact that a thirteenth card of one of his packs bears the figure of death.

In England the superstition that one of a company of thirteen must die within the year is traced to the old calculation of the insurance offices that out of thirteen persons, taken indiscriminately, one will die within twelve months. Others trace the awe in which the figures are held to the Last Supper, at which thirteen were present. Lord Lytton dealt with this aspect, remarking "Some have carried it to the extent of disliking that number at all times, but the commoner form limits it to Friday." But the antipathy is older than Christianity. In the old Norse mythology the thirteen party was deemed unlucky, because at a banquet in Valhalla Loki once appeared, making thirteen, and Balder was slain by the blind god, Hoder, at the instigation of the intruder.

Inducements to Emigrants.

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Lottery to Prevent Theft.

An ingenious device has been adopted by the City of Mexico Electric Tramways Company, which for some time past have been defrauded by their employees to a considerable extent, despite the vigilance of various plainclothes inspectors and detectives. A monthly lottery has been instituted, with numerous valuable prizes, all presented by the company, and every tram ticket sold is likewise a lottery ticket. Passengers are now very careful to insist on having a ticket, and to preserve it sedulously, instead of dropping it in the car, to be collected and used again by a dishonest conductor. Although the lottery will cost several thousand dollars every month, the directors reckon to more than recoup themselves by the additional takings and the savings in inspectors' wages. As a solatium for the loss of their ill-gotten gains, the conductors are to be allowed a bonus of 1 per cent. on the value of the tickets sold.—London Tit-Bits.

Trick of the Drug Trade.

"Never ask for the copy of a prescription at the time you buy the medicine," said the dyspeptic looking man. "In nine out of ten drug stores they will tack ten or fifteen cents to the regular price of the medicine, if you do. That, of course, is contrary to professional etiquette. Druggists are not supposed to charge extra for furnishing a copy of a prescription. If you will wait a few days and ask for it, unaccompanied by a bottle of medicine, they won't have the nerve to do it; but when the two are prepared together they can give some compensation for their extra work and the loss of a possible customer without anybody being the wiser."—

SKUNK SKIN AND SKUNK OIL.

Yields a Profitable Annual Revenue in the State of Maine.

Fashion in furs regulates the price of skunk skins. Three years ago the coat of a dark skunk was worth from \$2.50 to \$3 and there were not enough to supply the demand. Since then the muskrat has supplanted the skunk as the wearer of a profitable skin, and only the very choicest of skunk pelts sell for \$2 this season.

But when there are from ten to a dozen fat skunks to be had on every acre of meadow land, when a hardwood log is the only weapon required in the killing, and when every fat skunk, regardless of its color, holds more than a quart of oil, which is worth \$5 a gallon wholesale, there are always men who will chase skunks for the money there is in the business.

From 100,000 to 150,000 skunks are slain in Maine every year. The practice of killing the black ones and leaving those of a lighter color to perpetuate the race has reduced the income received from the fur to a small figure and has practically exterminated the dark skunks, but the demand for skunk oil is steadily growing and the price has gone up \$1 a gallon since last year.

The oil is used by residents of Maine, who esteem it highly for its virtues in curing rheumatism and stiff joints, and the druggists send many gallons out of the State to be sold in Boston and New York. It is probable that nearly 25,000 gallons of skunk oil is produced in Maine every year.

Most of that used locally is pure, but some of the oil sent out of the State is adulterated with fat obtained from hens and woodchucks. As the impure oil seems to effect as many cures as the genuine article, the men who work the imposition on the public stand small chance of detection.

Most of the skunk pelts taken in Maine are sent to Philadelphia, where they are tanned, dipped in a black dye and made up into furs for export to France and Germany, in which countries they pass as monkey skins.

The killing of skunks lasts for about a month, by which time all the fat ones that contain oil have denned for the winter. It is estimated that the Maine skunks yield an annual revenue of from \$125,000 to \$150,000, which is double the sum made from all the honey bees in the State.

LOST ARTS OF THE ANCIENTS.

Many Abandoned Because New Knowledge Makes Them Useless.

Not as much as we used to, but occasionally even yet, one hears of some wonder accomplished by the ancients which cannot be done now. Not so many years ago it was quite commonly asserted that modern workmen could not quarry or, having quarried, could not handle stones as large as the monoliths of Egypt, and the writer has heard a public speaker of note assert that it would be impossible to handle with modern implements such large stones as were used in the pyramids, or to join them as perfectly as they are joined there; yet, when occasion arose, larger stones than any of these were quarried in Maine, and some of the larger monoliths themselves were transported, not only to the sea, but across it, and erected in England, France and America, and there are individuals to-day who might, if they chose, cause the transportation to and erection in this country of the largest pyramid, or build new ones ten times larger and more durable.—Pyramids are not being generally built, nowadays, because they are not in line with the trend of modern ambition; that's all.

It is very doubtful if a "Damascus blade" would stand half as severe usage as a modern hand saw blade, or even as much as the spring of a forty cent clock; while the ornamentation of those wondrous blades, so far as the mechanical execution is concerned, can be excelled by apprentices and amateurs of to-day.

The Kaiser's Busy Days.

The Kaiser's reputation as the most strenuous of modern monarchs would seem to be thoroughly well deserved, if we may judge from some statistics of his energy which have recently been published in Berlin. During the last twelve months he has, we are told, personally attended to 5,857 "foreign matters," and to 50,200 dealing with home affairs. But the total of nearly 5,000 "matters" a month to which he has given personal attention take up only a fraction of his energy. There were another 100,145 "matters" (one would like to know the exact meaning of this expression, by which the settlement of which was left to private Cabinet, but of which he had personal cognizance. Besides all this, he has written (for which, presumably, we may read signed) more than 7,000 letters, telegrams, orders, or other documents.—T. P.'s Weekly

Hearts That Beat After Death.

Hearts of cold-blooded animals will beat for a comparatively long period after death or removal from the body (if kept cool and moist), because of powerful internal collection of nerves, known as ganglia, whose automatic impulses cause the regular contractions of the muscles. Similar ganglia exist in man and other warm-blooded animals, but their action is less prolonged. A turtle's heart, after removal, has been known to beat thirty-six, or even forty-eight hours. Twelve or fourteen hours is a common record.

How English Railroads Excel.

While we are inclined to criticize English railroads with much freedom which our own railroad managers must look upon with respect. The gross earnings of the English roads never showed an unfavorable fluctuation, as compared with a previous year, of over 2 1/2 per cent. With all the talk of poor railway management, of decadent industries, and of the economic evils of war, it is confusing to find that the commercial development of Great Britain, measured by her gross railroad traffic, presents an almost unbroken record of advance. Net earnings, however, have been badly cut into by the rise in wages and by the higher cost of fuel.—Scribner's

The Committee on Education and Literature of the Federated Catholic Societies of Lucas County, Ohio, has been doing good work.

At a recent meeting it reported active work done and the results obtained in fighting anti-Catholic stage productions. Warnings against "Don Carlos" were published in all the daily papers and 5,000 copies of a circular setting forth the low character of Hall Caine's "Eternal City," were distributed at the church doors. The result of this agitation was significant. The daily papers reported after the first performance of "The Eternal City," that the play was poorly attended and badly acted and no report was given of the second performance.

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Uncle Had a Reason.

Key. Sitas Swallow tells that when he was a student at the Wyoming Seminary, a farmer came to Kingston to visit his nephew, a student there. The uncle had some decidedly urban customs, including the habit of pouring his tea into his saucer. This greatly annoyed the nephew, who at last said: "Uncle, why do you pour your tea into the saucer?"

The old farmer looked up in surprise. Then he said, in a loud, hearty voice: "To cool it, to be sure. The more air surface you give it the quicker it cools. These here modern seminaries don't teach much science, do they?"—Argonaut.

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