

Notes and Gleanings.

The population of Germany has increased 17,000,000 since the formation of the Empire in 1781.

The mightiest masses of population under one scepter are exhibited by the British and Chinese Empires, the former with 389,000,000, the latter with 407,000,000 people.

The Sleeping Sickness is as deadly as ever in Uganda. The pest of a fly which causes the sickness has been identified, but no remedy has been found. Science will doubtless do its best.

There is going the rounds of gossip that Pope Leo XIII actually died eight years ago, and that the man who died the other day was his brother, whom for political reasons the Jesuits secretly put in the Pope's place. The two men were said to look very much alike. We suppose there is no truth in the report.

Sir Frederick Treves, the famous British surgeon, has retired from practice at the age of fifty years. He has established a reputation in performing 1,000 consecutive operations for appendicitis without a death. He hates the name, which is of American origin, and prefers "perityphlitis." There were 15,000 operations for this malady in Great Britain last year, with 90 per cent of recoveries, including that of King Edward.

The British Colonial Office has sent a despatch to the authorities in South Africa urging that efforts be made to stop the indiscriminate slaughter of elephants, as these animals might be used for domestic purposes as in India. Unless prompt measures are taken, the elephant will soon be as scarce in Africa as is the bison in America. It is said they are being killed at the rate of many thousands a year, for the sake of their ivory. In one drive recently two hundred and fifty were secured.

Cape Breton is usually spoken of as an island, but it actually consists of a number of islands. Water, fresh and salt, has been distributed very liberally in this part of the world, and it is to this that Cape Breton owes most of its charms as the paradise of the summer tourists. Baddeck is one of the many beautiful resorts on the Bras d'Or lakes. The situation of the village on the gentle slope which rises from the landlocked harbor gives it a fine appearance, while the facilities for bathing and boating are especially good, and the water is delightfully warm.

DESTINATION OF THE EARTH.

An expedition has been sent out from the Lick Observatory in California to Chile to examine the light of the southern stars with reference to the question of the earth's alleged flight through space at the rate of 300,000,000 miles a year in the general direction of the northern star, Vegas. The southern stars have never been as thoroughly studied as the northern. By a careful observation of the former, it is hoped that light will be thrown upon the question of the strange voyage of the sun and its faithful satellite, this globe through the unexplored ocean of immensity. The earth, it is said, never gets back to the same place after each annual revolution. The flight of the sun toward the north is apparently straight, but the path of the earth, since it is compelled all the while to circle about the speeding sun, is a great spiral. The expectation is that the Lick expedition to Chile will discover facts bearing not only on this question of the destination of the earth, but also upon other interesting problems regarding the organization of the universe.

SHRINES AND commercialism .. .cC

The other day the N. Y. Tribune printed a despatch from Milwaukee, in which it was stated that Father Keenan, a Fond du Lac priest, "declares that nearly all shrines are due to commercialism." The charge seems to have been made that Holy Hill, near Hartford, Wis., is advertised in the interest of the railroads as a Catholic shrine at which marvellous cures are effected. According to the Tribune Father Keenan says:

I have seen all the famous shrines in the world, and have found one bad thing in most of them—the commercial element which trades in the woes of the afflicted. I was at Lourdes when there were fifteen thousand pilgrims there. I was trying to say mass in one of the chapels, and was disturbed all the time by the sound of coins falling like rain into the various boxes placed there to receive them. It is natural for those afflicted to contribute at every turn, thinking that the show of piety will be in their favor.

In fact, I found only one locality where there was no money changing at the holy shrine. This was in Palestine, at the sepulcher of our Lord Jesus in Jerusalem, in Bethlehem, and other places. These holy spots are under charge of the church, and the pilgrims are not asked nor permitted to make offerings. Taking away the mercantile element is certainly a valuable feature of such a place. I object to having traditions imposed on the public for facts. This generation should see to it that no such place gets a fictitious reputation.

If we permit Holy Hill to go down to future generations as a place where miracles are wrought, the people of this generation will be to blame for it.

One does not have to go to Holy Hill to find confirmation of Father Keenan's charge. There can be found an abundance of evidence at every center where the credulous "faithful" are willing to pay the price placed by the authorities of the Church upon their gullibility.—N. Y. Advocate.

CHURCH PAWNSHOPS.

Under the eaves of Trinity church in Boston is a most interesting pawnshop, which flourishes despite the fact that it is the cheapest one in the world, the only one conducted by a church, and the only one that is run solely upon a philanthropic basis. Four per cent per year is its rate. From a tool to a jewel, and from a bit of silver plate to a salary can go to the Trinity pawnshop and raise money for an emergency. This shop is open every day but Sunday, two hours daily, from 11 to 1. It was started during an extremely hard winter a number of years ago, when there was great suffering among Boston's poor. Persons who patronize it are almost invariably those who have known better days. During severe winters workmen often procure money on their tools. It is seldom that more than \$10 has been loaned on any one object. Nothing less than a month's interest is accepted. Like all places of this kind, it has a drawer full of unclaimed articles, but the number is small compared with that of other shops.—Chicago Record-Herald.

An interesting discovery has recently been made by an Italian archaeologist, Signor Durighello. Near the ruins of a building which, according to Josephus and tradition, marks the site of the temple in which Jereboam set up the

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FREDERICTON, N. B.

golden calf, and in the midst of the remains of the city of Dan, the explorers found certain bronze figures, the first of the kind ever discovered, which undoubtedly are molten images of Baal and Astarte. It is conjectured that these may be the very images which Micah had made, and which were taken from his house by the children of Dan and the five men who went to spy out the land (Judges xvii.)

THE WRONG USE OF MONEY.

Extravagant use of money in youth can only bring a reward of regret in old age. Some parents who, while young, enjoyed none of the luxuries of life, determine that their children shall have a better time than they did. The purpose rests on affection for their offspring, and is aided by a memory of unpleasant days. There is great danger of going to the other extreme, and allowing habits of wasteful expenditure that can but result in ruin. Some young men spend more money in three days than their parents did in a year, and do so with the knowledge and consent of their parents. A foundation for frugality and successful business methods is completely destroyed in the name of kindness. This indulgence, tintured with pride, influences the son to start out in life where his father stopped. Too often he stops where his father started, if he is even that fortunate. All this is brought vividly to mind when the letter of a suicide to his wife is read, a part of which is as follows: "In addition to the money I owe, and which I have borrowed to stop up holes, I have taken such means to raise money as would surely bring me to prison. My greatest fault has always been that I did not care for the value of money, but wasted the same when I should have saved it. This led to debts, and, instead of getting out of debt, I got in deeper and deeper, and finally saw no way to escape the final crash, which certainly had to come." Comparatively few spendthrifts come to such an end, but that is a legitimate destination. The remedy most to be relied on is correct habits formed in youth.—The Telescope.

LIBERTY IN RUSSIA.—The new code is as bad as the old. "Three years in a fortress" is the light penalty imposed upon any man "who uses his public position to influence or induce any member of the orthodox church to join the ranks of another religious communion." Any parent having his child baptized by any other than the Greek rite may be imprisoned for one year. The same penalty is incurred by any preacher or colporteur who converts any member of the Russian church to Protestantism; and any convert who announces publicly his renunciation of the orthodox church and his admission to any other communion must pay 300 rubles for his terremity—besides submitting to the penalty laid upon him as a schismatic. This is the Czar's definition of "religious liberty." Since the promulgation of his famous edict of toleration the Czar has sent scores of Lutheran pastors to Siberia for dealing spiritually with persons over whom the parish priests claimed authority. Persecution is not only permitted in Russia; it is legalized.—Presbyterian Witness.

How It Works.—The influence of strong drink in afflicting posterity is summed up in the following manner by Kraft Ebbing, one of the chief medical authorities of Germany: First Generation—Moral depravity, alcoholic excess. Second generation—Drink mania, attacks of insanity, general insanity, paralysis. Third generation—Hypochondria, melancholia, apathy, and tendency to murder. Fourth generation—Imbecility, idiocy, and extinction of the race. Dr. Ebbing has likewise made a comparison of ten families of drunkards and ten temperate families with the following results: The direct progeny of the drunkards amounted to fifty-seven, twenty-five died of insufficient vitality in their first year, six were idiots, five dwarfed, five had hydrocephalus, harelip and clubfoot.

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