

BLACKWOOD does not often deal in illustrations... The number for December contains a map of the Suez Canal, illustrating an article on Egypt and the great work of Lesseps, which is treated in a generous style, not very much in fashion in England.

Religious World Abroad.

The Ecumenical Council.

The Pope's council is a failure so far as the Eastern Churches are concerned. The Greek Patriarch would not look at the letter of invitation though it was handsomely bound in red morocco and emblazoned with gold letters bearing his own name.

The North German Correspondence gives the following view of the Council: "All the greatest thinkers and scholars of the Church will either be absent or in disfavor. The intellect of the Church is on one side and the servility of its priests on the other."

The Russo-Polish clergy have instructed their delegates to the Ecumenical Council to oppose the union of the temporal and spiritual powers, the dogma of the infallibility, the injudicious education of the clergy, and the organization of the college of Cardinals.

The fourth congregation of the Council will be held December 30, when the election of twenty-four members of the Committee on Religious Orders will take place.

Mgr. Dupanloup, Bishop of Orleans, seems to be returning from the husks and swine-feeds of Ultramontanism, to his first love. An anonymous circular, received by all the bishops of the Church, urging that to proclaim the Papal Infallibility would be a huge blunder, is now traced to him.

Great excitement and controversy has been caused by the opposition of Bishop Maret, Dean of the Romish Theological Faculty at Paris, to the promulgation of the dogma of the Papal Infallibility.

A Conference of fifty Protestant pastors of the South met Oct. 27th at Marseilles. The Conference asserted the Godhead of Christ, and heard papers in defence of the Scriptures, and

on the holding of a National Synod to reform and purify the National Protestant Church.

England.

The Bishop of London states that there now exist in that city more than a thousand associations for charitable purposes, administering annually about £4,000,000, in addition to the regular assessments of the poor rates.

The excitement among the Baptists of England on the question of sending out celibate missionaries to India called forth a vote at the meeting of their missionary society held last month, to the effect that the Committee did not intend to impose celibacy on the missionaries, but simply to require that candidates should remain unmarried during a probation of two years, and while engaged in a particular kind of itinerant work.

Ireland.

The Catholic clergy of Cork have held a conference on the evils of intemperance, and resolved to entreat all employers to pay wages on Friday instead of Saturday, so as to diminish Sunday drunkenness.

There is no Church in Ireland, Catholic or Protestant, that numbers as many members today as it did fifteen years ago. This is owing to emigration, which has, in that time, reduced the population 18 per cent.

The Irish bishops have resolved to sit and vote as a separate order when they deem proper, or, in other words, to have the power of vetoing any proposal with which they disagree. When the recent lay Conference agreed that the clergy should meet as a separate order, they never understood it in this light, and they are beginning to let that be known.

The movement for a Sustentation Fund is making rapid progress among the Presbyterians. One congregation after another is holding meetings and arranging a canvass of its members; so that, by the time the special assembly meets, and that, it is now said, will be January, most of them will have spoken.

Scotland.

An immense excitement exists at this moment in a Northern parish called Rathreen. The Established minister thinks he is in need of a new manse or dwelling house, and in this opinion he is supported by his Presbytery. But landowners, or "Heritors," care wonderfully little about the Church (most of them are Episcopalian); and having discovered, by means of a new reading of an old act of Parliament, that not the land only, but all the property upon the land is assessable for ecclesiastical purposes, they refuse to undertake an atom of responsibility beyond what they are legally bound to undertake.

At the Annual Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church, a discussion took place among the Bishops on the propriety of granting the prayer of a number of petitions, asking that a General Synod should be summoned for the purpose of considering whether the privileges of the laity in ecclesiastical administration should not be increased. Bishop Wordsworth was afraid that the laity was going too fast.

Mackonochie has again been before the Privy Council at the instance of the Church Association. It was alleged that Mr. Mackonochie has not obeyed the decree of the Court as to the elevation of the elements in the communion, as to prostration before those elements during the prayer of consecration, and as to the use of lighted candles when not required for the purpose of giving light.

In the parish of Heapey, Lancashire, the majority of the Church of England congregation, numbering some 500 persons, have left the parish church, and set up worship in a vacant room in a mill, and commenced to build a church edifice for themselves. They have, moreover, voted unanimously to leave the Church of England and set up for themselves as a free church.

Rev. Edward Husband (Romish priest), in a pamphlet bearing the title, "Why I left the Church of England," writes to this effect: "I am bound with thankfulness to acknowledge that it was Ritualism that led me to Rome. This experience is being confirmed daily by the numbers who are seeking admission into the fold. It is in this way that Ritualism is doing good. In making men love the shadow, they soon yearn for the reality; thus paving the way to the goal of peace which lies before them."

France.

The population of France consists nominally of 34,300,664 Romanists, 1,591,250 Protestants, 158,994 Jews, and 17,000 of other sects. The Romanist Church receives from the State Treasury nearly £2,000,000; the two Established Protestant Churches £59,737, amounts increased to £1,000,000 and £150,000 by private contributions and resources of all sorts.

M. Prevost Paradol, in a recent lecture before the Edinburgh Philosophical Institution, said, that the power of the Catholic Church has been on the increase in the provisional towns for thirty years or so, and the clerical influence has wonderfully progressed during that period among the bourgeoisie, upper and lower, which had formerly thrown off so decidedly its allegiance to the Catholic Church.

The Rev. James Gibson, of the Irish Presbyterian Church, who has been appointed a missionary to Spain, has made an appeal in behalf of his mission, in which he states that never since the Reformation, has there been such an opening for the gospel on the continent as there is at this time in Spain. The people, especially in the northern half of Spain, are crying out for Evangelists.

Italy.

It is stated in the London Tablet that Cardinals Reisch and Cullen, and Archbishop Manning and Purcell have been appointed by the Pope to confer with non-Catholic bodies. "Dr. Cumming of Scotland," can make his choice of any of these "discreet persons."

The Archbishop of Genoa, a worthy and patriotic man, sooner than take part in the coming General Council, has resigned his diocese, and his resignation has been accepted. This leaves at least one bishop in reserve to inaugurate in due apostolic succession a Reformed Catholic Church of Italy, if such should be decided on by the Italian Government.

The Bishop of Sara in Italy has written a book on the Council, which has greatly excited the Jesuits, and they are urging the Pope to condemn it, fearing that it may introduce dissensions in the meeting of the Bishops. The desired anathema is said to be forthcoming, though the Pope may hesitate, since it is whispered in certain circles that the Bishop is but the mouth-piece of the Emperor Napoleon!

Spain.

Alhama, the Spanish Evangelist, who was recently arrested on some political pretext, has been liberated on bail, and it is thought will soon be set free altogether.

The fair at Alcalá—the birth place of Cervantes—was attended by the Evangelists like that at Valladolid.

China and Japan.

One of the reasons why the Papacy has made such rapid progress in China, is that Buddhism has already familiarized the mind of the Chinese with the use of "the cross, the mitre, the dalmatic, the hood, the office of two choirs, the psalmody, the exorcisms, the censor of five chains, the rosary, the celibacy of the clergy, spiritual retirement, the worship of saints, fasts, processions, litanies, holy-water, and the benediction of the priest by placing his right hand on the head of the faithful."

Dr. W. A. P. Martin writes from Peking, that "the rolls of the native churches now number about 6,000 names," an increase of nearly one half in three years.

Literary Items.

The works of Hon. Henry C. Carey, of Philadelphia, on Social Science and the Principle of Protection, have been published in almost every European language. Our minister to Russia, Governor Curtin, writes that they have not only been translated into German and printed in Prussia, but a large edition, in one large volume, in Russian, was last summer issued from St. Petersburg. The Emperor is a protective tariff man.

Mr. J. H. Noyes is about to publish a work on "American Socialism." It will make an octavo volume of six hundred and fifty pages, and will contain a full history of the socialistic movements in the United States for the past forty years. He is the head of the Oneida Community.

The New York Tablet says that The Catholic World is becoming more and more conservative, though it has seemed to learn too much to "Liberal Catholicity," and that "since the publication of the Pope's Encyclical and Syllabus, of December, 1868, no good Catholic could take such a position; and that, since then Dr. Brownson has so far yielded his previous judgment as to defend the Syllabus as the great fact of the century."

English papers state that Mr. Laurence Oliphant, a former member of Parliament, who had for some time past been dwelling in seclusion with a community of Swedenborgian Socialists at Brepton, N. Y., on Lake Erie, has returned to England, and is about to publish a book entitled "Piccadilly."

A correspondent of the Vermont Record says that possibly the oldest book in America, is a Latin copy of Herodotus, in the library of the American Antiquarian Society, at Worcester, Mass. It bears the imprint of Rome, April 20, 1474. A few weeks ago, however, he says, there was for sale in New York, a volume of Calderius' "Repertorium Divinae a Humani, Juris," printed in 1474. The oldest printed document of a certain date is supposed to be the Almanac in the archives of Mentz, printed by John Gutenberg in 1457.

It is reported that Father Hyacinthe contemplates the establishment of a paper upon his return to France, to be called Le Chretien.

Colonel D. M. Botzaris, commander of the garrison at Corfu, and son of the great Marco Bozzaris, has presented our Minister to Greece, Mr. Tuckerman, the sword-knot or tassel worn by the Suliotie chieftain when, at the moment of victory, he fell, mortally wounded, at the head of seven hundred warriors, having surprised the

Turkish Camps. Mr. Tuckerman has forwarded this relic to this country, and presented it to the New York Historical Society. Colonel Botzaris was much pleased to learn that Halceck's Poem immortalizing his father was so popular as to be often read in our public schools, and says he loves it so much that he has learned to repeat it in Greek, Latin, French, and English.

A hymn book lately published by the Spiritualists makes an attempt to combine an index of authors and an index of first lines, occasionally abbreviating the latter to save space, with some very curious results. References are given to:

- "Do not wound the heart that loves—Dexter Smith."
"Have ye heard the beautiful—Amanda T. Jones."
"Oh, I love the sparkling—Mrs. Cora Daniels."
"We come, we come from—Hudson Tuttle."

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