

to the probable successor to the present head of the great organization. The likely candidates are now being narrowed down to only a few individuals, among whom is Cardinal Gibbons, of New Orleans. One writer in a leading magazine stated something less than a year ago, that that gentleman had of all others the best prospect of attaining to the position. But the papal mantle may, after all, fall upon the shoulders of someone not now in sight. Should the New Orleans dignity be elected to the position, however, it would cause a profound sensation in this country, where it is claimed the Catholic Church has no fewer than 8,000,000 members. Such an event would doubtless have a powerful effect upon public affairs in the United States, for reasons that must be apparent to those who have given any thought to the subject.

### VOLCANOE IN MEXICO.

MEXICO at present enjoys the distinction of having a volcano in a violent state of eruption. The province of Colima is situated on the Pacific coast side of the republic. It is one of the richest agricultural regions of Mexico. The city bearing the same name is located at an altitude of 1450 feet and contains 30,000 inhabitants. It is about sixty miles inland from the seaport town of Manzanillo.

North of the city, and about twenty miles distant is the great volcano of Colima. It has been for two or three weeks in a very active state of eruption. Ashes have been carried a distance of 400 miles by strong winds. The flames which burst from the crater illuminate the country for miles around. On Wednesday, the 16th inst., the eruption was particularly violent and accompanied with several shocks of earthquake. A number of houses in the city of Colima were shattered. Even the shocks were felt so far distant as Acapulco, many miles further down the coast. The governor of the province ordered the residents of the towns adjoining the volcano to abandon their homes and move further away.

The volcano consists of two cones, named respectively the volcano of snow, and the volcano of fire. The latter is causing the present alarm. It has an altitude of 12,600 feet. The first destructive eruption of which there is any record took place in 1611. A great deal of property was destroyed at that time. Ashes and scorlae were thrown out a for a distance of one hundred miles in circumference. In 1743 it again belched forth huge volumes of fire and did immense damage to the surrounding

country. Sixteen years later a new volcano broke out about one hundred and sixty miles east of Colima, which did great damage also. In 1806 an earthquake occurred in these regions, which destroyed a large part of the city of Zapotlan and caused 2000 persons to lose their lives. In 1818 there was a dreadful eruption, by which considerable life and property were lost. Nothing very serious has occurred since, until the present outbreak, which promises to be attended with much danger.

### THE WORLD WE LIVE IN.

THE *Popular Science Monthly* for January, 1892, has an article taken from the *London Times*, on "The Population of the Earth," based on data obtained from a work issued by the famous German geographers Dr. Wagner and Dr. Supan. The German publication has been compiled with the greatest care. The figures which it gives may be taken as the nearest approximation to the truth obtainable. For countries which have no censuses, Dr. Supan has undertaken special investigations as to population. He has dealt with Africa, America, Australia and Oceanica, while Dr. Wagner has looked after Europe and Asia. Every figure given has been critically examined. Equal care has been bestowed on the calculations of areas, new measurements in many cases having been specially made for this work.

The population of the world is put down at 1,430,000,000. Of this Europe, with an area of 3,756,860 square miles, contains 357,500,000 people, making a density of population equal to ninety-four persons to the square mile. Asia has an area of 17,500,000 square miles, a population of nearly 826,000,000, and forty-seven persons to the square mile. Africa has an area of over 11,000,000 square miles, 164,000,000 people, and fourteen persons to the square mile. America has an area of nearly 16,000,000 square miles, 121,500,000 people, and eight persons to the square mile. Australia has an area of nearly 3,000,000 square miles, a population of 3,500,800, and one person to the square mile. The Oceanic Islands have an area of 733,120 square miles, with a population of over 7,000,000, giving ten persons to every square mile. The Polar regions have an area of over 1,500,000 square miles, with a population of about 80,000.

Among European countries Belgium comes first in density of population with 530 persons to a square mile. Norway and Finland are the most thinly inhabited, having only sixteen persons to a square mile. England

alone outside of Scotland and Ireland has 480 persons to the square mile. Holland 365, Ireland 160 and Scotland 120.

The population of China forms a theme for elaborate discussion. At one time it was estimated at 500,000,000, but Wagner and Tupan after careful research, puts it at 350,000,000 for China proper, which comprises the eighteen provinces. The Chinese empire includes Manchuria, Mongolia, Kansu and Thibet with a population of 11,500,000.

The common estimate for Africa in former times was 220,000,000, but Wagner and Supan puts it at 164,000,000. The Congo Free State is credited with an area of 865,380 square miles, and a population of 14,000,000. Africa, south of the equator, is nearly as large as Europe. British South Africa has an area of 951,000 square miles, with a population of about 3,800,000. Of the total area of Africa 309,000 square miles are under forest.

The population of the Russian empire is given at 113,000,000. The total area of Asiatic Russia is estimated at 6,500,000 square miles, not including the Arctic Islands. The total area of Persia is put at 685,000 square miles, with an estimated population of 9,000,000.

### EXCITED QUEBEC.

News from Canada is not of the most pacific character. Intense excitement prevails in the province of Quebec. The situation at Ottawa, the Dominion capital, is not reassuring. The Conservative ministry now in power has had serious complications for some time. An event occurred last week which is likely to bring matters to a crisis.

In point of wealth and population Quebec is the second province of the Canadian Dominion. Its parliament consists of a legislative council of 24 members, appointed for life, and a legislative assembly of 65, elected by qualified voters for four years. The executive power is vested in a Lieutenant-Governor, appointed by the Governor-General of Canada assisted by a ministry selected from members of the parliament, except a Solicitor General appointed by himself.

The present Lieutenant-Governor was appointed in 1887. He is a Conservative. The premier of the ministry until a week ago was a well-known French-Canadian named Mercier. His party rules the province. He was formerly a Liberal, but at the time of the Riel execution in Manitoba he and his party styled themselves Nationals. They claimed that Riel suffered death