

anybody else out now, since it will be their turn next to decamp. The other residents get the property for very little when they are willing to purchase at all from a Jew.

Cann made a rude craft of a few logs, and one night with his wife and two young children he started down the Chita river, a tributary of the Amoor. He took along some food, and in this manner they traveled 300 versts on their way to a port on the Pacific. When the family reached Yokohama the shoemaker's means were not enough to bring all of them here, and so his wife and the youngest child stayed at that Japanese port. At present the family is badly disunited—the old father and mother perhaps destitute and starving in Russia, the eldest son subject to maltreatment there, the wife and her babe in a strange place and thousands of miles from her husband and their other child, dependent on charity for their subsistence.

It appears that but little preparation has been made for the reception of such exiles as may find their way to this country, because they have generally been supposed not to need any pecuniary assistance.

THE GREATEST LIBRARY.

The gliding of the dome of the new congressional library building in Washington, which work is now in progress, recalls the fact that more gold will be used on this structure than on any other in the world. The building itself is by considerable odds the largest of its kind; it covers no less than four acres. The *Boston Herald*, noting that its dome is two-thirds larger than that of the Massachusetts capitol, goes on to make other interesting comparisons. For instance, the contract for the granite alone was \$1,250,000, the largest contract for stone ever awarded at a single time. The building will not be completed for four years. When finished it will have a capacity, according to the calculations of Librarian Spofford, to accommodate all the books of the world for 100 years to come, and still leave seven-eighths of its available space applicable for other purposes. The rotunda is 140 feet in diameter—44 feet greater than the rotunda of the Capitol. It will be finished in marble from floor to ceiling, and will surpass even the famous reading room of the British Museum. Altogether it constitutes a step towards magnificence in the adornment of the nation's capital, which some people of course will criticize, but which will be generally approved. A national art gallery is already a necessity. Provision for such an institution, on a scale of similar proportion and beauty, ought to be made at no distant day.

PLENTY OF ROOM.

Those who persist in taking the hypochondriac view of life and things and see in the vista of the future, among other indescribable results, the overpopulation of the globe with a corresponding diminution of the means of sustenance, cannot properly be said to take a short-sighted view of the case; if there is anything at all in their forebodings it must be a long way in the future. We need not consider the millions of square miles of trackless

wastes in Brazil alone; give thought to the interior of Africa, where are vast ranges of forest, mountain and plain which have never yet echoed the human voice; nor let our attention rest upon the wilds of Australia, where a district of territory as large as half the United States is still a forbidding wilderness. We can come into the heart of civilization and make the present cynosure of the world a basis upon which to predicate conclusions as to how long it will probably be before elbow-room will be at a premium in this comparatively little but still big enough world.

At the World's Fair on the 9th there were gathered together all told 751,000 persons! Just think of this immense army being congregated within the narrow span of Jackson Park, where there were also a great mass of huge buildings occupying probably half of the space, and then let one's thoughts branch out, if they will, to the all but infinite space being utilized at home and ending nowhere, in search of a clue to the solution of a wearisome and useless problem. It is a subject that skillfully discussed might prove a fitting companion piece to some of Camille Flammarion's unwelcome denouements, but even then the conclusion would be so far in the future that it would interest only the very few. It is quite impossible for the well-balanced human mind to fix itself interestedly upon a theme whose finish is so very remote.

Speaking of the great throng at the Fair inspires the *Chicago Times* to say that, dealing with large numbers it is difficult for the human mind to grasp their significance. This mighty throng at Jackson Park on the 9th, centered within little more than a square mile, numbered more souls than are in various states of the Union. The list of those which are under 751,000 are run through for the sake of the significance of the illustration:

Colorado.....	420,000	New Hampshire.....	377,000
Connecticut.....	748,000	North Dakota.....	153,000
Delaware.....	169,000	Oregon.....	314,000
Florida.....	392,000	Rhode Island.....	346,000
Idaho.....	85,000	South Dakota.....	123,000
Illinois.....	3,000,000	Vermont.....	333,000
Indiana.....	1,864,000	Wyoming.....	61,000
Montana.....	184,000		
Nevada.....	46,000		

It is not probable that within this generation, at least, the like of this gathering will be seen, in the opinion expressed, and we are disposed to concur. However, it should be borne in mind that a few years ago the crowd spoken of would not have been deemed probable at such a time or place or at all, though its possibility might have been conceded. Many things that are only possible today may be probable tomorrow and fixed facts the day after.

A MILITANT CHURCH.

Word comes from San Francisco that the Catholic temperance society known as The League of the Cross is to be made into a military organization. The avowed object is to "stimulate and hold the interest of the boys and to keep constantly before their minds the thought of patriotism and their duty to the Stars and Stripes." The League itself is made up of boys who have been confirmed in the Catholic church, but only those who are at least five feet four inches in

height can be enrolled in the military organization. The intention is to establish a company in every parish and thus form a considerable regiment. Rev. Father York is very much interested in the matter, it is said, and so are other reverend gentlemen. The church buildings will be used as armories where no special places for these purposes can be obtained easily.

It is just as well to make a note of this. Probably the full significance of the step taken is not yet apparent. It does not look exactly right when an ecclesiastical organization resolves itself into a military corps in order to stimulate patriotism in boys five feet and four inches tall. One would think that in an effort to gain this most laudable object the question of religion ought to be left out altogether, since the country to be loved is but one, although the churches may be legion. A fine spectacle would it be if all the other churches and non-church people were to don military uniforms. There would be no more soldiers of the country, but Catholic soldiers, Lutheran soldiers, Methodist soldiers, Baptist soldiers, agnostic soldiers, etc. A possible consequence would be that the government would have to maintain a vast army to prevent all these patriots from killing each other at times. The Cuaron on earth, as is well known, has often been called militant, but rarely in any such sense of the word.

EMPLOYMENT FOR OUR NAVY.

Our white squadron has work on its hands that was not altogether expected when the ships were built. The situation at Rio de Janeiro is such as to demand the presence of two or three war vessels of the United States, and more recently Guatemala has been carrying on in such a way as to require and receive the attention of the navy department at Washington. It seems that at Alliance, which some time since was hurried from San Francisco to Corinto because of the political troubles in Nicaragua, thence to Callao because of the unsettled condition of things in Peru, and back again to Corinto on account of Nicaraguan affairs resuming their normal (disturbed) condition, has recently been dispatched to San Jose, the expected revolt in Guatemala through the president thereof assuming the dictatorship making the vessel's presence necessary as a precautionary measure. It is a wooden boat of 1375 tons displacement, carrying in the main battery four 9-inch smoothbore guns, one 60-pounder and an 8-inch muzzle-loading rifle, with 18 officers and 160 men. She is pronounced not a very formidable craft by comparison, but still we should prefer to say that our friendship would be a long way preferable to her hostility.

The busy fitting out of old vessels and new, says the *New York Sun*, is gradually enabling Secretary Herbert to reinforce the most needy stations. We now have the San Francisco and Kearsarge to look after affairs in the West Indies, including Hayti, and to keep an eye on Greytown. We have the Chicago and Bennington at Malaga, or thereabout, ready in case