

FRANCE.—Mary Magdalen's Tomb.—Tradition, local history, and the faith of the whole population of Provence point to the spot where Mary Magdalen died. It was at Saint-Maximin, near Aix. Her tomb, according to Lacordaire, in his "Vie de Sainte Marie Madeleine," is the one third in importance in the world, coming immediately after that of our Lord at Jerusalem and that of St. Peter at Rome. At first a crypt and afterwards a splendid basilica, it has towered through the centuries inviting the attention of kings, including St. Louis and Louis XIV. For thirteen hundred years it was watched without intermission by a bodyguard of religious. It may possibly invite the attention of English who are interested in the Church of St. Trophime at Arles because of its connection with St. Augustine, the Apostle of England. The voice of faith and tradition to which we have alluded says that St. Trophime was one of those who came over from Palestine with Mary Magdalen and that he became first Bishop of Arles. Near the tomb of Saint Maximin is the grotto on the mountain of Saint Baume where Mary Magdalen is said to have passed the last thirty years of her life. So dear were the tomb and the grotto to Lacordaire that he prayed that he might write his last line and draw his last breath in the locality.

FRANCE.—A Rich Frenchwoman's Generous Bequests.—The will of the late Madame Louise Maria Roederer, widow of M. Charles E. Roederer, who carried on business as a champagne maker at Rheims in partnership with his brother, is one more example to show how devoted is a French woman to her works of charity. Madame Roederer died on Feb. 6 last, and the administrator of her estate is her brother, M. Félix Boisseaux, of Rheims. Her will begins in the old Catholic fashion, *Ad maiorem Dei gloriam*, and she bequeaths to the Little Sisters of the Poor £1800, and to the Society of Charity to Mothers £1000, and to the hospitals of Rheims £2000, to the Grand Seminary (Catholic) £800, to the Convent of the Good Shepherd £800, to the House of Retreats £800, to the Little Seminary (Catholic) £800, to the Benevolent Institute (Catholic) £800, to the Sisters of Charity in the parish of St. Genevieve, Rheims, £11,000. The income of this last bequest is to be specially appropriated for maintaining and promoting the works of instruction, education, and apprenticeship of the children, and the remuneration of the chaplain of the orphanage is to be paid out of this income. Madame Roederer gives in trust to her brother, Félix Boisseaux, and to Mr. Charles Heidsieck, jointly, two large pieces of land near Rheims, and the sum of £10,000, and as to the disposition of these she writes: "My brother and Charles Heidsieck know the charitable work and the institutions which I have founded and patronised, and I feel sure they will do their best to found and patronise those which I should have so much liked to have founded during my lifetime, concerning which I have already spoken to them. I have every confidence in them, and in expressing this wish, I am guided by my conscience, because I owe it to God and to the memory of my husband, in recognition of the great benefits which Providence has beneficently vouchsafed to us, as well as the remainder of our family."

ITALY.—Anti-Clerical Contention by a Municipal Council.—Some commotion has been excited in Naples over a quarrel that has arisen in the midst of the Municipal Council. At one of their recent sittings a project was being discussed for the reorganization of the police force, and amongst the minor proposals advanced in this connection was one laying down that the guardians of the peace should salute in military fashion the Holy Sacrament when carried as Viaticum by a priest and to the Archbishop of the diocese. There was nothing unusual in this proposal, for the law of the land ordains that even the soldiers shall salute the Blessed Sacrament. But, contrary to expectation, violent resistance was offered by the anti-clerical members of the Council to the passage of the article. The Syndic or Mayor voted for it himself, but such was the opposition that the votes were equally divided, and after a very stormy sitting, the Council adjourned its deliberations. This fact, however, need cause no apprehension regarding the general progress of the cause of religion in Italy. Naples, the largest city in the kingdom, is also one of the most fervently Catholic, and it is here that the anti-religious section is vainly endeavouring to strike a blow. But the Catholics of the country are waking up, and before many years are elapsed, a large part of the present bigotry and ill-feeling is sure to have passed away.

JAPAN.—Catholic Progress in Japan.—The Church is making advances in Japan. The *Illustrated Catholic Missions* prints these statistics of the Nagasaki mission. "The total population of the Japanese Islands which constitute the Nagasaki mission is 6,377,080; of these 33,701 are Catholics. The work is carried on by one bishop, twenty-six European and seventeen native priests; thirteen native clerics; fifty catechists for the conversion of infidels, 150 for the religious instruction of Christians, seven Brothers of Mary, thirteen nuns of the Child Jesus, and six native nuns, with four novices. There are eighteen districts, with thirty-five stations, 110 Christian settlements, fifty-eight churches and chapels, forty-four oratories, a seminary with forty-two native students, a catechists school with twelve, nine elementary schools with 737 pupils; ten native communities of women (sick nurses, teachers, etc) with 180 members; six farms and workshops, with 306 persons; eight orphanages, with 316 children, and five dispensaries. The fruits of a year are: Baptisms, 1,882 (adults, 400; vagant children, 260; Christian infants, 1,222); confirmations, 1,046; Easter communions, 18,332; marriages, 318." These figures are gratifying proofs of progress in the dominion of the Mikado.

ROME.—Pontifical Documents.—There is a rumour in well-informed ecclesiastical circles that the Holy Father, having just terminated an Encyclical on the Holy Rosary, to be published on the approach of the month of October, is now preparing a document in connection with the centenary festivities in commemoration of the landing of St. Augustine in England. It will probably have the form of an Apostolic Letter, and will deal incidentally with the question of the reunion of the Churches. The Pontiff

has had himself fully and accurately informed regarding the Conference of the Anglican bishops at Lambeth.

SWITZERLAND.—Catholic Delegates at the Labour Congress.—One hundred and seven Catholic delegates attended the late Labour Congress at Zurich. The French *Temps* instances this fact as a revolution in Catholic thought and says: "Only lately the representatives of the Church troubled themselves about the inevitableness of trial." Everyone admits to-day, however, that the burdens of the toiling classes can be lightened, and that it is the duty of every Christian, whether priest or layman, to do all that he can to lighten them.

SOUTH AMERICA.—A New Church at Buenos Ayres.—Our Buenos Ayres correspondent (says the *Catholic Times* of September 10) telegraphs that the Church of the Passionist Fathers in that city was solemnly consecrated on Friday last. The ceremony was performed by his Grace the Archbishop of Buenos Ayres (Most Rev. Dr. Uladislao Castellano), assisted by the Titular-Bishop of Tiberiopolis (Most Rev. Dr. Mariano Antonio Espinosa), and the the Salesian Bishop of Patagonia (Most Rev. Dr. Juan Cagliero). After the church was consecrated his Grace proceeded to consecrate the High Altar. The altar of St. Patrick was consecrated by the Titular-Bishop of Tiberiopolis as a testimony of his affection and esteem for the Irish residents, and Bishop Cagliero consecrated the altar of St. Paul of the Cross. The octave is being observed with great solemnity, the various religious Communities of the city taking part in the ceremonies. On the Feast of our Lady's Nativity the Franciscan Fathers officiated, and yesterday (Thursday) the services were conducted by the Redemptorists. To-day (Friday) the Lazarist Fathers will officiate, and to-morrow the Salesian Fathers will have charge of the services. The octave will conclude on Sunday with Pontifical High Mass by the Most Rev. Dr. Espinosa, and the Rev. Father Antillac, S.J., will preach on the occasion.

UNITED STATES.—The Washington Catholic University.—Colonel Patrick B. O'Brien of New Orleans, has left by will £30,000 to found three chairs. The chairs selected by the university authorities are those of physics, chemistry and Roman law. As the gallant Colonel had espoused the cause of the South in the great Civil War, his gift is evidence of the thoroughly universal character of the Church in the United States. Altogether he bequeathed some £80,000 in charities, of which £4,000 went to the seminary for the education of priests in Louisiana, £2,000 for the education of Jesuits, and vast sums to orphanages and homes for the infirm and aged and outcast. This is a disposition of earthly goods that may well be chronicled in our columns (says the *Catholic Times*), as well as for the purpose of asking the suffrages of the faithful for the soul of the benefactor, as of pointing out his princely benefactions for the imitation of rich men in our own country. There is no need of the Catholic body so crying as that of higher education for the clergy, in which duty the bishops are crippled for want of funds. It may be, as is often said, that wealthy laymen are not likely to subsidise colleges or seminaries until, as is the case in some American colleges, they are more widely opened to the public eye—and there may be good reasons why this is not already done—but there can be no question that help, financial help, would largely tend to improve the conditions which we are all agreed to deplore. The foundation of chairs is a good and holy work for God, and is one of the best ways of creating such a body of professors as are shedding lustre on the young university in the capital of the United States. Our own bishops will do the work when the faithful enable them to do it.

RECOLLECTIONS OF CARDINAL MANNING.

(By AUBREY DE VERE, in the *Age Maria*.)

(Continued.)

Looking back on the career of an old friend at his departure, after the question as to how far that career was a noble one, there comes another—namely, how far it was a happy one. Cardinal Manning's was, as far as I can judge, a singularly happy one; not in the sense of having had manifold enjoyments, or of having escaped severe afflictions, but in a higher sense of the word happiness. His life had not, I think, brought in many joys from many sources; yet it had conferred on him much joy from a few, but these the highest. His happiness was almost wholly of a spiritual order, either directly or indirectly. He had a sleepless faith, and one that so penetrated all his faculties that it brought the whole of his life in a unity. Some would have said that his nature was not as wide as it was high. It was not as wide in the sense of being, like that of a great dramatist, in strong sympathy with many things of a very contrasted character, some high and some low; but it was wide in the sense of seeing the same clear light reflected from many remote objects; and for him it was not true that only "the low sun makes the colour." He had, like Cardinal Newman, a keen sense of the humorous; though the general character of his mind was a severe seriousness. He had a great love of music, though in church he could tolerate only a-sectic music. The other arts gave him a deep delight also; but only in those austere forms of them in which their highest as well as their earliest specimens had bravely challenged the human heart, and but slightly the mere senses; and when, in early Christian days, the canvas of Cimabue and Giotto seemed to have caught the sacred shadows flung from the ensanguined walls and vaulted roofs of the catacombs, and to have glorified them. When we visited together the Italian galleries he passed by, as if he did not see them, the pictures of the later schools, round which the larger groups collected, and gazed long upon a