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incline too much to a defence of the clergy, that it was nearly all written in one of the best known Protestant châteaux in France, amid a society entirely Dreyfusard. The landowner with whom I was staying, who is Protestant by descent, by marriage, and by conviction, is not only on terms of warm and never-interrupted friendship with the curé, but has built and endowed a Catholic school for the little children of the village. This large-minded Protestant has no fear of the pernicious effects of Catholic education which some of your correspondents describe, but recognises the fact that except in certain limited regions the French population will never become Protestant, and that, in spite of passing controversies, it is better for the children to be brought up in the only faith which will ever predominate in France than to be educated without religion.

Returning to the Fold.—About a year ago the Prior of the Discalced Carmelites at Chevremont retired from his convent on one or other frivolous pretext, and shortly afterwards laid aside the religious habit. The event naturally caused much distress to his brethren, and was the occasion of no small scandal to Catholics generally. Glad of an opportunity to attack the Church, the anti-religious Press indulged in its customary diatribes against monastic institutions, and loudly applauded the spirit of independence shown by the unhappy priest, whom they congratulated on his release from the yoke of Rome. For a while the ex-religious received many attentions from the Liberal and Socialist organs, and under the patronage of these enemies of the Church he started a lecturing campaign against Catholics and Catholicism. At one time it was said that he had gone over to the Protestants, but it seems there was no truth in the report. A conference to be delivered by him at the 'Populaire,' the Socialist headquarters at Liege, was lately announced. The lecture will not, however, be given. The prayers offered for his conversion have been heard. Père Sallé has seen the errors of his ways, and, deeply regretting his relapse, has gone to the convent of his Order at Paris to seek re-admission. In a letter addressed to the Press he expresses his keen sorrow for the scandal he has given, unreservedly retracts whatever he may have said or written contrary to the teaching of the Church, and earnestly requests prayers that he may persevere in his present resolutions. As usual in cases of this kind, the anti-religious prints that made so much noise about the misguided priest's apostasy are careful not to breathe a word about his conversion.

GERMANY.—Golden Jubilee of a Bishop.—The town of Franzenburg was *en fête* on October 1 to celebrate the jubilee of Dr. Andreas Thiel, Bishop of Ermland, who attained the fiftieth year of his priesthood on that day. The whole town was gaily decorated with flags and banners, and endless were the congratulating visits paid to the venerable prelate after the solemn High Mass in the morning. Among some of the most distinguished visitors may be mentioned Count von Bismarck, General von Finkenstein, Bishop Rosentreter-Relpin, and numerous deputations from the most prominent Guilds and Catholic Societies in the Empire. His Lordship received a telegram from the Kaiser expressing his cordial congratulations. His Majesty has conferred upon Dr. Thiel the Order of the Red Eagle of the Second Class.

ROME—The Study of Democratic Questions.—His Holiness the Pope has established a commission of Cardinals, under the presidency of Cardinal Mazzella, to study all democratic questions.

The Pope and the Transvaal.—It is reported that prior to the outbreak of hostilities between England and the Transvaal the Pope sent a telegram of 150 words to Queen Victoria, regarding the crisis. It is understood that in this message his Holiness implored her Majesty to do everything that lay in her power to avert war between England and the Transvaal.

Preparations for the Holy Year.—With regard to the preparations for the Holy Year (writes the Rome correspondent of the *Catholic Times*) it may well be said that every day brings fresh tidings of the feverish activity displayed by all who will be connected with that solemn period of expiation and spiritual rejoicing. Even the Italian authorities, fully realising the advantages which will accrue to the country through the enormous number of pilgrims who are expected to visit the Eternal City, are displaying extraordinary activity in cleaning and polishing up the streets and monuments of Rome, and doing everything in their power to cut a good figure before the cosmopolitan crowds expected here. Among the illustrious visitors who will be present at the opening of the Porta Santa I may mention the Empress Frederick and the Crown Princess of Sweden and Norway, and

several Austrian Grand Dukes have also expressed their intention of coming. The golden mallet with which Leo XIII. will open the Porta Santa will be an offering of the Catholic episcopate and clergy throughout the world, and I may also mention that the parish priests of Italy have subscribed in order to present the three Cardinals who will be delegated to open the Holy Gates of the three remaining basilicas with golden mallets. A special prayer-book, containing the prayers necessary to obtain the indulgences of the jubilee year, will be issued shortly, and the Holy Father has likewise authorised the publication of 2,000,000 postcards commemorative of the jubilee.

SCOTLAND.—Clerical Changes in the Galloway Diocese.—The following changes, consequent on the recall of the Rev. Father Barrett (Galston) to Ireland, have been made in the Galloway Diocese:—Father Macdonald (now of Maybole) has been succeeded at Annbank by the Rev. John M. A. Cameron, Sacred Heart, Wigtown. The Rev. James B. Jennings, assistant at St. Joseph's, Kilmarnock, has been placed in charge of Wigtown, to which is attached the station at Whithorn.

SOUTH AMERICA.—Reception of Prelates Returning from Rome.—The Buenos Aires correspondent of a German newspaper describes the solemn reception of the Bishops returning from the Latino-American Council in Rome, which took place on the Feast of St. Rose of Lima, the patroness of America. The Argentinian Government sent a cruiser to Montevideo to convey the prelates to Buenos Aires, and from the harbours of that city to the Cathedral a festive procession was formed, in which the Bishops were escorted amid tumultuous applause, and their path strewn with flowers. On arriving at the Cathedral a solemn *Te Deum* was sung. On the following Sunday Archbishop Castellano pontificated at High Mass, the music of which was Gregorian, sung by the Cecilian Society. What an innovation for South America!

THE PHILIPPINES.—The Desecration of Churches.—Instructions have, the New York *Herald* states, been sent to General Otis to clear out the United States troops from every Catholic Church which had been occupied by them. Cardinal Gibbons recently saw President McKinley and submitted to him reports on the desecration of churches, altars, vestments, and sacred vessels by American soldiers. The President has directed General Otis to enforce the most stringent rules of discipline in preventing these sacrileges.

UNITED STATES.—The See of Savannah.—It is reported that the three priests whose names were chosen by the Bishops of the Province of Baltimore, at a meeting recently held in that city, to be sent to Rome, from which a successor to the late Right Rev. Dr. Becker, of Savannah, Ga., is likely to be chosen are Rev. Cornelius F. Thomas, rector of the Cathedral, Baltimore; Very Rev. B. Keilley, Vicar-General of the diocese of Savannah, and Very Rev. Dr. P. S. McHale, C.M., president Niagara University, formerly pastor of the Immaculate Conception Church, Baltimore.

The Position of the Church.—Since Archbishop Ireland's visit to Europe (says the New York correspondent of the *New Era*) the attention of the Catholic world has been called to Catholicism in America, and the growth and development of the True Faith in the New World is a subject well worth considering. It is safe to state that over a fourth of the population of New York City is composed of Catholics, Catholics who are ever striving to promote their religion, and who have helped to erect the countless churches, schools, and charitable institutions which stand to-day as testimonies of the influence the Church of Rome has wielded over the people of the United States. No longer is the Catholic religion attacked from Protestant pulpits, as was current five years since. The feeling of antagonism between creeds has almost entirely disappeared, and we read in a Chicago paper that at a recent meeting of the Associated Charities which took place in that city, there were present ministers of every denomination, including several Catholic priests and two rabbis. When such a state of liberty exists, the result cannot fail to be beneficial to the masses, and must call forth the admiration of the whole civilised world.

The fruit of happiness comes only of that which dies to itself. Set happiness before you as an end, no matter in what guise of wealth or fame or oblivion even—you will not attain it. Renounce it, seek the pleasure of God, and that instant is the birth of your own.