

say that, despite the competition of public elementary schools, Catholic schools had held their own. With regard to the future, his work brought him frequently into contact with the London County Council inspectors, all of whom so far had declared themselves as agreeably surprised with the efficiency of Catholic schools. One of his colleagues had ventured to ask a Council Inspector why they were surprised. Was it because they doubted the formal reports of the Board of Education Inspectors who had always said that these schools were efficient? However, he had found honest admiration for the work of the schools amongst the Council's inspectors, and this he knew would mean honest support.

The Bede Memorial

Many Catholics were present in spirit, and some in person (says the 'Catholic Times'), at the ceremony of unveiling the Bede Memorial at Monkwearmouth. We cannot, of course, understand why all the folk who met to honor the memory of 'the father of English learning' should not be of the same creed that he professed. They cannot, at any rate, deny that the noblest religious pioneers and leaders of which England can boast were Catholics. Whilst we regret their refusal to accept old principles, we cannot but rejoice to see them paying tributes to the lives and works of those who gloried in the old creed. This action must bring them nearer to us and make for greater social harmony. The monuments they raise preach our doctrines. The memorial to St. Bede which has just been unveiled is a magnificent cross. We find it called an Anglican cross in the daily papers. We are glad that Anglicans are displaying increased veneration for the cross, to which so many of them have from time to time offered insult, but the lesson the cross cannot fail to teach us is that of self-sacrifice for Christ's sake, and esteem for the Catholic Church that has ever pointed to it as its standard. Rising aloft on ground which was once the territory of the twin monasteries of Monkwearmouth and Jarrow, this memorial cross will continually remind the people not only of what Catholics did for learning in England in past ages, but also of the community of religious ideas between them and the Catholics of to-day.

FRANCE.—Pensions Granted

The 'Gaulois' states that the Holy Father has come to the decision that the Bishops of Laval and Dijon shall each receive a pension of eight thousand francs, but neither will be allowed to hold any episcopal title.

Attachment to the Holy See

Pope Pius X. has addressed an extremely cordial autograph letter to the editor of 'La Croix,' Paris, thanking him 'with affectionate gratitude' for having called forth in the form of letters to his Holiness 'a magnificent testimony of attachment to the Holy See.' His Holiness adds: 'We seize the occasion to pay a tribute of admiration to the devotion you are showing in promoting the circulation of the Catholic press, whose action at the present time is so powerful for the defence and propagation of the Faith.'

Church and State

The 'Gaulois' prints a statement made to one of its representatives by Abbe Odélin, Vicar-General of Paris, who recently presented the French pilgrims to the Pope. In the course of his remarks the Abbe says that whereas those who gave themselves out to be the faithful interpreters of the views of Leo XIII. represent him as claiming from French Catholics their unreserved adhesion to the Republican regime, Pius X. does not hold quite the same opinion. It was true that he had said to the Bishops of Arras and Bayeux that 'since France is a Republic, let the French Catholics be Republican.' At the same time, the Abbe guaranteed at all events the sense of the following words, which had been addressed to himself by his Holiness:—'You who are Royalists remain Royalists. You who are Imperialists remain Imperialists. You who are Republicans remain Republicans. But Royalists, Imperialists, or Republicans, if you are Catholics unite for the defence of the Church.' In a word, the Abbe believes that the Pope is regardless of the political opinions of the French Catholics. Of the so-called doctrine of concentration he retains only the traditional and theological part, by which the Church has always taught obedience to the civil laws in so far as they have nothing contrary to the law of God. The eventual denunciation of the Concordat does not, according to the Abbe, sufficiently affect the Pope's serenity to induce him to make concessions which he believes to be incompatible with the dignity of the Holy See and the honor of the Church. It was therefore certain that he would remain immovable on the question of the Bishops.

INDIA.—The Fourth Centenary

The present year completes the fourth century of the existence of the oldest Christian church in India,

that of St. Francis, in Cochin, on the Malabar coast. It was erected by the Franciscan monks who accompanied Vasco da Gama to India, four years after the Portuguese had obtained permission of the Rajah of Cochin to live in that town.

ROME.—Death of a Prelate

A Rome correspondent reports the death of Archbishop Henry O'Callaghan, ex-Rector of the English College and former Bishop of Hexham, near Newcastle, who passed away at the Home of the English Sisters of the Little Company of Mary, at Feisole.

Forthcoming Marian Exposition

The Marian Exposition which is to be held in the Lateran Palace, Rome, bids fair to be one of the most interesting features of the Jubilee of the Immaculate Conception. France, Germany, Spain, and Belgium will be especially well represented. Vilna has already sent a reproduction of the celebrated Madonna which stands on the walls of the city, and Innsbruck has forwarded an excellent copy of the wooden images of the thirteenth century. Cardinal Vincenzo Vannutelli and Monsignor de Waal have both promised to lend many interesting pictures and objects of Marian devotion. In Rome itself a special collection of pictures, statues, and various works of art is being gathered together from churches and private owners.

The Holy Father and the Boy

One of those touching incidents which show the kind-heartedness of Pope Pius X. has just been recorded by the Italian press. A boy of some ten years, the son of Francesco Laviola, Technical Inspector of Navigation in Lago di Garda, conceived the idea of writing to the Holy Father, without the knowledge of his father, a request for an audience. The boy's father in due course received a letter from the Pope. It was couched in genial terms. His Holiness stated that he was delighted with the boy's letter, that he blessed the writer with all his heart, that the blessing was to extend to all the family, and that he would be happy to receive them in audience. When they presented themselves his Holiness chatted with them for half an hour, questioning the boy as to his education, tendering to him a splendid medal, and imparting the Apostolic Benediction to him and all his relatives. The father was then shown through the principal apartments of the Vatican, when he returned home he assured all whom he met that 'nobody ever met such a kind man as Pope Pius X.' The incident is an interesting reflection of the Pope's regard for the young and for folk in the humblest ranks of life.

SCOTLAND.—An Anniversary

The fourth anniversary of the death of Lord Bute was observed at the family seat, Mountstuart, Isle of Bute. A Requiem High Mass was celebrated in the Shore chapel (where lie the remains of the deceased nobleman in a niche on the east side of the building) by Bishop Turner, of Galloway. Among a distinguished company of mourners were Lady Bute, Lady Margaret Crichton-Stuart, Lord Bute, and Lord Colum Edmund Stuart.

Ordination at Fort Augustus

The Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, delegated by the Bishop of Aberdeen, who was incapacitated by ill-health, celebrated Pontifical Mass in the Abbey Church, Fort Augustus, and conferred the priesthood recently upon Dom Luke Cary-Elwes, and the sub-deaconate upon Dom Benedict Steuart. Besides the Bishop and the Abbot of St. Benedict's, about sixteen priests took part in the impressive ceremony. Rev. Dudley Cary-Elwes (his cousin) acted as assistant to the newly-ordained priest, whose parents (Captain and Mrs. Windsor Cary-Elwes) together with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cary-Elwes, Mrs. Edward Chisholm and family, Miss Edith Cary-Elwes, and Major-General v. E. Law, were present at the ceremony.

Temperance Revival

The Catholics of the archdiocese of St. Andrews and Edinburgh (writes a correspondent) are to be congratulated on the splendid success which recently attended their efforts in their great temperance revival. The occasion was the first visit of the Rev. Father Hays, and following on the excellent inaugural meeting in the Broxburn Town Hall, Edinburgh, an important demonstration was held in the People's Palace Theatre, Midlothian—so often the scene of Mr. Gladstone's memorable gatherings. Here all creeds joined in a most enthusiastic meeting, at the close of which 220 persons took the pledge. At Falkirk the Town Hall was packed by an audience of over 2000 persons, and at the close of Father Hays' speech he administered the pledge to 300 persons, and on the following morning to an additional 260 children in the Catholic schools. At Bannockburn there was another large addition to the temperance ranks, and the tour throughout was eminently successful. The St. Andrew's Catholic Total Abstinence So-