

The Catholic World

ENGLAND.—A Bigoted Board.

A few months ago (writes the Liverpool correspondent of the *Dublin Freeman's Journal*) the Birkenhead Guardians appointed a lady superintendent over the parochial cottage homes, named Miss Crosse, a daughter of the Protestant Archdeacon of Norwich, and there was mutual congratulation among them that they had got a most efficient, highly-cultured Protestant lady for this important post. However, some lynx-eyed Kemsitts saw the lady coming out of the Catholic church one Sunday morning, and immediately the Guardians were subjected to a severe denunciation for their conduct in handing over the management of the homes to a 'Romanist.' The Guardians, finding that Miss Crosse was a Catholic, which they could not have surmised from her parentage, at once began to discover she was not so efficient as they had thought, and a system of petty annoyance was commenced which made her position unbearable, and she had to send in her resignation, which was accepted 'with regret' by the bigoted Board.

A Distinguished Franciscan.

Reports of the probable withdrawal from Rome of the Rev. Father David Fleming, O.F.M., have been recently circulated, and a certain color was lent to the rumor by the fact that Father David is at present in England. Interviewed by a representative of the *Catholic Herald* Father David gave an emphatic denial to this unfounded report. 'I came over to England simply on a visit,' Father David said; 'and I am going back to Rome to continue my work as Consultor of the Holy Office and Secretary of the Biblical Commission. My present work is in Rome, and there is not the slightest intention of making a change.' His attention was also directed to the statement that there is a probability of his being sent out as Delegate-Apostolic in Egypt and Arabia, where the presence of an English Franciscan would be an advantage. This report Father David disposes of briefly. 'There was never a question of sending me out there,' he declared. 'As a matter of fact, the appointment of Father Aurelio de Buia was made ten weeks ago.' Father David was born in Killarney in 1852. He studied at St. Brendan's Seminary, and afterwards in Belgium, where he was appointed Professor of Philosophy and Theology. Later he went to London, and founded the Franciscan Monastery at Forest Gate, becoming the first Provincial of the restored English Province. Having taught Scripture and various branches of theology, he was called upon to take part in the Commission on Anglican Orders, and soon after proceeded to Rome. There he was appointed Consultor of the Holy Office and Definitor-General of the Order. On the death of the General he was elected Vicar-General to the whole Order of the Friars Minor. Before that he had already been appointed Secretary of the Biblical Commission, and as the holding of both offices was incompatible, by the express wish of Pope Leo XIII., he retained that of Secretary to the Biblical Commission and renounced the right of being elected General to the whole Order.

FRANCE.—The Concordat.

The *'Figaro'*, Paris, states that the Holy Father, in order to avoid any step which might aggravate the religious situation in France, will not come to a decision regarding the appointment of Vicars-Apostolic in Constantinople and Syria, and the creation of a Nunciature in Peking, as long as certain questions with the French Government are not settled.

Preparing for the Worst.

His Eminence Cardinal Perraud, Bishop of Autun, in a discourse addressed recently to the clergy of his diocese united for their spiritual retreat, is reported to have spoken thus gravely:—'This reunion is perhaps our last. Our governors defend themselves from the accusation of desiring a persecution even to the shedding of blood; but when Masonry shall judge it well to demand blood, suffocating the last voices of humanity, they will command the chase of the priests. God alone knows if the time is far or near, but whenever it may be, remember that your predecessors were strong before the bloodshed of the Revolution, and prepare yourselves.'

Two Testimonials.

Up to the very eve of the re-assembling of parliament, French ministers (says the *'Catholic Times'*), have been perorating through the country and everywhere saying that the Concordat will be abolished, and that the blame rests on the Pope. Two proofs to the contrary, if any are needed, after Cardinal Merry del Val's documentary exposure of M. Combes, are at

hand. In an audience, the Holy Father told Monsignor Turmaz: 'I will do nothing to bring on a rupture of the Concordat; if the Government wants the rupture, we must not be afraid. The Church of France will pass through a most sad crisis, but she will come forth from it victorious and stronger than ever.' And in an interview granted to M. Olivier, he left that gentleman convinced that he would never yield to any threats, or accept any arrangement which would prejudicially affect the rights and liberties of the Church. It is therefore as insolent as it is idle for M. Combes and his followers to pretend that the blame for the existing troubles lies on the shoulders of the Holy See. The truth is, that M. Combes himself has been forced on by his supporters to engage in a contest with the Church of which he neither sees nor heads the issue. And this fact is proved by the letters of M. Waldeck-Rousseau, recently published in the columns of the *'Figaro'* newspaper. We now know that M. Combes is rather led than leads. But he may do immense harm for all that.

GERMANY.—The Late King of Saxony.

King George of Saxony, who died at the Castle of Pillnitz on October 15, distinguished himself as a military leader. By his handling of the Saxon brigade of cavalry, he did effective work in covering the Austrian retreat at Koniggratz, and such was his success as commander of the 12th German Army Corps at the battle of Gravelotte that on the formation of the Army of the Meuse, under the command of Crown Prince Albert, the leadership of the whole Saxon Army Corps was entrusted to him. Succeeding to his brother the late King Albert, on June 19, 1902, he had a difficult role to play. Ruling a Protestant population, he was a staunch Catholic. In his principles and his practices he was ever loyal to his religion and to the Holy See. His admiration for the late Pope was most earnest, and when his Holiness lay on his death-bed the King made it a point to be informed of his condition from day to day. One of his sons, Prince Max, now a Professor at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland, became a priest and gained fame in London by his zeal for the promption of the welfare of the masses. The King's fidelity to his creed gained him not a few enemies during the struggle in which the Social Democrats secured the representation of the Saxon constituencies, but on the whole his uprightness, manliness, and blameless life won him the respect and esteem of his subjects. The new King, his son, is a man of soldierly habits and, at the same time, of genial manners.

SCOTLAND.—Golden Jubilee.

During the current month the Rev. Brother Vincent, of St. Mungo's, Townhead, will celebrate his golden jubilee as a member of the Marist Order. Forty years of this period have been spent in Glasgow.

Temperance Crusade.

In the course of his few days' temperance crusade in Scotland the Rev. Father Hays administered the total abstinence pledge to close on three thousand persons.

SWITZERLAND.—Census Returns.

The final papers relating to the results of the Swiss census bring out some interesting results. The most notable is, perhaps, the gradual decline of the preponderance of the German-speaking cantons. In 1880 German was the language of 713 per 1000 of the population. Now only 698 per 1000 speak that tongue. On the other hand, the French-speaking Swiss are now 220 per 1000, instead of 214 per 1000 in 1880, and the Italian-speaking 67, instead of 57 per 1000—a growing obstacle to the progress of the Pan-Germanic movement, of which it is interesting to take note. In the matter of religion Catholicism is gaining at the expense of Protestantism. In half a century the proportion of Protestants has fallen from 593 to 578 per 1000, while that of Catholics has increased from 406 to 417 per 1000.

UNITED STATES.—Bohemian Catholics.

In Chicago there are about 110,000 Bohemians. About 75,000 of these are Catholics. The Catholic Bohemians of Chicago have at present nine churches. The largest of these congregations, with a very beautiful church, a large school, and spacious parochial building, is St. Procopius', the premier Bohemian congregation in the United States. It is in charge of the Bohemian Benedictine Fathers. With every church there is connected a school.

Catholics in Chicago.

The present Catholic census of Chicago shows that the Chicago archdiocese contains 1,200,000 Catholics, an increase of 200,000 since a year ago.

The Catholic Population.

The latest official returns of the Catholic Church in the United States show that there are 15 Archbishops