

the mother to whom this meant a little rest, a little comfort, one happy Christmas at least for herself and her child, could not put her thank into words.

Then as the church with the wonderful crib was not far distant, and the attentions of their fellow-travellers began to grow embarrassing both to Mrs. Walcott and Tommy, they left the car and once more were alone together in the street.

Even then they did not speak, only when at last they knelt side by side, still hand in hand before the representation of Bethlehem's manger, Tommy whispered tremulously:

'I gave it for Him, mammy.'

And his mother thought he had given the Christ child something that must please Him—'Ave Maria'

The Catholic World

BELGIUM—An Anniversary

Catholic Belgium this year celebrates the seventy-fifth anniversary of her national independence, and to commemorate the event a universal and international exhibition has been organised, and was opened at Liege on April 27, by Prince Albert.

CANADA—Death of a Distinguished Catholic

The death of the Hon. Gedeon Ouimet, a distinguished French-Canadian public official, is announced from Montreal. Mr. Ouimet was Attorney-General in Mr. Chauveau's Provincial Administration from 1867 to 1873, and succeeded Mr. Chauveau as Premier in the latter year. When the Legislature re-established the office of Superintendent of Education, in 1875, Mr. Ouimet was appointed thereto, and discharged its duties till 1895, when he retired on a pension. In 1876 the Pope made him a Commander of the Order of St. Gregory.

ENGLAND—A Redemptorist Church

Archbishop Bourne, on April 21, laid the foundation-stone of a new Redemptorist church and monastery at Lower Edmonton. It is being built mainly through the exertions of Father M'Mullan, from the Redemptorist Mission at Bishop's Stortford, who is the first rector.

The Queen of Saxony

The Queen of Saxony was in the sanctuary at the Jesuit Church, Farm-street, when Father Bernard Vaughan preached the Three Hours on Good Friday. Before leaving London she sent Father Vaughan 2000 oranges for the children she visited in the East End.

Maundy Thursday Ceremony

The ceremony known as the Washing of the Feet took place on Maundy Thursday at Westminster Cathedral. In an enclosed space twelve boys, representing the twelve apostles, sat on a green-covered bench, and during the singing of 'Beati Immaculati' the Archbishop removed his cope, and, with bare head and on his knees, washed and wiped the feet of the boys.

Golden Jubilee of a Church

The Verv Rev. Father Murphy, Superior of the Marist Community at Spitalfields, E., has issued an appeal for assistance in paying off the debt of £600 on St. Anne's Church, which he hopes to have consecrated on the occasion of the golden jubilee in September.

Westminster Cathedral

An anonymous benefactor has presented the Archbishop of Westminster with two handsome sets of Pontifical vestments, cut to the exact Roman measurements. One set is of white silk, embroidered with gold, and was worn on Easter Sunday for the first time by his Grace. Other gifts to the Cathedral include a very fine monstrance made from old silver ornaments, and a massive brass-bound copy of the Martyrology.

An Ancient Custom Revived

The hop fields of Kent (says the 'Daily Mail') will this year witness sights which have been absent since the Reformation. When the hopping season commences, about the first week in September, a small party of the Friars of the Order of St. Francis, accompanied by a large party of members of the Third Order and several Sisters of Mercy, will proceed to the field to look after the spiritual welfare of the Roman Catholic portion of the hoppers. The Friars, in their picturesque brown habit, will conduct services by the roadside, and in fields, and in barns, and altars will be erected and Masses said whenever and wherever the opportunity offers. In order to increase their usefulness the Friars will have no set place of abode, but will sleep wherever they happen to be, in a cottage or

in the open if necessary. The significance of this mission, which is to be undertaken at the request of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Southwark, lies in the fact that the Friars and the members of the Third Order of St. Francis will be re-establishing a custom which was prevalent in pre-Reformation days, and that a start having been made similar open-air preaching missions are to be undertaken in other parts of the country.

FRANCE—When the Concordat Disappears

Ecclesiastics and others who are in a position to judge of the state of religion in France continue to discuss the question whether the clergy will receive sufficient support from the people when the Concordat has been done away with. Father Boyle, C.M., President of the Irish College, Paris, points out in the 'Irish Ecclesiastical Record' that as the amount of the annual budget for worship is about forty million francs and the Catholic population of France is over thirty-eight millions, it would cost the country a voluntary offering of little more than a franc per head to make up the necessary sum. But multitudes of the Catholics are merely nominal adherents of the Church, and it is clear that if the clergy are to be supported the whole organisation of rural France must be changed. Small parishes must be united and served from some central point. Father Boyle is hopeful as to the future in the event of separation between Church and State. In his opinion the clergy, no longer bondsmen, will feel that they must be self-reliant. The Catholics who have contributed so liberally to charities at home and abroad will rally round them. As in Switzerland, committees will be formed to collect, under episcopal sanction, for the maintenance of religion. Father Boyle's forecast is that there will be a period of severe trial for the Church in France, followed by a new era of life and energy.

ROME—The Diffusion of the Gospels

A very curious thing has been happening recently in Italy (writes the Rome correspondent of the 'Catholic Press'). Everybody knows about the old parrot cry of 'the chained Bible' of Catholics, and the old charge that Catholics are not recommended, or even allowed, to read the Scriptures. Well, a couple of years ago the 'Pious Society of St. Jerome for the Diffusion of the Gospels' was started here in Rome, and in that brief space it has sold over 400,000 copies of a new edition of the New Testament. The book is a marvel of cheapness, neatness, and accuracy; it contains over 500 pages, a small map, valuable notes, and some pertinent illustrations, and it is sold for 2d, that is to say at cost price. This result is extraordinary, for the Italians are not a reading people—they do not even read the newspapers. But the most remarkable feature of the phenomenal sale lies in the fact that many thousands of copies of this Catholic Testament have been sold—by the Methodists. Their agent here in Rome, finding that he could make a better profit by selling the Catholic version than by his own, driving a thriving trade for a while. But there is another sect of Protestants, called Waldensians, with a conventicle in the Via Nazionale, who were filled with indignation on learning of the strange conduct of the Methodist agent. He was promptly denounced by them in general assembly, and obliged to devote himself once more to the sale of Protestant Bibles.

Letter from the Emperor of China

The Holy Father has received an autograph letter from the Emperor of China thanking his Holiness for a valuable gift which he sent to the Empress Dowager on the occasion of her 70th birthday, and announcing that the Empress Dowager is sending a gift to the Pope in return for his kindness.

Private Audience

Monsignor Smith, Archbishop of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, who has spent the winter in Rome with great benefit to his health, was received most cordially on April 8 in private audience by the Pope, who bestowed the Apostolic Benediction. The Pope showed great interest in Monsignor Smith's report on Church matters in Scotland in general. His Holiness displayed particular eagerness to hear about the Italian colonies in Leith and Edinburgh, and sent them a special blessing. The Pope signed photographs of himself for Canon Alexander Stuart, of Edinburgh, and for Monsignor Smith himself.

The General of the Jesuits

The Rome correspondent of the 'Catholic Herald,' writing on April 18, refers to the severe illness of the General of the Society of Jesus, and the operation rendered necessary through sarcoma, which located in the right arm. Dealing with the matter, the correspondent says:—'I have just seen one of the Jesuits, who tells