

the happy idea of Miss Cecilia Ward, of Withington. Last year witnessed the inauguration of this scheme. This year £283 6s 8d has been received, an increase of a little over £50 on last year's return. The children were received by the Bishop in St. John's Hall, Salford, and each received from his hands a portrait of the late Cardinal Vaughan.

Converts Ordained

It is interesting to learn (writes a London correspondent, under date May 3) that the Rev. Mr. Evans and Rev. Mr. Hume, who came much into prominence a few years ago in connection with the secession of a considerable portion of the congregation of the Protestant Church of St. Michael's, Shoreditch, are now Catholic priests. Father Evans, who was ordained some time ago, is now officiating at Brighton, and Father Hume, who was ordained on Holy Saturday at St. Bede's, Rome, is expected in London shortly. He will officiate for the first time in the metropolis in St. Mary's, Moorfields, to the Rector of which, the Very Rev. Canon Fleming, M.R., he ascribes his conversion in a great measure.

FRANCE—The President and the Nuns

M. Loubet visited the Hotel de Ville at Bordeaux recently and went over the Deaf and Dumb Institute, and was much impressed by the manner in which the pupils, who before undergoing treatment had been quite dumb, delivered addresses of welcome. M. Loubet told the nuns who manage the institute, and the female teachers who assist them, that he greatly appreciated the benefits of their work. 'It is always a meritorious task,' added the President, 'to do good, and all the more so when the good is done.'

ROME—The Pope's Generosity

According to the Rome correspondent of the 'New York World,' an incident, which demonstrates the unbounded charity and delicacy of Pope Pius X., happened at the Vatican recently, when the Bishop of Mende, in France, came to Rome and was received in private audience by the Pope. The diocese of Mende is known to be the poorest diocese of France from a financial standpoint, and the Pope was very much surprised when the Bishop offered him a Peter's Pence collection amounting to £200, apologising for the smallness of the offering because of the poverty of his flock. The Holy Father, in accepting the gift, made some remarks about the love that prompted it, which is to be considered above the value of the offering itself, and then remarked that he would also make a gift to the Mende diocese worth at least an amount equal to that he had received. So he asked the Bishop, whom he knew to have made personal sacrifices in order to raise the amount he brought to Rome, to accept the same purse for the poor of his diocese, an offer which the Bishop absolutely refused. The Pope insisted, and the consequence was that the prelate having refused to take the purse with him, Pope Pius X. ordered the money placed to the credit of the Mende diocese at the call of the Bishop, who before leaving Rome was informed that the Pope would never use a cent of the amount for other purposes whatever.

The Irish Leader at the Vatican

With reference to Mr. John Redmond's visit to the Vatican on April 27, news of which was cabled to the colonies at the time, the Rome correspondent of the 'Catholic Times' writes as follows:—'To our beloved son, John Redmond, leader of the Irish Party in the House of Commons, with the wish that he, together with his equally beloved colleagues, using all legal and pacific means, may win that liberty which makes for the welfare of the Catholic Church and of the entire country, We impart the Apostolic Benediction with particular affection. From the Vatican, April 27, 1905. Pius X.' With these words, his Holiness signed a special blessing for Mr. Redmond and his colleagues at an audience which should be historic. The Irish leader had arrived in Rome only on Holy Saturday, although he had intended to be here for the ceremonies of Holy Week. He had delayed his arrival because of the railway strike. Thus he reached the Eternal City only at three on Holy Saturday morning. He was present, with Mrs. Redmond and Irish friends, in the company of the Marquis MacSwiney, Private Papal Chamberlain, at the Mass and Paschal ceremonies in St. Peter's. At noon on Easter Sunday he was the guest of the Rector of the Irish College. Together with the Marquis, Mr. Redmond had on Holy Saturday paid a visit to the Cardinal Secretary of State, who received him in the most charming way. He made request later for an audience, and this was arranged for a quarter past eleven on April 27. It lasted half an hour. His Holiness made many inquiries about the political and religious conditions of Ireland, and Mr. Redmond answered him in full through the Marquis MacSwiney. The leader told his Holiness

that the entire Irish episcopate was at one with the party. Irish Catholic tolerance is deservedly famed, so of the leaders of the united party since the time of Daniel O'Connell, Mr. Redmond is the first Catholic, both Mr. Butt and Parnell having been Protestants. The present occasion is, therefore, of peculiar interest, because it is the first on which the leader of the Irish party has been received by a Sovereign Pontiff.

RUSSIA—Toleration

The papers in Rome state that, on being informed of the Czar's Ukase on Liberty of Conscience, the Pope telegraphed to the Emperor, expressing the hope that religious peace will bring about general peace in the Empire.

SCOTLAND—Death of a Priest

The death of Father Alexander MacDonald, which occurred at St. Patrick's, Glasgow, on April 28, was the occasion of the deepest regret to a large number of Catholics in Parkhead and Anderston, and to the whole of the clergy in the archdiocese of Glasgow. Father MacDonald, who at his death was in his thirty-fifth year, was born in Lochaber in 1869. In his early years he went to reside at Greenock, where his intelligence and piety led the late Canon Taylor to interest himself in his career. He was sent to study for the priesthood in 1885 at Blairs, and completed his studies at the Scots College, Valladolid, where he was ordained in 1895.

UNITED STATES—The Bishop of Peoria

We learn from American contemporaries that Dr. Spalding, the distinguished Bishop of Peoria, Illinois, who had a stroke of paralysis three months ago, is now in a somewhat critical condition.

New York Catholic Cathedral

The Lady Chapel of St. Patrick's Cathedral, work on which had been delayed for a year or more, is now nearing completion, and if no more strikes occur the officials of the archdiocese hope to see it completed for the consecration by the autumn. The builders have been working steadily for six months and have the entire structure almost under roof. The Lady Chapel is practically the incomplete east wing of the Cathedral structure. The chapel is the gift of Mrs. Eugene Kelly, who provided in her will for its erection. It will cost, when ready for consecration, not less than £100,000.

EXPULSION OF DEAD NUNS

ARBITRARY PROCEEDINGS IN FRANCE

In a recent letter (writes Mrs. C. E. Jeffery in the 'Catholic Times') I directed the attention of your readers to a disgraceful event that has lately taken place in Caen. I allude to the exhumation of the bodies of twenty-one Ursuline Nuns, which were expelled from their graves in the cemetery of their suppressed convent by order of the Government liquidator to enable him to sell the confiscated property of the community. Later accounts have now come to hand, and show that at the eleventh hour the Prefet interfered and forbade the reinterment of the remains with religious honours. The affair has caused unparalleled excitement in the town of Caen, though it has been passed over without mention by the English newspapers in pursuance of that policy which has rightly been stigmatised by a contemporary as a conspiracy of silence. For the benefit of English readers who may be unacquainted with the peculiar methods of the present French Government I propose to give the particulars as related in the French papers. A Caen correspondent writes: 'It had been decided in consultation with the Mayor that the transport of the hallowed remains of the Ursuline Nuns should take place on April 6 at 2 p.m., attended by a cross-bearer and priest in surplice.

The Bishop of Bayeux

had himself invited the clergy and faithful of Caen to join in the ceremony, and had promised to be present at the cemetery to bless the newly-made graves. The legal representatives of the families of the deceased religious had taken all the steps necessary for the exhumation of the bodies; letters de faire part, and the ordinary notices to the papers had been sent, and all was prepared. On Wednesday, however, at 4 p.m., the Prefet of Calvados, bearing the profound emotion that would naturally be excited in the people by the sight of the mournful ceremony, called upon the Mayor to forbid the interment. The Mayor refused with dignity, whereupon the Prefet took it upon himself to do so. Thus the bones