

The Catholic World

BELGIUM—Bishops and Patriotism

It is now three quarters of a century since Belgium separated from Holland and gained its independence. The Belgians have been celebrating the jubilee of the event enthusiastically, and not the least enthusiastic of the Belgians have been the Bishops. They issued a joint Pastoral, which took the form of a eulogy of patriotism. This stirring episcopal pronouncement in favor of liberty, independence, and love of country is pleasant to read. A man, says the document, owes everything to his country. He owes it at all times his services, his money, his strength, the disinterested aid of his talents, his activity, his influence; and when the hour of danger comes, when the frontiers are menaced he owes it the tribute of his blood, and even the sacrifice of his life. The Belgian Bishops deserve well of their land. For 21 years Belgium has been under the sway of a Catholic Government. They have been years of enormous progress. The Bishops have blessed that progress and never obstructed it. 'Everyone,' observes a Belgian contemporary, 'recognises that Belgium is in the front rank of civilised nations, and that its prosperity is out of proportion to its numbers and the extent of its soil.' The Belgians can also boast that their Government grants religious liberty to all.

ENGLAND—The Diocese of Leeds

The Holy Father has complied with the Bishop of Leeds' request for episcopal aid by granting him a coadjutor with the right of succession.

The Franciscans

At the Triennial Chapter of the Franciscan Order, held recently in London, the Very Rev. Father David Fleming, O.F.M., who was one of the assistants to the Father-General at Rome, was elected Provincial of the English Province.

The Passionist Order

The Triennial Provincial Chapter of Passionists in the Anglo-Irish Province was held a few weeks ago. Very Rev. Philip Coghlan, C.P., was re-elected Provincial. Father Malachy, Rector of Ardoyne, Belfast, and Father Placid, Rector of Harborne, Birmingham, were elected Consultors. Father Cyprian Meagher was re-elected Rector of St. Mungo's, Glasgow.

GERMANY—The Bishop of Metz

In view of the bitter attacks made on Bishop Benzler, of Metz, by Protestant papers in Germany, the answer of Emperor William to the Bishop's telegram of congratulation on the occasion of the Crown Prince's marriage is not without interest. 'To Bishop Benzler, Metz:—I have gladly received your friendly congratulations and good wishes on the coming wedding of his Imperial and Royal Highness the Crown Prince. Accept my warmest thanks. William, I.R.'

ROME—Monument to a Scientist

A monument is to be erected to the famous astronomer and scientist, the late Father Secchi, of the Society of Jesus, in his native town of Reggio Emilia. Pope Pius X., who knew the priest when director of the astronomical observatory of the Vatican, has taken much interest in the plan and has contributed to the monument fund £100 of his private purse. Father Secchi was the inventor of the spectroscope, with which for the first time the sun's rays were analysed, and the chemical constituents of the sun's sphere determined as being the same as those composing the earth and the other planets.

SCOTLAND—A Catholic Centenarian

At Barra Island, in the Outer Hebrides, the death of Mrs. McNeil, a well known and much respected Catholic lady, took place recently at the age of 105 years. Up to the very last her faculties of mind and heart were of the most vigorous, kind, and gentle, and earned for her the universal love of all who knew her.

Blairs College

The Rev. Father Noonan, of Dundee, the Rev. Father Pirie, of St. Alphonsus', Glasgow, and the Rev. Father Hughes, of Springburn, have been appointed as professors of the Scottish Ecclesiastical College at Blairs, Aberdeen.

SPAIN—Catholic Action

Some time ago the Archbishop of Seville published a Pastoral Letter in which he exhorted the people of his dioceses to form Catholic Leagues for the furtherance of Catholic social work. 'El Siglo Futuro' criticised the step thus taken by his Grace, declaring that

he had not properly interpreted the mind of Pope Pius X. Aggrieved by the remarks of the paper, the Archbishop wrote to the Cardinal Secretary of State requesting that if it were not inconvenient the Holy Father would express his opinion as to the establishment of Catholic Leagues. His Holiness, thereupon addressed a letter to the Archbishop of Seville, from which it is evident that the Holy Father is anxious to see Catholics in Spain as elsewhere banded together for their mutual benefit. Unanimity of view is, he urges, most desirable amongst the Spanish Catholics. In combining one with another they should proceed along the lines of least resistance. They are not therefore to be kept asunder by party politics. His Holiness would have them join hands in social work. They will thus have ample opportunity of serving the interests of religion and their country, and will at the same time raise up a powerful barrier against the enemies of the Faith.

UNITED STATES—The Philippines

Some signs of progress (writes a Manila correspondent) may be found in the fact that there are now 150 native students preparing for the priesthood for the diocese of Manila. This record equals, if it does not exceed, any diocese in the United States. Many of these young men are bright, and considering the meagre opportunities on account of the disturbed times, very well educated. They are from the very best families in the province. Another interesting item is the passage of the Bill which will replace in the hands of the Church all the property seized by the Aglipayanos.

Catholic Schools in New York

In its annual report the committee of the New York Catholic School Board says that in that city \$10,000,000 are invested in parish school property and buildings. The annual cost of the maintenance of these schools is \$500,000. The following are the attendance figures for the seven dioceses of the State: New York, 55,629; Brooklyn, 35,652; Buffalo, 25,112; Rochester, 17,231; Albany, 15,370; Syracuse, 5100; Odgensburg, 3958; total, 158,052 pupils; students of colleges and academies, 10,380; estimated Catholic population of the State, 2,383,755.

Cardinal Gibbons and Socialism

In various parts of the United States there have of late been interchange of views as to the attitude which Catholics should adopt towards Socialists. Some have asked, 'Why provoke needless hostility by attacking them? Let them put forward their theories. What is unsound will disappear after being tested by public opinion, what is sound will remain.' This would seem to be the policy which appears best in the eyes of Cardinal Gibbons. Asked by an interviewer if he feared any evil from the spread of Socialism, his Eminence replied that he feared nothing for the American people from Socialism or any other organised power, because the American people are, before all, practical people and allow every hobby to go its full length. Instead of crushing any enterprise or any new mode of thought the American people allowed it to develop. They gave everything and everyone a chance. There was a country of organisations, of new ideas. Each one had fair play. All came and went, and most of them passed away very rapidly. While the division-of-property idea of the extreme Socialist was utterly untenable, the big question of real Socialism would be met and weighed by the practical good sense of the American people. In other words, the Cardinal holds that in dealing with new problems a passive attitude is often wiser than an active one.

GENERAL

The Sisters of the Good Shepherd

A new Mother-General of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd has been elected at Angiers, France, and Mother Mary, of St. Domatilla Larose, has been chosen for this high and responsible office. The new Superior is a native of Canada, and entered the Order at the Provincial House in Montreal at the age of eighteen. She is fluent in at least three languages—French, Spanish, and English—a desirable qualification in one whose spiritual family is represented in practically every country in the world. There are about 6000 nuns of the Good Shepherd dispersed throughout the world. Among the countries in which the Order is strong are France, Germany, Spain, Italy, England, Ireland, Scotland, the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. There are houses in Malta, Algiers, Egypt, Havana, Syria, and other parts of Asia, South Africa, and Oceania.

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