

The Catholic World

CEYLON—The Late Archbishop

The remains of Archbishop Melizan, of Colombo, who died recently in France, are to be taken to Ceylon for final burial. The Archbishop's oft-repeated desire was to die in Ceylon, where he hoped his bones would repose. Through the courtesy of the Government permission has been granted for the interment of the remains in St. Lucia's Cathedral.

FRANCE—Preparing for the Future

The 'Matin's' correspondent at Brest states that the Bishop of Quimper has sent a pastoral letter to the priests of his diocese, laying before them a plan to levy a voluntary tax of 50 centimes on each inhabitant in order to assure an annual stipend of 765 francs to every priest. The Bishop asks for comment on his suggestion.

A Pilgrim Train

I have been to see a pilgrim train start for Lourdes (writes the Paris correspondent of the London 'Standard'). The big, bare, Austerlitz station was filled from end to end with sufferers of every kind. But I saw hope stifle pain, faith triumph over human weakness, and charity at its kindly, unselfish work.

Parochial Associations

Catholics in France are preparing in good time for the changes which they will be called upon to meet when the Separation Bill passes the Senate and becomes law. In several dioceses, notably in the archdiocese of Paris, they are forming parochial associations, with the object of providing for the ministrations and the ministers of Divine worship. These associations are to be carefully distinguished from the associations of worship which the Bill, when it is promulgated as law, will set up throughout France. For the recognition of local associations of worship, as provided by the Act, is a matter for ecclesiastical and canonical decision, and as such will be accepted or rejected by the supreme authority of the Holy See. Meanwhile, until the Concordat is publicly and legally repudiated, and the Separation Bill put in force, the Bishops are preparing for the support of the various parishes, thus securing a nucleus of maintenance until such times as the Pope decides upon the exact line of action that he will advise. This wise provision on the part of the Catholics stirs up the anger of the sectaries, who hoped that the Separation Bill would prove the destruction of the Church; it may prove her salvation.

GERMANY—Sunday in Strasburg

A glorious day was Sunday, August 19, in Strasburg (writes a correspondent of the 'Catholic Times'). The General Catholic Congress was opened here with service at the Cathedral and a procession, the like of which I have never witnessed, though I have much experience of the crowding and swarming of men. These German Catholics build wisely, and it is no wonder that Pope Pius X. recommends their action as a model for other Catholics. They are establishing their organisation more and more on the strength of the working men. A workers' procession is now a regular feature of the opening of the Congress, and year by year the demonstration grows in proportions and splendor. This year special train after special train poured its living freight of toilers into the city, and it was a magnificent sight when they were all drawn up in order with their flags and musical bands. Imagine a procession numbering no less than 36,000 people, all belonging to the classes whose muscles and sinews are well developed by hard work. The Church is a power when it can be the prime mover in such a scene, and its power no one can destroy. The processionists passed beside a tribune where sat amongst others the Bishops of Strasburg and Metz, Assistant Bishop Zorn von Bulach, the Abbot of Orlenberg, and Dom Pothier. Halting for some minutes, the leader of this vast array of workers briefly addressed the Bishops, and then the gathering proceeded on its way. The meetings at the Fest-Hall have been very large, and the speeches spirited. Assistant Bishop Zorn von Bulach, in the course of an address, said Strasburg had never before seen such a procession as that by which its streets had just been traversed.

ROME—The Swiss Guards

Already preparations are being made in Rome for the great anniversary fete of the Swiss Guards, which was to have been in October, but has now been fixed for next January. This fete will celebrate the fourth century of their existence at the Vatican, where they

were first called, 200 of them, in 1505, by Pope Julius II. Julius II.'s predecessor, Nicholas V., was the real promoter of this body, but he could never carry out his idea through the opposition of the Ambassador of the powerful Louis XII.

The Christian Brothers' Schools

I am pleased to be able to state (writes a Rome correspondent) that the results obtained in this year's examinations by the boys and young men attending the schools of the Irish Christian Brothers at Rome have been such as to distance, if possible, those of preceding years. To state this is to pay the highest tribute to these most capable educators, for it is not untrue to say that Catholic educational institutions are discriminated against at Rome and throughout Italy, here as everywhere half the Church's battle being in the schools. So little injustice is there in this statement that one can point to the laws regulating the conditions of examinations, and additional proofs it is not necessary to invoke. When, therefore, the pupils of the day and evening classes of the Irish Christian Brothers, who carry their commercial and technical courses up to the licenza, or matriculation, rank with the best, it is easy to see how successful the idea of the late Cardinal, Jacobini has proved. He was Vicar of Rome for only a brief period before his death, five years ago. Remembering the achievements of these educators at Gibraltar, he hastened to bring them to Rome, in order to make headway against the tide of irreligion in the schools.

RUSSIA—The Late General Gerard

The body of General Sir Montagu Gerard, of the Indian Army, who died at Irkutsk on his way home from Manchuria, was conveyed in a gun carriage from the Nicholas Station, St. Petersburg, along the Nevsky Prospect to the Catholic Church of St. Catherine, where a Requiem Mass was celebrated. The body was temporarily deposited in a vault, pending its despatch to Scotland.

SCOTLAND—Clerical Appointment

The sensation caused by the conversion of the Rev. Mr. Charleson, Presbyterian minister, Thornliebank, to the Catholic faith, and his public announcement of same to his congregation (says a Glasgow correspondent), have been somewhat revived by his arrival in Glasgow after receiving Holy Orders in Rome, where he has been studying for the past few years. Speculations for some time past were very keen as to the parish to which Father Charleson would be allocated. To the surprise of many, his Grace Archbishop Maguire has appointed him to Kinkintilloch, a small town some six or eight miles from the city. Father Charleson bears the reputation of being an eloquent speaker. It is, therefore, not to be wondered at that a crowded congregation listened with rapt attention to his first sermon, which was noted for its simple earnestness.

UNITED STATES—A Princely Gift

The princely munificence of Mr. E. J. Lebreton, of this city (says the San Francisco 'Monitor') will duplicate for Los Angeles his magnificent gift to San Francisco of the Old People's Home, under the direction of the Little Sisters of the Poor. The institution which Mr. Lebreton's generosity is about to provide will materially outrank every other charitable foundation in the southern city. The Little Sisters of the Poor had already established their mission in an humble way in Los Angeles, but demands upon the accommodations afforded by their resources have steadily outgrown their ability to meet them, when lo! Mr. Lebreton quietly arranges to build and equip, at his own private expense, a home equal in all respects to the splendid institution for which San Francisco is indebted to his noble Christian bounty. The cost of the new home will approximate £50,000, but, as the Los Angeles 'Herald' remarks, 'the giver of this large sum to aid the glorious work of the Little Sisters of the Poor has made an investment that will yield better returns in the satisfaction of having done an eminently good deed than is yielded by all the dividends of the Standard Oil Company.'

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