

The Catholic World

ENGLAND—A Rumor

A Rome correspondent states that fresh reports claiming the highest credit as to the early elevation to the Cardinalate of the Archbishop of Westminster are current in the Eternal City.

Buckfast Abbey

The Rev. Father Anshar, Professor of Philosophy at St. Anselm's College, Rome, who accompanied the late Abbot Boniface Natter as a passenger on the ill-fated 'Sirio,' has been nominated Abbot of Buckfast by the Benedictine Community. The election is to be confirmed by the Abbot-General. Father Anshar was born in Germany in 1875, and is said to be probably the youngest Abbot in the world.

The Society of Jesus and the Healing Art

It is pleasant to note (says the 'Catholic Times') that whilst the daily papers treat Catholic affairs, and in particular anything concerning the Jesuits, in a manner from which it might be inferred that the readers are ready to accept the silliest sensations possible, the 'Lancet' displays the judicial temperament in dealing with the work of the Jesuits. In an article which it published under the heading, 'The Society of Jesus and the Healing Art,' some of the influence exercised by Jesuits as discoverers and explorers for the betterment of the human race is traced. The Jesuits, the writer reminds us, have made their mark in nearly every department of nature-study, as well as in mathematics, pure and applied. The Gallery of the Geographical Maps at the Vatican proclaims the sagacity of the missionaries who framed them. 'Jesuits' Bark' has long been indispensable to the physician's armoury, and has been developed into the salt which is to the European sojourner in the tropics what the Davy lamp is to the miner. The Jesuit traditions as scientists were well upheld by Padre Secchi, famed for his 'Solar Physics'; by Padre Denza, his successor at the Vatican Observatory, who, besides his work in seismology, will always be remembered for his demonstration of the origin of that scourge of the Mediterranean seaboard, the wind known as the 'sirocco'; and by Padre Massala, who owed to his nature-study and his command of the healing art in the Galla country the success of the enterprise which brought him the gratitude of the Pope and the title of Cardinal. The work of the Jesuits, in connection with the healing art alone, the 'Lancet' observes, made them the progenitors, so to say, of Livingstone and Bishop Pattison, and Dr. Stewart, of Lovedale, and entitles the Society to admiration and sympathy.

FRANCE—The Present Position

The Bishops have held their meeting and separated for their respective dioceses (says the 'Catholic Times'). Time will tell the outcome of their deliberations. Apparently they are resolved to await the action of the Government, when the 12th of December, the last day for forming the Worship Associations, has arrived. What will that action be? The Ministers on their side discussed the matter at a Cabinet Council at Rambouillet, and, according to M. Clemenceau, after considering it from every point of view, they have decided that the law must take its course. Should that be so, it is impossible to hope for peace between the Church and the State. Regrettable incidents are sure to occur, and the shedding of blood will arouse angry passions. Perhaps, however, there is still a chance of more peaceable counsels prevailing. The Government must wish to avoid the perils of an open conflict, and the Bishops will doubtless be only too pleased to discover some loophole of escape from the terrible evils of civil disturbances. Unfortunately, the more violent anti-clerical politicians are already up in arms against all ideas of compromise, and it does not require a very intimate knowledge of the springs of French politics to understand how loth the Government will be to offend any powerful section of its supporters. Meanwhile the Pope remains firm, and his firmness is probably as unpleasant for the statesmen who still talk of ignoring him as it is encouraging for the faithful who have accepted his guidance.

GERMANY—Catholic Representatives

Thirty-five years ago Catholicism in Germany was more threatened than it is in France to-day. Churches were closed, prisons were full of priests, Bishops, and Archbishops; and Bismarck swore he would never go to Canossa, but he did go. In 1871 there were

only 58 Catholics in the Reichstag, representing 720,000 electors; now there are more than 100, representing 1,800,000 electors. They are really the ruling majority in the country.

ROME—The Society of Jesus

An Italian Catholic newspaper gives the following as the voting for the new General of the Jesuits. First scrutiny: Father Wernz, 26 votes; Father Freddi, 16; Father Ledochowski, 13. Second scrutiny: Father Wernz, 35; Father Freddi, 22; Father Ledochowski, 13. Third scrutiny: Father Wernz, 42; Father Freddi, 26; Father Ledochowski, 3. Father Wernz is the second German who has been elected General of the Jesuits. The first was Father Goswin Nickel, who was born at Julich on May 1, 1582. Father James Hayes was been appointed one of the five Assistants to the General of the Jesuits. He represents the English-speaking countries. The other Assistants are Father Freddi, Italy; Father Fene, France; Father Ledochowski, Germany; and Father Abad, Spain.

SCOTLAND—The Temperance Cause

Archbishop Maguire presided in the early part of September over a magnificent Catholic temperance demonstration under the auspices of the League of the Cross in the St. Andrew's Halls, Glasgow, at which fully 4000 people from all parts of the West of Scotland attended. His Grace said he felt proud as he stood on the platform there and saw around him such a splendid array of members of the League of the Cross. He had reason for legitimate pride (says the 'Catholic Times'). The meeting, which was so well attended by clergy and laity, made it plain to all present that the League of the Cross is a vigorous organisation in his diocese. It is to be hoped that in other parts of the country, where the organisation has not retained its strength, the example set by Glasgow will have the effect of bringing about a revival. The Archbishop is right in urging that persuasion, not force, should be used in making recruits; but we shall do well to remember that it is a duty to attract supporters of the good cause by organisation, sympathy, and comradeship. Nor should we forget that intemperance is a fruitful source of crime which brings disgrace not only on the individuals who indulge in it but on the creed they profess. The League of the Cross has received blessings from the Holy Father, has been favored by the Bishops, and has been aided by the labors of many self-sacrificing priests. How is it that the Catholic laity do not take a deeper interest in its work.

Church Progress

Preaching recently in St. Aloysius' Church, Springburn, in honor of the golden jubilee of the mission, in the celebration of which a large number of the priests of the Glasgow archdiocese assisted the esteemed pastor, the Rev. J. L. Murphy, the Archbishop of Glasgow, the Most Rev. Dr. Maguire spoke in hopeful tones of Catholicism in Scotland. In looking over, remarked his Grace, the history of that mission, some were there still who would remember the great difficulties thrown in the way of Catholics of fifty years ago in the district. In building their church they were looked upon not as doing good, but rather as doing harm in founding an ignorant and superstitious Church. In spite of all obstacles, however, those pioneers persevered in their labors, until now the Catholics were quite a respected portion of the community. And so Catholicism was increasing. Who would have thought one hundred years ago that the present condition of the Catholic Church would have been possible. Let them think of even fifty years ago, when that mission was formed, and they must marvel at the great position to which their Church had attained. They could not doubt that the true Faith might come again to this beloved country of theirs. It was returning, and entering into the national life of the country. They found one body after another, unconsciously it might be, had annexed some of their rites and observances. Many of them, when they thought of that Commission that had been sitting on the Church of England, which found that Catholic principles were all over it, could not help having hopes. Catholic doctrines even had begun to be taken notice of by others, and Catholicity had now got the hold that Calvinism had when it held its sway in Scotland. There was no doubt that in religion, as well as in other things, the other denominations were losing their hold on the country. They found now that socialism and materialism had taken the place of that religion that once flourished here. The old controversy between Catholics and Protestants was dead and buried, and the trend of times before long would see that the struggle was between Catholicity and the other two forces names. This had already begun on the Continent of Europe, and they might take it for