

The Catholic World

ENGLAND—Catholic Schools

In every Catholic church and chapel in England and Wales on Sunday, October 21, special prayers were offered up for the preservation of the Catholic character of the Catholic schools.

Defending a Church

A stalwart body of Irish Catholics frustrated an attempt of the Fulham unemployed to invade a Catholic church last week. The Irishmen charged the mob and drove them off.

Charitable Bequests

Charity gains an enormous sum—over a million—by the death of Mrs. Ada Lewis-Hill, which took place recently at her house in Grosvenor Square, London. She was the widow of Mr. Sam Lewis, the money-lender, who left a fortune of some three millions. Part of this vast sum was left to her in her own right to dispose of as she pleased; considerably over a million was left, on her death, to go to such charitable institutions as she and his executors might select. Besides these two millions Mrs. Hill has left out of her private fortune half a million to charities and three-quarters of a million to her husband, Captain Hill, of the Scots Guards, whom she married in 1904. Among the chief bequests is a legacy of £20,000 to the Sisters of Nazareth, Nazareth House, Hammersmith, London.

Death of a Priest

The death occurred recently at Chesterfield of Father von Wurtzburg, who was a first cousin of the Duke of Norfolk, they being both grandsons of Admiral Lord Lyons, a distinguished naval officer, who was raised to the peerage exactly half a century ago, and died at Arundel Castle in 1858. Lord Lyons' elder daughter married Philip Baron von Wurtzburg in 1839, and the same year his younger daughter married the late Duke of Norfolk, who died in 1860. Minna, Duchess of Norfolk, was a convert to the Catholic Church, and a woman of strong character, as well as of sterling piety. Her elder brother (son of the Admiral), the second Lord Lyons, was an eminent diplomat, who was for some years British Ambassador in Paris. He was received into the Catholic Church a short time before his death.

A Remarkable Tour

After an absence of eleven years on a tour comprising the whole of Spain and the Spanish-speaking countries of South America, the Rev. Kenelm Vaughan, brother of Father Bernard Vaughan, is expected in England shortly. Father Vaughan has been collecting funds for the erection and decoration of the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament in Westminster Cathedral, and his collections amount to £18,227. Of this sum, £13,600 has already been expended on the new chapel. Father Vaughan's remarkable achievement is all the more praiseworthy owing to his indifferent health. He has laid himself open to fevers and diseases of every kind while he has been away, yet he has almost miraculously escaped. Never before, perhaps, in the history of the Church has a man collected so much and travelled so long for a single object.

The Education Bill

The demonstration against the Education Bill held on October 25, at St. George's Hall, Liverpool (says the 'Catholic Times'), was a glorious proof of the vital power of the Catholic Church in the city. It was the second time that the Catholics thus assembled, and on each occasion there were such immense numbers, such enthusiasm, such unanimity in denouncing the Education Bill, that a stronger expression of the views of a large section of the largest city in England outside the metropolis cannot well be imagined. At a Liberal dinner at Trowbridge Mr. Fuller, M.P., said the vital question of the hour was whether the House of Lords would, or would not capitulate to the will of the people and the majority in the House of Commons, and he added, that the general staff of the Liberal Party were prepared for any emergency, and able to defy Mr. Balfour, Mr. Redmond, and Mr. Keir Hardy. This is what is known in politics as bluff. The voice of the people! The people gave no mandate to the Liberals on the Education question, and to pretend that they did is a fraud. Never yet have the Liberals brought together—and we are convinced they could not bring together if they tried—such immense gatherings of real working folk as have assembled to oppose the Education Bill in Liverpool, Manchester, and many smaller towns in Lancashire and elsewhere.

FRANCE—Sympathy from Ireland

The letter of sympathy (says the 'Freeman's Journal') which the Irish Bishops have addressed to the Cardinal-Archbishop of Paris, in the trials to which the Church of France is being subjected, carries with it the united sentiment of Catholic Ireland. No message that the Bishops of France have received brings with it more encouragement. Already the Catholics of France have been strengthening their hearts by the remembrance of the trials which the Church of Ireland had to endure and its final victory. The great Cardinal Perraud, before his death, invited his brethren and his clergy to turn their eyes to Ireland, not merely for the hope which its history would afford them, but to study the methods and organisation by which it has utilised its hard-won freedom. The Irish Bishops may well tell their French brothers to be of good heart. 'We, Irish Bishops,' says their eloquent letter, 'are the sons of a Church which has known suffering. The liberties which we have won are the fruits of centuries of abnegation and sacrifice on the part of our predecessors and of their noble people. We are deeply convinced that the faith of Catholic France will likewise come forth stronger and purer from the trials to which it is now subjected, and that the Church of St. Louis, far from faltering, will acquire new strength to fulfil its glorious and Divine mission.'

GERMANY—Catholics and the Secular Press

Discussing the great Catholic Congress recently held at Essen, a writer for the 'Irish Ecclesiastical Review' directs attention to the fact that the whole proceedings from the beginning to the end were open to the press. 'The Catholics of Germany,' he says, 'had nothing to conceal, and nothing to be ashamed of. They were not met to stir up a religious war or to indulge in attacks on those outside the Church; they had no reason to fear publicity or to imitate the example of their Protestant countrymen in conducting their proceedings behind closed doors. They were met to discuss the Catholic interests of Germany, to examine their own position, their weak points as well as their strong points, to emphasise their grievances and to formulate their demands. Their public men—and some of them holding the highest positions in the land—were not ashamed to let their countrymen know they were taking part in a Catholic Congress. They invited publicity and they got it to their heart's content. Years ago, when the Catholic Congresses were only in their infancy, the opposition papers showed their contempt by taking no notice of the proceedings. Now the leading journals on all sides sent their representatives to the Congress, and their pages were filled each morning with an account of its work. The reporters for over seventy different papers were accommodated at the press table, and every facility was afforded of obtaining a complete report of the proceedings.'

ROME—An Audience

The Right Rev. Dr. Grimes, Bishop of Christchurch, was received in audience last week by his Holiness the Pope.

SCOTLAND—Catholic Progress

The new Catholic schools which have been in course of erection at Pollokshaws for some time were solemnly blessed and opened on Sunday, October 21, by Archbishop Maguire. The schools are built on the highest piece of ground in Shawhill, and occupy a splendid position. They are built to accommodate over 700 children, and have cost over £6000.

Funeral of Lady Kerr

On October 20, in St. David's Chapel, Dalkeith, the funeral of Lady Amabel Henrietta Kerr took place with beautiful and impressive ceremonial in the presence of her mourning relatives and friends and a representative gathering of the clergy and laity of the East of Scotland. The chief mourners were Admiral Lord Walter Kerr, Rev. Walter Kerr, Lieutenant Andrew Kerr, Mr. John Kerr, and Mr. Philip Kerr (sons); Miss Margaret Kerr (daughter), Lord Ralph Kerr (brother-in-law), the Misses Kerr, Woodburn, Lady Helen Kerr, and Lady Isabel Kerr (nieces), Major Frederick Kerr (nephew), Countess Cowper (sister-in-law).

SPAIN—The Queen's Birthday

By a royal decree the birthday of the Queen of Spain, October 21, and her saint-day, December 23, have been declared days of national and gala fetes. The birthday of her Majesty on October 21 was marked by an official reception at the palace in the afternoon and a banquet in the evening. The customary official receptions and popular demonstrations took place in the provinces on the same day.