

The Catholic World

ENGLAND—The Education Question

In the 'Nineteenth Century' for November, there is an article by his Grace Archbishop Bourne on 'The Peers and the Education Bill.' He states the Catholic case once more and demands amendments on four points: 1. The abolition of the limitations on extended facilities; 2. The provision of means for parents to give effective utterance to their wishes as to management and the choice of teachers—a vital matter; 3. The modification of the monstrous provision enabling twenty-one per cent. of Protestant children in a school not built for them to deprive Catholic children on many days of the week of the definite religious teaching decreed by the parents; 4. Fair play all round—if any one form of religious teaching is to be provided at the public cost, alternative forms must be provided in the same manner. The Archbishop says it is known for certain that 590 out of our 1056 Catholic schools are in imminent danger of destruction, whilst according to a recent and very careful calculation a total representing eighty per cent. of our schools will be placed in jeopardy. There will, he declares, be an evil day in store for any political party that dares to disregard our united conscientious cry for justice.

FRANCE—Irish Sympathy

The pre-eminent fidelity of the Irish people to the Catholic Faith, to which the Cardinal-Archbishop of Paris refers in his reply to the letter of the Irish hierarchy (says the 'Catholic Times') may well be a source of pride to them. His Eminence declares that French Catholics could have no better example to follow than that of the Irish Catholics who, amongst all the children of the Church, 'have given the most striking proofs of inviolable constancy.' O'Connell wished that his heart should rest in Rome. 'That,' says his Eminence, 'is the symbol of your unalterable attachment to the Holy See. We ask God for strength to imitate your admirable fidelity.' There are good reasons why the Catholics of Ireland, and of Great Britain as well, should watch with anxious interest, the progress of the struggle in France. In the penal days, when Catholic priests were under a ban in these islands and Catholic services were held only in hiding places, the Catholics of France extended to the persecuted a cordial and practical sympathy. They not only received refugees hospitably, but many of them helped to provide the means of education for the Catholic exiles; and when our priests came from France to preserve the Faith in England and Ireland and Scotland, they always brought word of the generous kindness they had experienced in France.

GERMANY—The Language Question in Poland

The Prussian Government is keeping up a struggle with the Poles in which the probabilities are that it will be eventually worsted. If people are determined to speak their own language, it cannot be stamped out. When it is forbidden in public places they can speak it and teach it in private, and the most rigorous tyranny cannot prevent them from doing so. At present the strife has assumed an acute phase in Prussian Poland. The State has decreed that religious education must be given in German and not in Polish, but the Polish children—almost all Catholics—have struck and the Archbishop of Posen, Dr. Stablewski, is not only on their side, but in a Pastoral Letter has informed the parents that they are at liberty to confine the religious instruction of their children to home teaching or lessons received from their pastors. There are forty-five thousand children on strike. It is sought by the Government to coerce them, and the Prussian Minister of Education has intimated that the existing regulations will be carried out by every means permitted by the law. But the Poles have with them powerful forces including the Catholic Centre in their efforts to preserve their national language.

SCOTLAND—Presentation to a Priest

That bigotry is slowly but surely dying out in Scotland (writes a Glasgow correspondent) was proved in the spontaneous action of all creeds and classes in Renton in honoring Rev. Father Jansen, the parish priest of St. Martin's Catholic church. This much-esteemed priest is a native of Belgium, but has ministered for many years on the Scottish mission. The rev. gentleman was recently displaced from his seat in Cardross School Board, which he held for six years, by the decision of the Sheriff on the ground that he was not a naturalised British subject. Great indignation was felt in the district when the Sheriff's deci-

sion was made known. As a protest against it, and to mark their esteem of the popular priest the townspeople organised a social which took place in the Public Hall, Renton. Rev. Mr. Maxwell, M.A., Presbyterian minister, and chairman of the School Board, presided over an attendance of 1000 men and women. In his address the chairman said that that meeting was sufficient proof of the profound respect and esteem in which Father Jansen was held in the village and district. The chairman concluded a lengthy speech by calling upon the secretary, Mr. Milvenie, to make a presentation to Father Jansen, which consisted of a purse containing 80 sovereigns, besides paying all the legal expenses incurred in the case. Father Jansen, who on rising was received with tremendous applause, said that he felt he had the sympathy of the community at large. But the demonstrations of that night and the handsome gift they had given him were ample proof that it was from the heart.

SPAIN—Patroness of the May Queens

Her Majesty Victoria Eugenie of Spain has consented to become the patroness of the May Queens in compliance with a petition sent to her by the May Queens of England and Wales through the hon. secretary of the May Queen Register, Mr. J. Deedy, Bromley Common, Kent. The representative of the Catholic May Queens is Miss Elsie Dora French, at Wool, near Wareham, in Dorset.

UNITED STATES—Mass for Newspaper Men

Monsignor Falconio, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, recently celebrated Mass at 2.30 o'clock on a Sunday morning for newspaper men and newspaper workers in the Church of St. Francis Assisi, New York City, where 300 men gathered. There were men present representing all the morning dailies. In the course of some remarks he said he would long remember the scene.

GENERAL

Retiring from the World

The Countess Chotek, sister of the Countess Hohenberg, wife of the heir-presumptive to the Austrian Crown, has retired to the Convent of the Sacred Heart at Medernberg.

Heroic Nuns

In a description of the scenes incident to the recent Chilian earthquake, given to a correspondent by Father Cyprian Deltor, superior to the French College in Valparaiso, the following brief but touching reference is made to the heroism of the devoted religious in charge of the home for the aged in that city: 'When the catastrophe occurred the house of the Sisters of the Poor rang with cries for help from over a hundred old men who resided therein. The good Sisters immediately began to attend to the latter and brought them out one after another into the street. They carried some of them on their arms, and placed them in safety. When the last of their pensioners had been saved, one of the old men was missing, and the religious immediately went in his search, but meanwhile the building collapsed, and eight of the devoted and courageous nuns were buried in the ruins.'

A Distinguished Missionary

In a recent issue we gave an extract from the London 'Lancet,' in which that high-class journal paid a well-deserved meed of praise to the members of the Society of Jesus for their work in connection with scientific research. Among the names mentioned was that of Father Massaia, who later on became a Cardinal. It appears our contemporary was in error in saying that Father Massaia was a member of the Society of Jesus, as we understand that he was a Capuchin, and was raised to the Cardinalate because of his labors and sufferings for over a third of a century among the Gallas. It may be mentioned that he was the preceptor of Victor Emmanuel, grandfather of the present King of Italy, who later on offered the distinguished missionary a decoration for his work among the Gallas. This was refused by Father Massaia, who said he had worked for the honor and glory of God, and not for any earthly reward. Cardinal Massaia passed away in a monastery of his Order in Rome in 1890.

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