

# The Catholic World

## DENMARK—The Position of the Church

Rev. Charles Hangauer, of Odense, Denmark, was recently on a visit to Philadelphia. In a brief interview with a representative of the 'Catholic Standard and Times' he spoke hopefully of the outlook for the Church in Denmark, where as late as 1849 it was a capital offence for a Catholic priest to officiate, and where the Danes even later were forbidden to be present at the services held in the chapels attached to the embassies of Catholic countries. The Catholic population of Denmark is about ten thousand out of a total of two and a half millions. Of the Catholics, about three thousand are in the capital city, Copenhagen, where there are six churches, including the cathedral and a church in charge of the Jesuit Fathers. Many of the Catholics are converts from Lutheranism, who, Father Hangauer says, make excellent Catholics. He spoke of one mission which began with ten Catholics and shortly after numbered five hundred, nearly all of them converts. Of the ten thousand Catholics of Denmark, six thousand are natives.

## ENGLAND—Downside Abbey

Rev. Father Cuthbert Butler has been elected Abbot of Downside. He was born at Dublin in 1858, and was educated at Downside School, graduating at both Cambridge and London Universities. He has edited volumes for the 'Cambridge Texts and Studies,' and has written articles in the 'Journal of Theological Studies,' the 'Innbert Journal,' and other periodicals.

## The Late Mr. Devas

The death is reported of Mr. Charles S. Devas, which occurred on November 6 while he was on a visit to his brother at Farningham, Kent. Mr. Devas was the son of William Devas, Woodside, Old Windsor, and was born in 1818. He was educated at Eton and Balliol College, Oxford, where he took first-class honors in law and modern history. He entered at Lincoln's Inn, intending to become a barrister, but the intention was not carried out. The teachings of Newman and other leading converts made a deep impression on him, and he studied Catholic doctrinal questions and Catholic literature closely. The result was that he was received into the Catholic Church in 1869.

## Catholic Teachers

Under the Lords' Amendments (says the 'Catholic Times') parents are to have a voice in the appointment of teachers to the denominational schools. This is as it should be in a free country. But the conditions of it will require, and no doubt receive, very careful watching. With it comes the question of the training colleges, without which no supply of teachers can be provided. Our rights in that matter are quite clear, and perhaps Mr. Birrell may see his way to recognise them. He may, however, quite possibly not see his way to recognise anything at all, for it is now more than likely that he will drop the Bill and next year bring in another. That again, to be satisfactory, must either create secular or denominational schools all round. Either solution might easily be made workable: but Mr. Birrell must remember that secular education is intolerable to Catholics for Catholic children. He may arrange that the State shall pay not one penny for religious instruction in schools, but he must not arrange that teachers may not give such instruction if they choose. In other words, his Bill must not secularise the schools by a prohibition of religious instruction in them.

## FRANCE—The Troubles of the Government

The French Premier and M. Briand, in pursuing a policy of conciliation (says the 'Catholic Times'), recognise that to engage at once in a more active persecution of the Church would result in arousing on behalf of the persecuted sympathies that now lie dormant, and moreover, take the action of some Catholic leaders such as the Cardinal-Archbishop of Bordeaux, who has just formed a diocesan association to 'prepare the way for legal associations,' as indicating a distinct desire to come to terms with the Government. But their friend, the Paris correspondent of the 'Times,' supplies some noteworthy information as to the difficulties they encounter. There is, we learn from him, 'a subterranean conflict' between the Government and the delegation of the Left, a body representing certain fractions of the majority. Under the Combes Ministry this 'delegation' ruled the Parliamentary road, the Cabinet being little more than its executive committee. The present Government rigor-

ously resents the arbitrary interference of this Parliamentary coterie. What does the correspondent's somewhat mysterious language mean? Is it that M. Clemenceau and M. Briand dislike being mere instruments in the hands of M. Combes' masters, the Freemasons, and mindful of the outcry caused by their interference with army appointments, wish to rule without obeying their behests? Is this the secret of the subterranean conflict?

## A Change for the Worse

Nothing, says 'La Liberté,' can give to those who have not visited them an idea of the state of dirt and disorder which reigns in the French public hospitals. This condition of affairs dates from the expulsion of the Sisters, and from the introduction of laymen and women picked up at hazard to replace them as nurses and attendants. These nurses and attendants are in a perpetual state of insubordination. Last week some four hundred of them presented themselves at the Bourse de Travail, in order to protest against their being employed on Sundays. They wished, they said, like other citizens, to avail themselves of the 'privileges of the law'; but on seeing the police on their track they turned tail and fled in all directions.

## ROME—The Holy Father's Health

On the morning of All Saints' Day (writes the Rome correspondent of the Dublin 'Freeman's Journal') his Holiness Pius X., quite recovered from his recent indisposition, celebrated Mass in his private chapel, after which he gave audience to his sisters. These good and simple women live in the vicinity of the Vatican, and preserve the simplicity of their former life in an admirable manner. Once a week they visit their brother the Pontiff, and have a conversation with him in the dialect of Riese, where he was born.

## Father Fleming

The Very Rev. Father David Fleming, O.F.M., Provincial of the Franciscan Order in England, has arrived in Rome and taken up his residence in the Irish Franciscan Convent of St. Isidore, on the Pincian Hill. Father Fleming's duties in Rome occupy his time fully, consisting as they do of attendance at the Congregations in which he is Consultor.

## SPAIN—Religious Associations

Though the Spanish Government (says the 'Catholic Times') profess to entertain no hostility to the Catholic religion, their Bill on Associations will subject the religious Orders to same severe rules and restrictions. When an association proposes to become domiciled in a place it must present to the civil governor of the province documents showing its constitution, the form of its administration, and what are the means upon which it relies for accomplishing its work; and any changes in the statutes or regulations of the association must also be made known to the civil authorities. The provincial governors are likewise to be informed of the number of members in the local associations, their names, nationalities, and so on. The Government claims for itself the power of suspending any association for public reasons or the security of the State. The governors in their respective provinces, and the mayors in their respective districts, can enter the premises of any association affected by the Bill, inspect books and other documents, and enter into investigations when the cause of public health or morality, or a request from any member of the association is held to make such a visit necessary. Associations cannot in any case possess more immovable property than is indispensable for the attainment of the objects laid down in their statutes. These are a few of the more noteworthy clauses, and it will be seen that they give the State extensive powers of surveillance.

## GENERAL

### The Jesuits as Astronomers

The following appeared in a recent issue of the 'Manila American':—A high compliment was paid to the Manila observatory by Captain A. W. Outerbridge, of the steamship 'Taming,' in the following letter, which he addressed to the South China 'Morning Post,' of Hong Kong: 'Sir,—The notice (?) we had of the approach of typhoon of this morning is typical of the kind of service we get from the observatory here (in Hong Kong), and as a China coaster of twenty-five years' service, eighteen as master in one of the most prominent firms, I would suggest that the Jesuit Fathers in either Shanghai or Manila be petitioned to take over the meteorological service here that they may all work in harmony and that we may expect some reasonable security in the way of notice, and some really definite idea of the whereabouts