

The Catholic World

ENGLAND—Catholic Truth Society

His Grace Archbishop Bourne took the chair at the half-yearly meeting of the Catholic Truth Society held in the Cathedral Hall, Westminster. An increase in membership was reported, and the treasurer announced that the finances were in a satisfactory condition.

The Late Mr. Devas

The late Mr. Charles Stanton Devas, who was buried at Mortlake on November 9, being laid in the grave next to that of his wife, became a lecturer for a short time in 1875 at the Catholic College, Kensington, founded by Monsignor Capel. Almost his last work was to make alterations for a third edition of his 'Manual of Political Economy' (Stonyhurst Philosophical Series) which will be shortly issued, being the 7th to 10th thousand. In 1903 he edited, in conjunction with Mr. W. S. Lilly, 'Sophisms of Free Trade' by Bernard Byles. In the last few years of his life he devoted special attention to the problems of Socialism and Democracy. His last essay on this subject appears in the current number of the 'Dublin Review,' and in the beginning of the past year he lectured in various parts of Scotland on the same question. The lecture is now printed by the Catholic Truth Society of Scotland. The same subject had been treated at the Catholic Conference held at Blackburn in 1905. He was one of the speakers at the Conference this year at Brighton on Abbot Gasquet's paper on family life. If his death, which took place on November 6, was sudden, he was well prepared for it, having been to Holy Communion both on All Souls' Day and the succeeding Sunday. Mr. Devas had practically never missed daily Mass throughout his whole life as a Catholic. He was a member of the S.V.P. of the Farm-street Sodality.

Papal Distinction

A telegram has been addressed from the Vatican to the Bishop of Birmingham, Dr. Ilsley, intimating that his Holiness has appointed Mr. William Leith Powell, J.P., of Birmingham, a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Silvester, in recognition of his devotion to the well-being of the Catholic Church in the diocese. The honor thus conferred has given the liveliest satisfaction among all classes in Birmingham and the neighborhood, for in addition to rendering indefatigable services to his co-religionists, Mr. Powell has served the larger community in which he moves with conspicuous public spirit. He is a native of Birmingham, being born there in 1847.

FRANCE—An Appeal for Peace

The events of the week in France (says the 'Catholic Times' of November 28) is M. Briand's appeal to the deputies of the right to urge on the Pope the necessity of avoiding open rupture with the Republic, on December 12. M. Briand seems to think that, in spite of the Holy Father's clear repudiation of the Worship Associations, some modus vivendi may yet be found. But he forgets that the question at issue is one which affects the value and force of episcopal jurisdiction. On that point no compromise can be made, for compromise would destroy one of the essential bonds of ecclesiastical jurisdiction. Of course M. Briand threatens Catholics with reprisal should the new law result in disturbance. But such threats are an index of fear. Meanwhile Catholics are calm. The Holy See, watching events as they happen, calls upon the faithful for prayer. Nothing else at the present moment would seem to avail. France is at the parting of the ways, and unless her Government can be got to see their error and open some kind of negotiations with the Vatican, a condition of affairs little short of civil war must result when the period for forming the Worship Associations transpires on December 12.

GERMANY—A Sad State of Affairs

Protestantism in Germany is evidently something different from Christianity. The 'Frankfurter Zeitung,' as quoted by the 'Daily Chronicle,' says that at least one-half of the theological professors and docents in the Protestant faculties of the German Universities deny in toto the doctrine concerning Christ's miraculous birth.

ROME—Visit of Bishop Grimes

The Right Rev. Dr. Grimes, Bishop of Christchurch (writes the Rome correspondent of the Sydney 'Freeman's Journal,' under date November 16), arrived in

Rome about a week ago. He has visited the Cardinal-Secretary of State, with whom he had previous relations, and the Cardinal-Precept of Propaganda; but when I saw his Lordship yesterday he had just received the notification that his Papal audience was fixed for late this evening. He was almost sorry, because the great happenings about his Cathedral have been commemorated in an album for presentation to his Holiness; and, owing to postal delays, the album was at the time of my visit (late last evening) at Milan. But the Bishop of Christchurch will have more than one audience with the Pontiff. His Lordship is staying at the Marist mother-house on Via Cernata. He will remain in Rome until the beginning of next month. The Bishop spoke in glowing words of the educational struggle in England, of the Catholic Truth Society Conference, and of the Ransomers' demonstration in London, which immensely impressed him. On leaving England, his Lordship bore a formal message of sympathy from the Cardinal-Archbishop of Paris, as head of the French Church, and delivered it on his arrival.

An Ancient Basilica

Father Crotty, O.P., Rector of San Clemente, Rome, announces that an influential committee of all denominations of clergymen and of archaeologists, under the presidency of his Excellency the British Ambassador, has been formed in Rome to raise funds for the preservation of that ancient basilica, which dates from the first century of the Christian era.

Papal Reception

The Pope on November 12 received in private audience Monsignor Fraser, Rector of the Scots College in Rome, who reported to his Holiness upon the reception accorded him as delegate of the Holy See at the celebrations on the occasion of the quater-centenary of Aberdeen University. The Holy Father was most gratified at the cordiality shown to his representative. Monsignor Fraser subsequently presented to the Pope the Earl and Countess of Strafford and their daughter, Lady Joan Byng.

The Turin University

Not Aberdeen only (writes a Rome correspondent) celebrated its day of Papal remembrance this autumn. The University of Turin has just kept the 502nd year of its foundation, the fifth centenary having had to be put off owing to the fire which consumed so large a portion of the library. In a splendid publication which the University has brought out is a phototype of the oldest document of its history, the Bull dated October 27, 1404, by which Benedict XIII. (Pope or anti-Pope—in any case he was pursuing the traditions of the Holy See) granted the request of Louis of Savoy, Prince of Achaia, and created a Studium Generale at Turin.

RUSSIA—Returning to the Fold

The Uniats continue to take advantage of the Ukase of toleration by returning to the Catholic Church. As many as fifty thousand are now recorded as having joined the faith of their fathers at Chelm.

SCOTLAND—In the Outer Hebrides

On Thursday, November 8, the people of the island of Barra were in a pleasurable state of excitement owing to the opening of a new church at Northbay. The church, which is dedicated to St. Barr, has been built by the efforts of the Rev. W. A. Mackenzie, the priest at Craigston (from which place Northbay will be served), so that the people in the remoter parts of his district might hear Mass oftener. Previously Mass was said in the Board School at Northbay every six weeks, the people at other times having to walk a distance of five or six miles, which in stormy weather was almost impossible. Episcopal High Mass was celebrated (for the first time in the island) by Bishop Smith, of Argyll and the Isles.

Tribute to a Scottish Priest

In connection with the unfurling of a beautiful banner belonging to the Monsignor Munro Branch of the I.N.F., Glasgow, the Very Rev. Canon McCarthy, Administrator of St. Andrew's Cathedral, who performed the ceremony, paid a touching tribute to the great Scottish priest whose name the branch bears. He said the hero (the late Monsignor Munro) they had on their banner was a man of sterling principle; a man who had sacrificed very great worldly prosperity for the sake of principle. He might have chosen a brilliant life of splendor in Scotland, but being a man of principle, he followed the light that God gave him, and entered the bosom of the Catholic Church. During his time as a priest and leader of men, he was a man of