

The Catholic World

CEYLON—Education without Religion

Sir Henry Blake, Governor of Ceylon, was present at the distribution of prizes in St. Joseph's College, Colombo, prior to the Christmas holidays, and delivered an address in which he spoke enthusiastically of the good work done by that institution. With the object of the foundation of the College, as explained by Father Lytton in the annual report, he was, he said, entirely in sympathy; for while, under a compulsory system of education in a population composed of various races and creeds, the difficulties of giving religious education in the Government schools were almost insurmountable, the fact remained that an education from which the religious element was absent was only half an education, and it left the student groping without guidance for a safe path amidst temptations.

ENGLAND—The Irish Party Thanked

In the course of a letter to Mr. John Redmond, M.P., the Archbishop of Westminster says: 'Now that your long struggle for educational equality is momentarily at an end, it is due to you that I should again thank you for the efforts that you and your colleagues have made to rescue our Catholic schools in England and Wales from the jeopardy in which the proposals of the Government had placed them. Knowing, as I do, the negotiations which have taken place, I am satisfied that you have done your best to deal with a very delicate and critical situation.'

A Venerable Religious

The London correspondent of the 'Yorkshire Post' says that a community of nuns from Arras, in France, has arrived at the Benedictine Convent on Corbely Hill, overlooking the estuary of the Nith, in Kirkcudbrightshire. The Prioress, who bravely undertook the long journey from Arras, is a venerable lady of eighty years of age.

Progress of the Church

In the 'Catholic Directory' for 1907, figures are supplied which prove that the Church in Great Britain during the past year has steadily advanced. In nearly every diocese the number of churches, chapels, and stations was either maintained undiminished or showed a slight increase, but in Southwark the figures went up from 180 to 232. The total number of churches and chapels at present in England and Wales is 1703, as compared with 1640 a year ago. The number of priests has grown from 3414 to 3484, the increase being largest in Southwark, where the figures have risen from 463 to 494. In Scotland the number of priests has increased from 525 to 540, and the churches, chapels, and stations remain as before, viz., 373; but in some of the dioceses there has been a small decrease. Of the 4024 priests in Great Britain, 2636 belong to the diocesan clergy and 1388 are Regulars, many of them being French exiles. The estimated Catholic population of the United Kingdom is from five millions and a half to five and three-quarters. Including British America (with a Catholic population of about 2,650,000), Africa, Australia, India, and all other possessions, the total Catholic population of the British Empire is set down as probably about ten millions and a half.

FRANCE—Alleged Infringement of the Law

Fourteen priests were charged before the Rheims magistrates with infringement of the law of 1881. They declared this law could not be applied to them, as Mass was not a public meeting, and as no declaration of public meeting was made in theatres or music halls.

Treatment of the Bishops and Clergy

After the treatment to which the French Government has subjected the aged Cardinal-Archbishop of Paris, we ('Catholic Times') cannot be surprised that they have been heaping indignities on other members of the French Hierarchy. They have brought the Bishop of Nancy before a Correctional Court on the charge of having assaulted an officer of the gendarmery, and he has been fined fifty francs. What took place on the occasion was described by the Bishop in a letter to the 'Osservatore Romano'. He had been expelled from his residence and was accompanied by a large body of sympathisers. Many were cheering lustily for the popular prelate, and amongst them a woman of the working class. As the Bishop passed along he saw the officer rush at the woman and ill-treat her. His sympathy naturally went out to the victim of ill-

usage, and, going up to the officer he took hold of him and begged of him to desist. That was the assault for which a fine has been imposed. The order has gone forth from the Government that the law is to be enforced with vigor against ecclesiastics, and policemen who hope for promotion know how the order may be interpreted to their advantage.

ROME—The Pope and the Cardinals

All the Cardinals in the Eternal City on December 24 (writes a Rome correspondent) visited the Pope, and presented their Christmas wishes. The Pontiff entered into conversation with each Cardinal, so that what was merely formal in the beginning ended by being a familiar meeting. The Pope, replying to the Cardinals' congratulations, said he wished he and all the Sacred College could be in France to share the persecution of the clergy. He was consoled, however, by the solidarity of the French episcopate. He trusted the Church would ultimately triumph.

Deaths of Two Cardinals

Our Home exchanges report the deaths of Cardinal Luigi Tripepi and Cardinal Cavagnis. Both were made Cardinals at the same time—April 15, 1901—by Pope Leo XIII., and both passed away in Rome on December 28. Both, too, had literary tastes. Cardinal Tripepi, whose age was seventy, was for a time one of the writers in the 'Osservatore Romano' and also a director of the paper. He brought literary and scientific people to visit Popes Pius IX. and Leo XIII., by whom he was much esteemed. He was Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Relics and Indulgences, and the author of a number of works on the Papacy. Cardinal Cavagnis held the office of Secretary to the Sacred Congregation of Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs, was a man of learning, and published works on theology. His age was sixty-five.

The Disbanded Pontifical Army

The Holy Father on December 27 received the survivors of the disbanded Pontifical army, numbering 517, who, led by Colonel Blumensthal, tendered their Christmas greetings. His Holiness thanked them most warmly. A reception of the survivors was held subsequently by Cardinal Merry del Val, who bade them not to despair of victory in France, trusting to the loyalty of French Catholics and Divine mercy.

St. Bede's College

Rarely (writes a Rome correspondent) does the Garrick Theatre give an ecclesiastical student to Rome. This has now occurred, in the case of Mr. George Trollope, who has joined St. Bede's after nine years on the stage. He has been a Catholic for two. His age is twenty-six. As a member of Mr. Tree's company Mr. Trollope took leading parts. Mr. Williamson, an architect and convert, has also entered the college. He is studying for the diocese of Southwark. Two other new arrivals are Mr. Murphy, a lay Catholic, and Mr. Roberts, a lay convert. In all there has been an increase of five in the college so far during the present scholastic year. The fifth is Father Barrett, a priest of the diocese of Liverpool. In one of two recent audiences Monsignor Prior, the Vice-Rector of the Bede, presented new students of the college to the Holy Father, who blessed them and accorded their requests for favors.

Cardinal Gotti

Cardinal Gotti, Prefect of Propaganda, who recently celebrated the golden jubilee of his priesthood, is a native of Genoa, where he was born on March 29, 1834. At the age of sixteen he entered the Order of the Carmelites, and in 1869 he was called by the General to assist him at the Ecumenical Council. In 1881 he himself became the General of the Order. Leo XIII. sent him as Nuncio to Brazil, and in November, 1895, raised him to the Cardinalate. On the death of Cardinal Ledochowski the Pope appointed him to the onerous position of Prefect of Propaganda. At the Conclave Cardinal Gotti received a good number of votes for election to the Pontificate.

SOUTH AFRICA—Death of a Marist Brother

The 'Catholic Magazine' for South Africa reports the sudden death of Brother Anesius, S.M., at Uitenhage, aged 32. His death is a great loss to the Marist community there. He was a German by birth, and joined the Order in Cape Town five years ago.

SPAIN—Practical Sympathy

Subscriptions are being collected for the French clergy in several Catholic countries on the Continent. The Bishop of Badajoz has written to Cardinal Rich and offering hospitality to French priests who are old, ill, or without resources.