

The Catholic World

ENGLAND—Sympathy with French Catholics

The Right Rev. Dr. Casartelli, Bishop of Salford, in a letter which was read at the annual conversation of the Manchester branch of the Catholic Truth Society, wrote: 'I should very much like to see some public expression of our sympathy with the persecuted clergy and laity of the French Church, and I would suggest this as a matter which might very well be discussed both by the Catholic Truth Society and the Catholic Federation.' The Rev. R. Hugh Benson in an address on 'Roads to Rome' expressed the opinion that in the future the conflict of Catholics would be with opponents who sought to unite the human race on an anti-Christian basis.

Sunday Observance

The message signed by the heads of the Anglican, the Catholic, and the Free Churches in England, on the Observance of Sunday (says a gazer 'From the Office Window' of the 'Daily Chronicle'), comes plump upon the anti-clerical activities of France. The world wants a rest—to worship God, to make its soul, to stop and think. We have been imitating the Continental Sunday, and Paris has been casting envious eyes upon us. This writer remembers acutely the enthusiastic admiration of the late Mr. Millage, the 'Chronicle's' Paris correspondent, for the London Sunday. Millage knew Paris upside down. 'What they want,' he said, 'is the day in which the man in a difficulty may have time to turn round.'

Death of a Convert

By the death of Mr. A. S. Labouchere-Sparling, B.A., Oxon., the Catholic Church in England has lost one more of Newman's followers. He distinguished himself in the 'Garibaldi Campaign' when under 20 years of age. After several years' regular service in the Italian army, Major Sparling returned to England. He was ordained as an Anglican clergyman by the then Bishop of Manchester, and held his first curacy in that city. After eighteen years' service, he resigned the Rectory of Trevalga to join the Catholic Church, his wife (a daughter of Admiral Glassey, C.B.) and family following him. For the last two years his health had been failing. He died at his residence, Manor House, Tresillian, near Truro, on December 27, fortified by the rites of the Church, and was buried at Merther, the officiating priest being Father Wilfrid Regan, C.R.I.

FRANCE—Ecclesiastics and Military Training

The French Church Law recently passed gave the Government authorities power to compel ecclesiastics of a certain age to undergo the full period of military training. Hitherto they served but a year with the colors. To some extent the new law is retrospective. Early in January, in obedience to a summons from the military authorities, nine priests and thirty-four students reported themselves at Brest, in order to rejoin the colors and complete their two years of service. All the priests called up were ordained in 1905. The Abbe Thevenin, of Chalons, and the Abbe Royer, of Ste. Menchold, were among the clerical conscripts who exchanged their cassocks for the uniforms of a line regiment.

Cardinal Richard's Pastoral

In all the churches of Paris on a recent Sunday a Pastoral Letter of the Cardinal-Archbishop was read, which may be said, to some extent, to mark an epoch in the history of the Church of France. For the first time the Cardinal-Archbishop made a general appeal to the laity, rich and poor, to contribute towards the maintenance of the clergy, churches, and ecclesiastical establishments of the diocese. Heretofore appeals for funds have been limited to some pious work of a temporary character only, such as the building of a church, or the founding of a charitable institution. The Pastoral Letter, on the other hand, has inaugurated a new Church policy: the Bishops, priests, and churches are to be supported by the voluntary offerings of the faithful, as is the case in non-Catholic countries. After explaining that the Church, which had been founded and had grown up in poverty, did not attach more importance than was necessary to temporal goods, the Pastoral Letter goes on to say that the Church, nevertheless, cannot escape the conditions of life in this world, and

that those who benefit by their spiritual ministry are bound to provide for the temporal necessities of the clergy. The Archbishop continues: 'Let all of you who have at heart the honor of God and the salvation of souls, or even the preservation of the domestic and social virtues, of which the Church is the indispensable guardian, listen to the appeal of your aged Archbishop with the generous docility to which you have accustomed us. Let those families who have received a large share of the goods of this world set aside a large portion of their revenues for the service of God. Let those who are at the head of great enterprises employing armies of laborers remember that in addition to the wages due to their workmen they are also bound to place within their reach the consolations of religion, so necessary to those who toil and suffer. And you, very dear brethren, who are in a humble station of life, who earn your bread by your daily work, you will also contribute your mite, as a witness of your Faith, and God will know how to measure the extent of your sacrifice.'

Outside Opinion

The denunciations of the French Government's tyranny and confiscation (says the 'Catholic Times') which are now reaching French Ministers from all parts of the Catholic world are evidently rather disconcerting to M. Briand. He tells us that these expressions of sympathy only make the Government more resolute. We shall see. To find powerful corporate bodies in America presenting petitions to the President, Congress, and the British Parliament denouncing the French Government as guilty of falsehoods, duplicity, and hypocrisy, and of having perpetrated a robbery unparalleled in the history of the civilised world, to read resolutions in which American citizens condemn as subversive of every principle of morality, justice, and liberty the action of the French Government in prohibiting the Catholics of France from exercising their natural right to worship God according to the dictates of their consciences, to learn that the opinion of the millions of Catholics in America is also the opinion of the millions of Catholics in Great Britain and Ireland, Italy, Spain, Germany, and other lands, may not bring regret to MM. Clemenceau and Briand; but the masses of the French people who love their country will soon feel ill at ease on discovering that rulers who talk glibly of 'Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity' are drawing upon them the scorn and detestation of the world.

ROME—Declines Responsibility

Having received information of the French Government's intention to publish portions of the confidential correspondence recently sequestered at the offices of the Nunciature in Paris, the Holy See gives all aggrieved persons and institutions notice beforehand that it declines all responsibility in connection therewith, especially as it possesses no inventory of the papers seized.

The Late Pope

A colossal statue of Leo XIII., weighing twelve tons, executed by the sculptor Tadolini and destined for the late Pope's tomb, has been transferred to St. John Lateran, and was placed in position early in January. The monument is now practically complete, as the two side statues, representing respectively the Church and Labor, had already been erected. The remains of the late Pope will be placed in an urn-shaped receptacle in the centre.

Lord and Lady Aberdeen at the Vatican

The Viceroy of Ireland and Lady Aberdeen, with their son and niece, had a private audience of a very cordial nature with the Pope on January 3 (writes a Rome correspondent). The visitors were presented by Monsignor Fraser. His Holiness spoke of the good which the Countess is doing in Ireland on behalf of the work of women, and in particular in convents and schools. His Holiness also used words of warm commendation for her Excellency's patronage and successful activity in favor of the International Women's Councils, an organisation of wide and varied scope for the amelioration of the conditions of women, of which Lady Aberdeen is president. To all these undertakings Pius X. gave blessings, as also to the Irish people, with whose devotion to religion the Pope expressed his sovereign satisfaction. 'There are,' said he, 'no better Catholics than the Irish Catholics.' The Viceroy and Lady Aberdeen were subsequently received by the Cardinal-Secretary of State. They warmly thanked him for the cordial audience which had been granted to them by the Holy Father, which they attri-