

The Catholic World

ENGLAND—Catholics Barred

The late Lord Grimthorpe's estate has been valued at over two millions. He left a proviso in his will to the effect that none of the property is to go to a foreigner or a 'Papist,' or to anyone married to a 'Papist.'

Returning to the Fold

A correspondent of the 'Manchester Guardian' notes that the number of converts which the Catholic Church is winning from the established Church is increasing. He writes: As many as eight 'secessions to Rome' from the Church of England ministry have recently been announced, that of the Rev. Ambrose Williams, a Cambridge clergyman lately benefited in Herefordshire, being the latest. Of course, there is always a more or less intermittent flow of pilgrims from 'Canterbury to Rome' in progress, but it is hard to understand why the movement should suddenly have become more considerable at present.

A Famous Catholic College

Ushaw College, which is next year to celebrate its centenary, is the successor of the famous English College of Douai, as Stonyhurst is of St. Omer. The Douai College, founded by Cardinal Allen in 1568, was dissolved during the French Revolution—in 1793. In 1794 it resumed its life at Crook Hall, near the present Ushaw, under its old head, and it is a proud boast of Ushaw that it can point to an unbroken line of rulers, with the Douai College, from Allen. There have been twenty-nine rulers in all. 'Bishop Wilkinson, the present president—a convert from the Church of England—is the twelfth since the removal from France. Ushaw has, of course, been the training-place of most of the Catholic clergy of the North of England. It has produced a long line of bishops, and three of its sons have risen to the cardinalate. Dr. Lingard was vice-president of the college, and he is buried in the college cemetery. He was deeply attached to Ushaw, and it is an interesting fact that he left part of the proceeds of his great history for the establishment of bursaries at the college. The great pride of Ushaw is its magnificent collection of relics, 'the richest,' it has been said, 'in the possession of any individual or community in the world.' They number 900 altogether, and include a ring taken from the hand of St. Columba when the saint's tomb was opened in 1537.

FRANCE—The Grotto of Lourdes

In consequence of a report which was circulated recently to the effect that the French Government contemplated confiscating the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, and forbidding pilgrimages to it, we ('Edinburgh Catholic Herald') have made inquiries into the matter on the spot, and have received an official letter from his Lordship the Bishop of Tarbes, in which he states that there exists no motive for the French Government taking any such action. 'We can only suppose,' he says, 'that, despite what has passed, the pious people of all nations will continue to respond to the appeal of the Immaculate Virgin, and come to prostrate themselves at the foot of her grotto to receive her maternal and signal blessings.'

The Irish College

The French Minister of Public Worship (says the 'Catholic Times') is acting the part of the wolf towards the lamb in dealing with those who uphold the rights of the Irish College, Paris. He is using arguments that are transparently absurd, but they will suffice for the purpose of confiscation. Through the representatives of the 'Tribune' and the 'Standard' he urges that the Separation Law has made it necessary for the French Government to take in hand the settlement of the question of the British Catholic foundations in France. These foundations were quite outside the scope of the French Church Establishment, and where the necessity comes in is one of those things that no one save an anti-Christian Minister can understand. M. Briand, it appears, feels bound to admit that the Irish College is Irish property, but the British Government are to be asked to sanction the robbery of British subjects. It is to be requested to agree to the sale of various plots of ground and houses with which the British foundations are now endowed, and to the reinvestment of the whole fund in French Government stock. After the college has been suppressed, the Irish students will be permitted, if

nominated by the British Ambassador in Paris, to have their burses—should they be taken in—at the French Lycees and the French theological colleges, the existence of which the French Government have endeavored to render impossible. 'Assuredly it is the table of the wolf and the lamb over again. If we know anything of Irishmen, they will not patiently submit to this outrage upon a cherished institution. The British Empire can do well enough without the 'entente cordiale,' and so far as Irish Catholics are concerned, they will have none of it if the confiscation on which M. Briand is intent takes place. They are strong in the British army, and in that event, they will never fight for France if it wants their help.

GERMANY—Persecution in Poland

In Prussian Poland (says the 'Catholic Times') the measures taken against those who advocate the use of the Polish language are Draconian. A number of priests are now in prison for having quoted the Council of Trent and local Synods to prove that the children should be taught their religion in their mother tongue. The sentences vary from three weeks to eight months. Fines are frequent and heavy. The editor of a Polish paper at Posen has had to pay fifteen thousand marks, and another Posen journalist four hundred and fifty. A young teacher who tried in vain to induce Polish children to say their prayers in German beat them savagely and then fired off a revolver, producing so much alarm that one child became seriously ill. Public protests have been made against his conduct, but he remains at his post. It is a fine testimony to the tenacity of the Poles that the 'harsh treatment only makes them cling all the more steadily to their own tongue and their own customs.

ITALY—The Thousandth Anniversary

According to 'The Catholic News' a convent of nuns at Zaza in Italy was founded in 1006, and the Sisters are now celebrating the thousandth anniversary of the institution.

ROME—The Holy Father's Jubilee

The Holy Father received on February 9 in the Hall of the Consistory the Central Committee for the celebration of the golden jubilee of his priesthood. Personally, he said, he would have preferred that the anniversary should be observed by himself alone in his private chapel in loving converse with Christ, but as Vicar of Christ he felt bound to permit demonstrations of attachment and love for the Holy See. He hoped, however, the celebration would have a purely religious character.

SCOTLAND—Interesting Presentation

The Very Rev. Donald Canon Mackintosh, Rector of St. Margaret's, Kinning Park, Glasgow, has been presented with an illuminated address and set of canonical robes by the H. J. McCracken Branch of the I.N.F. as a token of esteem. The Very Rev. gentleman was also the recipient of an address from the Girls' Guild of St. Margaret's.

SPAIN—Against Duelling

The new Conservative Ministry in Spain is beginning well. The Baron de Albi, president of the Anti-Duelling League, addressed a letter to the Minister 'de Gobernacion,' asking the support of the Government for the ends of the League, and its vigilance in seeing that the laws were strictly enforced against offenders. In his reply the Minister writes: 'The Minister "de Gobernacion," and without a doubt the whole Government, views with complete sympathy the efforts made by the League under your worthy presidency to put an end to duelling—an evil condemned by civilisation and morality. This being his conviction, it seems unnecessary to add that the Government will use all means in its power to hinder violations of the law, and, for this end, will give most definite instructions to authorities charged with watching over its observance.'

SWITZERLAND—The Education Question

In Switzerland, by a vote of 318,139 against 172,010, the largest poll ever recorded on appeal to the country, the people have just rejected a proposed system of undenominational teaching in the schools, which was obviously a stepping-stone to a purely Godless scheme. The Catholics united with the religious Protestants in raising the cry, 'God in the schools,' while the political secularists tried to raise the counter cry of 'Clericalism' and 'Jesuitry.' The common sense of the people, however, asserted itself. The issue was clear, and, though the majority of the people were Liberals politically, the proposal was defeated.