

The Catholic World

BELGIUM—Reconciled to the Church

The Abbe Daens, who for many years has been leader of the Christian Democrats in Belgium, has renewed obedience to the Church. He fell ill. His conscience warned him of the duty he had so long neglected. Sending for his friend, the Abbe Van den Abele, he voluntarily professed his sorrow for disobedience to his Bishop's directions, begged to be reconciled, and make his confession in preparation for death. He also sent notice of his resignation of the presidency of the Christian Democratic party, and informed his late colleagues of his reconciliation with the Church. They answered by dismissing him from their party—the only punishment in their power!

ENGLAND—The late Canon Northcote

In the person of Canon Northcote (says the 'Catholic Weekly'), one of the last remaining of the distinguished band of converts who accompanied Cardinal Newman into the Church at the time of the great Tractarian movement, has been removed by death. For many years the venerable Canon had lived in retirement, and to the present generation he was only known by his writings, which remain as a literary heritage to the Catholics of this country and a perpetual memorial of the scholarship and industry of their gifted author. To Oscotians of an older generation the memory of their former president will naturally appeal in a special manner. Both by his comprehensive scholarship and his administrative powers Canon Northcote was enabled to fill right worthily the presidential chair of the famous college; and his services in that capacity will not readily be forgotten. English Catholics at large will recognise gratefully the important part played by the deceased priest in the development of the ancient religion in this country; and those who had the privilege of intimate acquaintance can bear testimony to the singular beauty and humility of his character.

FRANCE—A Suggestive Letter

'L'Art Sacre' contains an open letter addressed to M. Viviani in the name of 60,000 workmen whom the present anti-religious laws of the French Government have deprived of their means of subsistence. Here is one of the most suggestive passages:—'Painters, sculptors, workers in gold and silver, designers, manufacturers of stained glass, embroiderers, vestment makers, church furnishers, and numbers of other artisans belonging to the various trades and handicrafts connected with ecclesiastical decoration, who have hitherto lived in comfort by their labor, now find themselves without employment.'

The Catholic Churches

With the disappearance of all hopes of reconciliation between the French Government and the Holy See (says the 'Catholic Times'), the question arises: Will the majority of the churches in France be devoted to the purpose for which they were erected—the service of God? If this comes to pass, who will be able to measure even in thought the cruel enormity of the confiscation? The builders of these religious edifices put their hearts into the work because they felt it was for the honor of God. Some of the structures, such as the Cathedrals in the great cities—Notre Dame in Paris, and so many others—are not only homes of Devotion, but beautiful monuments of art. In all the churches have been treasured, in shrines and altars, the most precious and most perfect productions that money and human hands could supply. Artisans, architects, and artists have lavished their skill upon them. It is painful to consider how all this wealth of beauty in marble, canvas, brass, and other fitting material, which may almost be said to represent the life-blood of former generations, and which certainly represents the sentiments of the sons and daughters of France for centuries, may be turned from religious to secular uses, so as to be absolutely dissociated from religion.

Death of a famous Preacher

The famous Dominican preacher, Pere Monsabre, whose sermons at Notre Dame, Paris, some years ago, were heard and read with pleasure and profit, passed away on February 23 at the age of 80. Driven from his convent by the French Government, he took refuge in an orphanage, which owes its existence to his zeal, and there awaited the last call of his Master. Born at Blois, in 1827, he entered the Dominican Order four years after his ordination to the priesthood, and made his profession at the hands of Lacordaire, whom he was subsequently to succeed in the pulpit of Notre

Dame. He succeeded Pere Hyacinthe, who fell away from the Church. The war of 1870 broke up the conferences of Notre Dame for a time, and Monsabre went to Metz, to comfort his countrymen and fire them to heroic deeds by his matchless eloquence. His patriotic harangues gave great offence to the German Government, and, after the surrender of Metz, Monsabre had to leave the city. He took possession of Notre Dame again in 1872, and held the most cultured audiences in the world enraptured by his eloquence and learning for eighteen years. After the completion of the Notre Dame conferences Monsabre was called to Rome by Leo XIII. to preach the Advent in the Eternal City. A prolific writer on all religious subjects, he has left behind him forty-five volumes as a monument to his zeal and learning.

ROME—The Catholic Union of Great Britain

The Pope has received with the greatest satisfaction the address from the Catholic Union of Great Britain, signed by the Duke of Norfolk, expressing sympathy with the Holy Father in the sorrow caused him by the situation in France, and indignation at the persecution of the Church.

Liberty in the United States

Mr. White, the American Ambassador, who left Rome for Paris on Saturday, March 2, was received in private audience by the Holy Father. His Holiness, in conversing with the Ambassador, expressed his admiration of the way in which liberty is understood in America and of the freedom enjoyed by all the Churches there. The Pontiff is always glad, as was his predecessor Leo XIII., to acknowledge that the Church is as friendly towards republicanism as towards monarchy.

SCOTLAND—The St Vincent de Paul Society

At the annual meeting of the Particular Council of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Glasgow, it was reported that the income for the past year amounted to £6460 11s 5d, the larger items which went to make this up being church door collections, £3064 8s 5½d; charity sermons, £966 19s 0½d; subscriptions from honorary members, £1021 8s 10½d; collections of active members, £493 7s 6½d; and the expenditure was £6371 12s, leaving a credit balance of £89 0s 5d.

UNITED STATES—A Venerable Bishop

Archbishop Williams, of Boston, the oldest member of the Catholic Hierarchy in America, will celebrate his eighty-fifth birthday on Saturday next. Already the priests of the Archdiocese have decided to make the occasion a notable one. Archbishop Williams was born in Boston on April 27, 1822.

The late Archbishop Montgomery

When the will of the late Archbishop George Montgomery, of San Francisco, was filed for probate, it was shown just how modest was the estate left by the prelate. Instead of a large fortune, as many looked for, the only property left by Archbishop Montgomery was a collection of personal property valued at £509. The main article in the whole modest estate was the late Archbishop's library. This collection of books, the gathering of which had been the work of his lifetime, together with what other personal effects he possessed, the Archbishop left to Archbishop Riordan.

Church Progress in Chicago

During the three years and three months that the Most Rev. Dr. Quigley has been Archbishop of Chicago there have been established or built in the archdiocese fifty-two parishes, forty-one churches, seven hospitals, three colleges, eight parochial schools, and six new rectories. Of these new parishes eight are Bohemian, one Italian, two Slovak, one Hungarian, two Croatian, three German, two Lithuanian, and twenty-eight English. The Catholic population of the Chicago archdiocese is increasing at a remarkable rate. For example, in one parish where there are only 130 families there are 435 children in the parochial schools. In this parish eleven children in a family is by no means a rarity. The population is also largely augmented by immigration.

GENERAL—Extensive Dioceses

The archdiocese of Chicago is the fourth largest Catholic archdiocese in the world. Its church population is something less than 1,200,000. The archdiocese of Cologne, Germany, is the largest, with a Catholic population of more than 2,000,000. Vienna, Austria, is second, with about 1,500,000. The archdiocese of New York is third, with 1,200,000. Ten years ago the Catholic population of the archdiocese of Chicago was 600,000. The increase has been 100 per cent.