

# The Catholic World

## ENGLAND—Death of a Convert

The funeral took place in the Catholic portion of the cemetery at Windsor on March 11 of Lord Francis Godolphin Osborne, second son of the eighth Duke of Leeds, and uncle of the present duke. Lord Francis was born in 1830, and after graduating at Cambridge he was ordained a minister of the Church of England. From 1868 to 1875 he was rector of Elm, Somerset, but in the latter year he resigned the living, and joined the Catholic Church. Subsequently he lived at Windsor. He was a Deputy Lieutenant of Berkshire and a justice of the peace for that county, Sussex, and Galway. Lord Francis married Matilda Catherine, daughter of Mr. John S. Rich, and had one daughter, who died about six years ago.

## Charitable Bequests

The late Lord Arundel of Wardour provided in his will for the payment of about £100 a year for chaplain, organist, and sacristan of the chapel at Wardour. He gave £300 to the Clifton Mission Benefactors' Fund; £50 each to the Sustentation Funds of the Catholic church at Tisbury, Gloucester, and Shaftesbury, Dorset; £50 to the Wardour Catholic Benefit Club; £25 to the Salisbury Infirmary, and £25 to the Benefit Society for the relief of the aged and infirm poor.

## Very Sad News

The sad news has reached Mill Hill by cablegram that two members of St. Joseph's Foreign Missionary Society, Fathers D. Lehané and P. Timans, of the Congo Mission, have been drowned. No further particulars have so far been received. The deceased priests were most zealous in missionary work, and deep sympathy is felt with the Society and the members of their families.

## A Benefactor

Mr. Joseph Sherwood, of Victoria street, Newcastle, bequeathed £500 to such charitable purposes connected with St. Mary's Cathedral as Bishop Collins shall determine, £400 to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, £250 to the Little Sisters of the Poor, £250 to the Convent of the Good Shepherd, South Gosforth.

## FRANCE—The Government's Policy

M. Clemenceau (says the 'Catholic Times') has got a vote of confidence from the chamber as a form of reply to the attack made upon the Government by M. Jaures. Votes of confidence, however, do not always count for a great deal and they rarely disorient socialist antagonists. By sending soldiers to take the place of the strikers at the electric works in Paris the Premier committed what is in their eyes an unpardonable sin, and his speech in the Chamber on March 11 revealed his conviction that the warfare they are conducting is full of peril for the Ministry. There is no reason to believe that the Clemenceau Cabinet will, under present circumstances, be succeeded by one more favorable to fair-play for the Church, but it cannot be followed by a Cabinet that will pursue a meaner or more contemptible policy. That is impossible. Catholics, therefore, whatever happens, will feel no regret at its disappearance. Foiled in its attempt to impose on the clergy a contract which would exclude members of the religious Orders from common rights, as if they were pariahs, and place the diocesan clergy under an oppressive burden, it has sought gratification in an ignoble vendetta, allowing, if not inducing, the journals of the bloc to publish false report, damaging for the moment to the Holy See, as to the contents of the stolen Montagnini papers. The procedure is characteristic. The falsehoods have now been exposed, and if the Government had a reputation for honorable dealing, it would thereby have lost it. Happily its energies are in a state of exhaustion and its power to do further injury to religion is at an end.

## The British Press and the Crisis

I have just passed six months in Paris (writes a correspondent of the 'Catholic Times'), and can bear my testimony to the astonishing mendacity—wilful, or the mere result of prejudice—of the English newspaper reports on the French religious crisis. I could give many instances of this lack of veracity, but one will suffice. I was in the crowd that escorted the revered Cardinal Richard from the archiepiscopal palace to his

new home. That crowd must have numbered close on twenty thousand people, the vast majority of them men, all singing hymns, bareheaded, and simply glowing with fervor. The whole crowd knelt when the Cardinal gave his blessing, and men bearing the noblest names in France were proud to draw out the horses and pull the Cardinal's carriage to his new home. I never saw a more impressive sight, yet, as your readers will remember, in several English papers, the crowd was given as two thousand, mostly women, and every endeavor was made to belittle its meaning. Anyone who has travelled at all on the Continent knows that the correspondents of English papers in most Continental towns are the incumbents of English Protestant churches and chapels. This is the case even in Rome. The correspondent in Paris of the Dis-senters' organ in England, a paper notorious for its savage hatred of the Church, is a Presbyterian. Reuter's Paris correspondent is an Orangeman. The 'Times' exchanges foreign news with the 'Matin,' the mouthpiece of the Combit and Pelletan section of the Extreme Left. The close connection between the 'Matin' and the 'Times' becomes apparent when it is remembered that the editor of the 'Matin,' M. de Lausanne, is a son of the late M. de Blowitz, the famous 'Times' correspondent. I might give other illuminating facts, but these will suffice.

## HOLLAND—A Notable Change

In Holland a notable sign of the wonderful change for the better which has taken place within recent years in the relations between Protestants and Catholics is offered by the proposal of Pastor Gunning, the head of the Protestants in Utrecht, that the ancient cathedral of the city, the largest Gothic historic building in the Netherlands, should be sold by the Protestants to the Catholics. He estimates that the buildings would realise a million florins, with which sum it would be possible to build five new churches and endow each with a living. State Archivist Mullen supports the proposal. The cathedral is in a half ruinous condition. During a fearful storm in 1674, a great part of the nave collapsed, and has never been repaired. The Catholics may not be willing to buy at the price expected, but formerly the idea of selling the building to them would scarcely have been entertained by Dutch Protestants.

## ITALY—Appointed Archbishop

The Right Rev. Peregrine M. Stagni, Prior General of the Order of Servites, has been appointed Archbishop of Aquila. Father Stagni was a member of the English province of Servites and was for many years Rector at Fulham, until called by his Superiors to Rome. Though an Italian by birth, he was educated in England.

## ROME—The Health of the Pope

Monsignor Prior (writes a Rome correspondent, under date March 10) has just declared, after an audience with the Pope, that his Holiness looked remarkably well, and added: 'I never saw him looking so well or in such good spirits.' The newspapers have not troubled about his Holiness's health for some time. First, it is not the summer time, and at the present season of indispositions a Papal illness would touch on the commonplace. Then, to adopt the view of the late Dr. Laponi, there is no forthcoming Pontifical pronouncement to be discounted.

## The Holy Father and Socialism

The Holy Father (says the 'Catholic Times') in a letter denounces socialism without qualification. He arraigns it on the ground that by endeavoring to wrest from the toilers the hope of bliss in another and a better life it is bringing ruin to society. Such warnings are much needed, because there can be no doubt that Socialism has been a powerful agent in the creation of that atmosphere of unbelief which is weakening faith wherever the cheap press circulates. As long as the character of its theories is not tested by practice, so long will it have numerous advocates, for the master-builders of the theories have been and are men of intellectual ability, and their views are often set forth plausibly. Moreover, the crying evils of society in its present state favor any movement aiming at extensive reform. But true reform can only come through the recognition of Divine authority and Divine love—which the Socialists rule out of court—for they alone ensure, on the one hand, justice, and on the other, an altruistic spirit ready for sacrifices that are never made in vain. Therefore does the Pope insist on the importance of religion in connection with movements for the promotion of social progress.