

# The Catholic World

## ENGLAND—The Benedictines

The history of the great Benedictine houses was (says the 'Standard') for centuries interwoven with the history of England in Church and State. Amongst Benedictine foundations were numbered many cathedral churches—Canterbury, Winchester, Durham, Ely, Gloucester, Peterborough, Rochester, Worcester, Exeter, Chester, Wells, Norwich, and Coventry. Upon and St. Albans have been added to the list in modern times. Abbeys like Westminster, Glastonbury, and Bury St. Edmund's played a leading part in the annals of the nation. Of the special gratitude with which English Churchmen must cherish the memory of Austin—the Benedictine abbot of St. Andrew's, at Rome, who, at Pope Gregory's bidding, brought the Gospel to the English—and of other great Benedictines, such as Cuthbert and Baeda and Dunstan, it would be superfluous to speak.

## HOLLAND—Catholics in Public Life

One reads with a pleasant start of surprise of the prominence of Catholics in the new Ministry just formed in Holland. A century ago the Catholics were a comparatively small and a greatly despised minority in the country, now they form between one-third and two-fifths of the population, and they work in such harmony with the best element of their Protestant neighbors that three of their leaders belong to the new Cabinet. One of them is Mr. Nelissen, the Minister of Justice; another Mr. Kolkman, president of the Association of the Blessed Sacrament, is the Minister of Finance; and Mr. Peeters, Minister of Public Works, is also president of the Central Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

## FRANCE—A Lenten Pastoral

In his first Lenten Pastoral the Archbishop of Paris says that for thirty years the campaign undertaken for the dechristianisation of France has been conducted with sure and persevering method and a success that is all too evident. From the capital, under the form of measures which cloak themselves under the name and the authority of the law, have gone successive blows directed against religion, and there, too, they have made most felt their disastrous effects. Religious education was the first thing aimed at, and the campaign against it still goes on. Every year fresh schools are struck, which it is not possible to replace. A design is even announced for refusing anyone who declares himself for God and the Church the right to instruct the young. Thus the generations of children educated without religion, and often without morality, go on multiplying, a fact which constitutes a menace of increasing gravity for the social order.

## ROME—Solemn Beatification

The solemn Beatification of the Venerable Magdeleine Sophie Barat, founder of the Order of the Sacred Heart, has been fixed for May 24.

## A Rare Coin

On March 18 the Holy Father received the members of the Sacred Collège, who came to present their greetings to his Holiness on the occasion of his name day. In the course of the audience the Pontiff told the Cardinals that he had just received an interesting gold coin from the diocese of Acqui as a jubilee gift, and then proceeded to give a history of the coin, which has a face value of twelve shillings. It was found about ten years ago during the excavations for the foundations of a church at Acqui, and proved to be the only coin in existence of Innocent IX., who reigned two months in the year 1591. The diocese of Acqui was unable to pay the architect of the new church, and therefore gave him the coin, with the condition that if it were sold for over £240 the surplus should go to the diocese. The architect, however, was unable to find a purchaser, the King of Italy alone offering £100. The clergy of the diocese had now collected the necessary money and had presented the coin to the Pontiff. It was the only one lacking in the Vatican collection of coins of all the Popes, and the collection is now complete.

## The Pontificate of Pius X.

His Holiness Pius X. (says the 'Catholic Weekly') is now nearing the completion of the first five years of his Pontificate. These five years will be notable years in the history of the Church; and they have already made it clear that the Pontificate of Pius X. is bound to take a place in history with the greatest

Pontificates in the long and glorious line of St. Peter's successors. As 'Rome' remarks, one may please one's self as to the authenticity or not of the famous prophecy attributed to St. Malachy—it may have been the merest coincidence that Pius IX., who met his cross from the Cross of Savoy, should have been described hundreds of years ago (for at least that is true) as Crux de Cruce, and that Leo XIII. should have been heralded as a Lumen in cœlo (which would have been verified had there been no comet in his arms), but surely Ignis ardens does sum in a very remarkable way the character of these first five years of the Pontificate of Pius X.

## SCOTLAND—A Supporter of Catholic Charities

Sir Robert Glendonwyn Gordon, of Letterfourie, Banffshire, premier baron of Scotland and of Nova Scotia, died at Letterfourie House, on February 26. Sir Robert, who was descended from the second Earl of Huntly and the Princess Jean, daughter of James I. of Scotland, was born in 1824, and succeeded to the title on the death of his brother, Sir William, in 1861. The deceased was a generous supporter of Catholic charities. The 'Westminster Gazette' states that he is succeeded in the estate by his grand-nephew, Mr. Henry Shee, K.C., Recorder of Liverpool.

## A Well Known Catholic Family

There lately departed this life, at the great Benedictine Abbey of Fort Augustus, a scion of a well-known Catholic family—Father Basil Weld, O.S.B. Born in 1874, he became a postulant at Fort Augustus in 1891, and was professed in 1893. In 1901 he was ordained to the priesthood. He was possessed of great learning, and his writings on various theological subjects are widely known. At the time of his early death he was engaged on a life of his father, Sir Frederick Weld, at one time well known in the public life of New Zealand. After a long illness he passed away on February 27, and on March 2 his body was laid to rest in the monastery burying-ground. It was a typical Catholic Highland burying of one who was deservedly honored and beloved, both within and without his monastery. One of Father Weld's sisters is Prioress at St. Scholastica's Convent, Fort Augustus, and a brother and two other sisters are in religion.

## UNITED STATES—The Sisters of Charity

The Sisters of Charity, who are so active in the religious life everywhere, will soon celebrate the centenary of the Order's organisation in the United States. It was established by Mrs. Elizabeth A. Seton, at Emmitsburg, Md., in 1809, and since then has grown in a remarkable manner. At the present time the number of the Order's establishments in the United States is over 350, with a membership of over 5000. In their hospitals and asylums the Sisters care for 10,000 orphans, 2000 insane, and 5000 sick; 25,000 infants have been given homes in their founding asylums.

## GENERAL

### The Society of Jesus

According to an exchange, the Society of Jesus at present numbers 15,760 members, of whom 7437 are priests, 4327 scholastics, and 3996 lay Brothers. The members of the German province are the most numerous, 1147 in all. The Austrian-Hungarian provinces embrace 20 houses, six colleges, and 782 members, of whom 381 are priests, 160 scholastics, and 241 lay Brothers.

## THE LIVER.

### ITS USE AND ABUSE.

The liver, like the kidneys and other organs, is liable to various acute and chronic diseases. It is the great wheel of life's machine; it regulates the whole mechanism of man, when it works well—then every other gland and factor in the system works well, and there is general good health. That is the use of the liver. The abuse is brought about by our mode of living: the consumption of rich food and alcoholic stimulants is a conscious abuse; we know it, but neglect to arrest the damage by neutralising and correcting the mischief until the liver becomes sluggish. The first sign of oncoming disorder is headache, then a disagreeable taste in the mouth, loss of appetite, biliousness, and constipation. The remedy for this state of affairs is a dose of that famous liver regulator, DR. EN-SOR'S TAMER JUICE. A dessert spoonful in a glass of water, before breakfast, acts like a refreshing bath on the whole system; it cleanses the stomach, liver, kidneys, and bowels, and gets rid of the poisonous debris so injurious to health.