

The Catholic World

ENGLAND—British Hospitality Recalled

In giving a short history of the French Chapel in Little George street, London, in the 'Catholic Weekly,' Mr. Wilfrid Wilberforce refers to the kind hospitality shown to the French refugees in England at the time of the Revolution. As early as 1793 the number of refugees amounted to over 10,000, of whom 8000 were priests and 30 were bishops. Besides these were many nuns who had been driven from their convents. To the lasting glory of this country (says Mr. Wilberforce), these victims of an anti-Christian Government were not only sheltered but supported by the people of England. In thirteen years Parliament voted close upon two million pounds for their benefit, and this large sum was supplemented by generous private offerings, in nearly all cases coming from Protestant sources. Winchester Castle was set apart as a residence for French priests, over 700 of them living there in community, supported by the English Government, while in 1796 a large house was taken at Reading, where another 200 priests found food and shelter at the public expense. Nor did English liberality end here. By the King's express order the clergy of the Established Church pleaded from their pulpits on behalf of the exiled Catholics, and the University of Oxford printed 4000 copies of the New Testament and the four sections of the Roman Breviary for gratuitous distribution among the French clergy who had taken refuge in England.

FRANCE—The Maintenance of Worship

The question of the maintenance of worship is causing much anxiety to the French Bishops and clergy. According to the 'Eclair,' it was the principal theme in the discussions which took place at a recent meeting of prelates representing Paris and five adjoining ecclesiastical provinces. The Bishops recognise that the difficulties with which the parish priests are face to face owing to the necessity of repairing the churches make their position exceedingly awkward. At present it is no one's right or duty to repair the sacred buildings. The parish priest cannot do so, for he has no juridical title. Nor have the lay Catholics any legal title to the parochial buildings. The Commune is not obliged to effect the repairs, and if it is liberal enough to devote money to the work, a prefect or M. Briand is sure to intervene and prevent the expenditure. A legal status for the clergy in this matter is out of the question unless the hierarchy is respected, and such a solution of the problem is not hoped for when the anti-clerical spirit of the French Government is taken into consideration. The clergy, it may be safely assumed, will keep up worship in the churches as long as possible, but it is feared that sooner or later they may be deprived of the use of the buildings. Under the circumstances, the Bishops have been in communication with Rome for the purpose of taking precautions against this contingency, and it is understood that the Congregation of Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs is studying the situation.

The Holy Father and the Hierarchy

Again and again is it said by certain people (says the 'Catholic Weekly'), who are 'wise in their own conceit,' that the Holy Father is quite ignorant of the situation in France, and that it is to his ignorance that the present woful state of the Church in France is mainly due. The following statement made by Cardinal Lecot, after two audiences with his Holiness, and published in 'Rome,' ought to shame and silence these wiseacres:—'The Pope,' said his Eminence, 'is perfectly informed about the situation in France. He follows closely everything that happens in our poor country, and whenever he speaks to us, he will be listened to with confidence and submission. There is perfect unity among the Bishops of France, and there is no sign whatever that this union among ourselves and with the Holy Father, which has been our great strength during the painful days we have gone through will ever be broken. The conversations I have had with his Holiness during my present sojourn in Rome have brought home to me more clearly than ever how minutely the Holy Father wishes to be informed about everything.' Our readers will, we are sure, derive a special pleasure from this statement, not only because it is calculated to silence and shame the enemy, but also because they will gather from it that the Holy Father has, thanks to the splendid loyalty of the Bishops of France, much to console him in the midst of the sorrows which have come upon him from Modernist disloyalty.

JAPAN—The Sacred Heart Order

The Archbishop of Tokio, Japan, has recently effected the opening of a 'higher school for the education of Japanese ladies, who need not be necessarily members of the Catholic Church. He has placed the work in the hands of the Sacred Heart nuns, who have arrived simultaneously from Europe and Australia. Their first duty under the Archbishop's direction has been to visit the leading educational centres, including a ladies' college which was founded by the Mikado's wife for daughters of Japanese nobles. The nuns were received with great courtesy, and write that they were quite struck with the sight of the well-bred ease of the pupils, who happened to be studying English when the Sisters' visit of inspection was announced.

SPAIN—Tercentenary of a University

The Rector of the University of Oviedo, Spain, has notified universities, colleges, and schools and the learned world generally of the celebration of the 300th anniversary of the opening of that university, which will take place in September under the auspices of King Alfonso and the Prince of the Asturias. The Rector invites university professors and others interested to attend the ceremonies, which will occupy ten days from the 20th of the month. One of the ceremonies will be the unveiling of the statue of the founder, Fernando Valdes y Salas, Archbishop of Seville.

UNITED STATES—The Archdiocese of Boston

The reason of the postponement until the autumn of the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Boston's creation as a diocese is found in the fact that the Philadelphia celebration for Archbishop Ryan and the New York celebration for Archbishop Farley both came during the period when Boston's anniversary occurred, April 18, and it would be asking too much to have the members of the hierarchy, the ranking members of which are well along in years, to do much travelling from one end of the country to the other.

A Generous Giver

On the feast of St. Joseph the Right Rev. Bishop Conaty dedicated the magnificent new home of the Little Sisters of the Poor in Los Angeles, Cal. The building and the land which it occupies have been given to the Little Sisters by Mr. E. J. Le Breton, of San Francisco, and represent an expenditure of something like £80,000, the largest individual donation to charitable work ever made in Lower California. Mr. Le Breton built a home for the Little Sisters in San Francisco that is substantially the same as the one in Los Angeles, so that in all he has given £160,000 to this worthy charity.

Catholic Sisterhoods

There are 121 different Catholic Sisterhoods in the United States (says the New York 'Catholic News'). The various Franciscan Orders, 24 in all, count 6600 Sisters; four Notre Dame Orders count 5700 Sisters, and six Sisters of Charity Orders count 5000 Sisters. Thus these 34 Orders alone, with 17,300 members, outnumber all the secular and regular clergy. Education and charity form the life work of most of this great and noble army of women. If we allow one teacher to every fifty pupils in our parochial schools, it will require 24,000 teachers to take care of the 1,200,000 parish school pupils. Fully 20,000 of these teachers are Sisters.

'What's your verdict?' in a fury
Asked the counsel of the jury.
Though 'twas somewhat premature he
Could no more endure!
'What's our verdict?' said the foreman,
'We've all colds through that door, man!
Give us what we as'd before, man,
Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.'

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Every family requires some kind of ointment to be kept in the house to be used in the treatment of burns, scalds, chilblains, bruises, ulcers, scalp sores, inflammatory skin diseases (particularly of parasitic origin)—in fact, in any case in which an emollient antiseptic dressing is required. WITCH'S OINTMENT acts soothingly and curatively in all cases of haemorrhoids or piles. Price, 1s 6d and 3s 6d; all chemists and stores. Tussicura Manufacturing Company, proprietors.