

The Catholic World

CANADA—Tercentary Celebrations

A letter from the Pope has been read in all the Catholic churches of Quebec, eulogising Champlain, the French founder of Quebec, and expressing approval of the Quebec tercentenary celebrations.

ENGLAND—The Eucharistic Congress

English Catholics (writes a London correspondent) are looking with interest to the Eucharistic Congress, to be held in London in September. Though it is eighteen years since the Congress was instituted, this will be the first occasion that Britain will offer it a meeting place. Cardinals and Bishops from all parts of the world will attend, and advantage will be taken of their presence to inaugurate and advance certain religious works in the metropolis. Important papers will be read by various prominent Catholic Churchmen, and special services are to take place at Westminster Cathedral. Tickets for the Congress have met with a ready sale, over 2,000 persons having already applied.

PORTUGAL—The King and his People

The reception of Manuel II. at the opening of the new legislative session on the eighty-second anniversary of the establishment of representative constitutional government could not have been more enthusiastic. All along the route to the Cortes he was continually cheered. Ladies at the windows waved handkerchiefs and joined in the acclamations. In the Chamber peers and deputies raised the cry of 'Long live the King,' and it was taken up with cordial vigour by the onlookers in the galleries. His speech was at once touching and manly, and must have enhanced his reputation as a progressive ruler amongst the Portuguese who have read it in the press. 'I place my trust in God and in you, representatives of the nation, that with your help I may fulfil my mission well.' He is determined to govern on constitutional principles, but he will seek light and guidance in the experience of sovereigns 'who are a glory to monarchy and a blessing to the nations over which they reign.' No doubt (says the 'Catholic Times') his Majesty had in mind King Edward VII. and Alfonso of Spain. He could not follow better examples in the art of achieving popularity.

ROME—The Irish College

Some days ago (writes a Rome correspondent, under May 4), the Rev. John Hagan, Vice-Rector of the Irish College, was summoned by Cardinal Satolli, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Studies, who informed him that by the Pope's desire the Congregation had decided to confer on him the doctorate in Theology. Mgr. O'Riordan, Rector of the College, informs me that previous to being summoned by his Eminence, Father Hagan had no knowledge of the coming title; in fact, only last year the rev. gentleman objected to any move being made to obtain for him what all consider a well-merited honour. Mgr. O'Riordan—who, by the way, has been in hospital for some days, more indeed for the sake of preventing than curing an attack of illness—tells me that some time ago he presented the Pope with one volume of the five comprised in the projected work of the Vice-Rector. Pius X. expressed his warm approbation of it, and readily assented to the petition of Mgr. O'Riordan that the Holy Father might be pleased to confer upon Father Hagan the title of Doctor of Divinity.

Reception of Belgian Pilgrims

Among the many bodies of foreigners received during the last week in April by the Holy Father, perhaps none were more interesting than the Belgian pilgrims, who had come two days previous to the audience to tender the congratulations of the nation to the Sovereign Pontiff. Although a large number of Belgian journalists were enrolled to travel with the pilgrims, none, with the exception of the director of the 'Courrier de Bruxelles,' found it practicable to leave Belgium on account of the near approach of the election period. In response to an enthusiastic address from the pilgrims, the Holy Father delivered a short and earnest speech. Thanking the pilgrims for their good wishes,

his Holiness recalled the fidelity shown invariably by the people of Belgium to the Holy See. The Pope spoke very warmly of the Belgian Press, and mentioned specially the defence of religion for so many years by M. Mallie, director of the 'Courrier de Bruxelles.' After the public audience Pius X. received M. Mallie privately, and conversed most cordially with him for some time. The journalist presented his Holiness with the sum of 100,000 lire, which had been collected by the journalists of Belgium. In thanking M. Mallie warmly, the Holy Father made him a present of a gold medal bearing a representation of himself.

The Wounded Scottish Students

The tenderness (writes the Rome correspondent of the 'Catholic Times') with which the wounded students of Scots College are cared for in the hospital of Albano could not, I have been told, be surpassed. Italy is thoroughly ashamed of the few who have brought such disgrace on her name by the stabbing of the foreign ecclesiastics. I have heard a rumour which, if it is correct—and I think it is—proves how eager the Italian physicians and nurses are to care for the Scotchmen. The report goes that on hearing of the occurrence some members of the British Nursing Hospital travelled to Albano to offer their services. On arriving there they were informed that the students were well taken care of, and nothing should be spared to ensure a speedy recovery.

UNITED STATES—Consecration of a Bishop

The consecration of Mgr. O'Connell, rector of the Catholic University, Washington, U.S.A., as Titular Bishop of Sebaste, took place in the Baltimore Cathedral on Sunday May 3rd. Cardinal Gibbons officiated, and his assistants were Archbishop Moeller, of Cincinnati, and Archbishop Keane, of Dubuque. Very Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Shahan, of the Catholic University, preached the sermon.

The Archdiocese of Boston

The Pope sent an autograph letter to Archbishop O'Connell in connection with the centennial celebration of the erection of the See of Boston. He congratulated the Archbishop warmly upon the progress of the Church in his diocese. His Holiness thanked the Archbishop for a contribution of Peter's pence amounting to 40,000 dollars.

New York Catholic Cathedral

In honour of the one-hundredth anniversary of the existence of the Catholic diocese in New York City, two immense bronze doors, costing £6,000, and exquisitely designed, have been installed on the side entrances to St. Patrick's Cathedral. On the doors, in medallion form, are the coats of arms of Cardinal McCloskey and Archbishops Farley, Hughes, and Corrigan. Beautifully modelled heads of cherubs and a profusion of vines ornament the big swinging portals. The doors weigh over twelve tons, and it required five weeks to place them in perfect position. They constitute one of the most artistic ornaments in the great cathedral.

The Philippines

In the Washington Senate amongst the Bills that have been passed by unanimous consent is one to pay to the Catholic Church £80,000 for damages to church property in the Philippines by the United States military force.

GENERAL

South American Universities

One does not always remember that the first Spanish settlements in South America antedated the first English settlements in North America by nearly a hundred years, and that when the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth there were already cities in South America that could boast of a longer history than Chicago can to-day (writes Dr. Hiram Brigham, of Yale University). When Harvard, our eldest University, was only an idea in the minds of a few English colonists, the University of San Marcos in Peru was a well-established institution already older than Cornell is to-day. When Cornell celebrates her hundredth anniversary, the University of San Marcos, still flourishing, will be getting ready to celebrate her four-hundredth. When Yale was founded this ancient University of Lima was already 131 years old, or about the same age that Columbia is to-day.