

The Catholic World

AUSTRIA—The Emperor and the Children

Rulers of States usually love to look upon the pomp and panoply of warfare, but what are these (remarks the 'Catholic Times') when compared with the sight presented to the aged Emperor of Austria on Thursday, May 21, when eighty-two thousand Viennese children visited the Imperial Park at Schonbrunn to prove their loyalty and affection for him? Reports say that his Majesty was visibly affected by the heartiness of the reception he met with from the little ones; and that he remarked to the Burgomaster of Vienna, 'Children are to me the most beautiful and lovely things. The older I grow the more I love them.' The Emperor has given the children of his capital in this jubilee celebration something to remember with pride. In years to come their minds will dwell with pleasure on the scenes they have now witnessed. They will rejoice in having been addressed by an Emperor whose devotion to country has been a bond uniting all classes of his subjects, who has at all times been ready to sacrifice his own pleasures for the benefit of his people, and who by promoting peace has set a profitable example to other monarchs. It is pleasant to learn that this splendid demonstration in his honor passed off without a single fatality. The heat of the sun was so great that nearly a thousand children were overcome, but they were accompanied by medical men, and in every instance they rapidly recovered.

BELGIUM—The Recent Elections

Political parties in Belgium are divided into three groups—Catholics, Liberals (anti-clericals), and Socialists. In the Chamber of Deputies the Catholics have had a majority for the past twenty-four years. Half of the Chamber retires every two years. There was such a retirement towards the end of May, and the Catholic majority, which stood previously at twelve, was reduced to eight, whilst the Socialist representation in the Chamber was increased by five. The composition of the Chamber now is 87 Catholics, 43 Liberals, and 36 Socialists.

CANADA—The See of Toronto

The Right Rev. F. P. McEvoy, Catholic Bishop of London, Ontario, has been appointed Archbishop of Toronto in succession to Most Rev. Denis O'Connor, resigned.

ENGLAND—American Prelates

According to reports which have reached the Vatican, Cardinal Gibbons and Archbishop Farley, of New York, will visit London in September to participate in the Eucharistic Congress, and proceed afterwards to Rome to take part in the Consistory which is expected to be held at the close of the Papal Jubilee.

Death of a Distinguished Convert

The death is announced of Mr. George Matthews Arnold, of Milton Hall, Gravesend, at the age of eighty years. The deceased, who had been Mayor of Gravesend for eight years in succession, was a brother of the late Sir Edwin Arnold. Having interested himself in the religious controversies agitating the Church of England in the late fifties, Mr. Arnold, together with his wife, was received into the Church by Cardinal Manning in 1860; shortly after this event he became legal adviser to the Bishop of Southwark.

FRANCE—A Death-bed Repentance

Some time ago there died in the prime of life a village schoolmaster at Masset, Commune of Julianges (Lozere). This master (says a correspondent of the 'Catholic Times'), during his short life, had, as so many others, made open profession of irreligion, dissuading his pupils and their relations from performing their religious duties and spreading atheistic newspapers. On falling ill, he refused the aids of religion. When at last he realised that his malady would prove fatal, he himself asked for the visit of the priest, and received with much sincerity the Last Sacraments. Feeling the approach of death, he caused all the inhabitants of the village to be summoned to his bedside, and said to them: 'Do not follow any more the bad advice and the bad example I have given you. Never vote for the bad candidates. Do not fail in your religious duties. Do not read the bad papers. I ask pardon of all.' A few hours later he died.

ROME—A Jubilee Encyclical

It is understood, says a Rome correspondent, that the Pope has drawn up a universal Encyclical recommending a more

rational interpretation of the principle of love for one's neighbor as the only means by which the brotherhood of nations may be maintained and consolidated. In this great appeal will be the Pope's Jubilee Encyclical.

A French Pilgrimage

The members of the French National pilgrimage (writes a Rome correspondent) were received by the Holy Father on Saturday, May 23 after he had accorded a long and most kind special audience to Monsignor Amette, Archbishop of Paris. Two thousand pilgrims were present and they were accompanied to the Sala Regia, where the general audience was granted by Mgr. Amette and the Bishops of Amiens, Poitiers, Rodez, Mende, and Montauban, and Mgr. Gilbert, titular Bishop of Arsinoe. The Archbishop of Paris read an address, and the Holy Father replied touchingly. 'I thank you,' said he, 'for this new proof of attachment which you have given me after the considerable sacrifices which I have been reluctantly obliged to impose on France. They are sacrifices that have been rendered necessary by the hostile designs of a Government which, after having sought to dishonor the Church, endeavored to detach it from the Bishops and the Apostolic See. My only regret is that I cannot reside amongst you to show by example how the Faith should be kept in vigor. You are the sons of that France which was called the eldest daughter of the Church. I wish you could read in my heart the consolation I feel at this moment. Tell your fellow-countrymen that the Pope is always on their side for the welfare of the whole Church, and that each day when he offers Holy Sacrifice he prays for them first—that they may have strength to gain the victory.' The address was enthusiastically received, and all the prelates assured the Pope of their filial devotion to him and their approval of his latest act with regard to their country.

Ceremony of Beatification

The ceremony of the beatification of the Venerable Madeleine Sophie Barat on Sunday, May 24 (writes a Rome correspondent), assumed special importance owing to the large number of French pilgrims who came purposely to Rome, and to the arrival also of Monsignor Amette, Archbishop of Paris, who took this opportunity to pay his first visit to the Pope since being raised to his new dignity. The Basilica of St. Peter's, where the ceremony took place, was filled in the morning with many thousands of people, as besides the French pilgrims a large number of invitations had been issued which were taken advantage of by the English visitors now in Rome. The sisters and niece of the Pope were present in a special tribune, together with some relations of the Blessed Mother Barat. In the afternoon again the immense Basilica was densely crowded as the Pope went in procession, carried in the Sedia Gestatoria, to venerate the relics of the new beatified. He was preceded, surrounded, and followed by his lay and ecclesiastical Courts, and was received in the Chapel of the Sacrament by all the Cardinals of the Curia, headed by Cardinal Rampolla. When his Holiness knelt and prayed before the altar containing the Cathedra Petri (the ancient wooden Episcopal Chair of St. Peter), surrounded by thousands of electric lights and candles, the moment was supremely solemn. The Pontiff was presented with special images and relics of Blessed Barat. His Holiness withdrew processionally as he had come. The doors of the Basilica were then opened to the public, who visited it until late at night, while the facade of the church was beautifully illuminated.

SCOTLAND—Blairs College

Great satisfaction is felt at the famous seminary, from which so many earnest and able priests have gone forth to serve on the Scottish Mission, at the well-merited honor the Rector has received in his appointment as Domestic Prelate to the Holy Father. This satisfaction is shared by the diocese of Aberdeen, to which the newly-appointed Prelate belongs, both by birth and the whole of his priestly career, and by Scottish Catholics generally. Mgr. McGregor was born at Keith, Banffshire, where he received the beginning of his education. He was for several years at Blairs College, and subsequently studied at the Scots College in Rome, where he won distinction as a classical scholar.

UNITED STATES—The Preliminary Steps

In all the churches of Baltimore, U.S.A., on Sunday, May 10, a letter was read from Cardinal Gibbons directing that all letters or manuscripts of the late Rev. Francis Xavier Seelos, Rector of St. Alphonsus' Church in that city, and a member of the Redemptorist Congregation, should be given to the Chancellor, Rev. P. C. Gavan. This is one of the preliminaries for beatification. Father Seelos is the second Redemptorist priest in