

# The Catholic World

## ENGLAND—The Manning Centenary

Wednesday of last week was the centenary of the birth of Cardinal Manning. In connection with the event great open-air demonstrations had been arranged. A big procession was to take place on Sunday, July 19, through London to Hyde Park, where a meeting was to be held, at which many leading Catholic ecclesiastics and Irish and Labor members of Parliament were to attend and speak.

## Pilgrimage to Lourdes

A Catholic pilgrimage, numbering between 250 and 300, left Charing Cross, London, by special train on May 29 for Lourdes. The party travelled under the leadership of the Right Rev. Dr. Whiteside, Bishop of Liverpool. Fifty of the pilgrims were from Ireland, about seventy from London, and a large number from the different parts of the English provinces, Liverpool and Manchester being the foremost in this respect.

## An Appeal for Fair Play

The 'Catholic Weekly' quotes the following passage from 'An Earnest Appeal to Free Churchmen' which appeared as a leading article in a recent issue of the 'British Weekly':—We plead that Nonconformists should seriously reconsider the position, and carry on the coming negotiations as men prepared to do justice—we do not say to concede justice, for justice is a right—to their opponents. Why do the Catholics object to Simple Bible Teaching? In the first place, they are not bound to answer. When a great historical body comes forward, and through its authorised representatives says that certain forms of religious teaching are repugnant to its conscience, then the fact must be taken for granted and allowed for in whatever has to be done. Surely Free Churchmen will grant this. There was nothing more exasperating in the disputes of five years ago than Mr. Balfour's calm assumption that he knew much better what was good for Free Churchmen than Free Churchmen did themselves. Yet we have read arguments by distinguished Nonconformist leaders elaborately showing that Catholics ought to be satisfied with the simple teaching of the Bible. It is for them to say what they will be satisfied with. They have said it. They have proved their sincerity in a thousand ways. When confronted by the alternative, Simple Bible Teaching or no religious teaching, they have unhesitatingly chosen the latter, and have made great sacrifices to provide for their children what they themselves desire. . . . Cowper-Templeism is essentially Protestantism, unless supplemented, and that is why Free Churchmen love it. But though they love it and think it good, it does not follow that they can force it upon others who do not love it and who think it evil. That is the apology of all persecutors: "It is good for you." We desire very much that the present temper should continue; that the utmost pains should be taken to arrive at an agreement; but if the Free Churchmen are to exercise any real influence on the deliberations, they must cleanse their minds of the delusion that they can force Simple Bible Teaching upon Catholics, or that they can leave them without religious teaching in school hours.

## GERMANY—Catholic Population

According to figures given by Father Krose in a recent number of the 'Stimmen aus Maria Lasch,' there was in the German Empire on December 1, 1905, a Protestant population of 37,646,852, as compared with 35,231,104 in 1900, and a Catholic population of 22,094,492, as compared with 20,321,441 in 1900.

## ROME—Papal Audiences

Over two hundred French priests who visited Rome for the beatification of Blessed Madeleine Sophie Barat were received in audience by the Holy Father in the Consistorial Hall on Ascension Day. His Holiness in a short address encouraged them to fight on bravely in the cause of religion. On the previous day the Sisters of the Sacred Heart and their pupils, numbering 800, from all parts of the world, were admitted to audience by the Holy Father, who received them with the greatest warmth, blessed the Sisters for the good work they are doing, and exhorted the pupils to be faithful to the maxims they received from their teachers.

## The Pope's Birthday

Tuesday, June 2, being the Holy Father's 73rd birthday, the Vatican was unusually animated with the coming and going of personages, special audiences given, and the general movement

to be found on any special occasion. The Pontiff rose early and celebrated Mass, and after breakfast received several persons, among them his sisters. The Cardinals in Rome all sent congratulations or went in person, as did all the high personages of the lay and ecclesiastical courts. Thousands of telegrams were received from all parts of the world. The Duke of Norfolk having telegraphed to the Pope the news of the birth of an heir to the Dukedom, the Pontiff telegraphed in reply congratulating the Duke and sending a Benediction to the infant and all the members of his Grace's family.

## Postponement of the Consistory

The Archbishop of Hobart (Most Rev. Dr. Delany), in a letter to Father Gilleran, of Hobart, says:—It seems now that the Consistory is adjourned indefinitely. At my first interview with Cardinal Gotti he told me it was thought that it would be held in June. A couple of days ago something seems to have come in the way. The difficulty, I believe, lies with the creation of Cardinals. The attitude of the Governments has to be considered. In fact, if Catholics knew the embarrassments that are wantonly thrown daily in the Pope's way by persons of all sorts—good, bad, and indifferent—they would be much more alert in their championship of his independence. I have learned a good deal since I came to Rome, and the moral of it all is briefly this: that our Pope is a saintly and clear-headed man, and that his fellow-workers in the Curia and throughout the Congregation are men of exceptional abilities and sterling virtues. They are likewise wonderfully broad-minded and sympathetic. This postponement of the Consistory may mean a longer sojourn in Europe than I had anticipated.

## British Sailors at the Vatican

On May 29 some two hundred British sailors from the Mediterranean Fleet, which was lying off Civitavecchia, paid a visit to Rome. They were accompanied by a number of their officers, and arrangements were made by Mgr. Prior, whose interest in the British sailor is well known, for them to have as pleasant a day as possible. Meals were provided for them at the Hostel of S. Marta, and a number of clergy volunteered to act as guides in showing them round the city. The Catholics among them, who numbered some eighty or a hundred, were admitted to a special audience by the Pope. The Holy Father, after passing round the sala, where they were assembled, in order that each man might kiss his ring, gave a very practical little elocution, which was interpreted by Mgr. Prior. His Holiness, speaking of the preaching of St. John, the Baptist, said that the soldiers who heard him were frightened at his preaching of penance, and therefore naturally asked what they as ordinary soldiers were to do. The answer to which was, said the Pope, do your duty as soldiers, and that was what he had to say to the sailors to-day. They were called upon as Catholics to obey their officers and to do their work well. His Holiness expressed his great pleasure at seeing them, and blessed them and their relatives, as well as all the objects of piety they had with them, to which he applied all the indulgences. Before seeing the men the Pope received the officers, of whom some six were Catholics. The Holy Father before he left the sala was greeted by three hearty British cheers from officers and men. After the audience the men were shown round the Vatican galleries, and then went to do justice to an excellent dinner provided for them.

## SCOTLAND—Silver Jubilee Celebrations

On June 2 the Archbishop of Edinburgh presided over a crowded meeting in the Cathedral Hall, Edinburgh. The object of the gathering was the presentation of an illuminated address and a cheque for £450 to the Very Rev. Canon Stuart, in celebration of his silver jubilee; and as showing his popularity among all classes of the community, the testimonial was subscribed to by a large number of non-Catholics of Edinburgh and district. His Grace, in congratulating Canon Stuart on the attainment of his silver jubilee, said it was not given to very many of the clergy to reach that stage, and it was given to still fewer people to show such a record of devoted work for the Church of which he was so zealous a member. Mr. William Campbell, K.C., Dean of the Faculty of Advocates, made the presentation, and in the course of his remarks said that a man who had Canon Stuart's record behind him was a singularly happy and a singularly fortunate man. That happiness he had attained by the only means whereby happiness could be accomplished in this world—namely, by hard and congenial work. But in his case he had the additional satisfaction of knowing that he had worked not for himself but for others, and those labors had not been in vain. Their wish was that he might be spared