

# The Catholic World

## CANADA—The Convent was Saved

Almost the entire commercial portion of the City of the Three Rivers, Canada, was destroyed by fire on June 22. The correspondent of the London 'Daily News' telegraphed:—At the Ursuline Convent, as the fire approached, the nuns were ordered out for the sake of safety. They came out in orderly array, and calmly knelt down and prayed. There were nearly seventy of them; and the scene was most affecting. The flames, driven by the wind, turned aside, and did not touch the convent, which was saved. The nuns claim that a miracle was wrought.

## The Tercentenary Celebrations

Christian civilisation (remarks the 'Catholic Times') was first established in Quebec by Catholics, and in particular by Catholic missionaries. The Catholic population is therefore taking a deep interest in the centennial celebrations which began on the feast of St John the Baptist—a saint who has just been proclaimed by Papal Brief, patron of the French-Canadians—with the unveiling of a monument to Bishop Laval, first Bishop of Canada and of Quebec. As a tribute to him and to the other early Catholic missionaries a memorable resolution was passed on June 6 by the General Methodist Conference of Canada. It has been presented to Lieutenant Governor Sir Louis Jetté as a memorial of the tercentenary. The Methodist Ministers, referring to the Catholic clerical pioneers, declare: 'In them we have a rich inheritance of Christian devotedness, as Champlain himself described on introducing them to the Huron tribe of Indians. "These are our fathers. We love them as we love ourselves; the whole French nation loves them. They do not go among you for your furs; they have left their friends and their country to show you the way to Heaven." We recall the glorious motto of these men; to which they were unflinchingly true *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*, and unitedly honor their passionate charity and their enthusiastic love for the souls of men. We rejoice that in this patriotic monumental celebration all races and creeds of our great Dominion can unite and give expression to their conviction that the genius of a nation is not in her buildings, courts and fields, not in her harvests, herds, and stores, not in the sinews of her peasants and artisans and the lives of her children, but in the character she stamps on history, in the type of her art and literature; in the spirit of her laws, and, not least, in the pride and glory of her memories and traditions.' Memories and traditions which, it may be said, the Catholic Church in Canada, as elsewhere, fondly treasures.

## ENGLAND—The Eucharistic Congress

The Holy Father has appointed Cardinal Vincenzo Vannutelli as Papal Legate to the Nineteenth International Eucharistic Congress, to be held in London next September.

## Confiscated Property

An interesting instance of the misappropriation of property, confiscated at the time of the so-called Reformation (says the 'Catholic Times'), has been under review in the House of Commons. It appears, according to Mr. Clough, a Liberal M.P., that the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Durham were endowed by Henry VIII. with revenues of the Benedictine Priory of Durham, and of Durham College, Oxford, and at the 'Reformation' these revenues, estimated at £710 per annum, were earmarked for 'higher education in the North.' The total endowments of the University of Durham amount to £380,000, but the University accounts have never been published; and, seeing that the Royal Commission of 1862 reported the existence of irregularities in these accounts, Mr. Clough asks for an inquiry as to the amount of the present revenues of the University of Durham, and the extent to which they are being diverted to the preparation of candidates for Orders in the Church of England and other sectarian purposes.

## A Composer's Bequests

M. Jacques Blumenthal, the composer, who left estate valued at over £62,000, provided in his will for a number of bequests to musical societies. The testator left various bequests to Catholic institutions, including £5500 to the Archbishop of Westminster for the benefit of Catholic educational institutions in England and for other purposes.

## FRANCE—Inconsistency of the Government

When M. Fallières, on his visit to London, sent donations to the French Hospital and the French schools connected with

the Church of Notre Dame, in Leicester square, regardless of the fact that these institutions were managed by religious institutions, we ('Catholic Weekly') commented upon the inconsistency of French Government in dealing with congregations. But we based our explanation on the ground that it was the usual policy of the French Jacobins to honor religious devotedness outside France, while maltreating, despoiling, and ejecting religious from their homes in France itself. But now we must express serious distrust of our wisdom in this matter. For, recently, a Sister of Charity was decorated for her devoted services in a military hospital on French soil. Of course, it is possible that this graceful act was done by military authorities, regardless of the sentiments which rule the Masonic 'bloc.' This will appear the more probable when we remember that the ceremony took place at Vannes, in Catholic Brittany. Anyhow, the treatment allotted to nuns under French Governments may be described popularly as one of 'kicks and half-pence'—the proportion of kicks being about 99 per cent. of the whole. Speaking of the Masonic war carried on by the Continental lodges against nuns who devote their lives to the relief of human suffering, we regret to see that the anti-clerical majority in the Corporation of Verona has just expelled the Sisters of Charity from the public hospital, in spite of the protests of those who know them best, and are most closely concerned—viz., the patients themselves. A demonstration has been held by the Veronese in protest against an act inspired by anti-Christian fanaticism on the part of those who falsely pose as the friends of the people.

## GERMANY—The Catholic Press

The great success of the Catholic Party in having increased its membership in the Prussian Landtag from 96 to 105 is attributed by 'Rome' to the development of the Catholic Press in Germany. It says:—The number of Catholic papers in Germany has increased from 272 to 480 in the last eighteen years, and at present they have a circulation of more than three millions and a half. Everyone admits that the Press is now one of the chief means of influencing public opinion and spreading ideas—a fact which is well recognised by the anti-religious parties, who have by this means got such a hold on the general populace. Therefore, it is most essential that, in the fight against the spread of irreligion, the Church should be well armed in this respect. The difficulty, however, is that from the very nature of the case Catholic journalists are not able to put before their readers those thrilling stories of doubtful morality which the general public devour so readily, and which help so much to increase the circulation of the anti-religious papers. And this want of a general circulation prevents in many cases the Catholic editors from producing a paper in other respects as attractive as their opponents, with the result that it often happens that a number of Catholics who ought to support them refuse to do so on the ground that in spite of the lurid tales, which they admit defile the anti-Catholic papers, they are yet better printed, and contain later news. It seems a pity, indeed, that such people should not realise more their duty as Catholics to support all attempts made to bring out genuine Catholic papers, and so make them by such support capable of rivaling successfully those which are against the Church and productive of so much evil.

## ROME—Presentation to the Pope's Sisters

A few evenings ago (writes a Rome correspondent under date June 21) the Very Rev. Isidore O'Meehan, Guardian of the Convent of St. Isidore of the Irish Franciscans, drove over to the Borgo, in the vicinity of the Vatican, where the three sisters and niece of the Holy Father live so humbly. He went to present in the name of the donor some Irish poplin which had been sent them by Major-General McNamara, of the English Army, from Ireland. During the conversation which followed the presentation the past and present life of the Pope formed an interesting subject. The most trying duty in the life of the Holy Father, the eldest of the three sisters observed, is the giving of private audiences. With regard to public audiences, when great bodies are presented to him together, the strain is slight; in fact, such audiences are sources of pleasure. But few can imagine the amount of energy and patience required to give day after day, from week to week, private audiences to people from all over the world.

## The Attack on Scottish Students

The British Embassy in Rome, having applied to Commander Bollati, Secretary-General at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, with regard to the hooligans who attacked the Scottish seminarists near Albano on April 23, received a most friendly and sympathetic answer. The British Embassy has deputed the solicitor to the British Consulate there to follow the trial on behalf of the Home Government.