

The Catholic World

CANADA—Tercentenary Celebrations

The celebrations at Quebec are over, and one comment on them by the *Daily Telegraph* merits chronicling. 'The province of Quebec,' it says, 'is one of the most intensely Catholic portions of the world, and from the beginning of the British occupation the authorities of that Church have displayed an exemplary spirit of loyalty. Their influence over their flocks has played not the least part among the factors which have helped to maintain the liberty and security of Canada. All the august ceremonial of the Catholic faith has been invoked to bless and sanctify all the acts of patriotism which have taken place during the Champlain Tercentenary. Last Sunday, for instance, Solemn High Mass was celebrated upon the Plains of Abraham in the presence of a great congregation. These are the main facts which must be grasped if the real meaning of the scenes during the Prince of Wales's visit is to be realised. Unselfish and wise as was the co-operation of the other provinces, the celebration of the founding of Quebec was above all the festival of French-speaking Canada, yet in no part of the territories of the King could a more loyal reception have been prepared for the Heir to the Throne.'

ENGLAND—Presentation to Father Benson

The Rev. Father R. H. Benson, M.A., has been presented with a monstrance and a number of private gifts by the members of the congregation of Our Lady and the English Martyrs, Cambridge, on the occasion of his departure from the city. The Very Rev. Mgr. Barnes, M.A., chaplain to the Catholic undergraduates at the University, was chairman of the presentation committee, and the Right Rev. Mgr. Scott, who made the presentation, expressed his personal regret and that of his flock at losing the services of Father Benson.

Catholic Trade Union Delegates

The following message was sent to Pope Pius X. by the Conference of Catholic trade union delegates meeting in Manchester on August 1:—'This conference of representative Catholic trade union delegates, under the auspices of Salford Diocesan Catholic Federation asserting Catholic principles on education, send expressions of loyalty to Holy See and beg Apostolic Benediction.—E. Riley, chairman.' They have received the following acknowledgment:—'Holy Father thanks you your telegram conveying expression loyalty Catholic trade unionists. Willingly imparts members conference Apostolic blessing.—Cardinal Merry del Val.'

Catholic Young Men's Societies

The annual conference of the Catholic Young Men's Society of Great Britain was opened at Coventry on August 2, and attended by nearly 300 delegates. The Rev. W. J. Sparrow (Liverpool) set forth Catholic claims on education, and Mr. Mooney (Preston) spoke on Socialism. In the evening a public meeting was held, when an inaugural address was given by the Very Rev. John Norris, of Birmingham. He expressed the belief that in the near future the Catholic Church would have a larger field of action in English-speaking countries than she had since the Reformation, for between the Tractarian movement and the modern spirit of Rationalism and Materialism the heart of Protestantism was being eaten out of it, and soon the choice of the English people would lie between the Catholic Church and nothing. A resolution was passed demanding denominational teaching in Catholic schools.

Catholic Record Society

Since it was founded four years ago, the Catholic Record Society has performed a most useful function in transcribing, printing, and indexing many old documents, chiefly personal and genealogical, since the Reformation. Though established and carried on by Catholics, this organisation is interesting to every student of history, since it has been found that all notable families which can be traced back six or seven generations have had Catholic members among them; and, therefore, Catholic records. Mr. Joseph Gillow, the society's recorder, had undertaken to annotate the Lancashire part of the *Recusant List* of 1667 for the second volume of the current year, but ill-health—from which he has now apparently recovered—impeded the progress of this work. Lord Burghley's map of Lancashire, 1590, annotated by Mr. Gillow, has been reprinted with a special index.

ITALY—Significant Statistics

Statistics just published (writes a Rome correspondent) show that seventy-five per cent. of the pupils in boarding schools for

girls in Italy are in schools conducted by nuns, some eighteen per cent. in institutions managed by private lay teachers, and seven per cent. in Government institutions. This is remarkable enough, but even this proportion is exceeded in the case of extern pupils. Of these, convent schools have eighty per cent., private schools nine per cent., and Government schools eleven per cent. There is only one explanation for these figures. They do not refer to any one particular place. They indicate the firm conviction of an intelligent people, who are amongst the first in the world in affection and solicitude for the welfare of their children. For fifty years Italian parents have been urged, and besought, and lectured, and coerced by Liberal Governments and anti-clerical Ministers of Education, with a view to have their children withdrawn from convent schools, but Italian fathers and mothers prefer the intelligent and conscientious up-bringing of the Sisters to the up-to-date methods of the 'professoressa.' Many of these latter are of the type that made itself most heard in the recent 'Italian Women's Congress.' It is worth mentioning that the private educational institutions, mentioned in the percentages given, exist principally in places not possessing the advantages of a convent school. A goodly fraction of them is made up of those proselytising institutions, supported by English and American money, which one finds in so many parts of Italy. These zealous subscribers do not seem to be able to grasp the simple truth, that it is almost impossible for a non-Catholic Italian to believe in any other form of Christianity.

ROME—Cardinal Gibbons

His Eminence Cardinal Gibbons, of Baltimore, was received in private audience by the Pope on August 1. The Pontiff was most cordial and affectionate, and held his guest in conversation for a long time. The audience with the Pope lasted one hour. Speaking of the changes made recently in the organisation of the Roman congregations, Cardinal Gibbons expressed his admiration for the activity of the Pope. In reply the Holy Father said: 'You and I are of the same age, and we are still quite young.'

Missions to Non-Catholics

Rev. Father A. P. Doyle, of the Apostolic Mission House, Washington, having been received in audience by the Holy Father, had a long interview with Cardinal Merry del Val on the results of his work. When Father Doyle mentioned the recent action of Archbishop Bourne in sending Father Vaughan to the Mission House to prepare for the work in England, the Cardinal said: 'Yes; I have read in the English papers of what Archbishop Bourne has done, and the project commends itself to me as a most feasible way of putting new life into the movement for the conversion of England. The choice of Father Vaughan for the work is a most happy one. I know him well, and he has all the qualities that are most apt to secure the best results. This mission work was very close to the heart of Cardinal Vaughan in his latter years, but he had not strength to carry out his plans completely. To Father Vaughan, however, has fallen the providential role of carrying to ultimate success the projects of his uncle, the Cardinal. He is a Vaughan, and he has inherited qualities of mind and heart that will ensure success in the working.'

A Touching Audience

There was an interesting and touching spectacle in the Sala Regia the other morning (writes a Rome correspondent), when the Holy Father entered to meet the Rev. Mother Provincial and the community of the Little Sisters of the Poor, who, with over 100 of the old men and 70 of the old women of their institution had assembled to be received in audience. At the sight of his Holiness, who was accompanied by Monsignor Bisleti, with some of the Chamberlains and Noble Guards, all broke forth in shouts of joy, and clapping of hands, and silence was restored only by a sign from the Holy Father after he had stopped for a few moments, and smilingly gazed at the old people. The Pontiff then went round the hall, giving each the ring to kiss and addressing them in kindly words. Afterwards two of the old men approached the throne on which the Holy Father had now seated himself; one bore a lily, ornamented with ribbons, the symbol of the Pope's patron, St. Joseph; the other read an address expressing the joy and consolation all the inmates felt at that happy moment, presenting their homage and congratulations on the sacerdotal jubilee of his Holiness, and asking the Papal Benediction for the Sisters and all the poor sheltered by them in their various institutions throughout the world.

The Holy Father

Pope Pius X. (says the *Catholic Weekly*) completed the fifth year of his pontificate on August 4, and the occasion brought