

The Catholic World

ENGLAND—A Precious Souvenir

One of the most highly valued of the treasures possessed by the Duke of Norfolk is a beautiful golden crucifix which was presented to him, when quite a little boy, by the late Pope Pius IX. The occasion was a visit to Rome of his Grace's father, the late Duke, who was accompanied to the Vatican by his young son, and received in audience by the Holy Father. During the interview the Sovereign Pontiff, who was much taken with the future head of the Howards, asked the lad what he would like best. The boy's response was an unexpected one. 'Holy Father, I should like to see your bedroom; for they say no one is ever allowed to go there.' Smilingly, the Pope took the boy by the hand and led him into his private chamber. There, taking down from the wall the crucifix which hung at the head of the bed, he placed it in the hands of the delighted guest, and bade him keep it as a remembrance. There is now no more greatly revered object than that precious souvenir of the gentle and saintly Pío Nono, bestowed on the Duke at his first audience with Christ's Vicar.'

ROME—Brazilian Pilgrims

A body of Brazilian pilgrims were received by the Holy Father on September 28, being introduced by the Archbishop of Rio de Janeiro. His Holiness said Brazil was one of the countries that gave him joy, because though Church and State had been separated, religion was respected.

Sports at the Vatican

The Holy Father was present for nearly two hours at the International Sports, which took place in Rome on September 26 in Bramantes' Courtyard at the Vatican. Irish athletes distinguished themselves. Carroll gained the gold medal for rope-climbing; McCarthy won the gold medal for the high jump; while in the long jump Kirwan and McCarthy were equal. On Sunday all the athletes taking part in the sports marched in procession through Rome.

The Holy Father and Ireland

The Holy Father has once more been disclosing to representatives of Catholic Ireland the cordiality of his feeling towards her people. Ireland has, indeed, had a high and honored place amongst the nations that have been tendering homage and affection to the Holy Father on the occasion of his jubilee (says the *Catholic Times*). The Municipality of Dublin, on September 24, presented its greetings and good wishes through Mr. J. P. Nannetti, M.P., ex-Lord Mayor, who, to the manifest delight of his Holiness, referred with pride to the fact that the blood of Italy and of Ireland commingles in his veins. The Pontiff spoke with emotion of the sentiments of devotion and attachment contained in the Irish address from the Council, and he regarded the exquisite illumination of the work as a proof that in artistic decoration the Irish hand has not lost its cunning. The Irish Confraternities, the members of the Young Men's Society of Ireland, and, above all, the Irish athletes, who have achieved such brilliant victories in the Vatican sports, who figured so prominently in Sunday's great procession through the Eternal City, and who have so well deserved an enthusiastic welcome home from their fellow-countrymen, met with the kindest reception from his Holiness. The Pontiff expressed his conviction that to the firmness of their faith are chiefly due such religious liberties as the Catholics of England enjoy. The warm, hearty tribute paid to the fidelity of the Catholics of Ireland will encourage them in the struggle upon which the Catholics of these islands have entered for abolishing the last remnants and vestiges of intolerant laws.

Irish Music at the Vatican

The scene at the Vatican on September 24, when his Irish children crowded round the Holy Father in such numbers and so enthusiastically attested their filial homage, will not soon be forgotten by the Pope or by any one who enjoyed the privilege of being present. Particularly inspiring (says the *Catholic Times*) was it to the Irishmen, to hear in such a spot the stirring strains of 'The wearing of the green,' as Mr. Ceannt, in the picturesque costume of the Gaël, marched into the Sala Consistoria with stately stride, playing the pipes, passed before the Pope, whose surprise and admiration were evident, and then, playing still, withdrew. In our Roman correspondent's letter the incidents of the memorable reception are described in detail. In a letter to us the Rev. J. W. Thomson, of St. James's, Raw-

tenstall, thus gives the impression made upon him: 'I had the great pleasure of being present at the audience granted by the Pope to the pilgrims from Ireland. This was very kindly allowed me by Dr. O'Hagan, of the Irish College, Rome. The distinctive note of this remarkable audience was the intense enthusiasm displayed by the Irish Catholics in the actual presence of the Holy Father. Although I was present at three or four audiences in former years, I never remember to have heard or read of the like. The Sala Consistoria, where we were all assembled, surely never heard such cheers, resounding Irish cheers. Suddenly, as if to accentuate all this, were heard the well known strains of the Irish pipes. Coming gradually from a distance, the player advanced between the two rows of ladies, lay gentlemen, and clergy, and stopped in front of the Pope. Never, I venture to say, did Pope before hear such music. Pius X. was very visibly pleased, laughing good humoredly. Our Roman correspondent says that the Irish music and cheers seemed to dispel, as if by magic, every vestige of the care of which the Pope's face had shown signs.'

The Holy Father's Health

Pope Pius X.'s references to his few remaining years, at his reception of the Venetian pilgrims, do not seem to have depressed his old subjects of the Patriarchate. One of them, a journalist, Signor Succardo, who for twenty years has been a friend of the Pope, describing his interview, says the Pope has still all the appearance of a man in the full vigor of life. Apart from his white locks, his three-and-seventy years appear to weigh lightly upon his shoulders. The upright head, lively step, quick, clear eye, strong voice without a break, the animated, sparkling, pointed conversation of a mind ever on the alert and nourished by the prodigious memory which is one of the principal characteristics of his Holiness, proclaim his vigor. His strength, for the rest, is lavishly spent without fatiguing itself, during the long day's labors that endure from five in the morning until far into the night. Never for a moment relaxed, the strange thing is that his bearing never shows the slightest trace of weariness.

SCOTLAND The Faith in the Highlands

To-day (writes an Edinburgh correspondent) a large percentage of the population of the Western Highlands and Hebrides are Catholics, and there are many well known aristocratic families who have never departed from the Faith. There can be no doubt whatever that in recent years Catholicism has made headway in the Highlands of Scotland. In Banffshire and in some of the Lowland counties the progress has been most marked. Tomintoul has been a living centre of the Faith for more than five hundred years. And other districts follow close on the heels of 'the highest town in Scotland.' Rationalism may marshal its forces, but so far it has failed to make the slightest impression on the sturdy, unconquerable Faith of the loyal Catholics in Glenlivet or in the far north.

UNITED STATES—The See of St. Louis

Rev. C. J. Armstrong, a Baptist editor of St. Louis, Missouri, in an article on the religious status of that city, says that the Catholics of the Missouri metropolis number 350,000, as against 128,985 affiliated with all other Churches. This certainly is a splendid showing for the strength of Catholicity in St. Louis. The corner-stone of a new Cathedral was laid at St. Louis on October 18 by the Apostolic Delegate, Monsignor Falconio.

Religion in Panama

On account of the large number of Catholics among the Italian and Spanish laborers (says the *Canal Record*, of Panama), the commission maintains four chaplains of that Faith. A chaplain who visits the camps and hospitals along the line of the canal lives in Panama City, and local chaplains are stationed in Ancon, Culebra, and Colon. A chapel is being built at Culebra by the Catholics on a site furnished by the commission. A Catholic chapel was part of Ancon hospital, as transferred by the French to the Americans, and it is maintained by the commission. The Cathedral and churches in Panama and Colon are also used by the Catholics of the Zone.

What Catholics Pay for Education

Rev. P. J. Riordan, of Chicago, recently stated that if all the parochial schools in that city were closed it would cost Chicago taxpayers 10,000,000 dollars to erect school buildings enough to accommodate the new pupils, and 2,000,000 dollars a year additional to pay the wages of the increased number of teachers that would be required. This is a striking demonstration of the tremendous financial sacrifice the Catholics of Chicago are compelled to make in order that they may secure for their children the great blessing of a Christian education. And it is