

The Catholic World

ENGLAND—The Bishop of Auckland

The Bishop of Auckland (says the *Catholic Times*) left London on the last day of the old year, for his return to New Zealand. Dr. Lenihan arrived in this country in May, and during his seven months' sojourn here had a crowded and busy life. He attended the Eucharistic Congress; paid three visits to Ireland; went to Rome for the celebration of the Pope's Jubilee, and transacted, besides, an enormous amount of work in connection with his diocese at the Antipodes, a diocese which—as he said in the course of an interesting address he delivered at the Redemptorist Church, Clapham, shortly before his departure, is as large as the whole of Ireland. Those who had the good fortune of meeting Bishop Lenihan will always have pleasant recollections of an exceptionally attractive personality—genial and warm-hearted, with an intense love for the Church and for Ireland. Among the relatives and friends who saw him off at Charing Cross and bade him God speed on his long journey were his sisters, Mrs. Waller, Mrs. Nixon, and Miss Redmond, of Clapham, Father Norbert Birt, Benedictine, and Father Hilary, Passionist.

FRANCE—A Candid Critic

In the course of a letter to the *Daily Dispatch* on the present condition of affairs in France, Mr. Thomas Pinkerton, of Clonard, Bangor, says: 'What has the Third Republic done for the peasant but foil and thwart him. I am a Protestant, but I do not know of anything more iniquitous or more worthy of the methods of the darkest times of the Middle Ages than the treatment the Third Republic has meted to the Catholic Church in France.'

GERMANY—The Government and the Centre Party

Though the Centre Party have been more or less at war with the Government since the last elections they are not dissatisfied with the present condition of affairs, nor are they discouraged in looking towards the future. This is the substance of an interview which has been accorded to a representative of the *Corriere d'Italia* by Dr. Pieper, priest, deputy to the Reichstag, member of the Prussian Landtag, and head of that powerful Catholic organisation the Volkverein. The members of the Centre, it appears, rejoice in being in opposition. Formerly when they held a position of greater responsibility, they had to be chary of criticism on some occasions when they would otherwise have commented sharply on Government projects. Now they exercise their freedom to the largest extent. The result is that their popularity is increasing, whereas the parties who form the Bloc and are under the dictatorship of Prince Bulow are losing ground amongst the electorate. The necessity of supporting the Government's schemes sometimes compels them to do violence to their own principles. Dr. Pieper is of opinion that Prince Bulow, for whom the situation has become much more difficult since the famous interview with the Kaiser, will retire from public life as soon as he has carried out his programme of financial reform, and that at the next elections the Bloc politicians will be badly beaten. With the Catholic electoral organisation so strong and complete, it may be predicted pretty confidently that the Centre will come out of the fray successfully.

ITALY—Victims of the Earthquake

A considerable number of the priests, monks, and nuns who lived in the earthquake zone have lost their lives. Of twenty nuns in one convent at Reggio seven are dead. The priests, monks, and nuns in Southern Calabria and Sicily who had escaped death devoted themselves from the first in the most self-sacrificing spirit to relief work. In this work Cardinal Lualdi, Archbishop of Palermo, and Cardinal di Bontife, Archbishop of Catania, have conspicuously distinguished themselves. His Eminence Cardinal Lualdi, Archbishop of Palermo, in a letter to the Cardinal-Secretary of State which the *Osservatore Romano* publishes, describes the arrangements he has made for ministering to and succoring the injured and dying in Sicily. He pays a tribute to the members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, who are engaged day and night in relief work. The clergy, he says, are going round everywhere, and are cordially welcomed. Great numbers receive the Sacraments.

ROME—Received in Private Audience

The Holy Father on January 5 received in private audience the Right Rev. Dr. Chisholm, Bishop of Aberdeen. His Holiness evinced the greatest interest in the progress of Catholicism in Scotland, on which he congratulated the Bishop.

The Holy Father's Sympathy

The grandeur and profound depths of the sympathy that the human heart ordinarily conceals have been magnificently displayed during the awful crisis of suffering and sorrow in Calabria and Sicily (says the *Catholic Times*). The Father of the Faithful at the Vatican has shown that he cherishes for his afflicted children a love and tenderness truly paternal. Of all who have been suffering, even in the anguish of racking pain, scarcely one has felt the bitterness of the catastrophe more acutely than the aged Pontiff. Whatever zealous care, prompted by the noblest charity, can do, he is doing for the relief of the injured and the homeless. On the receipt of the first news, he telegraphed to different prelates in the south for ample particulars. He devoted himself much to prayer and ordered public prayers. Audiences were suspended and measures were at once taken to use in the work of rescue and succor the services of members of the grand army of priests and monks and nuns who are ever ready to make sacrifices for the sake of their brethren stricken down by accident or disease. His Holiness provided a hospital for the injured who are brought to the Eternal City, and he has gone amongst them, soothing them and pouring into their ears words of consolation which are as balm to their wounded spirits. His generous contribution of one hundred thousand lire headed the first list of relief offerings, and now he is taxing the resources at his command for the same humanitarian purpose.

SCOTLAND—Catholic Progress

In the far north, in the east, in the south, in the west, and in the western Highlands the progress of the Catholic Church during the past year has been phenomenal (writes a Glasgow correspondent). A quarter of a century ago the Catholic population in Scotland was a trifle. To-day it is 520,000, and in the crowded industrial area governed by his Grace the Archbishop of Glasgow alone it is well-nigh 400,000. A quarter of a century ago Catholics were almost scorned north of the Tweed. If they aimed high popular opinion glowered disapproval. To-day Catholics are honored all over Scotland, and popular opinion is at least more tolerant. A quarter of a century ago Catholics were little known in the higher professions. To-day they fill the Universities and adorn the higher professions. Some interesting statistics are given in the 'Scottish Catholic Directory' for 1909. There are 555 priests in Scotland, 459 seculars, and 96 regulars. The missions number 236, and the churches, chapels, stations, etc., 394. There are 69 Religious Houses, 13 for men and 56 for women, and there are 38 charitable institutions. Catholic schools number 212, and departments 262. In the archdiocese of St. Andrews and Edinburgh there were during 1907, 2334 baptisms, 1531 confirmations, and 444 marriages. Aberdeen diocese had 401 baptisms, 334 confirmations, and 61 marriages. In Argyll and the Isles there were 246 baptisms, 189 confirmations, and 41 marriages. Dunkeld diocese had 1323 baptisms, 694 confirmations, and 241 marriages. In Galloway there were 705 baptisms, 861 confirmations, and 99 marriages. Glasgow archdiocese's statistics are particularly interesting. There were 14,630 baptisms, 7425 confirmations, and 2555 marriages. Totals are—20,139 baptisms, 11,034 confirmations, and 3441 marriages.

UNITED STATES—The Church in the Philippines

Some idea of the task which faces the Catholic Church of providing priests for a many-languaged population (remarks the *New York Catholic News*) may be obtained from a notice in the *Philippine Catholic* concerning the Church of St. Dominic, Manila: 'Confessions in Spanish, English, German, French, Italian, Chinese, Japanese, Pangasinan, Cagayan, Ilocano, and Batanes will be heard at any time during or preceding the time of services.'

Prompt Assistance

The promptness with which the Catholic Church in the United States went about securing aid for the Italian earthquake sufferers (says the *New York Catholic News*) testifies not alone to the broad charity of the Catholic people, but demonstrates as well how splendidly the Church is organised to secure aid in such contingencies. All the Archbishops and Bishops acted at once, with the result that on the Sunday after the disaster in every Catholic church throughout the land appeals were made for assistance for the stricken Italians. The Catholic people have responded nobly. Here in the archdiocese of New York the collection taken up in the churches last Sunday (January 3) will amount to about 30,000 dollars. On Thursday morning (January 7) 27,000 dollars had been received at the chancery office, and there were many more churches, in country districts principally, to be heard from. The collection from the Brooklyn diocese will amount to about 15,000 dollars.