

The Catholic World

ENGLAND—A Mother in Israel

In its notice of the death of the Mother-General of the Sisters of Nazareth, the London *Tablet* said: 'For many years she (Mother Mary of the Nativity) had borne sufferings which could neither restrict her boundless activities nor defeat her fortitude, and it seemed as if only after uncovenanted hesitations and delays were they allowed to fulfil their law and she to lay down her life. On Tuesday, though very ill, she seemed to take a turn for the better. The doctor spoke encouragingly, and the Archbishop of Westminster, who visited her, left the sick-room reassured. In the night, however, there was a change for the worse; and in the presence of the Bishop of Amycla and of members of her community, she breathed her last. Thus passes away Margaret Mary Owen, a Mother in Israel, a woman among women, of whom we can confidently say that no woman of her time has exercised a greater beneficence. The Order which she ruled for thirty-one years will mourn for her even while its members know that, being dead, she yet speaketh; and not only the poor will send up their lamentations; for among all classes alike she carried forward her apostolate of pity and of love. There is a destitution of the heart as well as of the purse, and to the one and the other the personality and the resources of Mother Mary of the Nativity brought succor. The Poor Sisters of Nazareth date only from 1851, and the part taken in the foundation of their Order by Cardinal Wiseman began that connexion between Nazareth House and the Archbishop of Westminster which future events drew closer. Cardinal Manning used to say that had he been a woman he would have been a Sister of Nazareth; and Cardinal Vaughan's biography will tell the story of the unflinching help he had from the Community of Hammersmith and its head. The Hammersmith Mother-house was built in 1857, and has been since enlarged. To-day the branch houses in Great Britain and Ireland, in Australia, South Africa, and New Zealand number over thirty. Those who know the enormous scale of the charities achieved at the Hammersmith House alone will not need to be told what, when thus multiplied, the aggregate of such beneficence must be. And hers was the constructing mind, the directing hand. Thus it is that no dearer name in religion has been known among us for many years than that of Mary of the Nativity. It will be spoken henceforth only in prayer, mingled with praise and thanksgiving for the gift to earth of such a soul. No mother of families gathered round domestic hearths this Christmas, however dear to children and grandchildren, will ever be followed to the grave with so much affection, gratitude, and grief as she.'

FRANCE—An Important Judgment

An important judgment affecting the rights of Catholics to hold their churches has been given by the tribunal of Brive, in France. The Municipal Council formed a cultural association, and intruded an Old Catholic parish priest named Fâtome. The Abbé Dumas, who was appointed by the Bishop of Tulle, claimed the church, and the tribunal has decided that his claim is good, on the ground that as between two distinct religions the preference is to be given to that which was formerly in occupation.

ITALY—A Cherished Decoration

Numberless instances of heroism on the part of the priests, Brothers, and nuns of Calabria and Sicily (says a Rome correspondent) are daily recorded in the press. A touching incident occurred a few days ago in a caravan of thirty wounded who were being conveyed to Catania. Among the number was a nun, who only awaited death to end her sufferings. She had made her way among the ruins for the purpose of interring corpses when a tottering wall fell upon her and fractured her skull. Grave though her condition was, as she was conveyed to Catania she preserved perfect lucidity of mind, and when a doctor had dressed her wounds her only cause of sorrow was that she could not make any return for his attendance. Amid effusive thanks the dying nun insisted upon his acceptance of all she possessed—an aluminium medal! With tears in his eyes the old doctor showed the medal to his comrades. 'It is my most cherished decoration,' he said. 'So much faith, such self-sacrifice and resignation on the part of the poor Sister, who believed she had not even done her duty, will surely recall me to the Faith!'

The Clergy and the Sufferers

Our readers (remarks the *Catholic Times*) are aware of the spirit in which the clergy of Sicily, Calabria, and indeed the whole of Italy, acted during the trying time immediately following the earthquake. The reports sent to

the Holy Father and the Cardinal-Secretary of State by Bishops and priests, the letters they addressed to friends, the interviews they gave to newspaper correspondents all eloquently attest how eager they were to help others in the hour of danger. As soon as the aged Archbishop of Messina was released from the wreckage of his palace, his first thought was for his seminarists whose lives were in jeopardy. When he had brought relief to them he sought out the wounded and had them brought into a part of the palace which remained standing. Similar courage and self-sacrifice were displayed by the Vicar Capitular of Reggio di Calabria. As for the ordinary clergy both in Messina and Reggio, most of them were killed; yet those of them who survived and were not severely injured, remained amidst the ruins, affording spiritual succor to the afflicted people. Many other priests, including Cardinals Lualdi and Nava, came to their assistance from Palermo, Catania, Acireale, Syracuse—from every part of Italy and Sicily—and spent days and nights in this work of mercy. What wonder that the Catholics are fiercely indignant at the slanderous utterance of the Italian Minister of Marine, Admiral Mirabello, to the effect that the priests were wanting in devotion to their flocks. The clergy were the first to render aid, and ever since they have remained at the post of duty—beside the suffering and the sorrowing.

The Holy Father and the Orphans

One of the saddest features of the disaster in Calabria and Messina is the number of young children who have been left without father, mother, or relative. It is a splendid proof of the untiring labor and tender solicitude with which the investigations amongst the ruins have been conducted that the lives of such a large number of children who were in deadly peril have been saved. The Holy Father has shown an eager interest in the fate of the orphans. At his request many of them have been taken into private houses and orphanages in Rome, and, according to a report which appears in the *Corriere d'Italia*, he has blessed and promised to aid a scheme which Bishop Morabito has formed for the establishment of a great orphanage in Calabria. No undertaking in the stricken region is more deserving of generous support.

SCOTLAND—Death of a leading Catholic

Our Home exchanges record the death of a leading Scottish Catholic in the person of Mr. James Brand, K.C.S.G. Born some seventy-seven years ago in Montrose, he came of a family hailing from Kincardine. He served an apprenticeship as a civil engineer, and afterwards joined his father in business, first as assistant and later as partner in the firm. He carried out many of the most important undertakings of the Great North of Scotland Railway, his skill as an engineer and his ability as a contractor surmounting many difficulties. In many of his recent contracts millions of pounds were involved, the firm of Messrs. Charles Brand and Son being one of the foremost in Great Britain. Mr. Brand, while still a young man, became a Catholic. The step was an heroic one, but deceased was a man of firm conviction, and he held principles sacred. He was one of the first chairmen of the Glasgow Parish Council, and the first Catholic to fill the honored post. To the Catholic Church in Scotland Mr. Brand gave ungrudgingly of his time. He founded the Caledonian Catholic Association—now one of the most vigorous Catholic institutions in Scotland, and he followed with interest, and assisted in, the work of the Catholic Truth Society. For the great services he rendered to the Faith in Scotland he received from the Pope the Knighthood of St. Gregory. His purse was always at the service of the Church, one of his latest gifts being £1000 for the erection of a hall in Garnethill.

UNITED STATES—An Appreciation

The Governor-General of the Philippine Islands has sent a communication to Archbishop Harty of Manila, thanking him for the services he rendered in enlisting the aid of the clergy to stamp out the cholera.

A Protector of Life and Property

Commenting on the procession of 40,000 Catholic men through the streets of Boston on November 1, which was one of the features of the centenary celebration of that diocese, Mr. George T. Angell, editor of *Our Dumb Animals*—a man internationally famous as a humanitarian, and who is a non-Catholic, says: 'And as we looked down on this great procession two thoughts came to us—First, that saying nothing of theological opinions there can be no doubt that innumerable millions of the human races have on the whole lived better lives and died happier because of the teachings and ministrations of the Catholic Church, and, second, that the American Catholic Church is a great protection of property and life, and if anarchist mobs should ever attempt to raise their bloody hands and flags in Boston, these forty thousand men would crush them as quickly as Napoleon did the mobs of Paris.'