

# The Catholic World

## ENGLAND—The Present State of Society

Rev. Father Bernard Vaughan, preaching at Farm St. Church, London, on Sunday, January 31, said no thoughtful man could look around without feeling they were living in days of terrible social upheaval, when everything seemed out of joint, when the powers of darkness were raising storms of passion among men in society. Self-reverence and self-control were being regarded as superstitions of a bygone day. The present state of unbridled passion abroad, if it were traced to its source, would be found to be due to neglect of Christ and indifference to His laws.

## Westminster Cathedral

Referring in the *Cathedral Chronicle* to the financial position of Westminster Cathedral, Bishop Johnson says that, 'excluding the cost of the site, the total expenditure on the Cathedral building, the Cathedral Hall, and the Cloisters has been £235,420. Towards this expenditure, £48,555 was granted by the Charity Commissioners from the sale of the Moorfields property. The other receipts have been from donations, annual subscriptions, and bequests. There is still money available for some of the chapels; and there is also some money for other fixed purposes. But on the general building account of the Cathedral there is a deficit of £8391, temporarily covered by a loan, on which interest is paid at 3½ per cent.

## GERMANY—The Emperor's Birthday

The Holy Father sent an autograph letter to the German Emperor on the occasion of the latter's fiftieth birthday. The letter is said to have been couched in the warmest terms of friendship, and to have expressed a fervent desire on the part of his Holiness to maintain cordial relations with the Emperor.

## HOLLAND—A Large Confraternity

The Catholic population of Holland is about 1,700,000, and of these at least 108,000 are members of the Confraternity of the Holy Family. As an assistant to the directors, the zealous members support a weekly paper, which contains the news of the society and articles calculated to increase the fervor of the members. The circulation is said to be great.

## ITALY—A Tribute to the Clergy

A tribute paid so spontaneously to the heroism of the clergy of Messina—or, rather, the third part of that body who survived the earthquake—by Signor Giuseppe Toscano, a well-known Socialist of Messina and director of the anti-clerical paper, the *Germinal* (says a Rome correspondent), has been received with a good deal of pleasure by the public. 'Simply for the sake of truth,' says this Socialist leader, 'I, the undermentioned Giuseppe Toscano, late Municipal Councillor of unfortunate Messina, attest that as soon as the catastrophe occurred I met with three Brothers of the Convent of Carmine on the debris. Their convent and my house, which were destroyed by the earthquake at the same moment, had stood side by side. The religious, whose names are P. Anselmo Alessi, Prior of the Convent; P. Agostino Tornatore, and P. Egidio Lo Giudice, were almost naked, but yet they set themselves to the work of saving those buried alive. And although they themselves had barely escaped, and were without any tools, they kept at work by the sole strength of their arms. I provided them with some clothes, which I took out of my house from a room not entirely destroyed, and joined them in their good work. There were saved Signorina Salviora, Signora Mangano, Signora Magri, a child—Olivieri—and six or seven others whose names were unknown to us. This declaration cannot but be above suspicion, because I belong, as is well known, to the Socialist Party and directed the *Germinal*.'

## The Ruins of Reggio

The Convent of the Dominicans at Reggio (writes a Rome correspondent) was in the high town, in the Via Reggio Campi. At half-past 5 Father Luddi, the Superior, was startled out of his sleep. He saw the walls tottering. Instantly he threw himself under his bed. The ceiling fell. The floor fell through, and the Father was flung on to the storey below. In an interview with a press correspondent, he said he could not explain how he was able almost immediately to free himself from the ruins, though bleeding from several wounds. 'Then,' said the Father, 'I heard rise up in the darkness the immense clamor, made up of thousands of piercing cries. With my four fellow-religious, saved like myself, I ran to the neighboring Convent of the Visitation. The sixty pupils and forty

nuns were all saved; some children had been buried under the ruins, but they were quickly got out uninjured.' During these first hours of the disaster the religious associated with themselves some soldiers who had escaped from the ruins of their barracks, and restored their courage. Together they went to the hospital, climbed the shattered walls and saved several sick. Their later actions form part of the general history of those first days. Monsignor Dattola and his seminarists, some priests, some religious, and a few surviving soldiers were alone in bringing aid to the injured in Reggio.

## ROME—Death of a Cardinal

The death took place at Rome on February 3 of Cardinal Cretoni. The Cardinal was in his seventy-sixth year. He was sent as Nuncio to Spain in 1895, and in the following year was created Cardinal. He was Prefect of the Congregation of Rites and Indulgences.

## Received in Private Audience

On January 27 the Holy Father received in private audience General Lord Ralph Kerr, Admiral Lord Walter Kerr, and their daughters, who were presented by Mgr. Fraser, Rector of the Scotch College. Hearing that Lord Walter Kerr had been First Sea Lord of the Admiralty, his Holiness took occasion to express once more, through Mgr. Fraser, his deep feeling of gratitude for the noble work done by the sailors of the British Mediterranean Fleet in Sicily and Calabria, and he was particularly interested to hear that Lord Walter's son had been one of the officers engaged in the work of rescue. Lord Ralph and Lord Walter, being converts of half a century's standing, reported to his Holiness the progress of the Catholic Church in Edinburgh. The Pope expressed the hope that no effort would be spared by the clergy and laity to bring Scotland back to the true Church.

## The Swiss Guard

Pope Pius X. has issued an order that the uniform of the Swiss Guard at the Vatican should revert to that invented and designed by Michael Angelo. In the course of years (says the *Catholic Times*) the uniform has been changed by successive Popes, Gregory XV., for example, substituting a 'William Tell' cap. Pius IX. restored the helmet, but gave it a modern guise. The present Pope has restored the splendid steel cuirass and antique helmets, which will be worn on State occasions. The helmets are of fifteenth century style work, and the cuirasses are splendidly damascened. Both cuirasses and helmets are the gift of the German Catholic Societies to the Pope.

## SWITZERLAND—Progress of the Church

Catholicity has been making great headway in Switzerland in recent years. The Bureau Federal de Statistique, in his 'enquête' concerning religious professions, states that 'in all the cantons the Catholic religion counts more adherents than in 1888, a change which is produced chiefly in the towns that have had a Protestant majority. In Geneva the Protestants were formerly much more numerous than the Catholics. Now there are 30,000 Protestants and 28,000 Catholics. From 1850 to 1888 the proportion of Catholics and Protestants remained the same; since 1888 it has changed in the interests of Catholicism.'

## UNITED STATES—The Church in the Philippines

The Senate Committee on the Philippines on January 19 (writes a Washington correspondent) authorised a favorable report on the bill appropriating 80,083 dollars to be paid to four religious Orders of the Catholic Church in the Philippine Islands in full satisfaction of all claims for the use of property of the Orders by the military forces of the United States prior to January 24, 1906.

## The See of Baltimore

The Right Rev. Dr. Corrigan, Assistant Bishop to Cardinal Gibbons, who was consecrated by his Eminence in the Baltimore Cathedral on January 10, has been the recipient of many congratulations and presents from the people of that diocese, in which he had been Vicar-General. The priests tendered a cheque for a large amount.

## The Catholic Population

The official *Catholic Directory* for the United States of America gives the Catholic population of the States as 14,285,451, exclusive of the Catholic population of the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and the Hawaiian Islands. Including the Catholic population of the latter countries, there are 22,474,440 Catholics under the flag of the United States. Adding to those the 12,053,000 Catholic subjects of the British Empire, we find that the total of Catholics in the English-speaking world is just over 34½ millions.

'Catholic Marriages.' The book of the hour. Single copies, 1s posted; 12 copies and over, 8d each, purchaser to pay carriage. Apply Manager, 'Tablet,' Dunedin.