

the intention of studying for the priesthood and eventually consecrating their life and energies to the conversion of England. The good Abbé Daireaax only makes one condition, viz., that these seven little Servites of Mary, as he has already named them, set apart for the conversion of their country, should be chosen by the Cardinal Archbishop from the sons of Anglican clergyman who have joined the Catholic Church. Owing to the generosity of a well-known French gentleman, a friend of Father Daireaax's, a small Château has been entrusted to his Eminence for a period of one hundred years, to be used as a school for the sons of convert clergymen sent over to France in accordance with the proposals mentioned. It is situated at Emiéville, close to Caën, and may be reached in six hours from Newhaven, from which place there are boats running, and a good service of communication three times a week. The second proposal made by Father Daireaax is one which English students will appreciate. He has collected a sufficient sum of money to found a 'bourse' at the Paris University. This means that for the future one Catholic priest (a convert) chosen by his Eminence, will always be able, free of cost, to follow the curriculum of studies at the University of Paris, and take his degree as Licencié or as Doctor, owing to the generosity and zeal of Father Daireaax and his friends.

GERMANY.—The First for Many Years.—Two Catholics have been elected to the Nuremberg Town Council, the first Catholics thus elected since the so-called Reformation.

The Christian Brothers in Bavaria.—The Christian Brothers are likely to be introduced into Bavaria through the action of the Centre in the Landtag.

German Catholic Princes.—In the Protestant reigning families of Germany there are 53 Catholic princes. Only four Protestant reigning families are without Catholic princes.

ITALY.—A Priest's Heroism.—The Italian papers report a striking case of life-saving which occurred at Padua, the hero being the parish priest of Sta. Maria di Murano, the Rev. Angelo Torcellon. On his way to church, where he was going to celebrate Mass, the Rev. Father saw two boys who were playing on the banks of a deep canal suddenly fall into the water and disappear beneath the surface. Without waiting to divest himself of his cassock, the plucky priest plunged in after the youngsters, neither of whom could swim, and although seriously impeded in his movements by his clerical garments and by the struggles of the drowning urchins, the Rev. Father succeeded in dragging both in safety to the slippery bank. He was himself so exhausted, however, not being a very good swimmer either, that, but for timely assistance rendered by a crowd who had witnessed his heroic deed, the brave priest, who had fallen back half-fainting into the water, would certainly have been drowned. The Prefect of Padua has written to the Minister for Home Affairs proposing to confer a medal for bravery on the Rev. Angelo Torcellon, but the latter persists in saying that he only did his duty and that he will accept no such distinction.

MEXICO.—A Remarkable Dinner.—A remarkable dinner was given in the City of Mexico recently to 2,000 poor people in honour of the return of Archbishop Alarcon from Rome. The dinner was excellent and the bishop and higher clergy as well as fashionable ladies waited on the poor people and distributed to everyone articles of clothing suitable for cool weather.

ROME.—The close of the Century.—Besides the pilgrims, ages from all countries which will visit Rome during the Holy Year the close of the century will offer many remarkable evidences of devotion to the Redeemer. A committee in Rome has conceived the idea of erecting a monument testifying this devotion on nineteen Italian hills, one for each Christian century. The project has received the approval and blessing of the Holy Father, and has been taken up very heartily by the Italian Catholics. Another proposal is that the night of the 31st December, 1900-1901, should be sanctified by the celebration of Midnight Mass in every church. The International Committee has begged the Holy Father to grant permission for this privilege and for the faithful to receive Holy Communion. His Holiness has been pleased to grant both requests.

The Health of His Holiness.—A correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle* in Rome thus describes the appearance of the Pope about the middle of December:—'There is no doubt that since I last saw Leo XIII. he has greatly altered. He is much thinner and much whiter. His face looks so very small that one almost fears that should he wear his mitre it would entirely extinguish his tiny face and head. On the other hand, his eyes are bright and his voice is fairly strong. He could not stand unassisted or even walk across the room without the aid of his stick, and is afflicted by a constant irritating cough. His intellect is as strong as ever and his memory is very clear and precise. He is, moreover, quite able to attend to business and to write his letters and sign documents. His last signature shows no alteration in the firmness of the hand, and is as clear and distinct as it was twenty years ago.'

The New Vicar-General.—The appointment of Cardinal Domenico Jacobini to the important post of Vicar-General of Rome (writes a correspondent), occupied for 16 years with so much tact and ability by Cardinal Parocchi, cannot be said to have come as a surprise, for in spite of his feeble health Cardinal Jacobini has long been pointed out as the most worthy successor to his Eminence Cardinal Parocchi should the latter, as has been the case, think fit to resign. As it is generally conceded that the post of Vicar-General is one of the most important in the Catholic hierarchy, its occupant must be gifted not only with deep erudition and serene lucidity of judgment, but above all with a vast amount of *savoir faire*, which is of more service to him. When, however, all these qualities are combined, as in the cases of the past and of the present Vicar-General, it is naturally all the better. Cardinal Jacobini,

who fully understands the difficulties which beset the exalted position to which he has been appointed, was far from pleased with the nomination, and indeed is said to have implored the Holy Father to select some one more worthy for that honour, but Leo XIII., who is a great judge in such matters, and has an infallible eye for 'the right man in the right place,' insisted gently but firmly, and now the election of Cardinal Jacobini to the post of Vicar-General is a *fait accompli*, as his Eminence has already received the *biglietto* from the Secretaryship of State. I may add that the appointment is very popular here, as the Romans love and esteem the good Cardinal, whom they are accustomed to look upon as one of the most likely successors to the present Pontiff.

RUSSIA.—The Funeral of the Catholic Metropolitan of Russia.—The obsequies of Mgr. Simon Martin Kozlovsky, Metropolitan of the Catholic Church in Russia, took place on November 29 at St. Petersburg. The funeral rites were carried out with great pomp in the Cathedral, where a *Requiem* Mass for the soul of the late Archbishop was celebrated in the presence of many high functionaries of the State and a numerous congregation. The body of the deceased prelate was enclosed in a coffin encased in white metal, and lay on a superb catafalque before the high altar. On the coffin were placed the episcopal cross, mitre, and pastoral staff. Though the church is a very spacious one, crowds were unable to obtain admission, and many of the faithful were compelled to stand outside in the street. Amongst those who were present at the ceremony were the Ambassadors of the different nationalities in St. Petersburg or their representatives, the *Director des Cultes étrangers*, Mons. Mossoloff, Mons. Albendinsky, vice-Director of the same department, and many clergy of exalted position in the Catholic Church. After the Mass Mgr. Nedzialkowsky preached the panegyric of the late Prelate in Polish, and extolled the zealous faith and loving pastoral care with which he had governed the Church. Rarely indeed has been seen in the noble boulevards of St. Petersburg such a procession as that witnessed at the funeral. The cemetery is some four miles from the Cathedral, and its way lay through the chief streets of the city. The civil part of the procession was headed by a member of the Consistory preceded by a Crucifix; then followed the clergy in their white surplices, chanting psalms, and carrying lighted candles. Before the funeral car, which is here always open and often beautifully decorated, so unlike the hideous hearse in use in England, were carried the late Archbishop's cross, mitre, and pastoral staff, enriched with diamonds. The car, over which rested a black baldichino, was drawn by six horses. Lastly came the children from the Catholic Home in the Vassili Ostroff. At the cemetery the body was met by Mgr. Nedzialkowsky and, after a short service, was laid in its last resting-place. The deceased Prelate was eighty years old, and had occupied the post of Metropolitan since 1891.

UNITED STATES.—A Great Heiress is to Enter a Convent.—According to the *San Francisco Monitor*, Miss Josephine Drexel, daughter of the late Mr. Joseph W. Drexel, is about to enter a convent. Miss Drexel is only nineteen, and very accomplished, but she has never shown any liking for society doings. Her present income is set down at £16,000 a year, and when she attains her twenty-first year she will come in to a fortune of about £200,000. Miss Drexel takes no pleasure in social functions, but finds her chief happiness in the convent with her aunt, Mother Catherine.

Apostolic Poverty.—The Right Rev. Dr. de Goesbriand, Bishop of the diocese of Burlington, which comprises the whole of the State of Virginia, died some time ago, and, as he was known to be possessed at one time of considerable private means, there was considerable speculation as to the value of the estate left by him. He was Bishop of Burlington for nearly half a century. It was announced, on December 1, by the Rev. Father Cloarec, rector of St. Joseph's Church, Burlington, that the Bishop left exactly 2dol 12c. It was his avowed wish to die in poverty. The fact that he left only 2dol. 12c. explains where the money came from to build many of the fine buildings that belong to the diocese.

At the Championship Cycle Meeting, held at Wellington on Wednesday, 31st ult., the chief event was that rich prize the 'Enfield Cup,' value 75 guineas, distance five miles. There were eight competitors, comprising the Colony's leading racing men, and keen interest was taken in the race by the public. It was a splendidly contested struggle, and after one of the finest finishes seen in Wellington, Andy Ralston snatched the race from Plunkett. It was a great performance on the part of Ralston, his final spurt being very fine. Time, 12min. 14.5sec. Ralston rode a Massey-Harris machine.—* *

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