

was born in Wexford on February 21, 1838. He received his education first at St. Peter's College, Wexford, and later at St. Edmund's College, Ware, which has been the Alma Mater of so many notable figures in the English Hierarchy. At St. Edmund's Canon Barry had a distinguished career, and at the conclusion of his studies the sub-diaconate was conferred upon him by the late Cardinal Wiseman. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Troy. Father Barry began his priestly labors at Poland Gardens, and Fulham, and then went to Spanish Place. Here Father Barry found the work of his life in the erection of the magnificent edifice which will ever be associated with his name. It was a huge undertaking, but the newly-appointed rector went to work with a will, sparing no endeavor to bring about the successful accomplishment of his plans. His indomitable will and the energy which he infused into the scheme were ultimately crowned with triumph, and in 1890 the church was opened free of debt. Cardinal Manning showed his appreciation of the work and piety of Father Barry by appointing him to a vacant stall in the Westminster Chapter, and he succeeded Mgr. Gilbert in the Vicar-Generalship.

FRANCE.—The Religious Orders.—A Paris correspondent decries in the political horizon signs of a coming storm affecting religion in France. The Government is giving way more and more to the demands of the anti-clericals. A great outcry has been raised with regard to the result of the inquiry respecting the property of the Congregations. The valuation has been fixed at £42,400,000, but in this are included high estimates for convents, novitiates, churches and chapels, colleges and schools, orphanages and hospitals. It need not be said that it is entirely misleading to set down these buildings and institutions as the property of the religious Congregations. They are really the property of the nation and are an occasion of expense to those who occupy them. The members of the Orders work for the public interest and the welfare of the State, and in most countries the governing authorities recognise that men and women who teach in colleges and schools and serve the people in many other capacities deserve national gratitude. In France unfortunately there is a strong element of extreme opposition to religion, and such is the energy with which the hostile crusade is carried on that Cabinet Ministers find themselves pursuing an anti-religious policy against their better judgment.

GERMANY.—The Kaiser and the Benedictines.—For some time past the Kaiser has shown a special interest in the famous Benedictine Abbey of Maria Laach, whose Abbot is a frequent visitor to the Court when at Berlin. The Kaiser has now accepted from the Fathers a superb MS. volume of 100 leaves of vellum, containing the rule of St. Benedict in Romanic script. For a whole year the nuns of Maredret, in Belgium, have worked at the gift with pen and pencil. The initial letters are in colors, and the writing is surrounded by richly decorated Biblical and allegorical representations.

INDIA.—A Great Eucharistic Congress.—A great Eucharistic Congress was held recently at Goa, the capital of Portuguese India. It was a Congress of all the Catholic Bishops composing the Indian Hierarchy.

ROME.—The Health of the Pope.—The Pope, after much persuasion and patient argument on the part of Professor Lapponi, his medical attendant, allowed himself to be examined thoroughly by that gentleman and Dr. Mazzoni, who performed an operation for cyst two years ago, to see whether his Holiness was in a fit condition to perform the fatiguing duties at the closing of the Holy Doors on Christmas Eve. The doctors found that the Pope was in perfect physical health for one of his age, and that he was very well able to undertake the ceremony. The Pontiff himself, as usual, was much amused, declaring to the doctors that he would outlive them both with all their science.

Another Latin Ode by the Holy Father.—According to a Rome correspondent his Holiness the Pope has just composed an ode in Latin celebrating the opening of the new century. His Holiness has been engaged on the work over two months and it will be seen that his intellectual power has not in the least diminished in spite of his 90 years.

SCOTLAND.—The Bishop Auxiliary of Glasgow.—The Right Rev. Dr. Maguire, Auxiliary Bishop of Glasgow, celebrated recently, the silver jubilee of his priesthood, and the clergy of the fourteen districts into which the diocese is divided marked the occasion by presenting him with an address recognising the value of his various labors during long years spent in their midst. The address was accompanied by a handsome cheque. A movement is on foot among the laity of the archdiocese to suitably recognise the Bishop's jubilee.

Honoring an Edinburgh Priest.—Within the hall of St. Catherine's Convent, Edinburgh, about the middle of December, the numerous members of the Lauriston Christian Mothers' Association honored Very Rev. Father Bader, S.J., their zealous spiritual director, with an address and presentation. The address referred in most appreciative terms to all Father Bader had done for the association as a body, while the presentation consisted of a purse of sovereigns with which to purchase a new carpet for the church sanctuary, besides a number of other handsome ornaments for the altar. Father Bader becomingly acknowledged the gifts.

The late Archbishop Macdonald.—The personal estate of the late Archbishop Macdonald, Edinburgh, is recorded at £3732, and the duty paid on that sum has been £11. By his trust disposition and settlement, dated 31st October last, he bequeathed all his means and estate to his sister, Jane Veronica Macdonald.

The Glasgow Catholic Schools.—At a recent meeting of the Glasgow School Board it was reported that there were 18,701 children on the rolls in the Catholic schools of the city, an increase of 355 on last year's figures.

THE FLOWERY KINGDOM.

BITS OF CHINA OLD AND NEW.

THE PERSECUTION OF CATHOLICS IN CHINA.

Cardinal Vaughan has issued a pastoral letter on 'the persecution of the Church in China.' He says:—

The social upheaval in China is mainly and primarily a revolt against Christianity. The Ambassadors of the King of Heaven had been maltreated and massacred long before those of earthly Powers were threatened in the historic siege of the Legations. Persecution is, indeed, always latent in China, and in its most recent phase was roused into activity by the encroachments of foreign Powers, notably Russia and Germany on Chinese territory, by the reactionary policy of the Empress Dowager, and by the encouragement given to secret societies as instruments for combating the reforms promulgated by the reigning Emperor, Kwang Su. The murder of the two German missionaries in Shantung—made the pretext for seizure by Germany of a Chinese port—shows how well the soil was prepared, even antecedently to these causes, for the more extensive movements that followed. The danger to which Christians in China were likely to be exposed in consequence of foreign aggression was thoroughly realised by those interested in the missions, and was pointed out in a leading article of *Illustrated Catholic Missions* as far back as the number of that journal of May, 1898.

The Cardinal gives distressing details of recent occurrences, and proceeds:—

Throughout a great part of China all the work of the Catholic Church has been swept away in one universal catastrophe. The amount of the loss may be inferred from the statistics recently published. The material framework of the missions was represented by 4348 churches and chapels, over 4000 elementary schools with nearly 56,000 pupils, by 26,835 orphans, 47 seminaries, with 869 students, 47 boys' high schools and colleges, and a number of agricultural and trade schools, with over 2000 pupils. There are 39 vicariates apostolic, with 942 European and 445 native priests. The Catholics number over three-quarter of a million, and there are at least 10,000 catechumens, the figures not being complete. The staff includes, in addition, 90 European and 20 lay and teaching Brothers, 3709 native catechists and school teachers, 339 European and 720 native Sisters, besides 2396 holy women consecrated to religion, though living singly in the different missions, like the virgins of the early Christian Church. The scale of these figures enables us to judge of the portentous nature of the catastrophe which has utterly annihilated much of the fruit of the effort they represent. Add to this the material distress of hundreds of thousands deprived of everything in the world and reduced in a moment to utter destitution, and we can form some faint idea of what is now happening in China. The terrors of the apocalyptic vision, indeed, seem realised in the woes with which the century has closed for that unhappy country.

THE REAL ORIGIN OF THE TROUBLE.

Mgr. Favier, after his arrival at Marseilles from Tongking, was asked what was the real origin of the Chinese troubles. He replied that they were the work of Prince Tuan, but without the complicity of the Dowager Empress. Prince Tuan hoped by the aid of the Boxers, the dregs of Chinese society, to attain supreme power. The Empress had acted in good faith, but has lacked energy.

DEVASTATION IN EASTERN MONGOLIA.

The Apostolic Missions of Scheut have received a telegram from the Vicar-Apostolic of Eastern Mongolia, dated Vladivostok, December 18, stating that the district of Pines has been completely laid waste. The Bishop and 19 Belgian missionaries, four Chinese priests, and 3000 native Christians were rescued by the Russian troops under General Tserpitzy.

BAD NEWS FROM CENTRAL MONGOLIA.

The reports from China of the outrages inflicted on the Christians rival each other in horror. One of the latest tells of the martyrdom of Fathers Dobbe and Zylomans and many fellow-Christians in the Vicariate of Central Mongolia. Mgr. Aertselaer, the Vicar-Apostolic, relates the awful details. In the numerous villages of the district there were about 10,000 Christians, and prior to the outbreak of the Boxers the prospects were most promising. But in the early part of July the feeling against Europeans became very bitter and soon the situation was critical. Fathers Dobbe and Zylomans found themselves compelled to move northwards for safety. For six weeks they enjoyed peace in their new quarters. Three Protestant missionaries, with their wives and seven children, who were making their way to Siberia and were almost dying of starvation, appealed to them for food and shelter and were most willingly offered hospitality. The tranquility in which they lived was soon at an end. On the 22nd of August three squadrons of Chinese soldiers appeared before their residence at Tie-Ko-tan-Kou and set it on fire. The Christians fled to the church, and this, too was soon in flames. Of the Christians some were asphyxiated, others were burnt to death, and others who tried to escape were brutally slaughtered. The number of Christians killed in the whole region was not less than 5000.

The Grand Prix was the highest award obtainable at the Paris Exhibition, and the McCormick Harvesting Machine Company, of Chicago, secured this coveted honor, and not only this but they obtained more special prizes than all other competitors. Such a tribute to the worth of the McCormick machines is proof positive of their excellence. Messrs. Morrow, Bassett and Co., Christchurch, Ashburton, and Dunedin, are the agents for the Company's manufactures in New Zealand.