

by entertaining him to a dinner at the Adelphi Hotel, and presenting him with an address and a purse containing 300 sovereigns. The Bishop, Right Rev. Dr. Whiteside, presided.

Death of a Leading Lancashire Catholic.—Mr. George Chamberlain died at Southport recently at the age of 75. The deceased, who was one of the best known figures in financial circles in Lancashire, taking part as a member of the Liverpool Stock Exchange in many large transactions, was chairman of several public companies. Mr. Chamberlain, who was a Catholic, and was educated at Ampleforth College, attracted the esteem of all with whom he came into contact, not only by his eminent qualifications and straightforwardness as a business man, but by his genial personal characteristics and readiness to hold out a helping hand to those who sought his assistance.

FRANCE.—A Bishop on the Temperance Cause.—The Bishop of Châlons, Mgr. Latty, believes that in France the drink evil is a national danger, and in combating it he has just taken very decisive action. He has founded a temperance society for the priests of his diocese, and enjoins abstinence from fermented liquors at all gatherings of priests and at any entertainments offered to them. He declares that priests have always been foremost in self-denial and in meeting national dangers. In this case, he adds, the very morality, blood, and race of France have to be safeguarded. In France there is a good deal of tippling, but drunkenness is rare—so rare that one may live in a large town and not see a man drunk in the course of 12 months.

GERMANY.—A Protest Against Duelling.—The brutal and cowardly practice of duelling prevalent in the German army appears too strong to be repressed even by the Kaiser. One occurrence shows the degree in which the military element is inoculated by the virus. At Cologne three young men had fully qualified as officers, and applied for their appointments. The body of officers, however, objected to them on account of their views as consistent Catholics on the subject of duelling. They were asked what their standpoint was in this question, and when they expressed the opinion that the duel should not be obligatory, they were black-balled. The War Minister cancelled the vote. A second ballot had the same issue. The affair will now be brought before Parliament. The Centre party should be able to compel the doing of justice. The discipline seems odd which tolerates the War Minister being rebuffed by regimental martinets.

ROME.—The Holy Father's Charity—The sum of 367,575 lire was distributed in charities by his Holiness the Pope during the holy year.

A Memento of the Holy Year.—As a memento of the holy year the Queen-Regent of Spain has sent a beautiful gold cross to the Holy Father.

The Pope and the Duke of Norfolk—His Holiness Leo XIII. received the Duke of Norfolk in private audience on January

4. The Pontiff, who greeted the Duke most cordially, congratulated his Grace on his work on behalf of Catholicism in England, and thanked him for having conducted the pilgrimage to Rome.

The Liberals Indignant.—We are told that 'great indignation prevailed in Liberal circles in Rome' at the protest of the Duke of Norfolk and the other English pilgrims against the wish expressed in their address for the temporal independence of the Holy See. The 'Liberal circles' knew pretty well before that on this point the sentiment of the English pilgrims is (says the *Catholic Times*) the sentiment of the whole Catholic world. The Italian authorities ordered the police to seize all copies of the *Osservatore Romano* and the *Voce della Verità* which reproduced the words of the address to his Holiness.

UNITED STATES.—Church Property in Cuba.—Bishop Sbarretti has won a decided victory in the celebrated Church property contest in the diocese of Havana. The commission, consisting of three judges of the Supreme Court, have decided that justice demands that this property now in the possession of the Cuban Government shall be restored to the Church, and that the Church shall be compensated for its use since January 1, 1899, the date of the American occupation. With regard to the property alienated prior to that date the commission holds that the Church has no recourse, except against the Spanish Government.

Successful Debaters.—Holy Cross College, Worcester, U.S.A., is rejoicing over the victory won by three of its students in a public debate between a like number of Harvard students. The contest took place on December 12 in the presence of 1200 people. One of the Supreme Court judges of the States who was judge had little difficulty in awarding the place of honor to the Catholic boys. The result of the debating contest must be gratifying to the Jesuit Fathers. Moreover, as President Eliot, of Harvard University, some time before cast strictures on the present system of teaching.

GENERAL.

The Catholic Population of the United Kingdom.—The estimated Catholic population of the United Kingdom is nearly 5,500,000—namely, England, 1,500,000; Scotland, 365,000; Ireland (according to the census of 1891), 3,549,956.

Catholic Peers and Legislators in Great Britain and Ireland.—There are in the United Kingdom 41 Catholic peers; 15 Catholic lords who are not peers; 52 Catholic baronets; 26 Catholic knights; 17 Catholic members of the Privy Council; four Catholic members of the House of Commons for England and 73 for Ireland.

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