

sent condition of the work, that the cathedral will, in the first instance, be opened quietly and privately for for the use of the Catholics in the neighborhood. This may probably take place on the Feast of the Visitation, July 2, which is within the Octave of the Feast of SS. Peter and Paul, the seventh anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone. The acoustics of the new cathedral have, it is said, been tested and found satisfactory. Some time ago 20 choir boys climbed up to the side galleries, and to the accompaniment of an organ placed on the floor, sang various hymns, the words of which could be distinctly heard all over the vast building. The boys also assembled at the high altar, and thence their voices carried extremely well. The whole of the interior of the building is to be decorated with marble mosaics and veneer, so that not a single brick will be visible. Lord Brampton's Chapel, which is on the north side, and the nearest to the west front, will be the first of the chapels to be completed. It will be elaborately treated with the finest marble.

Attacks on the Jesuits.

All the old calumnies (writes the London correspondent of the 'Advocate') against the Society of Jesus have been revived and re-circulated during the past few weeks as the result of a scare caused by the report that the French Jesuits who have been compelled by an anti-Christian Government to leave their own country, were coming over to settle in England. A fussy old English M.P., Sir Henry Howarth, a hide-bound Tory, and an unscrupulous bigot, led the attack in the 'Times,' but he was soon routed and defeated all along the line by the Rev. Father Gerard, S.J., who has been a son of St. Ignatius for half a century, and is one of the most erudite and accomplished writers of the day. His exposure of Sir Henry's ignorance and misrepresentations was complete and crushing. Another assault on the Society and its teachings was made by Mr. Christie Murray, the well-known novelist, in the 'Referee,' a Sunday paper with an immense circulation. The 'Referee' was founded and edited by an excellent practical Catholic, the late Henry Sampson, in whose memory a beautiful altar has been erected by his daughter in the London Church of St. Patrick. Had Mr. Sampson been still alive no attack on the Jesuits would ever have been permitted to disgrace the columns of his journal. However, it is a case of good coming out of evil, for the overthrow of Mr. Christie Murray by Father Herbert Thurston, S.J., has been even more signal and decisive than Father Gerard's discomfiture of Sir Henry Howarth. The latter had not the grace to acknowledge his defeat, but Mr. Christie Murray did substantially admit that he had been misled, retired from the discussion, and left the controversy he had started to be carried on by all sorts of irresponsible cranks. One interesting result of the 'Referee's' discussion will probably be a semi-judicial investigation into the pet Protestant charge against the Jesuits, viz., that they teach the doctrine that the end justifies the means. Father Thurston suggested this as a fair test case and the editor of the 'Referee' agreed. Father Thurston has nominated Lord Llandaff and Mr. Augustine Birrell, K.C. The nominees of the 'Referee' have not yet been published. Lord Llandaff, formerly Mr. Henry Matthews, M.P. for Dungarvan, is a Catholic, and the most learned law canonist of the country. Mr. Birrell is not a Catholic. He is a leading Chancery lawyer, and one of the wittiest men alive.

GERMANY.—Catholic Congress.

A congress of 30,000 Catholics was held on the 29th and 30th November at Ulm, in Wurtemberg, on the banks of the Danube. Every grade

of society from the noble to the laborer was represented, and all were animated with the same love for religion and devotion to the Catholic Church. It was an extraordinary, important, and never-to-be-forgotten Catholic Congress. The reasons why it was held are to be found in the general condition of the Catholics of Germany, and especially the Catholics of Wurtemberg. The German Catholics at present number over one third of the population. They have been obliged ever since the so-called Reformation to stand on the defensive, and in no part of the world are the Catholics so well organised as in Germany. Although a minority the Centre Party in the Diet of each State is strong, esteemed, often the deciding factor in State business, and as a great diplomatist once described it, 'an immovable tower.' Those separated from the Church have never ceased to combat Catholicism, but up to the present these attacks have increased in bitterness. Not only in Germany, but from the Pyrenees to the Austrian Alps there blows a rough anti-religious, anti-Catholic storm. At this assemblage 30,000 Catholic citizens have openly declared that they are and will remain good Catholics; that they love religious liberty; that they emphatically repudiate so-called Liberalism anti-Catholic democracy, and the hypocritical cry of 'Los von Rom.' Besides, there is another question specially affecting the Catholics of Wurtemberg, and this is the attempt to withdraw the supervision of the primary schools from the Catholic Church. Some of the teachers in these schools have sought to have the clerical inspectors replaced by laymen, hoping thereby to get these offices themselves. For a long time the Church and the State have worked harmoniously on this question, and the Catholics of Wurtemberg are on the alert lest a change hostile to religious interests should be introduced.

ROME.—A Jubilarian.

Right Rev. William Pifferi, O.S.A., Bishop of Porfieron, and confessor of his Holiness Leo XIII., celebrated the 60th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood at the Vatican on Christmas Day. He was the recipient of many testimonials, congratulatory poems, letters, cablegrams, and telegrams. The Bishop was born on May 24, 1819, the same day as Queen Victoria, and spent many years as a professor of theology and philosophy in Rome and for some time in Perugia, of which the Holy Father was formerly Bishop. He has resided in the Vatican for more than 50 years, and as a professor taught the late Cardinals Martinelli and Sepiacci and Cardinal Ciasca, the great linguist. The diamond jubilarian has charge of the Papal Treasury and is custodian of the relics and authenticates such as are allowed to be taken from Rome.

SCOTLAND.

Dr. MacLean, in his course of Celtic lectures at the University of Glasgow, delivered the other day an interesting discourse on 'The Book of Deer.' Deer is a place in the north of Scotland where formerly a monastery existed, and 'The Book of Deer' is a copy of the Gospels, probably produced, and certainly kept at the monastery in early Christian times. The text of the Gospels is written in Latin, but the marginal notes are partially in Gaelic, and constitute the oldest written manuscript of the Gaelic tongue. The book was unearthed in 1860, and is in possession of the Cambridge University.

UNITED STATES.

The cosmopolitan character of the Catholic population in South Texas was strikingly shown during the recent visit of the Right Rev. Bishop Forest to Gonzales, says the 'Southern Messenger.' In ministering to the spiritual wants of the

faithful in this comparatively small parish, sermons were preached in four different languages—English, German, Spanish, and Bohemian. The Church is still carrying on her divine mission as on the day of Pentecost, and her children may well exclaim, as did the Jews of various nations assembled on that day in Jerusalem, 'we have heard them speak in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.'

Catholic University.

The annual meeting of the trustees of the Catholic University of America was held recently, Cardinal Gibbons, Chancellor of the University, presiding. Archbishop Keane, of Dubuque, acted as secretary. The chief business was the question of enlarging the endowment fund and curtailing the expenses. The treasurer reported the total funds of the University as £372,387. There were nine Archbishops present—namely, Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishops Keane, Ireland, Elder, Kutzer, Christie, Kain, Corrigan, Williams, and Ryan. During the past year the University received upwards of £12,000 in bequests and donations.

Gifts of Altars.

Archbishop Corrigan consecrated, on December 16, six altars in St. Ignatius Loyola's Church, New York—the largest number, it is said, ever consecrated by any prelate in the United States on one occasion. All these altars were gifts.

Colored Sisters.

Cardinal Gibbons attended the celebration at a Baltimore convent of the golden jubilee of two colored nuns, Sisters Teresa and Alphonse, of the Oblate Sisters of Providence.

Indian Missions.

In a pastoral letter Bishop Horstmann of Cleveland, mentions the fact that Mother Katherine Drexell Superioress of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, gives \$70,000 annually to the education of the Indian children. A society was formed in that city recently, the members of which agree to give 25 cents each annually for 'The preservation of the faith among the Indians.' The movement will be extended throughout the country.

Use of Gaelic.

A Redemptorist Father, who speaks Irish, not long ago heard 500 confessions in Irish in one of the mining districts of Pennsylvania.

A New Cathedral.

Rev. F. M. Callahan, pastor of the Cathedral, Denver, Colo., announced to his parishioners on the feast of the Immaculate Conception that there was £20,000 on hand to be used for the erection of a new cathedral, which had been dreamed of by Bishop Machebeuf and labored for by Bishop Matz and the rector, Father Callahan. Two years ago the parish was £24,000 in debt, and it did not look as though it would be possible to build a cathedral for many years. The old cathedral property was sold and the proceeds with amounts of from £2000 down contributed by the parishioners, makes the total of £20,000 with which to begin work. It has been planned to make the new structure the most ornate in the west, and it is to cost £40,000.

A Golden Jubilee.

The Church of St. Francis Xavier, New York, has just been the scene of a solemn and imposing service held to commemorate the golden jubilee of the dedication of the first church built on the site.

GENERAL.

Good for evil.

In Abyssinia, during King Menelek's absence a few months ago, a vassal in authority forcibly expelled a number of Lazarist students who were making their studies for the