

—all points that are held to qualify him for the office suggested. Mgr. del Val came to England in 1887 as the bearer of the Pope's congratulations to the Queen on her jubilee, and ten years later he was sent as Apostolic Commissioner to Canada, with a view of settling the Manitoba school question. The Monsignor is an accomplished diplomat and a great favorite with the Pope.

A Distinction.

Dr. Tozer, L.R.A.M. organist and choirmaster of the Catholic church at Eastbourne, has received from the Pope a knighthood of the Pontifical Order of St. Sylvester, in recognition of his distinguished work in the field of Catholic music.

Exiled Nuns.

The exiled French Benedictine Nuns, temporarily staying at Stanbrook Abbey, express great pleasure at their reception in England. Since the community settled in the Isle of Wight they have been visited by Princess Henry of Battenberg.

Religious Profession.

Miss Amy Vaughan (in religion Sister Mary Assumpta) was professed a Benedictine Nun on January 15 at St. Mary's Abbey, East Bergholt, by her uncle, Cardinal Vaughan. Monsignor Vaughan preached on the occasion.

FRANCE.

Some fears are expressed for the future of the great Benedictine Establishment at Douai, France. The brethren there applied for authorisation to the Municipal authorities. The request was granted, but the sanction of both the Chamber and the Senate as well are wanted, and no one can be sure that this will be given.

Joan of Arc.

The announcement is made with regard to the cause of Joan of Arc that the Bull of Canonisation will be published shortly.

Authorisation.

There were in France 16,468 establishments of religious subject to the terms of the Law of Associations. Of this number only 5141 have applied for registration under the law. This leaves a balance of 11,327 establishments whose members have passed to other countries.

A Place of Pilgrimage.

The Memorial Chapel in the Rue Jean Gougeon, Paris, erected on the spot of the Bazaar de la Charité, has become so much a place of pilgrimage that it has been necessary to take measures to regulate the admission of the public. No less than 500 or 600 people are said to visit the church every day, and on Sunday the number reaches over 3000 and sometimes up to 4000.

An Unprecedented Position.

I believe that the action of Mgr. Lacroix, Bishop of Tarentaise in accepting the editorship of a daily newspaper published at Montiers (writes a Paris correspondent) is

unprecedented, at all events in the history of the French episcopate. It is a sign of the times that a journal which calls itself a Republican newspaper should call upon a Bishop to take the editorial chair, and that a Bishop should actually accept and add editorial duties to his already heavy episcopal duties. The following extract from the leading article published by Mgr. Lacroix in taking up the editorship may be quoted:—“Under our guidance the ‘Independent’ shall fearlessly defend the doctrines and institutions upon which society is based—Religion, the Army, Justice, and Property. But it shall not on that account be a retrograde or reactionary paper. We do not of course, think that at the present moment all is for the best in the best of worlds. We believe that there is yet a great deal of progress to be realised in the political, economical, and social systems, and we shall give our sympathy and support to all attempts in harmony with justice and liberty which have for object the amelioration of the condition of the working classes. Faithful to Papal direction, we shall always place ourselves upon constitutional grounds; that is to say, we shall clearly and sincerely proclaim ourselves republican, loyally serving the Government which France has given herself. We shall not be of those who say ‘I obey the Pope,’ and who, nevertheless, continue to coquette with the old parties. We shall not either be of those who proclaim themselves Republican in order to be able to attack and assault with safety and impunity the men and institutions who in France represent the Republic. Our loyalty as Catholics must be above all suspicion. Let us imitate on this point the Catholics of England and Germany. If they are heard in the councils of political parties, and if they have influence upon the direction of public affairs, that is due to the fact that there is nothing in their speech or in their conduct to raise suspicion as to their devotion to the constitution of their country. This does not mean, however, that we must abdicate our independence and be the courtesans of established powers. According to the councils of the Tacitus, we must be equally distant from the servility which approves everything, and from the systematic opposition which condemns everything. In our appreciations of men and things our only inspiration shall be our conscience, and our only object truth and justice.

ROME.—A Decision.

An American contemporary states that, according to a reported decision of the Vatican authorities, applications for papal dispensations must be made hereafter by letter. The cable cannot be used for that purpose. The slower process is decreed in order to minimise the risk of mistakes arising from the necessary condensation of statements and explanations when the more expeditious mode of communication is resorted to.

Exciting Dangerous Passions.

The Holy Father has addressed a letter to the episcopate of Bohemia on the language question. The protection of the mother tongue within certain limits could not, he says, be open to objection, but he deprecates movements which might lead to the excitement of dangerous passions.

SCOTLAND.—Diamond Jubilee.

The diamond jubilee of Archbishop Eyre's priesthood will be celebrated during the present month.

A Brave Action.

The Rev. James J. Dawson, St. Columba's, Oban, has proved himself a true hero by his gallant feat in saving a boy from drowning. The pupils attending the cathedral school at Oban were skating on the Black Loch, a deep pond. Father Dawson who accompanied the boys, noticed that at one part the ice was weaker than the rest, and warned the boys of this fact. However, one lad ventured where he was told not to go, the consequence being that he fell through the ice. A shout from his companions alarmed the priest, who, with great presence of mind, ordered the boys off the ice, and at once began to crawl towards the drowning youth. The ice gave way under him, but, nothing daunted, he got hold of the boy just as he was sinking. The situation was trying and dangerous, but the noble priest proved equal to the emergency. Keeping the boy afloat with one hand, he managed to break the ice in front with the other, and after a hard struggle both landed safely. What made Father Dawson's act the more praiseworthy, is the fact that he was only recovering from a dangerous illness, from which it was thought he would not recover. The rev. gentleman is a native of Huntly, Aberdeenshire, and was ordained priest in 1881.

UNITED STATES.

In his address to the first graduating class of the Baltimore City Training School for Nurses, which is under the auspices of the Sisters of Mercy, Cardinal Gibbons said:—“My dear young ladies of the training school, you have adopted a career the most honorable and useful any young woman could select. You put to shame those fashionable women who are daily worshipping at the shrine of idleness and pleasure. It is true you cannot, like our blessed Redeemer, work miracles by giving sight to the blind or strength to the paralyzed limb, but you can work miracles of grace and mercy by relieving the sufferings of your fellow-beings, and never do you perform an act more pleasing to God than when you alleviate the corporal affliction of a fellow-creature.”

Converts' League.

This organisation, composed of both original Catholics and converts of America associated on equal terms for the common purpose of aiding those who are in search of the Church or in need of encouragement after entering therein, held a public meeting recently in the Catholic

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