

ing conference of the Russian Czar with the Pope next April may result in an arrangement of world-wide interest.

UNITED STATES.

At the annual session of the State teachers of Illinois, president Thewing, of the Western Reserve University, in the course of an address, deplored the absence of moral and religious teaching in the public schools. He said: 'I, a Protestant, would rather have my children taught by a good Catholic nun than by a wise agnostic. . . . We have gone farther in the elimination of religious teaching than is necessary. Of course, we must observe the statutes, but Illinois is a Christian commonwealth and the United States is a Christian nation. As a Christian nation and a Christian commonwealth the United States and the State of Illinois should recognise that there is a Divine Being, and to that Divine Being we owe certain duties. We should go so far, therefore, as to teach that there is a God, and a God we ought to love.'

The Indians.

Bishop O'Gorman, of Sioux Falls, in an account of a tour among the Indian reservations, states that the red men are fast becoming civilised, and, while the old generation of hunters and warriors is dying out, the new generation is keenly anxious to learn. More than half the Indians are Catholics.

The New Possessions.

The census bureau bulletin of January, 1902, makes the population of the Philippines and Porto Rico 7,914,592, which added to the figures of 9,158,741 Catholics in the United States, makes over 17,000,000 Catholics, or over 60 per cent of the church-going people under the American flag.

Charitable Bequests.

By the will of the late Miss Cecilia Tully, of Boston, the following bequests were made.—£100 each to the Little Sisters of the Poor, the Home for Destitute Catholic Children, the House of the Good Shepherd, and for Carney Hospital; £200 to the Sisters of Mount Carmel; £400 to the Working Boys' Home, to be applied to the industrial and manual training branch; £2000 to Archbishop Williams for the use of St. John's Seminary; £6000 to Woodstock College, Woodstock, Md.; £1000 to the Apostolic College of Mungret, County Limerick, Ireland; £200 to the Oblate Fathers' Novitiate at Stillorgan, Dublin; £800 to the trustees of Boston College for two scholarships.

Dedicating a Seminary.

A short time ago the Right Rev. Bishop Dunne, of Dallas, Texas, dedicated the handsome new St. Xavier's Academy in Dennison. The building cost £15,000 and is one of the finest in the South.

Fighting Saloons.

In a sermon preached in Dubuque on January 12 Archbishop Keane intimated that the Catholic clergy would take an active part in the coming municipal election in an open fight against saloons. The Archbishop has organised the clergy and laity with the object of enforcing the measures covering the closing of saloons on Sundays.

A Strange Fact.

At Tampa, Kansas, a new Catholic church was recently dedicated by Bishop Hennessy, although not a Catholic resides in the town. The members of the congregation come in from the country districts.

Successful Canvas.

In less than two months Archbishop Riordan raised over £5000 among the friends of the Dominican Convent of San Rafael, California. Only a short time ago at the golden jubilee of the convent it was announced that about £3000 had been raised toward payment of the debt. Some of those present predicted then that perhaps in a year the entire mortgage would be wiped out, but none ever conjectured that this would be done in two months. The Sisters themselves had no thought of the great liberality that would be displayed in the contributions. But the friends of the institution rallied and to every request of Archbishop Riordan, more than the amount asked for was forthcoming.

Catholic Schools.

In the archdiocese of Boston there are 26 cities and towns, in which there are 68 Catholic schools attended by 41,000 pupils, with 825 teachers. This system of parish schools (says the 'Sacred Heart Review') saves in annual expenses to the cities and towns an amount of money which would surprise those non-Catholic friends of ours who maintain that the Church is opposed to education. For instance, in Boston last year it would have cost £80,000 to educate in public schools the children (13,525 in number) who attended the parish schools, and the interest on school building investment would have been about £16,000, thus making a total of close on £100,000.

Friendly Rivalry.

Of the German and the Irish races, and their respective parts in the up-building of the Church in Detroit, the 'Michigan Catholic' says:—'Both races have furnished examples of sacrifice and devotion which illuminate the history of the Catholic Church in all the ages. Where there has been competition between them, it has not been born of the selfish desire to control, so much as of the desire to excel each other in spreading the light. The very best priests who served under the Belgian Bishop of Detroit, Dr. Lefevre, were born Irish and born Germans. The best priests who served under the late Dr. Borgess were Irishmen and the sons of Irishmen, though he was

a German born. The most faithful priests serving to-day under Bishop Foley, a son of the Irish race, include German-born priests and the sons of German parents.'

GENERAL.

Probable Cardinal.

From a private letter received in Christchurch we learn that it is rumored in well-informed Catholic circles in the United States that the Rev. David Fleming, Vicar-General of the Order of the Friars Minor, will shortly be made a Cardinal. Father Fleming is held in the highest esteem by the Holy Father, the latest distinction conferred upon him being his appointment as Secretary to the Papal Commission on Biblical studies.

Innsbruck University.

At the University of Innsbruck, this year, there are about 300 students of theology. Forty-three of these are priests pursuing a higher course of studies. Among them are Jesuits, Benedictines, Franciscans, Servites, and Redemptorists.

Canonisation.

The slow progress of causes of canonisation is proverbial even in Rome, writes Father Pollen, S.J., in the London 'Weekly Register.' To advert to only one of modern instances, our present Holy Father concluded during his year of jubilee the canonisation of the Seven Holy Founders of the Servites, which had been before the Papal tribunal for over six centuries. The cause of our own (English) martyrs is in reality over 300 years old, if we reckon (as we should) from the first concession made by Gregory XIII. in 1548. Nowadays, moreover, the rate of speed must of necessity be more measured and leisurely than ever. More documents, monuments, matters needing investigation, are known now than of old. There is by consequence more to inquire into, and modern methods of research are, on the whole, more thorough than the old ones were. Again, the melancholy circumstances of the Church in Rome act as a decided drag. As our universities would be sadly hampered if all their endowments passed into the hands of a hostile power, so have the men of study among the Roman clergy been miserably crippled by the latter-day confiscation of benefices under the new rules of the Eternal City. A still further complication has arisen from the modern zeal for promoting canonisation which Pope Leo has encouraged. The undermanned and overworked Congregation of Rites has now some 260 causes before it, one or two of which contain several hundred names. The Holy Father, with his usual legislative skill, has abolished some of the old regulations which were most fruitful in delays, but much remains to be done before the old machinery will be quite competent to turn out as much as is expected of it. The quality of the work, thank God, is still admirable.

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