

penal servitude for life, for similar practices. The prisoner had never been a monk. He gained a living by his lectures.—The prisoner, allowed to address the court, complained that he had been made a victim of a plot. The Common Sergeant said he could not listen to this. The main points were that the prisoner had been twice previously convicted, and yet he had continued to indulge in his bad practice. The prisoner must go to gaol for two years with hard labor.

A Second Father Mathew.

The Rev. Father Hays's visit to Banbury to address a great demonstration (writes a correspondent of the 'Catholic Times') was highly successful. It is a significant sign of the tolerant spirit of the times that the announcement of his visit was proclaimed from the pulpits of every religious denomination, and in most churches and chapels the people were earnestly exhorted to attend. Mr. W. C. Braithwaite, B.A., LL.B., presided over a crowded audience, which included the Catholic priests of St. John's, clergymen representing the Church of England, Wesleyan, Methodist, and Congregational bodies and many of the leading townspeople. In a most eloquent and graphic speech, which was frequently greeted with rounds of applause, Father Hays held the close attention of his audience. He spoke for one hour and 20 minutes. He conclusively proved that intemperance was the greatest curse and danger this country has to fear—greater than the accumulated evils of war, pestilence and famine. Intemperance caused 100,000 deaths every year, whilst one hundred and sixty millions of money were annually spent on alcohol, which caused three-fourths of the poverty, half of the murders and suicides, and one-half of the lunacy of the kingdom. It was a problem of supreme national importance. He strongly advocated wise legislative measures, scientific teaching in every school, training the young in habits of temperance and industry and individual effort. The ex-Mayor, Councillor Fairfax, moved a vote of thanks for what he described as a magnificent lecture. He fervently hoped their esteemed visitor might be spared to carry on the work of the good Cardinal Manning. The Rev. Mr. Wood, in a graceful speech, referred in eulogistic terms to the splendid work for temperance accomplished by Father Hays, whose earnest words carried deep conviction to everyone present. It would be a very great blessing if he could be induced to visit the town once a year. The motion was carried with enthusiasm, and the learned chairman remarked that Banbury was part of Father Hays' parish, inasmuch as his mission of good work was not confined to one county but was world-wide, wherever the glory of God could be promoted and their fellow-man benefited.

Memorial Church.

About £10,000 has been collected, and all within about 10 weeks (says

the 'Daily Chronicle'), towards the Cardinal Newman Memorial Church in Birmingham. This is considered very good progress, even allowing for the fact that one-half of the whole sum is represented by a single subscription—the Duke of Norfolk's £5000. Perhaps the Birmingham Oratorians will not be able to rear quite such an imposing pile as that of the Oratorians at Brompton, or to realise Newman's own ideal of a church like St. Mark's, Venice; but they will, at any rate, vastly improve on the present barn-like structure. Thither, nevertheless, did many persons of all creeds flock to hear the voice that had once thrilled Oxford from the pulpit of St. Mary's, Birmingham being a calling place for neophytes—and others. Mr. Aubrey de Vere went there yearly, and Mr. Gladstone went there once. In that church Newman offered Mass for his old opponent, Kingsley, on hearing that he was dead; and there too, beside Newman's coffin knelt outsiders like Dean Lake, Lord Chief Justice Coleridge, and Lord Rosebery. But the walls that witnessed all these things must now be levelled with the ground.

FRANCE.

His Eminence Cardinal Lecot, Archbishop of Bordeaux, in a Lenten Pastoral, takes a gloomy view of the prospects of religion in France. He deplors the opposition which from every side the Freethinkers are directing against the Church. The difficulties which religion in France has to face are rapidly accumulating, and Masonry is completely in possession of supreme power over a nation which is in the majority Catholic. The hatred of the sectaries is directed against religion and the religious everywhere. Noting the steady depopulation of the country, his Eminence appeals to fathers of families to do their duty by the State, and what is equally important to their own sons. What, he asks, is to become of France in the next 25 years, if the moral and Christian education of the young men is neglected now? His Pastoral (says an exchange) makes sorrowful reading, and is another proof, where proofs abound already, that, unless the Catholic population awakens earnestly to the demands of the situation, in another quarter of a century the Church will have ceased to control the minds and hearts of the majority of Frenchmen. And there seems no way of regenerating the Republic but the adoption of the Papal policy—to rally to it, strengthen it, and reform it.

Charitable Bequests.

It is stated in the Paris 'Temps' that Mr. Frederick Watkins, a wealthy Englishman, who died at Florence recently, has left his fortune, consisting of landed property and personal estate, to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Paris, with the exception of £8000, which is divided between the Pope and the Archbishop of Paris.

Visitors to Lourdes.

Some idea of the throngs that visit Lourdes, especially in the

summer months, may be gathered by this statement in a Belgian newspaper: From August 20 to September 22, 1901, 150 special trains carried to Lourdes upwards of 80,000 pilgrims. Of the numbers arriving on regular trains and otherwise it is almost impossible to make any precise computation.

INDIA.—A Successful School.

It is stated that 2000 Brahmin boys attend the Jesuits' school at Trichinopoly, India, and many of them have embraced the true faith, so the Fathers are endeavoring to establish a school for the Brahmin girls in order that Christian Brahmins may be able to have Christian wives in the future.

ROME.—A Triple Jubilee.

It is pointed out that if Leo XIII. is spared to see the year 1903 (says the 'Tablet'), that year will be to him one of quite exceptional interest, a veritable 'annus mirabilis.' As everybody knows, it will be his silver jubilee of Papacy (elected Pope February 20, 1878); but more than that, it will also be his golden jubilee as Cardinal (proclaimed by Pius IX. in the Consistory of December 19, 1853), and his diamond jubilee of episcopacy (preconized Archbishop of Damietta by Gregory XVI. on January 27, 1843, and consecrated February 19). Such a triple jubilee, if his Holiness live to celebrate it, will probably be unique in history.

To Help on Union.

It is said that the Holy Father has set aside 200,000 dols. of Peter's Pence Fund for a greater union of the Greek and Latin Churches in Greece and Turkey.

An Important Event.

All the Cardinals of Italy are expected in Rome on May 3, the anniversary of the Pope's coronation, for the grand ceremony which will take place in St. Peter's.

Lenten Sermons.

Very Rev. Father David Fleming, O.F.M., Vicar-General of the Order of Friars Minor, was the preacher of the Lenten sermons in the Church of St. George and the English Martyrs, Rome.

SCOTLAND.—Reward of Bravery

At a recent meeting of the Royal Humane Society, in London, the following among other awards was made: Bronze medal to the Rev. Father James J. Dawson, Bishop's House, Oban, for his gallant action in rescuing a lad named Barfoot, who fell through the ice on the Black Loch on December 23. The accident occurred 20yds from the bank, and Father Dawson, who was near, at once crawled out over the dangerous ice, which again gave way, but he managed to reach the lad, whom he kept afloat with one hand, and with the other broke the ice in front of him till he reached the bank with his burden.

Death of a Rector.

A telegram from Rome received in Edinburgh on February 17 announ-

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