

FRANCE.

The present which President Loubet is making to the Holy Father on the anniversary of his coronation consists of two pieces of tapestry specially manufactured at the famous Gobelin State manufactory. They were designed by M. Jean Paul Laurens, one of the leading painters of the present time, and represent Joan of Arc's visions and her visit to the court of Charles VII. of France.

GERMANY.

The Emperor William will send a special mission to congratulate the Pope on his Jubilee, and Prince Luitpold, of Bavaria, will do the same. This (writes a Berlin correspondent) is not merely an act of courtesy, but is of political significance. German policy has for many years been anxious to emphasise that it no longer recognises the hegemony of the so-called Catholic Powers, especially of France, in Catholic matters. This was why Germany declared that she claimed for herself the protectorate over the German Catholics in the East. The 'Norddeutsche Allgemeine' published a semi-official paragraph congratulating the Pope on the fact that he enters upon the 25th year of his pontificate. It points out that for years the relations between the Vatican and the Emperor have been most cordial. Pope Leo XIII. owes the great successes of his pontificate to the cultivation of good relations with Germany, and the international authority of the Papacy has been greatly promoted by the attitude of that Power. Added to this, says the paper, the Emperor William feels for the Pope sympathies which exceed the limits of that courtesy which is customary between sovereigns. This semi-official paragraph, as well as the sending of a mission to Rome, will, of course, also produce an excellent impression upon German Catholics, who are thus to be shown that their Protestant sovereign is fully alive to their Catholic interests.

HOLLAND.

The Right Rev. John Aclen, the newly-consecrated Bishop of Temis-tonia, and Auxiliary to the Most Rev. Dr. Colgan, the venerable Archbishop of Madras, is, like his predecessor, Bishop Mayer, a member of St. Joseph's Foreign Missionary Society. He was educated at St. Joseph's College, Mill Hill, London. Bishop Aclen spent many years as a missionary priest at Vepery, in the archdiocese of Madras, whence he returned to Holland, his native country, just 12 years ago. He was the founder and first rector of St. Joseph's Mission House at Rozen-daal in North Brabant. At his consecration Rozen-daal was en fete. The burgomaster had provided for the decoration of the streets, and there was a brilliant display of many-colored bunting, countless flags and streamers flying from windows and across the thoroughfares. In

the neighborhood of the mission house the concourse was densest, and as the new Bishop and the prelates who had officiated drove up after the ceremony they were received with enthusiasm, which reached its climax when Dr. Aclen gave his first blessing to the multitude.

ITALY.—The Divorce Bill.

Though the Divorce Bill had been mentioned in the King's speech to the Italian Parliament, political parties recognised that it must be abandoned.

ROME.—The Pope's Jubilee.

His Holiness the Pope on February 20 received in the Throne Room the Committee charged to organise the celebrations on the occasions of the 25th anniversary of his pontificate. The Committee presented to his Holiness a specimen of the commemorative medal which will be distributed among the pilgrims. The Pope also received the Lombardy Pilgrimage Committee, which offered him a medal specially struck for him. The Pontiff thanked the committee for the presentation. A solemn 'Te Deum' was sung at St. Peter's in the afternoon in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the election of the Pope. The service was conducted by Cardinal Rampolla, and among those present were 24 Cardinals, about 40 bishops, the Pontifical Guard in full-dress uniform, for the first time since 1870, 300 representatives of Catholic associations in Rome bearing lighted tapers, Italian and foreign religious institutions, and a congregation of about 20,000 persons. The Basilica was opened to the public at the conclusion of the service. The Pope, who was at the window in his apartments, watched the gathering disperse. The people respectfully saluted him, waving their hats and handkerchiefs.

SCOTLAND.

The 'Catholic Herald' gives the following particulars regarding the late Very Rev. Mgr. Campbell, whose death was briefly referred to in our last issue: Father Campbell was a native of Aberdeen, where his father was a bookseller and stationer. When he was only a few years old his parents removed to Glasgow. After studying at Blairs College, he went to the Scots College at Rome in 1858. He was ordained priest in 1865, and after a short period of missionary work in Glasgow, he was appointed vice-rector of the Scots College in Rome. His scholastic career was exceptionally distinguished. In the Gregorian University he won several medals, took the Doctorship of Philosophy by public examination, and obtained the degree of D.D. as the result of an open examination. On the death of the Rev. Dr. Alexander Grant, he was appointed in 1878 Rector of the Scots College, an office which he filled until a few years ago. As a proof of the high esteem in which he was held at the Vatican, the Pope made Dr. Campbell one of his Domestic Prelates. Under his direction

the College considerably increased its number of students, and several improvements were effected about the buildings. Owing to the increasing infirmities he retired from the Rectorship, and has since resided in a home for invalid priests kept by an English community of nuns at Fiesole, the charming suburb of Florence. He was in his 63rd year.

Not Convinced.

There are still a few deluded people in Scotland who believe in Widdows, the anti-Catholic lecturer, who is now serving two years for an offence against public decency, among these being the Rev. Jacob Primmer. The 'Dunfermline Express,' in a recent issue wrote as follows:—'The crowds of people who rushed to St. Margaret's Hall, Dunfermline, two, three, and four years ago to hear "Ex-Monk" Widdows preach what was represented to be the Gospel of Christ, will surely be convinced now of the error they made. Again and again the people of Dunfermline were warned against Widdows, but, blinded evidently by a desire for Sunday demonstration, the "ex-monk" had large and enthusiastic audiences. The demonstrators would do well to read what appears to-day in another column of the 'Express.' At the Central Criminal Court, London, on Saturday, Widdows was convicted of an offence too terrible to name—loathsome, vile, wicked—and was sent to prison for two years. In Townhill Church on Sunday Mr. Primmer gives an explanation of the conviction. In view of the fact that Widdows has been convicted of bad offences three times, we are not prepared to accept Mr. Primmer's explanation. A man of Mr. Primmer's high moral character would do well to drop Widdows.'

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