

Cardinal Richard.

The 84th anniversary of the birth of Cardinal Richard, who is at present at Rome, was celebrated by the French Colony in the Eternal City recently. A numerous-attended lunch was given at St. Sulpice, at which all the French Cardinals at present in Rome attended. At the close of the lunch a messenger arrived from the Vatican with a most flattering letter from the Pope to the Cardinal and a magnificent bouquet of flowers gathered in the garden of the Apostolic palaces.

The Jesuits in Paris.

The announcement, which I made some time ago (writes a Paris correspondent), that the Jesuits had decided to hire a public hall in order to give the conferences which they were not allowed to give in churches, seems to have caused a flutter in the dovecots of the Minister of Justice. Steps were immediately taken to obtain the opinion of counsel as to whether any means could be found under the Law of Association to prevent this demonstration. The result, it appears, was not altogether satisfactory, but the legists of the Ministry of Worship are of opinion that if the hall is thrown open to the public, and the meeting has not the character of a private meeting or of a lecture held on invitation only, means will be found to prevent the proposed demonstration. The muzzling of the Jesuits seems to be the ideal of French statesmanship just now, and it would seem that if the Jesuits are allowed to exist the State will be in constant peril. The Minister of Worship is not satisfied with the action of Cardinal Richard in striking off the names of all Jesuit preachers from the list submitted to him for the Lent Conferences. The Government will think that some Jesuits may have crept in unawares somewhere, and they have given instructions to the Prefect of Police to have all the churches and chapels of the capital carefully watched in order to see there is not a Jesuit lurking somewhere. All this is supremely ridiculous, but it shows to what lengths religious intolerance will go even in this 20th century of ours.

GERMANY.—Death of a Leader.

The death is reported of Herr Lieber, the leader of the Central or Clerical party, which holds the balance of power in the German Reichstag. To this party is due the amelioration of the Falk laws against the Jesuits and other religious Orders in Germany, and its influence is a striking result of what may be achieved in legislation by united effort and cohesion.

A Misstatement

Several misstatements having been current regarding the religious views of the late German Professor of Church history, Dr. Francis Xavier Kraus, who recently died in Italy, the Catholic German Press publishes an extract from his will which pro-

ves not only his complete orthodoxy, but also his loyalty to the Catholic Church.

The Kaiser's Present.

The Kaiser has sent the Holy Father as a jubilee present a rich gold clock, the King of Saxony a superb porcelain group, which obtained a prize at the Paris Exhibition, and President Loubet, as already stated, some Gobelin tapestry.

HOLLAND.—New Education Law

The new educational law just adopted in Holland extends State aid to all schools, religious and secular, which prove by test that a satisfactory character of secular education is imparted.

INDIA.—The Church.

The Indian 'Catholic Directory' for 1902 just issued at Madras, gives tables from which we gather that the total number of Catholics in India and Ceylon (including Burmah) is at present 2,235,934. These are ministered to by 848 European missionaries, 1772 native priests (of whom 764 are Goanese and 467 priests of the Syro-Malabar rite). There are 295 primary schools, with 169,304 children in school attendance—excluding orphanages and colleges.

ITALY.—A Gutter Press.

The boundless liberty, amounting to downright licentiousness (writes a Rome correspondent), in which the extreme parties have hitherto been allowed to indulge by the Zanardelli Ministry has naturally had the effect of considerably increasing the virulence of the attacks which the anti-clerical Press systematically directs against Catholics whose only fault is to openly and loyally profess the 'religion of the State'. As a rule these attacks are treated with silent contempt, but every now and then it is satisfactory to read that the would-be bullies have received a sound thrashing from their intended victims. A case to the point occurred recently at Viterbo, an important provincial town, in which the Socialist propagandists have of late been very active, even publishing a paper called the 'Viterbo Nuova,' consisting chiefly of gross attacks against the local clergy. One of the latter, Rev. A. Chia-vacci, parish priest of Sta. Maria di Bagnara, finally determined to sue the editor of the paper for libel, and the case, after three days' trial, was decided in his favor, the Socialist editor being sentenced to three months' imprisonment and a fine. At Mantua, a Catholic paper, the 'Citta di Mantua,' having commenced a lively campaign against the Socialists, whom it accused of sowing discord amongst the working classes, was sued for libel by a prominent anti-clerical agitator, but the court acquitted the Catholic editor, considering the facts against the Socialists as proven. These two parallel cases are very significant, especially in a country where the

administration of justice is almost exclusively in the hands of the rabid anti-clericals.

ROME.—The Pope's Reign.

Cardinal Ciasca, whose death was recently reported, is the 139th member of the College who has died since the accession of Pope Leo XIII. If one more Cardinal should die before Leo XIII. himself (raising the number of deaths to 140) the present Pope will have twice renewed the whole College of Cardinals during his own pontificate. This will be a situation absolutely unique in the long history of the papacy.

SCOTLAND.

On March 19 next (says the London 'Universe') will occur the most unique event which has ever taken place in the Church in Scotland during the past three centuries, viz., the diamond jubilee of his Grace Archbishop Eyre's elevation to the priesthood. His Grace was born at Askam, Bryan Hall, York, on November 17, 1817, and has consequently entered into his 85th year. In January, 1869, his Grace was consecrated Archbishop of Anazarba, by Cardinal Reisach, and appointed Apostolic Delegate to Scotland, and was translated to the metropolitan see of Glasgow on March 15, 1878, so that if he is spared till next year he will see his silver jubilee as Archbishop of Glasgow. Under his fostering care the Church in the West of Scotland has advanced by leaps and bounds, and there has been a vast social improvement amongst his people. Before his coming, Catholics did not assert themselves very much in public life, and were patronised and let alone by aspiring politicians and others, just as the fit seized them. His Grace changed all that. Coming from an old English family, he at once found entree into the best social circles, and now where a priest was once distrusted, if not despised, he is held up as an example which clergymen of other denominations might well follow. Certainly both priests and people have gained much by the Archbishop's coming amongst them 33 years ago, and neither are unappreciative of the fact. Already steps are being quietly taken to show in some tangible manner how much his Grace is appreciated by those he rules over, and the 19th of March promises to be a red-letter day in the annals of the Scottish Church.

UNITED STATES.

Fifty Polish priests met in Toledo, U.S.A., recently for the purpose of forming an organisation of the American Polish priesthood. The meeting was called to bring the Polish priests closer together, and to aid the many priests of that nationality who go to America with no acquaintance there. It is proposed to establish a home for these priests where they may learn the English language.

A Record.

Here is a record found in the Pittsburg 'Catholic': St. Stanislaus

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MAORI TESTIMONIAL.

Otaki, April 4th, 1902

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