

A Mayor's Decree.

The Mayor of Choisy-le-Roy, near Paris has solemnly published the following decree:— 'Considering that the presence of ministers of different religious denominations at funeral processions may lead to a disturbance of public order, interfere with the public tranquillity, and hamper the circulation of passengers in the streets, quays, squares, and public places; Considering that it is the duty of the municipal authorities to see to the maintenance of order, Decreed: that the ministers of the different religious denominations are forbidden to accompany funeral corteges, processions, outside religious edifices, in the exercise of their functions, otherwise than in a closed carriage.'

ROME.—Australian Visitors.

The Right Hon. E. Barton, Premier of the Commonwealth, and Sir John Forrest were in Rome last week. The Holy Father accorded an audience to Mr. Barton and Sir J. Forrest. He declared that he had followed with keen interest Australia's progress. He was delighted at peace being declared, and joined heartily in the festivities at the Coronation of good King Edward. —

The American Pilgrimage.

A numerous American pilgrimage (writes a Rome correspondent under date April 25) is expected to arrive in Rome in the course of the week. The pilgrims, nearly 1000 in number, sailed from New York on board the White Star liner Majestic, and after a few hours' stay at Queenstown, proceeded to Naples. They are led by the Bishop of Brooklyn and 40 priests. The reception by the Holy Father will be attended by great solemnity, as this is the most numerous pilgrimage which has ever been to Rome from the United States. In a recent conversation with Mr. Kennedy, Rector of the North American College, the Holy Father expressed the greatest satisfaction with the wonderful progress made by Catholicity in the United States, adding that he would be very pleased to receive the filial homage of the American Catholics now journeying to Rome.

Death of a Cardinal.

In the course of three months no fewer than three of the Cardinals who were raised to the purple at the Consistory on the 15th of April 1891, have died, the last being his Eminence Cardinal Augustin Riiboldi, Archbishop of Ravenna. Only a few days previous to his demise his Eminence was in Rome, at the head of a numerous group of pilgrims, and received the Pope's congratulations for the zeal and energy he had displayed in his new diocese. Although 63 years of age, Cardinal Riiboldi was still very active.

A Week's Record.

A Rome correspondent gives the following record of the amount of work done in a week by the Holy Father with regard to the reception of pilgrims:—The Pope blessed more than 500 Swiss pilgrims, and about 100 Alsatian pilgrims in the Ducal Hall on April 20th; about 3000 pilgrims from Amiens, Belgium, and the Roman provinces in the Sixtine Chapel on April 23rd; and about 10,000 pilgrims from various parts of Italy in St. Peter's on April 24th. About 10,000 other visitors were present at the third of these ceremonies. His Holiness replied to addresses at the first and third.

Gone to China.

Ten Franciscan Fathers, of the Convent of St. Anthony in Rome, left for the China missions on April 26, after the customary farewell ceremony, at which all the brethren, headed by the Very Rev. Father David Fleming, Vicar-General of the Order were present.

UNITED STATES.

The letter (says an exchange) in which the Holy Father has replied to

the Jubilee address presented to him by the American hierarchy will certainly be read with pride in the United States. It is not merely a testimony of singular esteem but a handsome recognition of progress achieved. The Pontiff's words must be very welcome in view of the criticism to which the Church in the United States, like the Church elsewhere, is at times subjected. On the whole, the criticism probably does good by acting as a stimulus, but the Catholic authorities in the States have the best possible answer to it—the congratulations of Leo XIII. In his letter he assures them that their filial wishes have given him peculiar pleasure on account of the progress of religion, wherein they easily excel most places, and because of the special love he bears them. When he became Supreme Pontiff the condition of the Church in the United States gave him joy, and now, after having occupied the Papal chair for 24 years he can say that that joy has been continually increased by the growth of the Church through the zeal and energy of the American hierarchy. Their prudence had provided institutions suitable alike to the wants of the country and the needs of the people to whose religious interests they had to attend. And whilst the state of affairs elsewhere caused anxieties the youthful vigor of the American Church afforded a most cheerful outlook. The Holy Father praises the efforts of the Bishops in providing ecclesiastical seminaries and the selection of missionaries to preach to non-Catholics, and, in concluding, thanks the Catholics of the States for their generosity towards the Holy See. His Holiness evidently feels that the Church in the United States is one of the great bulwarks of the Catholic religion.

The Divorce Evil.

In 1886 the Commissioner of Labor was deputed (says the 'Ave Maria') by the United States Congress to gather data on the subject of divorce; and though his report aroused the public conscience for a time the effect was transient. The Commissioner in his report made due acknowledgment of the attitude of the Church towards marriage. He said:— 'Large and increasing as the number of divorces in the United States is, it is an undeniable fact that were it not for the widespread influence of the Roman Catholic Church, the number would be much greater. The loyalty of Catholics to the teachings and doctrines of their Church and the fact that one of the cardinal doctrines of the Church is that Christian marriage is a holy Sacrament, which, when consummated, can be dissolved for no cause and in no manner save by death, has unquestionably served as a barrier to the volume of divorce, which, except among members of that Church, is, and during the past 20 years has been, assuming ever-increasing proportions throughout the country.'

Mission to non-Catholics.

The 'Missionary,' a quarterly devoted to the work of the missions to non-Catholics, says:— 'The missionaries associated with the Catholic Missionary Union have given within the last few months 40 missions, during which they received 78 converts and left 138 under instruction with the resident pastors. There is nothing, perchance, which better indicates the growth of this movement than this simple statement of fact. A few years ago we were very content if we were able to record that there were some interested listeners. Now it is actual converts that are reported. It will be remembered that these converts have been made in out-of-way places, where the Catholic Church was scarcely known, or, if known at all, was not known very favorably, in places where bigotry was rampant, ingrained prejudice prevailed, in places where the Church was timid, hiding itself on a back street, where it had no influence in

public sentiment. Now all this is changed. Catholic doctrine has been preached. An aggressive attitude has been assumed and an appeal to truth has been made. The attractive power of the Church has been aroused. This change has taken place all over the country as the result of the non-Catholic movement; and the reports that are made to-day will be deemed as meagre, 10 years from now, as we consider the reports of five years ago, when the work first started. Verily the Church is moving on into that larger area of activity and usefulness when she will become one of the dominant factions in our national life.'

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