

Catholic World

CHINA.—Priest Massacred.

A Pekin message states that a serious rising has taken place at Ting Fuchill. It was due to attempts to collect the indemnities for a Catholic missionary killed in the massacres. A French priest has been murdered. His head was carried about the country on a pole for several days. The Foreign Ministers are insisting that the Chinese Government shall suppress the rebellion immediately. The French Minister at Pekin is sending M. Kahn, a secretary, to conduct an investigation.

ENGLAND.—Convent Schools.

The 'Rock,' a Low Church London newspaper, is greatly disturbed by 'a very real and pressing danger to the National Protestantism—the increasing infatuation of English parents for Continental Convent schools.' With pain the editor finds that 'thousands of our best and brightest young people from Protestant homes are imbibing the rankest ultramontaniam abroad.' But if this is so, what is to be said for the 'Rock's' preaching? Year after year, in leading articles, notes, speeches, and letters, it has abused the nuns. They have been accused (says the 'Catholic Times') by it of almost every form of crime. Parents have been warned not to trust their children to them. And now, after all this, to have to acknowledge that thousands and thousands of the best and brightest young people from English Protestant homes joyfully make their way to the convents, and that the 'infatuation' is increasing! One thing is certain—either the 'Rock' or the parents are wrong. It seems to us the natural conclusion is that the newspaper is in error. Those parents are fond of their children. They wish them to get an education at least as good as they received themselves, and on investigation they have discovered that they can place them in no better hands than those of Catholic nuns.

HOLLAND.—The Church.

'Viator,' writing in the London 'Tablet,' supplies some interesting information regarding the position of the Catholic Church in Holland. Many people who regard the Dutch as being as Protestant a race as the English will learn with pleased surprise that the Catholics in Holland are more than one-third of the population, numbering exactly 35.4 per cent. of the inhabitants. There are 1060 Catholic churches, with 2348 priests and an established hierarchy. Religious vocations are so numerous that there is always a large surplus available for foreign missions. In public affairs, too, Catholics have a good position. 26 out of the 58 deputies in the Second Chamber being of the old faith, while no fewer than three of the Cabinet are Catholics. And as the Dutchman's motto is 'Hold fast,' the Church is not likely to lose her foothold in Holland.

Religious to the Rescue.

An idea of the sad fate to which would be left a certain class of unfortunates, if the religious Orders of the Catholic Church ceased to exist, has just been strikingly shown in the ultra-Protestant town of Zaandam, North Holland, writes Rev. J. Van Der Heyden to the 'Catholic Sentinel.' A number of patients stricken down with contagious diseases having been brought to the city hospitals, the lay nurses went on a strike, refusing to attend to these stricken ones. The Mayor, after vainly attempting to secure the services of more willing mercenaries, telegraphed as a last resort to the Brothers of St. John of God, at Amsterdam. Two hours later three Brothers arrived at Zaandam, and they entered at once upon their duties, taking full charge of all the departments, on condition that Sisters would be secured to attend the female patients. The Mayor started off for Amsterdam to engage a corps of trained hospital Sisters. He was as successful in this second appeal as in the first. And now the good Calvinists of Zaandam feel, if they never did before, that there is something in the Catholic religion which Calvin, when he started to improve upon the Church founded by Christ, left out, to the detriment and shame of his present-day followers.

ROME.—A Rumor.

Consternation was displayed in the Vatican the other day when Dr. Lapponi, the Holy Father's private physician, was seen going towards his Holiness's apartments with a large microscope in one hand and a case containing several vials and surgical instruments in the other. The rumor spread that the Pope had suddenly become seriously ill, but soon the truth became known. Pope Leo has long taken much interest in the progress of modern science, and Dr. Lapponi's object was to show him specimens of the various microbes which have been discovered during recent years, and to explain to him the exact manner in which each of them affects human beings. The germs of typhus, tuberculosis, diphtheria, anthrax, and other maladies were carefully examined through the microscope by the Pope, who then asked Dr. Lapponi many questions, especially as to the manner in which the germs find their way into human bodies and as to the methods which have been devised for destroying them.

Australians at the Vatican.

On Sunday last (writes a Rome correspondent, under date May 5) his Eminence Cardinal Moran, Archbishop of Sydney, had the honor of presenting a group of about fifty Australians to the Holy Father, while a small but highly representative American pilgrimage was received by his Holiness on Sunday. The Australian group included eleven students now at the Propaganda and

belonging to the Irish College, besides several laymen, among whom I may mention Mr. and Mrs. Hughes, of Melbourne, and Mrs. Baker, of Adelaide, accompanied by her daughter and niece. Very Rev. Dr. Murphy, (rector of the Irish College) and Very Rev. Dean O'Haran (Cardinal Moran's secretary) were also present. His Eminence, in introducing the pilgrims, pronounced a short but eloquent address, in the course of which he referred to Australia as 'the most youthful of Christian nations in the world,' a happy phrase which greatly struck the Holy Father who, in replying to the Cardinal's speech, said that although the good seed had been scattered in Australia but yesterday, comparatively speaking, the progress already made by Catholicism indicated that its growth and development in those distant climes were specially favored by Providence. His Holiness concluded by declaring that if pilgrimages from the Old World gave him the greatest satisfaction, this gratification is enhanced in the case of pilgrims who represent the sturdy and providential progress of the younger nations. A noteworthy incident occurred during the audience, when Cardinal Moran asked the Holy Father to grant the cross 'Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice' to Mrs. Elizabeth Baker, who was present, in recognition of the valuable services which her pen has rendered to the Catholic cause in Australia. Needless to say that the request was immediately granted, the Holy Father adding many benevolent words of encouragement and congratulation. Mrs. Baker is related to the Speaker of the Australian Commonwealth, and the well-deserved distinction will be learned with satisfaction by all Australian Catholics.

SPAIN.—A Change of Front.

It is pleasant to be able to record (says the 'Catholic Times') that the Spanish Government has receded from its determination to wage war on the religious Orders. Whatever be the cause of this unexpected change of policy, whether the Queen has expressed her dislike for it, as some report, or, as others prefer to say, the Government fears that General Weyler would be the only person likely to profit by the disturbance arising from an anti-clerical campaign, the fact stands clearly out that the Ministry does not intend to proceed to extreme measures against the religious. Its instructions to the Provincial Governors are of such an indefinite character that no attempt has been, or is likely to be, made to interfere with the Congregations. Of course, the Radical deputies are bitterly annoyed, but the Ministry does not trouble itself with their outcries. A greater question engages its attention. The accession of the young King to the throne is producing an expression of feeling in places like Barcelona which will demand all the tact and time of the Government to confine it within safe channels. We may assume, therefore, that the religious Orders in Spain are safe for

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