

# The Catholic World

## BELGIUM.—A Pilgrimage

A great Belgium pilgrimage was organised to leave Brussels for Rome on February 26, and enormous numbers had expressed their intention of taking part in it.

## ENGLAND.—Converts in Southwark

The Bishop of Southwark has informed a Catholic newspaper representative in Rome in the course of an interview that an average of 600 converts are annually gained to the Church in his diocese.

## Temperance Revival

A wonderful revival is taking place almost throughout London—and especially in the Southern districts—in regard to temperance and total abstinence work. The League of the Cross is meeting with far more generous sympathy than has been the case for many years, and priests as well as laity are exercising themselves remarkably in the great fight against alcoholic excess. Amongst the children good progress is made.

## The Oratorians

Rev. Robert Eaton, the English Oratorian priest, who came to this country to collect funds for the Newman Memorial Church to be erected at Birmingham (says the Philadelphia 'Catholic Standard and Times') is booked to sail for London in a few days. During his four months' stay in this country Father Eaton has not preached nor lectured, nor has his mission been mentioned from the pulpit. Despite this fact, his visits to Washington, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston, and New York have brought to him, unsolicited, the sum of 4000 dollars for the Newman memorial. England, Ireland, and Scotland have contributed 75,000 dollars. Father Eaton thinks it probable that a branch of his community may settle in the United States at some time in the near future. The Order is unique among the Catholic communities. The Fathers of the congregation are a body of priests living in community, but without vows other than those of the secular priesthood and under a highly democratic constitution. There is no superior general, as in other Orders. Each house is distinct and independent and the members take their places according to seniority, not according to official rank, even the superior taking his turn in all the duties. It is against the rules of the Order to ask for donations. Money is never mentioned from their pulpit, and all contributions made to the community are devoted to beautifying their churches or supporting their charity schools and hospitals. The Fathers find their chief occupation in the cultivation of theological and other studies. The two English branches of the Order which Cardinal Newman established there are composed largely of men of noble birth and broad learning. They give no missions, nor do they usually preach in churches other than their own.

## FRANCE.—Annals of Lourdes

The 'Annals' of Lourdes record that in 1902 240 special trains brought to the grotto 170 pilgrimages, comprising 200,000 persons. Counting those who came by ordinary trains, double this number visited Lourdes. Forty thousand Masses were celebrated, and 410,000 Communion received. Six thousand invalids bathed in the waters, and numerous cures were registered in the 'Annals' by Dr. Boissarie, chief of the committee of medical attestations, to which practitioners of every belief are invited to give their opinions of the cures.

## The Monks of Chartreuse

That there is no small amount of feeling concerning the French Government's recommendation that the application of the Chartreuse monks should be rejected has received fresh evidence from the fact that the 'Temps' has reprinted large portions of the special report sent in by the prefect of the Isere Department. It will be remembered that the Government gave as evidence in support of their recommendation that the Fathers were large contributors to Peter's Pence, to denominational schools, and caused communes to go to heavy expense in building operations because they made it a condition of their subscribing that the communes themselves should raise a certain portion of the expenditure required. Those points certainly appeared in the prefect's report, but they were the only ones to which the government seem to have paid any attention. All arguments that told in favor of the monks were given the go by. Here it is a subscription of 50,000 francs at the time of a local disaster, there the building and up-keep of a school; 7000 francs a year to one hospital; and twice that sum to another. At St. Laurent du Pont in 1892 the Fathers built a hospital of eighty beds at a cost of 1,400,000 francs, and have since given 800,000 a year towards its maintenance. Another of their works is a school for deaf mutes at Curriere which is in their sole charge.

## GERMANY.—Catholics in Bavaria

A Congress of almost all the Bavarian deputies of the Centre Party, together with 640 delegates from eight provinces of the Kingdom of Bavaria, was recently held at Munich, under the presidency of Dr. Daller, leader of the Centre Party in Parliament. The Congress decided on the constitution of a central federation of Catholic and social associations for the whole kingdom, the publication of a political dictionary, and the establishment of a central secretariate of the party.

## A New Party

A Catholic party has been founded in Alsace-Lorraine. It bears the title of the Alsatian Country Party; and its programme includes a demand for universal suffrage, and for the treatment of Alsace-Lorraine on a footing of equality with the other States of the German Federation.

## ROME.—Dinner to the Poor

His Holiness the Pope gave a dinner to the poor of Rome on February 22, at the Vatican. He had 1000 guests, who were waited on by nuns, while the Swiss Guards, in their brilliant uniform, kept order. There was great enthusiasm, and the cry, 'Long live Pope Leo!' was repeatedly uttered.

## The Pope's Charity

At this time (writes a Rome correspondent), when faithful and devout children are bringing their offerings as tributes of devotion to their common Father, the Holy Father, because he is the common Father of all, is not unmindful of the needs of the poor. He has remitted, through the Cardinal-Vicar, the sum of 50,000 lire for the poor of the city of Rome; 20,000 for the city of Perugia, the half of that sum to be applied directly to the actual needs of the indigent, and the remainder to be destined for the establishing of soup kitchens; 10,000 to his native city of Carpineto, and 20,000 to be added to the 25,000 which his Holiness gives annually to the poor nuns of those Orders deprived of means of support.

## Speculation

Much speculation (writes a Rome correspondent) is going on just now on an attempted Franco-German agreement on the Catholic and Roman question. Messengers are passing between Berlin, Paris, and Rome. From both Paris and Berlin envoys have been sent to a high personage at Rome to prepare the way for a new departure. It is also said that the Papal Secretary of State has been officially notified of the intended arrival of the Emperor William in Rome in the approaching month of May.

## The Biblical Commission

The Holy Father has given orders for the Biblical Commission to meet twice each month. In the meantime the Consultors resident in Rome meet regularly. Since the death of Cardinal Parrochi Cardinal Rampolla is President of the Commission. Leo XIII. urges on the work. He is its mainspring, and shows himself most anxious about it. He makes himself acquainted with all details, and receives immediate and direct information from specialists. He has received proofs of the wide approbation called forth by his choice of consultors—proofs indicating that he had struck the gamut of the schools of knowledge.

## UNITED STATES.—Catholic School Successes

Chicago is keeping up the high percentage of successes scored by graduates from Catholic schools there in the examinations for admission to the Normal School, or as cadets (says the Pittsburg 'Observer'). Out of one hundred candidates sixty-two passed, of whom forty-five were graduates from Catholic parish schools.

## A Large Order

The erection of a sky-scraper on a prominent site in the business centre of Chicago, to be occupied largely by the Catholic societies of the city, the rehabilitation of St. Mary's University, and the abolition of tuition fees in the parochial schools are among the ideas which will be presented by the Catholic clergy and laity to Archbishop Quigley when he assumes control of the archdiocese of Chicago.

## Death of a Clare Priest

The Rev. Patrick Egan, for 23 years chaplain of the Carney Hospital, South Boston, died suddenly recently of heart disease. Father Egan was born in Milltown, county Clare, in 1838, received his early education in the schools of his native place, and in Ennis, and was educated for the priesthood in Maynooth College, being ordained in 1864.

## The Catholic University

In Rome on March 1 Cardinal Serafino Vannutelli gave a dinner in honor of Mgr. O'Connell, the new rector of the Catholic University at Washington. The guests included Cardinal Satolli, Cardinal Vincent Vannutelli, Very Rev. J. A. Zahm, Notre Dame, Ind., and a number of Monsignors. Mgr. O'Connell, it is stated, has already received two purses of £1000 each to found new scholarships from personal friends, and promises of much larger sums from others.

## Church Growth

In the 125 largest cities of the United States (says the San Francisco 'Monitor') the Catholic population aggregates 3,644,000, while the total number of Protestants is only 2,117,000. The entire population of these cities is 14,110,000. In the country as a whole one person in every 321 is a communicant of a church; in the cities one person in every 224. From 1850 to 1900 the value of Protestant church property rose from 78,000,000 dollars to 401,000,000 dollars, of Catholic church property from the insignificant sum of 9,000,000 dollars to 211,000,000 dollars.

## Parochial Schools

The Catholic parochial schools of New York State contain 145,702 children. The cost of maintenance is \$dols. a pupil.