

A cold frosty evening gave a peculiar zest to the comfort of a warm room, a blazing fire, and a good dinner. No sooner were the viands discussed, the cloth removed, and the glasses ready, than their generous host desired his daughter to assist the servant in broaching the redoubtable keg. 'That keg, my dear,' he proceeded, 'which the country lad who brought the key of the cellar left here to-day.'

'A keg,' repeated the daughter with surprise.
'Yes, Maggie, my love, a keg; I said so, I think.'
'But, papa, there came no keg here to-day.'
The gauger and Cartwright both groaned in unison.
'No keg!' said the gauger.
'No keg!' echoed Cartwright.

'No keg, indeed' re-echoed Miss Stinton; but there came a country boy with the key of the cellar as a token that he was to get the five-gallon—

'Oh!' groaned the gauger, 'I'm knocked up, outwitted—oh!'

'Bought and sold,' added Cartwright. 'Go on,' said the gauger; 'I must hear it out.' 'As a token,' proceeded Miss Stinton, 'that he was to get the five-gallon keg on the little stillion, under the blunderbuss, for Captain Dalton.' 'And he got it?' 'Yes, sir, he got it, for I took the key as a sufficient token.'

'But! Maggie—hell and fury, hear me, child—surely he brought a keg here and left it; and of course it's in the cellar?'

'No, indeed, papa, he brought no keg here; but he did bring the five-gallon one that was in the cellar away with him.' 'Stinton,' said Cartwright, 'send round the bottle. The rascal,' ejaculated the gauger, 'we shall drink his health.' And on repeating the circumstances, the company drank the sheepish lad's health, that thought and sold the gauger.

The Catholic World

AUSTRIA.—A Catholic University

Austria has decided to establish its own Catholic University. It will be in the artistic and handsome city of Salzburg, in which Mozart was born in 1756. At a recent meeting of religious and lay notabilities held under the presidency of the Prince Bishop of Salzburg, Mons. Katschthaler, the Provincial of the Capuchins of Bavaria, brought forward the project as the most becoming gift that could be presented to the Pope on his jubilee. The estimated cost is 15 million francs (about £600,000), and of this 1,300,000 francs (£52,000) is already subscribed. The Catholics of Austria will not be long in raising the funds necessary for establishing this institution, which is of so great interest to the whole Catholic people of their ancient country.

ENGLAND.—Cardinal Vaughan's Health

When the last mail left England Cardinal Vaughan's health was again causing considerable anxiety. He had been obliged to relinquish work.

Death of a Nun

The death is reported of Sister Mary Constantia (Campbell), which took place at the Convent of the Poor Sisters of Nazareth, Hammersmith, on March 4. The deceased religious was 44 years of age, 22 of which she passed in religion. She was the third daughter of the late Mr. Alexander Campbell and Henrietta Macdonald, Dell, Stratherrick, N.B., a good old Highland Catholic family, related to and connected with many of the Scottish bishops and clergy.

Westminster Cathedral

Westminster Cathedral (says the London 'Monitor') is progressing towards completion very satisfactorily, but a considerable period must yet pass ere the marvellous scheme of interior adornment can be finished. However, much of the beautiful mosaic and marble work has been carried out with excellent results, and visitors to the noble edifice—Protestants and Catholics—are enthusiastic in their praise. Many of the latter, who in the past favored the erection of a building in the Gothic style, are now compelled to admit that in choosing the Byzantine Cardinal Vaughan did well indeed.

The Breton Mission

The Breton Mission in North Wales, established some time ago at Llanrwst, though it can hardly be called flourishing, has certainly met with a larger measure of success than its promoters had a right to expect. The planting of a branch mission at Festiniog is only part of a much larger contemplated plan of extension. One difficulty the Breton Fathers meet with is due to their lack of intimate acquaintance with the vernacular or conversational Welsh. Father Jones, of Carnarvon, under whose wing they first began to moult their Breton and display their Welsh, is not to be blamed for this. Considering the shortness of the period they were under his tuition, he must have proved himself an exceptionally competent teacher, and they as exceptionally apt pupils, to have enabled them to read, write, and preach in Welsh as they are now able to do. Facility in the use of the mother tongue, from whose stock their native language has sprung, can only come by use—and for this they enjoy abundant facilities among the farmers of the Vale of Conway and the quarrymen of Merionethshire.

Catholic Poor Law Schools

Cardinal Vaughan's recent appeal to his flock for further assistance towards the maintenance and extension of the Reformatory, Industrial, and Certified Poor Law Schools of the archdiocese draws attention to one of the most successful efforts of his eminent predecessor, Cardinal Manning. It was in 1865 that the latter first directed his attention to obtaining the transfer of Catholic children inmates of workhouses and workhouse schools to Catholic Certified Poor Law Schools. In 1867 he had erected and equipped one Reformatory, two Industrial, and two Certified Poor Law Schools, with a total number of children of 448, of whom but 70 were sent by and chargeable to 11 unions and parishes. To-day there are in the archdiocese one Reformatory, four Industrial, and 12 Certified Poor Law Schools, and the total number of inmates is 2644, of whom 1810 are children sent by and chargeable to 58 unions and parishes. Before his death Cardinal Manning was in the position to state that there was not one orphan or deserted Catholic child of his diocese being educated in workhouse schools. His example was followed by other bishops of his Church, and with the result that to-day there are 14 Catholic Certified Poor Law Schools for boys, with accommodation for 2655 inmates; 25 for girls, with accommodation for 3027; and 11 mixed schools, with accommodation for 1158—a total of 50 Certified Poor Law Schools with accommodation for 6840 children.

Buckfast Abbey

On Shrove Tuesday took place the Solemn Benediction of the new Abbot of Buckfast Abbey, in South Devon. There was a goodly gathering, clerical and lay, on the occasion, in the temporary abbey church, on the wall of which abuts the fine old fifteenth century tower, the only surviving fragment of the old monastic building of Buckfast. The Abbot-elect, the Right Rev. Father Boniface Natter, received the Abbatial Benediction at the hands of the Lord Bishop of Plymouth, who celebrated the Pontifical High Mass; and the assistant abbots were the Abbot of Erdington, near Birmingham, the Abbot of Dourgne, in the vicinity of Toulouse. The Abbot of Ramsgate was also present, and a seat of honor in the choir was assigned to Lord Clifford of Chudleigh, as the principal benefactor of the revived foundation. Fort Augustus Abbey was represented by Dom Oswald Hunter-Blair, and there was a numerous muster of the clergy of the diocese of Plymouth, both secular and regular. The offertory included a cheque for a thousand pounds. An eloquent discourse was preached after the Gospel by the Right Rev. Mgr. Croke-Robinson, Domestic Prelate of the Pope; and it should be added that just as the invited guests were sitting down to luncheon, after the ceremony, a telegram arrived from Rome, conveying the congratulations of the Holy Father to the new Abbot and community of Buckfast, and his paternal blessing to them and to all their benefactors.

HOLLAND.—The Catholic Party

Dr. Aalberse, a young Catholic barrister, has succeeded to the seat in the Dutch Chamber left vacant by the death of Mgr. Schaepman.

ROME.—The Pope's Health

The best evidence of the Pope's health was forthcoming on Sunday morning (writes a Rome correspondent under date March 9), when the Supreme Pontiff received 5000 Belgian, German, Austrian, and English pilgrims. Heading this last band of pilgrims was the Duke of Norfolk, who was received in the throne-room with the full ceremonial befitting his dignity. The Duke presented to the Pope, one by one, the numerous Catholic peers who had come to Rome on the occasion of the silver jubilee, and also offered a sum of £4000 as Peter's Pence. The Pope spoke a kind word to each peer.

The English Pilgrimage

The English deputation, with the Duke of Norfolk at its head, arrived in Rome on Wednesday, February 25. It was received at the Station of the Termini by his Grace Mgr. Stonor, Archbishop of Trebisond; the Right Rev. Dr. Bourne, Bishop of Southwark; and other prelates and gentlemen of the English colony. The Right Rev. Dr. Hilsley, Bishop of Birmingham, arrived in Rome a few days later.

An Argentine Pilgrimage

Amongst the most interesting of the pilgrimages which have already arrived in Rome (writes a correspondent) is the one from the Argentine Republic of South America. The Argentine Confederation of twelve provinces, of which the capital city is Buenos Ayres, is a country of enormous extent—the inhabited part alone exceeding in size Great Britain, Ireland, France, and Spain. The pilgrimage is headed by Mons. Euchague, Chaplain-General of the Argentine Army and Navy, and honorary chaplain to his Excellency General Roca, President of the Federated Republic, who made him the bearer of an autograph letter conveying his felicitations to the Pope, and in which he prayed for a special benediction for himself, his government, and the Argentine people. He also sent to the Holy Father a large sum as an offering, and amongst other splendid gifts an object of art, made in bronze at the military arsenal, which the War Minister offered, as expressed by himself, as the special homage of the Argentine army, of whom the immense majority are good Catholics and the whole of whom profess admiration for the person of the Pope. Two other chaplains, in addition to Mons. Euchague, were also sent by the Government representing the