

A Successful Mission

The Very Rev. Kenelm Vaughan, brother of the late Cardinal Vaughan, has collected £14,000 in Spain and South America towards the erection and decoration of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in the new Westminster Cathedral. He is now in the city of Mexico, where he hopes to raise another £4000 to complete the sum required.

Girls' Protection

In the London residence of the Dowager Duchess of Newcastle the annual meeting of the International Catholic Girls' Protection Society was held the other day. The chair was taken by the Rev. Father Antrobus, and amongst those present were Lady Mary Howard, Lady Edmund Talbot, and Viscountess Clifden. Lady Edmund Talbot read the annual report, reviewing the work of the society during the past twelve months, and attention was drawn to the urgent need for a stricter surveillance of so-called 'employment registry offices.'

Catholics at Oxford

The Duke of Norfolk, speaking at the annual dinner of the Newman Society at Oxford, said he was sure every Catholic who had come to Oxford must feel the keenest sense of thankfulness to the authorities and to those connected with the university for the way they had been welcomed back within the old walls. They should determine to take their share of the life which Oxford was helping to carry on. Those who were now taking part in this reopening of the Catholic life in this university, those who were bringing to themselves and through themselves to the Catholic body the direct and far-reaching advantages of university education were placed at Oxford at a moment when the whole life of the country gave them opportunities for carrying on a great work in the future. He did not think any man could well say now that he had not work to do for his country if he chose to face the fact. The whole governing of the country, the whole carrying on of its public life were now taken away from the few and thrown broadcast to the whole people of the country. Referring to the Education Act, he pointed out that the education of the rising generation was now committed to local bodies throughout the country, and therefore those who could obtain places on these educational bodies and thus influence their countrymen of the future had a great opportunity which it would be most unwise not to take advantage of. Members of this society were the last who could put aside duties of that sort.

FRANCE.—Expulsion of the Benedictines

Thirty Benedictine monks and 65 students who were expelled from Douai College, France, are settling at Portsmouth. One hundred Catholic clergy and representative laymen welcomed them at Charing Cross last week and presented them with an address signed by 19 English Catholic bishops, nine peers, and 24 abbots. The Pope sent his blessing and good wishes. Writing a few weeks ago on the expulsion of the Benedictines from Douai the 'Catholic Times' said:—'Woolhampton and the generous Bishop and Chapter of Portsmouth, who have offered a home to the Douai Benedictines, will certainly not suffer by the persecuting policy of the French Government. The hand of God is still directing the affairs of the world and drawing good out of evil. The Benedictines have been treated badly in France. In 1793 a number of them were arrested and kept in prison for more than a year. Their property was confiscated at that time, and they subsequently recovered but moiety of it. Now it appears that the process of confiscation is to be repeated, for the French Government is showing a determination to resist their claim for compensation. What matter. The Benedictines do not care for money. Their wealth lies in the grand traditions of the Order—traditions of scholarship, artistic work, musical skill, and missionary zeal. In returning to England from Douai they are, as it were, renewing all the links of those traditions, and, with Abbot Larkin, we look forward to a great future for Woolhampton. At the same time a word of hearty gratitude is due to Canon Scannell and his staff. Under the Canon's able presidency most admirable work has been done at Woolhampton for the Church and for Catholic interests.'

A Sufferer for the Faith

It is no longer possible to assert (says the 'Catholic Times') that all French Catholics are sunk in religious apathy. A young lady of twenty years has been discovered with courage to express and courage to suffer for her faith. Mademoiselle de Lambert, for too freely manifesting her indignation against the persecution of monks and nuns, was brought before the court and sentenced to eight days' imprisonment. And to gaol she went. She refused to appeal against her punishment, and calmly marched into her prison cell, at Versailles. This modern Joan of Arc may have done a deed capable of stirring up others to imitate her courageous action. But whether she has so done or not, she deserves every credit for the noble stand she has taken on behalf of religious liberty. It is the wonderment of Catholics here that the French gaols are not full of victims who could be accused of no crime but defence of Christian right and common justice. The air hurtles with protests, episcopal, sacerdotal, lay; but protests that stop short of prison will never frighten M. Combes. We agree with the 'Univers' that the prison-protest of Mademoiselle de Lambert is more effective than all the rhetorical frippery which the last month has seen flattered against the persecuting party in power. It was not by literary fireworks that the early Christians conquered the pagan

Roman statesmen; nor will such means enable the French Catholics to overcome the modern pagan politicians of the Republic.

ROME.—The Pope's Portrait

The London 'Daily Chronicle' says it is rumored that the Holy Father is to give sittings for his portrait to a painter commissioned by his Majesty King Edward VII.

A Reception

The Holy Father in the early part of May received Father Baptist, of the Passionist Order, deputed by Cardinal Gibbons to convey to the Holy Father on the occasion of his jubilee the good wishes of President Roosevelt, and a present consisting of ten volumes of messages and official letters of Presidents of the United States from 1789 to 1897.

The Kaiser's Visit

The Emperor of Germany's visit to the Pope made a very deep impression on the Italian people, especially as it was carried out with more than ordinary pomp. The Emperor (writes a Rome correspondent) went to the Vatican with a magnificence that was unequalled in Papal Rome during the space of a generation. Before proceeding thither he conferred at his Legation to the Holy See with Cardinals and Prelates, and thus devoted the central part of Sunday, May 3, to the Church. Business and negotiations and exchanges of civilities between the members of the Imperial suite and the officials of the Papal Court occupied very much of the ensuing days. But as if this negotiating of the Chancellor von Bulow with the Secretariate of State and the Emperor's meeting with the Cardinal-Secretary of State, the Cardinal-Prefect of Propaganda and the Cardinal-Administrator of Propaganda were not in sufficiently marked relation with the trend of Catholic affairs in France, the Kaiser and his sons visited a monastery, and one typical of all, the pharos of the Benedictine rule and civilisation, Monte Cassino. Nor are the cordiality and sincerity of all this inferior to its importance as displayed through splendor. The Emperor's jubilee gift, a precious and artistic clock, stood on a table in the Pope's study. Three mosaic pictures, one of the Roman Forum, the second of St. Peter's Square, the third of the Bridge and Castle of Sant' Angelo, which the Pope had ordered for three Imperial personages, were also placed in a conspicuous position. The Pope presented them to his guests. The Emperor also presented his gift of massive, mounted photographs of the Metz Cathedral, the restoration of which has been undertaken since this once French city has become German. The real significance of the visit must be sought in the choice of occupants for the line of 11 carriages, in which were the Emperor himself, his eldest and second sons, the Chancellor of the Empire, the veteran Marshal von Waldersee, the Grand Marshal of the Court, and the other great military and bureaucratic dignitaries, and in the relations with the Vatican which these entertained on that and on the subsequent days. No such great event has occurred since 1870, and no fitter time could be found for its occurrence.

SCOTLAND.—The King and the Prelates

King Edward, who already numbered Cardinal Vaughan and Father Bernard Vaughan among his personal friends, extended his range of Catholic acquaintances in Rome, when he met Archbishop Maguire and the other Scottish prelates at the British Embassy in Rome.

A Presentation

Rev. George Grant, St. Peter's, Aberdeen, has been presented with an address and a superb chalice by the parishioners.

Tha Patron Saint

On May 9, in the Cathedral, Edinburgh, there were said the Mass and Office for the translation of the relics of St. Andrew from Amalphi, in Italy, to the Scottish metropolis. The relics were brought to Scotland by Bishop Rigg, and delivered to Archbishop Strain in 1879.

SOUTH AFRICA.—Praise for the Nuns

General Kelly Kennay, in his address at Newcastle-under-Lyme on the second day of a bazaar for the Convent of Mercy in that town, which was opened on the first day by General Butler, paid an enthusiastic tribute to the Sisters of Mercy. Their work, and the work of kindred communities, he said, appealed to them all, more especially to the hearts of sympathetic Irishmen. After the battle of Driefontein he had four or five hundred wounded, whom he had to carry with him, or they had to follow after him, to Bloemfontein. At that place he found a home of rest and comfort, and comparative luxury for his sick and wounded, in the Convent of the Holy Family. Bloemfontein became the depot for the sick and wounded of 80,000 men operating in the neighborhood, and there were 4000 enteric patients. Two of the nuns lost their lives in nursing and tending the sick. The men were mostly of another religion, but that made no difference.

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