

The Catholic World

ENGLAND

HELPING A MISSION.

The mission of St. Boniface, Tooting, London, S.W., has just benefited by an anonymous donation of £3000. The debt on the parish originally stood at £7000. Thanks to the zeal of the pastor, Father W. P. O'Halloran, this was gradually reduced to £6000. As a result of the magnificent gift the mission debt now stands at £3000.

DEATH OF A POPULAR LADY.

The funeral took place on March 4, at Exton, of Lady Agnes Noel, eldest daughter of the Earl of Gainsborough, who died at Exton Park, Oakham, after a few hours' illness. Lady Agnes was grand-daughter of the late Mr. Robert Berkeley and Lady Catherine Berkeley, of Spetchley Park, Worcester, Lord Gainsborough's first wife being Miss Augusta Mary Catherine Berkeley. The news of Lady Agnes's death created a painful sensation in the Campton district, where she was well known and very popular.

A GENEROUS BEQUEST.

One of the best friends of the Crusade of Rescue was the late Major-General Sir Luke O'Connor, V.C. It was his yearly habit on the anniversary of the Battle of the Alma (at which, it will be remembered, he won his Victoria Cross) to send to Father Baus a thank offering; and, besides, for several years he paid the emigration expenses each year of at least two children of the Crusade to Canada, thus showing what a deep interest he took in the work, and especially in the problem of the emigration of children to the Dominion. At the present time there are several children in Canada who, were it not for the generosity of Sir Luke O'Connor, would not be at present in a position to earn their own living there with such good results likely to accrue therefrom. In his will, which was proved recently, there is the following clause under the legacies: 'A legacy of £1000 to the Administrator of the Incorporated Society of the Crusade of Rescue towards the expenses of the emigration annually to Canada of two children, male and female, and a further sum of £500 for the general objects of that society.'

ITALY

THE ARCHDIOCESE OF GENOA.

A good deal of interest was evinced in the first Pastoral of Archbishop Gavotti, of Genoa. After mentioning the encouragement given him by Benedict XV. to become chief pastor of the archdiocese of Genoa, and after giving counsel to his clergy concerning the doctrinal and moral instruction of their flocks, the Archbishop says: 'Let us pray for our country, and for all the authorities who rule it, for the majesty of King Victor Emmanuel III., and for the royal family, for the high dignitaries of State, and particularly for all the civil and military authorities of the archdiocese. To these I send my respectful salutation, convinced that they will recognise the great efficacy of the mission of a bishop, a mission essentially of peace, intended to procure that moral progress which they certainly desire and recognise as the chief factor in social prosperity. Now, whilst inviting you to pray for the country, I believe I am performing the duty of a good citizen in also exhorting you to pray that it may enjoy the benefits of peace.'

ROME

SPIRITUAL PRIVILEGES FOR SOLDIERS.

The Sacred Congregation of the Sacraments (says the *Irish Catholic*) has issued a decree, dated February 11, by which, during the war, by special permission of

the Holy Father, soldiers at the front may receive Holy Communion under form of Viaticum; also that priests free of any canonical impediment who are in charge of the wounded may celebrate Mass in any place provided it be safe, as also in the open, as long as it be removed from danger of any irreverence.

THE CAUSE OF THE IRISH MARTYRS.

One of these days (writes a Rome correspondent) the Sacred Congregation of Rites will communicate to the Postulator of the cause of the Irish Martyrs the result of the vote recently taken on the introduction of the cause before its tribunal. In case its decision is favorable—and there is no reason to expect that it will be otherwise—the mass of evidence, compiled by his Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Walsh, Archbishop of Dublin, some ten years ago, will be returned to Ireland, and his Grace will be asked to add to it any further particulars it may be possible to procure. This is one of the most important causes which the Sacred Congregation of Rites has had before it for years, for it includes no fewer than three hundred names of bishops, secular and regular priests, and lay Catholics of both sexes. Furthermore, one name sometimes stands for ten or fifteen martyrs. For example, where Cromwell's army put to death the members of a religious Community for the crime of being Catholics, frequently only the name of the Superior of the house has come down to us. Hence around him are grouped his martyred companions, whose names are written only in the Book of Life. In the long list are to be found the names of many Franciscans, Dominicans, Jesuits, Augustinians, Cistercians, and members of other religious Orders. How well the Irish clergy clung to their faithful people may be gathered from the official report of Mgr. Bentivoglio, Internuncio at Brussels, to the Holy See in 1613 on the condition of the Irish mission. There were in Ireland in that year, states this prelate, 800 secular priests, 130 Franciscans, 30 Jesuits, and a few of other Orders.

GENERAL

ANARCHY IN MEXICO.

The news to the effect that the Government of the United States has ordered additional warships to Vera Cruz and has warned Generals Carranza and Obregon that they will be held personally responsible for the safety of American citizens in the Mexican capital has inspired the hope that President Wilson may at last decide to interfere for the purpose of restoring order in Mexico. Anarchy in Mexico (says the *Catholic Times*) has reached an extreme stage, but intervention by the United States cannot yet be regarded as probable. The work of destruction will, no doubt, be allowed to proceed till the contending forces almost exterminate each other. No language could give an adequate idea of the state to which the country has been reduced. Blood has long been flowing freely; business has been brought to a standstill; property is confiscated; and thousands are in dire want. For the clergy and the nuns the worst outrages have been reserved. Priests have been murdered, after having been forced to endure tortures. Other members of the clergy have been held to ransom. Churches have been desecrated and ruined. Catholic organisations have submitted to the American Government authenticated lists of Mexican atrocities, and have been informed that the authorities were in sympathy with their views, but nothing has been done. Ex-President Taft has expressed the conviction that the Mexican anarchy is the logical consequence of America's policy of inaction. Let us hope the President will at length see that the time for action has arrived.

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