

The Catholic World

ENGLAND

CATHOLIC CHAPLAIN AT OXFORD.

Father Maturin's lamented death in the sinking of the *Lusitania* left vacant the post of chaplain to the Catholic undergraduates of Oxford University (says the *Universe*); and the vacancy has now been filled by the appointment of the Rev. Lionel Goodrich, a convert priest of some forty years' standing. For a time at the English Bar, he studied for the priesthood after his conversion; and after a short sojourn at the London Oratory became a priest in charge of the mission at Hampton Wick, and afterwards at Harrow. For some years past he has been chaplain to the Visitation Nuns at Harrow. The number of Catholic students at Oxford, before the war, had grown to nearly a hundred, but fully two-thirds of them are at present serving in some branch of the army. It was this reduction in the number of his flock which gave Father Maturin the opportunity to undertake his long-planned trip to the United States which ended so tragically.

FRANCE

MONTMARTRE BASILICA.

Readers of these columns (writes the Paris correspondent of the *Irish Catholic*) will remember that Cardinal Amette, addressing the Eucharistic Congress at Lourdes last summer, announced the consecration of the Basilica of Montmartre for October 17, 1915. It was to be accompanied by the consecration of France to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Almost immediately afterwards the outbreak of war rendered the execution of the programme impossible. The definite consecration of Montmartre Church has consequently been deferred till the end of the war.

HOLLAND

PROPOSED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

Despite the opposition organised by the extreme Protestants, the Dutch Government, it appears, intends to proceed with the proposal for the resumption of diplomatic relations with the Vatican. A statement issued on June 7 by the Minister of Foreign Affairs says that the representation of Holland at the Vatican is in the interests of the country, which is greatly concerned in future peace negotiations. The Minister says that the appointment of a Dutch Minister to the Vatican will in no way alter the attitude of the Dutch Government on the question of Papal sovereignty.

INDIA

HONORS FOR A NUN.

The King's Birthday list (says the *Universe*) included the name of the Rev. Mother St. Lucie, Provincial Superioress of the Congregation of Jesus and Mary, Agra, India, upon whom his Majesty has been pleased to confer the Kaisar-i-Hind Medal, for public service in India, of the First Class. This signal honor is richly merited, and its bestowal has caused much rejoicing to members of this well-known Order throughout the world. Mother St. Lucie has spent over sixty years in educational work in India since she left the Mother House at Lyons in 1851. The journey in those days was long and difficult, for M. Ferdinand de Lesseps—their fellow-passenger as far as Alexandria—had not yet begun to cut the Suez Canal. Even when they reached Bombay their wanderings were by no means over; the journey to Agra meant six weeks' travelling in rough bullock-carts. Less than three years after, the Mutiny broke out with all its horrors, forcing nuns and children to take a hasty refuge in the Agra Fort, where they spent seven months. In after years she was a witness of the terrible ravages caused by famine and cholera, and fearlessly helped to nurse the sufferers.

Many of the Sisters fell victims to their charity, but she was spared to continue her labors in the native orphanage, the military orphanage, and the European boarding-school successively, until her appointment as Provincial Superioress extended the sphere of her influence to all the houses of the Order in India. Her long years of devoted work gave her considerable ascendancy over natives of all classes, while her high principles, her unselfishness, her unflinching gaiety and courage in difficulty and danger have won the affection and esteem not only of her European pupils and their parents, but of all with whom she has come in contact.

ITALY

APPOINTMENT OF FIELD BISHOP.

The *Osservatore Romano* publishes a Papal Decree instituting the new post of Field Bishop, with authority to appoint chaplains of the land and sea forces, to bless flags, and direct the spiritual organisation during the war. The first nominee is Mgr. Angelo Bartholomasi.

ROME

A VATICAN WHITE BOOK.

A telegram from Rome to the *Daily Mail* says: It is stated that the Vatican will shortly issue a White Book containing the diplomatic documents since the start of the reign of Benedict XV. Included will be accounts of the Pope's action in favor of peace and for an exchange of prisoners. It will, possibly, also contain a reference to the Papal Ambassadors leaving Rome. Cardinal Gasparri is preparing the book, which will explain why the Embassy from Turkey was not accepted, will refer to the presence of the British and Dutch envoys, and will have an appendix showing the action in regard to the war of the Bishops of Belgium, France, and Germany.

SPAIN

AN OFFER TO THE HOLY FATHER.

For a day or two Spain was filled with excitement and enthusiasm owing to the rumors in circulation that the Holy Father was to fix his residence within its hospitable shores until the conclusion of the terrible war. The matter (writes the Madrid correspondent of the *Irish Catholic*) came about in this way. When Italy flung herself into the fray the position of the Pope naturally became the preoccupation of the public mind here. The Catholic papers, *El Universo* and *El Debate*, published leading articles to the effect that, should the Pope be compelled to abandon Rome, nowhere could his Holiness fix his residence more suitably than in Spain, a country at once Catholic and neutral. On the following day a Catholic periodical of the North affirmed that the Pope had actually decided to transfer the Pontifical Court temporarily to Spanish soil; and naturally the country at least the greater portion of it—became enthusiastic over the prospect of affording an asylum during the conflict to the august Father of Christendom. All kinds of rumours were flying about until the Premier, Senor Dato, made an official announcement on the subject. There was no question at present, he said, of the Pope's coming to Spain. What was true was that King Alfonso had offered to the Holy Father the Royal Monastery of the Escorial should he find it necessary or convenient to remove the Pontifical Court temporarily from Rome. The Royal offer had been made through the Papal Nuncio, Monsignor Ragonessi, and, of course, had been made with the sanction of the Government.

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