

The Catholic World

CANADA

THE PAPAL DELEGATE.

Monsignor Stagni, the Papal Delegate to Canada, has arrived at Ottawa, accompanied by Monsignor Sinnott, his private secretary. He was met on arrival by the Hon. Charles Murphy, Secretary of State, Senator Cloran, and other officials, and was formally welcomed at the Basilica later by Archbishop Gauthier and leading English and French Ottawa Catholics.

ENGLAND

CATHOLIC CHURCHES IN LONDON.

His Grace the Archbishop of Westminster, in the course of an address at the Church of St. Etheldreda, Ely Place, Holborn, said that many were not aware of the number of Catholic places of worship in London, and foreign visitors were quite astonished at there being so large a number in the capital of a country that was regarded as Protestant. There were now no fewer than ninety on the north side of the Thames, and over fifty on the south side. Each church had its particular character and history, and each was the outcome of generosity, self-sacrifice, and devotion. Very few were erected a hundred years ago, most of them having been built after the restoration of the Hierarchy sixty years ago. That in which they were assembled had a history extending over many generations. It stood as a monument to the devotion of their forefathers, and brought back many memories of old Catholic England, memories that must stimulate all who visited it and worshipped within its hallowed walls.

CATHOLICS AND THE EMPIRE PAGEANT.

The fiction that the Catholics of the present day are not the representatives of the ancient faith of England which was long kept up in some quarters no longer finds favor amongst men of intelligence and knowledge (says the *Catholic Times*). Mr. Birrell reminded his audience at Manchester the other day that their forefathers professed that ancient creed, and the action of Mr. Frank Lascelles, pageant master, in asking Catholics, through his Grace the Archbishop of Westminster, to take part in the Empire Pageant at the Crystal Palace, which will be opened in May by their Majesties the King and Queen, is another illustration of the change that has come about in this respect amongst non-Catholics. The scene reproducing the episode of 'the bringing of a fragment of the Holy Cross from Wales to Westminster' will be enacted by Catholics. To the number of four hundred they will appear in the roles of monks, priors, and other ecclesiastics, choir boys, knights, and soldiers. This is as it should be, for only those who have preserved the traditions of the past unbroken can enter fully into its spirit and make it, so to say, live again. The work of preparing for the pageant will be to the Catholics a labor of love, and we feel sure that they will prove themselves equal to the interesting occasion.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL.

Slowly, like the almost imperceptible growth of an oak tree, but as surely and almost as incessantly, the great work of completing the vast interior of Westminster Cathedral proceeds. Nothing is being done in a hurry, and even the humblest part of the manual labor is being effected with painstaking care, as though each workman realised that he was working for posterity. At present the mosaic workers are concentrating their energies on the arched roof of the side aisle, near the chapel of the Blessed Sacrament. Since the consecration of the Cathedral the marble workers, too, have added to the material enrichment of this stately fabric. The chapel of St. George and the English Martyrs bears testimony to this fact. Appropriately enough, the predominating colors of this chapel will be given by red and white marble, and in the marble work at the back of the altar the shield of St. George with its red cross takes a conspicuous place. The beautiful mosaic panel which perpetuates the memory of Blessed Joan of Arc is practically finished. All that is now wanting is the inscription for the marble tablet beneath. It will be remembered that this, by no means the least lovely feature of the Cathedral, owes its origin to the Bishop of Clifton's suggestion to the Catholic Women's League, that that society should collect contributions from the women and children of England for the specific purpose of honoring the Maid's memory in the Cathedral. Before very long it is expected that the grilles will be finished which will serve to enclose the altar of St. Thomas of Canterbury in the Chantry Chapel of Cardinal Vaughan. The cost of providing this metal work is being defrayed by contributions from the priests of England. The Dowager-Duchess of Newcastle is providing four heavy bronze candlesticks, which will stand at the corners of the founder's monument, while Lady Alice Fitzwilliam has presented a beautiful crucifix for the altar.

FRANCE

WARFARE AGAINST CHRISTIANITY.

The warfare which the French Government are conducting against Christianity and the rights of consciences is becoming more and more intolerable. The plan of the enemies of religion (remarks the *Catholic Times*) is to force their detestable doctrines on the children in the schools. The Bishops and priests are to be persecuted when they endeavor to protect the young. One of the books put into the hands of the children in the Government's primary schools is the historical manual of Guiot and Mane. It is a work which by its attitude towards the Church outrages the principle of neutrality on religious questions which the law is supposed to uphold. The Abbé Jacquot, parish priest of Dombasle, in the Vosges, speaking from the pulpit lately, said: 'The children who do not use the condemned book, Guiot and Mane's Historical Manual, will make their First Communion with solemnity on Easter Sunday. Those who use it will make their First Communion on another Sunday without any ceremonies.' For this notification the curé was prosecuted, and the Mercourt tribunal has condemned him to pay a fine of sixty francs and costs or to go to gaol for twenty days. His words, it was held, constituted 'a provocation to resist a legal act of the public authority.' The abbé has gone to prison. The duty of safeguarding Catholic children from anti-Christian teaching is one which no Catholic priest can shirk.

ITALY

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE HOLY FATHER.

In the course of a leading article the London *Saturday Review* says:—'The existing condition of Rome and the position of the Pope are standing reproaches to Italian statesmen and a trouble to the conscience of Europe. Fair-minded people cannot help asking themselves whether it is compatible with the dignity of a great nation, or of one that claims the title, and that has the privilege of harboring in its capital the spiritual head of so large a part of Christendom, to allow a deliberate policy of menace and insult to be pursued against him by municipal officials, if not by the direct agents of the Government. It is not necessary to be a supporter of the Temporal Power, or even an advocate of its restoration in a very modified form, to understand this. Insulting speeches, the sale of filthy, libellous, and blasphemous journals, and other overt acts of hostility, to say nothing of the complaisant toleration of blatant atheism, make it difficult for a great sovereign who has any respect for the sentiments of large masses of his own subjects to give his personal countenance to these celebrations.' The writer goes on to describe the members of the House of Savoy as 'merely exotics in Rome,' and observes that no one can believe the Italian Royal House feels comfortable in the existing condition of things. The ceremonies which it was hoped would tend to produce the impression that the present state of affairs in Italy is likely to become permanent only suggest the conclusion that until the Roman question is solved dissatisfaction and uncertainty will inevitably prevail.

ROME

THE HOLY FATHER'S NAME-DAY.

On March 18, the eve of the Feast of St. Joseph, the name day of Pope Pius X., the Holy Father received in audience, in his private library, the members of the Papal household (writes a Rome correspondent). The Right Rev. Mgr. Billetti presented the various dignitaries to his Holiness, and addressed a few words of greeting in his own name, as the master of the household, and in that of all those attached officially to the Apostolic Palaces. The Holy Father replied briefly, thanking all for their greetings. His Holiness had kind words for each of them as they knelt to kiss his ring before leaving. The members of the Sacred College of Cardinals also were received by the Pope in private audience. His Eminence Cardinal Serafino Vannutelli, Sub-Dean of the Sacred College, took the place of his Eminence Cardinal Orsini, the Dean, offering the greetings and good wishes of the members of the Sacred College to his Holiness. On the Feast of St. Joseph his Holiness celebrated Mass in his private chapel, at which his sisters and a few others, together with some of the household, assisted. After the Pope's Mass the thanksgiving Mass was celebrated, and after it had been finished the Pope went to his private apartments. His Holiness's secretaries had been busy on the day before and all the morning, receiving telegrams and letters of congratulation and greetings from Prelate Princes and personages and societies from various parts of the world.

SPAIN

BENEFACTORS OF THE COUNTRY.

At a moment when the Prime Minister of Spain would have us believe the religious Orders are a burden to the country, it would be well if that gentleman and those who credit him would dip into the Annual published some time ago by the Minister of the Interior there, as it contains