

they would be the very salt of the Irish nation in the future when once they made up their minds to join hands with.

Their Catholic and Nationalist Fellow-countrymen. He believed that that day was at hand. He was certain of this, and they had had evidence of it in the House of Commons, that all through the South and West of Ireland men who had been Unionist in the past, once the Home Rule Bill became law, would do their best to make it work successfully. Their spokesman in the House of Commons, Mr. Newman, a large landowner in the South of Ireland, who represented an English constituency, made a most remarkable speech a few weeks ago, and told the House of Commons that Ulster Unionists did not voice the opinions or express the views of the Unionists throughout the South and West of Ireland. He said that although they were not in favor of this Home Rule Bill, that they did not believe it as good as it ought to be, and they would be glad to see it defeated; still, if it became law, they would throw in their lot with their Catholic fellow-countrymen and do their best to make it a success. That would be the spirit in every part of Ulster before many months had elapsed after the passage of the Home Rule Bill into law.

RELIGION IN THE BALKANS

THE OUTLOOK FOR CATHOLICS

The struggle between the Christian West and Islam began with the invasion of the Mongols, about the year 1230 A.D. The Turks, who were living in the country to the south-east of the Sea of Aral, were thus driven towards the west. They numbered about 50,000 souls. Gradually they spread over Asia Minor and Brussa became their capital. They made great progress under Osman, who ruled from 1281-1326, and from whom the Empire took its name. Soon Asia Minor was too restricted a place for them and they conquered Galipoli. Murad I. extended his empire as far as Adrianople. In 1389 he overcame the Serbs, and three years later his successor, Bajasid, conquered and broke up the kingdom of Bulgaria. He continued his victorious march with irresistible force, conquered Macedonia, Thessaly, and Hellas. Sigismund, King of Hungary, led against him a crusade which counted in its ranks the flower of German and French knighthood. Bajasid beat the crusaders at Nicopolis, and boasted that soon his horses would eat their oats in the rooms of the Vatican. But things changed. Bajasid was beaten by the Tartars at the battle of Angora. A few years later he died in prison. To the fact (says Elise Flury in the *Catholic Times*) that the Tartars did not know how to utilise their victory, the Turkish Empire owes its survival at the time.

The Population of the Balkan Peninsula.

The Balkan Peninsula has a population of about 23,000,000. Catholics number about half a million; with a total population of 6-7 millions, there are only about 1½ millions of Turks. Including the Albanians, the Mahomedans, number about 2½ millions. The majority of the inhabitants of the Balkan Peninsula belong to the Orthodox Greek Church, whose head is the Czar of Russia. The various Slavonic races were converted to Christianity in the ninth and tenth centuries. St. Cyril and St. Methodius, the apostles of the Slavs were in close communion with Rome. They lived, as indicated, before the Eastern Schism. But when the East separated from the West and severed its communion with Rome, the fact that St. Cyril and St. Methodius had come from Constantinople to evangelise the Slavs was taken advantage of in order to draw these races into the Schism. The Poles alone could not be forced into a separation from Rome, but remained faithful to the Catholic religion. *En passant* a word of well-deserved praise may be said in honor of the Poles. In spite of the reverses of their unhappy country, in spite of persecution at the hands of their Russian and German conquerors, they have remained staunch in their faith.

The 'Orthodox' Church.

The condition of the 'Orthodox' Church in the Balkans is the same as in Russia. It is to all intents and purposes a civil institution, one of the departments of the State. The Government sees in bishops and priests but servants of the State, subject to the Minister of the Interior. Without any regard to Canon Law they are dismissed if they dare to think differently from the Government, and are not its blind tools. The conscience of the official of the State is the only authority, and want of subordination is an offence which must be severely punished.

Intolerance in Servia.

Servia is to-day the only country of Europe in which the Catholic religion is forbidden by law. The only two Catholic priests in the land are the chaplains of the Austrian-Hungarian Embassy. The future will show whether the promise of King Peter to give entire freedom to the Catholic Church will be carried out. The Orthodox Church in Servia is in a sad condition. Even several of its bishops have been imprisoned for crime. Some of them can neither read nor write. The so-called Old Catholics have made repeated attempts to join forces with the Orthodox Church. In Montenegro the Catholic Church enjoys freedom since King Nicholas entered into a Concordat with the Holy See. Montenegro is an archdiocese with its seat at Antivari. The King of Roumania is a Catholic. In this kingdom the Catholic religion is tolerated. The Rev. P. Raymund Netzhhammer, of the Benedictine Abbey of Einsiedeln, Switzerland, has been appointed Archbishop of Bukarest. He taught mathematics for many years at the College of Einsiedeln, and is the author of well-known works. Archbishop Netzhhammer enjoys great respect and popularity throughout Roumania. Bulgaria is divided into two vicariates. Mgr. Cleto, a Capuchin Father, has just been appointed Bishop of Philippopolis by the Holy Father. He had been stationed at Bataltscha, in Bulgaria.

King Ferdinand of Bulgaria

is a son of the ambitious Princess Clementine and grandson of Louis Philip. He was brought up as a Catholic, and his first-born son was baptised in the religion of his parents. His mother was the pious daughter of the Duke of Parma. Anxious to please his great patron, the Czar of Russia, King Ferdinand had the heir to the throne re-baptised in the Orthodox Church, the Czar being his godfather. This act broke the mother's heart. One of the most zealous and popular priests of Sofia is a Swiss Capuchin Father. Greece has about 25,000 Catholic subjects. Officially the Catholic Church is tolerated, but the toleration is still very limited.

It is to be hoped that Catholics will not be granted less freedom in the territories which may be annexed by the Allies than they have enjoyed under the rule of the Turks. France, which persecutes religion and the religious at home, and Germany, which trembles lest its safety might be jeopardised if the Jesuits laid foundations within its borders, vie with one another in protecting the Christians in the Turkish Empire. The reasons are political, but the protection is, nevertheless, a welcome safeguard for settlers in Turkey and pilgrims to the Holy Land.

Russia and the Future.

Much has been written about the present position and the probable outlook for the Catholic Church in the Balkans. A great deal will depend on the amount of influence and pressure Russia will be able to bring to bear on the Governments of the various States. The smaller that pressure is the greater will be the chances of reunion with Rome.

MOUNTAIN KING ASTHMA POWDER.

Asthma is painful and exhausting, enervating and distressing. Why suffer when relief can be immediately obtained by the use of that truly wonderful remedy, Mountain King Asthma Powder, which gives prompt and refreshing relief. Use Mountain King Asthma Powder; it never fails. Obtainable all good chemists and stores, 2s 6d.

W. Morrish & Co. THE LEADING HOUSE FOR FOOTWEAR, GREYMOUTH. One of the most Miserable Feelings is that of uncomfortable feet. You cannot expect to have ease and comfort for your feet unless you wear properly-made Footwear, and there are no Boots or Shoes on sale to-day that excel in any one particular those stocked by us. Better than the best you cannot buy.