

The Catholic World

ENGLAND

THE OZANAM CENTENARY.

Striking success marked the whole of the ceremonies in connection with the national observance of the centenary of Frederic Ozanam, chief founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, which took place in Manchester during the last week in May (says the *Universe*). Each of the public assemblies held in connection with the observance was remarkably well attended. On the Saturday afternoon, when the first meeting was held, St. Patrick's Hall, Livesey street, accommodated about 1000 men, while on Sunday afternoon about 4000 people attended the mass meeting in the Free Trade Hall. The previous evening some 1200 guests attended a civic reception in the Manchester Town Hall, and at the concluding function, a dinner in the Midland Hotel, on Sunday evening, some 750 guests were present. It is doubtful if ever before more Catholics had assembled together at dinner. Certainly his Eminence said that neither he nor any of his predecessors had attended a Catholic dinner at which there were so many guests. But it was not in point of numbers alone that the centenary celebration was a success—the work of Ozanam was brought home to thousands in a way which they had never known before, while the various speeches and sermons must have filled the members of the society with the true spirit of their great founder and acted as a stimulus to them to go on with their work with renewed energy. His Eminence Cardinal Bourne presided over all the meetings, and among those who took part in the proceedings were his Grace the Archbishop of Liverpool, the Bishop of Salford, the Bishop of Sebastopolis and Bishops Singleton, Haulon, Butt, and McIntyre. Members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society were present from all parts of the country, and a large number of clergy also took part in the proceedings.

HONORED BY THE HOLY FATHER.

The Holy Father has been pleased to create Mr. Paul E. J. Hemelryk, J.P., O.R.S., a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Gregory. Mr. Hemelryk has long been one of the most prominent Catholics in the religious and civic activities of Liverpool. Born at Leyden in 1840, he is a member of an old Dutch family which preserved the faith. As a young man he came to Liverpool in 1862, where he settled, starting in business as a cotton broker. In 1867 he became a naturalised British subject. He is the senior Catholic magistrate in the city, having been made a Justice of the Peace in 1890. In Catholic matters Mr. Hemelryk has ever been to the front. In times when feeling ran high, he did not hesitate to resign his position as chairman of a Conservative club as a protest against Colonel Sandys' Orange scurrilities. Fearlessness and thoroughness have been the two dominant notes of his character. He has supported every public Catholic movement. More particularly has he been associated with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, of which he is a vice-president of the Superior Council of England, and president of the Liverpool Central Council. It is largely in recognition of his work for the society that the distinction has been accorded by his Holiness.

PORTUGAL

TREATMENT OF POLITICAL PRISONERS.

Adeline Duchess of Bedford (says the *Catholic Times*) has written to the Liberal papers a letter expressing surprise and regret that they have withheld their support from the effort she has recently made to enlist British sympathy in favor of an amnesty for the Portuguese political prisoners. She shows how harsh is the ill-treatment the prisoners suffer and expresses the opinion that their condition ought to appeal to all lovers of justice. So it should, but, for whatever reason, the British Liberal journalists who are so

eloquent in denouncing foreign tyranny have been dumb with regard to the Portuguese atrocities. Whether they are silent or outspoken is not now of much importance. The sufferings of the prisoners constitute only a small part of a question which is rapidly approaching solution. Costa's tyranny is drawing to an end, and with a fair degree of certainty it may be predicted that as Franco's dictatorship brought the days of the Monarchy to a close, Costa's misgovernment will bring about the collapse of the present regime. Whatever may happen then, there will be less wickedness and corruption in the Government and the Portuguese people, released from the yoke of servitude imposed on them by an anti-Christian secret organisation, will be able to breathe more freely.

ROME

THE POPE'S BIRTHDAY.

The Holy Father on Monday, June 2, celebrated his seventy-eighth birthday, and the event, coming so soon after his recovery from a serious illness, called forth even greater manifestations of loyalty and devotion than usual. Telegrams and messages of felicitation arrived at the Vatican from all parts of the world. His Holiness rose early and celebrated Mass in his private chapel, in the presence of his two sisters, his niece and his private secretaries, from whom he received the first congratulations. Afterwards he was present at a Mass celebrated by Mgr. Bressan, and then retired to his private apartment, where he had breakfast with his relations.

THE HOLY FATHER'S HEALTH.

To-morrow (writes the Rome correspondent of the *Universe* under date June 1) the Holy Father begins the seventy-ninth year of his life. That the present good health to which Providence has restored him should continue for many years will surely be the prayer of thousands of Catholic hearts, who have followed with so much anxiety the Holy Father's recent illness. For now it may be said that the ordinary routine of his daily life has been resumed. He is able to say Mass regularly, to attend to important business; he takes his drive in the Vatican gardens, and grants audiences as before. After the two on Sunday, May 25, there were other audiences granted on the following Tuesday and Wednesday, and all who approached him agreed that, though somewhat thinner, the Pope is really better and stronger than before. But the biggest event of all took place on Thursday afternoon, when the cortile of San Damaso was filled with over 1300 pilgrims from Tuscany, and about 1500 others, admitted by special ticket, all eagerly expecting with eyes upturned towards the loggia, whence Pius X. had promised to bless them. As the white figure of the aged Pontiff appeared, surrounded by prelates, chamberlains, and other officers of his court, an enthusiastic ringing cheer went up from the crowd, which only ended when the Pope himself called for silence. Then in a strong voice he pronounced the formula of the Apostolic Blessing to the kneeling crowd.

GENERAL

THE FIRST NUNS IN AMERICA.

The first body of nuns to establish themselves in America were the Ursulines, who, under the superiorship of Madame de la Peltrie, established the Hotel Dieu at Quebec in May of the year 1639. The first body of religious women to establish a convent in the United States was also the Ursulines, at New Orleans, in 1727. The royal patent authorising the Ursulines to establish a convent in Louisiana was issued September 18, 1726, by King Louis XV., and August 7, 1727, the Ursulines began in Louisiana the great work of education, which has continued without interruption to the present day.

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