

RETURNING TO THE FOLD

Miss Spearman, third daughter of Sir Joseph Spearman, Bart., was recently received into the Church by Rev. Father Joseph Kennedy, of Bexhill, England.

When Cardinal Gibbons confirmed a class of 410 at St. Paul's Church, Baltimore, on May 1, there were fifty-nine adults among the *confirmandi*, and of these thirty were converts to Catholicity.

The Ceylon *Messenger* reports the death of Dr. H. G. Thomasz, the eminent Ceylonese surgeon. Dr. Thomasz was admitted to the Church in February last and was attended in his last moments by Rev. Father Vogel, who gave him the last Sacraments.

The latest convert of note to the Catholic Church is Mrs. Hugh Cleland Hoy, nee Miss Philpott, of Bristol, who was recently received at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Holloway, London. Her husband, who is private secretary to the Earl of Denbigh, is the brother of Mr. John Hoy, solicitor, Dungannon.

The *Reichspost* of Vienna has received a message from Jerusalem announcing the conversion to the Catholic Church of the Patriarch of the schismatical Syrians. He made his profession of faith on April 12 before the Latin Patriarch. It is expected that a large number of Syrians in Bethlehem will follow his example.

Mr. John Knox, who till lately was the curate of St. Barnabas', Smithfields, Wimbledon, and who joined the Catholic Church about six months ago, has gone to All Hallows' College in Ireland to study for the priesthood with a view of joining the mission in Newfoundland. Mr. Knox is said to be a descendant of the Scottish 'Reformer.'

Mrs. C. A. White, of Forest avenue, Fond du Lac, has been received into the Church. Mrs. White has been a generous contributor to the Episcopal cathedral of Fond du Lac, of which she was formerly a member, and was prominent for years in all the social and charitable work of the Episcopal Church. Mrs. White's daughter has also been received.

Rev. Mr. Schneeweis, former Episcopal minister at St. Mark's, Philadelphia, completed a five-day retreat at the Dominican House of Studies, Washington, D.C., on June 11, was received into the Church, and made his First Communion. He left the city on June 13 for Baltimore, where he was confirmed by Cardinal Gibbons the following day at the Cathedral. He is unmarried, and will in all probability study for the priesthood.

The Rev. Reginald F. Ekins, M.A., curate of St. Augustine's, Kilburn, was received into the Catholic Church at Manresa House, Roehampton, early in May. Mr. Ekins is a son of the late General Ekins, and was educated at Lincoln College, Oxford, and Ely Theological College. He was ordained an Anglican minister by the Protestant Bishop of London, and served as curate at All Saints' Notting Hill. For the last five years he has been curate of St. Augustine's, Kilburn. We understand that Mr. Ekins is leaving for Rome to study for the priesthood.

A telegram from Innsbruck to the *Kölnische Volkszeitung* states that at Arco Princess Guidobaldina Colonna has been received into the Catholic Church.

A press dispatch, dated Princeton, N.J., May 21, says:—It was learned here to-day that Mr. Paul Patton, son of the Rev. Dr. Francis L. Patton, who recently resigned as president of Princeton Seminary, had entered the Catholic Church a year ago. Mr. Paul Patton is an engineer on English Government work in Bermuda. It was there he became a Catholic. Doctor Patton did not enter into any explanation of his son's change of faith when interviewed to-day, but admitted that it had occurred about a year ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Eric Gill and family were received into the Church at Brighton, England, recently, by Canon Connelly. The conversion of Mr. Eric Gill (says the *Tablet*), adds another to the well-known names of men and women who have sought to unify beauty in art with beauty in life by the realisation of Christian

ideals of discipline, of renunciation, of an individualism which yet acknowledges its debt to tradition and its communal duty. If Mr. Gill's achievement as a sculptor has caused a clash of critical pens, there is accord in yielding to him the premier place as a carver of letters. He can inscribe on stone with a beauty which few can attain on paper.

A remarkable deathbed conversion was that of M. Besnard, the Radical Senator of Yonne (says the Paris correspondent of the *Catholic Press Association*). His life had been that of many Parliamentarians. Ambition had led him to sign and vote for all the laws of spoliation against the religious congregations presented by the Radical and sectarian majority. On the point of death he called for witnesses, and in the presence of several persons retracted and disavowed his votes. He then begged for a priest, and received the last Sacraments with admirable sentiments of faith, recalling with emotion the pious days of his childhood and the good Catholic education he had received from his mother. The anti-Catholics were furious. Here they were cheated again of a great secular funeral.

Despite the bad taste of certain propagandists who flooded Malta with tracts against the central mystery of the Catholic Church after the close of the Eucharistic Congress, that wonderful event has already borne fruit. The morning after the close of the Congress an entire Protestant family, well known in Valetta, presented themselves for instruction in the faith. The local director of the Tramway Company, a Jew, offered to decorate the trams with flags of the Papal colors, and a few days after the Congress had closed made his abjuration and was baptised in the church of Florino. The Protestant chaplain at Sliema ordered the bells of his little church to be rung during the procession. This did not please certain members of his small congregation, who protested. But the rev. gentleman has now made his obedience to the Church and has been received into her fold. It is thought his example will certainly influence some members of his small congregation.

On Pentecost Sunday there were baptised in St. Joseph's Church, Richmond, Va., twenty-five colored men, women, and children; and on Pentecost Monday there were forty persons of the same race confirmed by the Right Rev. Bishop O'Connell—all those confirmed being converts. The Baptism on Sunday (says the *Sacred Heart Review*) was witnessed by a large gathering of colored people, most of whom had entered the true fold since the opening of St. Joseph's Church some twenty odd years ago. The older colored people were affected to tears by the sight of so many boys and girls entering under the ever-protecting wing of the true Church, whose laws and directing influence are the only guarantee of the future well-being of the growing colored race. After the Confirmation Bishop O'Connell congratulated the zealous priests and Sisters of St. Joseph's Missions on the successful issue of their efforts. The number of Baptisms since this church was first started has exceeded the seventeen hundred mark. The Josephite Fathers of Baltimore are in charge of the work among the colored people of Richmond. They conduct in connection with St. Joseph's Church the Van de Vyver College for colored youth.

Irishmen at Home and Abroad

Mr. Joseph Devlin, M.P., was the guest of the evening at the Irish Club house dinner some few weeks ago. Viscount Gough presided, and amongst those present were—Miss Bellingham, Capt. Villiers Stuart, Mr. T. Condon, M.P., and Mrs. Condon; Mr. Denis Kilbride, M.P.; Mr. Scanlan, M.P.; Sir H. Seton Gordon and Lady Gordon, Lady Muir MacKenzie, Mrs. Stopford Greene, Mr. Cullinan, M.P., and Mrs. Cullinan; Mr. Hazleton, M.P.; Mr. Lundon, M.P., etc.

Lord Gough, toasting Mr. Devlin, said he understood that gentleman did not incur the reproach of being born with a silver spoon in his mouth, but had