

# Interview With Cardinal Gasquet

## SOME PERSONAL REMINISCENCES.

On the eve of his Eminence's golden jubilee as a priest (says the *London Catholic Times* for December 27) our Roman representative called at the famous Moroni Palace, in Trastevere, where Cardinal Gasquet has his residence. Our representative was very graciously received, and was willingly accorded a brief interview, although his Eminence was in the full current of the congratulatory reception of a busy afternoon. After a few moments' preliminary conversation, our representative ventured to ask one or two questions. The interview was as follows:—

Would your Eminence be so kind as to tell the readers of the *Catholic Times* something about your youth?

Most certainly. I was born almost within sound of Bow Bells, and am therefore what people call a Cockney. As a boy I was at school in Downside, and there I became intimate with Dom Roger Vaughan, who afterwards became Archbishop of Sydney. He made a lasting impression on me as a boy. Owing largely to his influence, I went to the Benedictine novitiate. I made my solemn vows as a Benedictine in 1870 at Belmont in Herefordshire, where I also made my ecclesiastical studies. Roger Vaughan was the Prior in my time. Among my teachers there, perhaps the most remarkable was Dr. Hedley. A diligent student all his life, he was also a born teacher, brimful of information and most interested in all his students. A rather brusque manner somewhat concealed his natural amiability. He gave one a real love of study, and succeeded in making more than one of his students a lover of books. He was a very stimulating personality.

How did your Eminence first take up historical research?

Strangely enough, owing to a break-down in health. I suffered some illness—heart trouble, I believe—through overwork as Prior of Downside, and the doctors gave me six months to live. That was 46 years ago, in 1878. I had to give up my incessant administrative activity, but on medical advice I kept going gently at the subject which I had been teaching at Downside, namely, history. Just about this time Pope Leo XIII issued his famous Encyclical on historical studies. In a personal request to Cardinal Manning, he asked the Cardinal to get English ecclesiastics to do research work on the origins of the Reformation, because as his Holiness said, knowledge of the facts was one of the best argumentative weapons the Church in England would have against attacks made in the spirit of the day. I happened to be on the convalescent list at the time, and I got the order therefore from the Pope, through Cardinal Manning, to do some work in that line. That is really how I began. The work brought me into contact with all classes of educated non-Catholics in England. It was an experience the memory of which I value. I must say that I never met with anything but kindness and con-

sideration from those non-Catholic associates of mine. I think that at any time they would have been prepared to give me any honor in their power to offer; this is especially true of those of my many friends in the Historical Association. When I became Cardinal my non-Catholic friends in London literally showered congratulations on me and gave me every evidence of their good will and pleasure at my elevation to the Sacred College.

## New Convent at Greymouth

(Contributed.)

Steady progress is being made with the erection of the new Greymouth Convent, which will be one of the largest buildings in the town. The architect is Mr. H. St. A. Murray, of Christchurch, and Mr. J. Hart is the builder. The contract price was about £24,601, and the completion is expected at the end of 1925.

Of brick and ferro-concrete the building will have a frontage to Tainui Street of 104 feet, with a depth of 166 feet, and height of 43 feet. Of "H" formation the style is latter-day Gothic, with a courtyard in the centre, surrounded by a cloister, around which a balcony extends on four sides. Leading up to the front entrance will be a handsome flight of steps, giving on to a spacious verandah. On one side of the corridor as one enters from Tainui Street front is a parlor and infirmary. A cloak room and side entrance are also provided. Immediately behind is a large community room, fitted with an open fireplace of white Sydney sandstone. At the rear of this wing a beautiful chapel (40ft x 24ft) is provided for. The floor of the chapel will be treated artistically in tiles, the walls will be finished in white plaster, while stained-glass windows with steel frames will also be a picturesque feat-

What of the present position of Catholicism in England?

The condition of the Church in England to-day is such as to admit of no real comparison with what it was when I was a boy. Catholics are now to be found in every walk of life in England. I think that much of the change in what one might call the social aspect of Catholicism in England is due to the work of Cardinal Newman. I never knew him very well personally, for he was already old when I was a young priest. But I believe that it was certainly he who lifted Catholicism in England and gave it the possibility of being the prosperous institution it is to-day.

ure. An open Gothic roof should lend a noble finish to this portion of the sacred edifice. Behind the chapel will be the sanctuary, treated in marble, with priest's sacristy and working sacristy at the rear. On the other side of the main corridor, will be another parlor, corresponding to the one on the left of the entrance-way. There will also be a library, Sisters' refectory, boarders' refectory, and kitchen. On the south wing will be a steam laundry, containing drying room and boiler, machine washer and hydro wringer, besides coal and stores rooms. Most of the flooring will consist of tiles and the interior will be finished in white plaster. The upper floor will consist of cubicles (36 in number) and two large dormitories, each 25ft x 18ft, opening on to a balcony.

The blessing and laying of the foundation stone of this fine structure will take place on Sunday, February 15. His Lordship Dr. Brodie will preside on the occasion. Donations towards the building fund will be gratefully received by the Sisters from their friends and well-wishers throughout the Dominion, especially the past pupils of the community.

## Sacred Heart College, Nelson

### RESULTS OF EXAMINATIONS.

The pupils of the Sisters of Notre Dame des Missions, Nelson, were very successful in the various examinations during the past year. The results are as follows:—

Matriculation—Zena Bishop; partial pass. Ethel Sigley.

Two Groups of "D"—Zena Bishop, Ethel Sigley; partial pass, Nellie Gaffey.

Senior Public Service—Beryl Mitchell.

Pitman's Shorthand (120 words a minute) Beryl Mitchell; elementary: Minnie Clark, Marion Graham, Mona Mytton; Nora Graham; Thelma Skyring. Eileen Handcock, Gladys Eades; theory: Thelma Delany, Thelma Skyring, Minnie Clark, Nora Graham, Patricia Hepworth, Marion Graham, Gladys Eades.

### Music Examination Results.

Higher Local Pianoforte—Bernice Hout, Ethel Sigley. Senior Singing—Beryl Mitchell (honors). Senior Pianoforte—Phyllis Noad (honors), Beryl Mitchell (honors), Mary

Hallam (honors). Intermediate Pianoforte—Rona Snowden (honors), Nora Graham (honors), Maureen Sullivan (honors). Junior Pianoforte—Beatrice Lynch, Mona Mytton, Barbara Mandeville. Preparatory Pianoforte—Irene Lynch (honors), Eileen Handcock (honors), James O'Sullivan (honors), D. Skyring (honors). First Steps Pianoforte—Molly Bradley 82, Minnie Clark 80. Associate Board, Intermediate—Ethel Sigley; higher division, Beryl Mitchell, M. Hallam; lower division, Audry Johns, Beatrice Lynch; elementary, Rona Day, Eileen Handcock, Irene Lynch; primary, Molly Bradley; rudiments, Ethel Sigley, Beryl Mitchell.

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