

of the Bible,' that Dorotheus (who lived in the seventh century) says, in his synopsis, that St Luke died and was interred at Ephesus. St John Chrysostom lamented the want of certain memoranda on the Apostle and disciples of our Lord. It is so, because the Apostles *quaerant non quae sua sunt, sed quae Jesu Christi*.

"I left my companions to continue their way and to visit the antiquities which I had already seen some years ago, and I awaited them reciting my breviary, in the place where I had celebrated mass. When the pious pilgrims returned, the scene of the desert, where our Lord multiplied the loaves, was renewed in the shadow of the ruins. All seated in groups, not of fifty, as the Gospel says, of the multitude who followed the Saviour, but in groups of from twenty to twenty-five, we refreshed ourselves and restored our exhausted strength. Provisions had been brought in abundance from Smyrna, for no one attributed to me the power of multiplying them.

"The hour of departure being come, each one sought his place in the waggons, and we returned to Smyrna, bearing with us that salutary sadness which the spectacle of the nothingness of earthly greatness naturally awakens, and holy joy at having accomplished a duty.

"I have now to tell you of the blessing of the new chapel which the Rev Fathers, Minors of the reform, have built at Magnesia, where the mission is confided to them. This town must not be confounded with another of the same name near the Meander, of which there remain only ruins. It was to the faithful who dwelt there that St Ignatius, martyr, addressed one of his letters. Our Magnesia, built on the declivity of a mountain, is called Magnesia of Syphile. This mountain, where the loadstone, in Latin *magnes*, abounded, and perhaps still abounds, has, they say, given it its name. Before the conquest of Constantinople, several Sultans made it their residence. The Hermes winds majestically through the plain, where one of the Scipios, having gained a celebrated victory over King Antiochus, took the name of Asiaticus. The railway which passes close to the city and which is to be carried on to Constantinople, renders it every day more flourishing and increases the population. The same cause will probably increase the number of Catholics, which is at present small.

"The chapel is dedicated to St Leonard, of Port Maurice, one of the Saints lately canonized by our Holy Father the Pope. It is under the protection of Austria. The Consul-General at Smyrna, M. de Schergen, a Protestant, and distinguished savant, attended the ceremony, attended by the entire consular staff.

"I performed the consecration according to the Roman rite, and afterwards celebrated mass in presence of a great number of schismatics. Before the function I preached a short sermon in French, which was afterwards repeated in Greek by the pastor of St Mary's, Smyrna. The episcopal benediction terminated this beautiful and touching ceremony.

"In a few weeks I shall bless another chapel, and the house of the Sisters of charity at Bondga, two leagues from Smyrna, the only parish of the diocese under the charge of secular priests. A pious lady supplied the funds for these foundations. This little village is connected by a branch line with the great railway to Aidin, and daily increases in importance. Several families of distinction pass the fine season there, and it already numbers several hundred Catholics. The schools of the Sisters are well attended; they were much needed. Protestant deaconesses have been trying to establish themselves in the village, and their propagandism is rendered easy through the money which they receive from Prussia. At present we meet Prussia everywhere; and everywhere she is the declared protectress of Protestantism, and of the works which support it.

#### REMARKABLE CONVERSIONS IN GERMANY.

It is commonly supposed that the Church is receiving more converts in England and the United States than in other countries. The following letter, which we transfer to our columns from the 'Baltimore Mirror,' shows that in Germany also many Protestants are seeking admittance into the true fold:

Messrs Editors of the 'Catholic Mirror':

I translate from the 'Herald des Glaubens' the following interesting article contained therein under the above caption:

In the 'Wochenblatt von Wälzsee,' a well edited popular newspaper published in Upper Suabia, we find the following interesting communication:

"It is a remarkable fact that just within the last few years a number of prominent officers of the North German army have returned and still are returning to the Catholic Church. During the present year the royal Saxon General Freiherr von Leonhardt, who distinguished himself so greatly during the late war, embraced the Catholic religion. His promotion to the post of Lieutenant General and to the governorship of Königsstein, did not a little arouse the ire of the Liberals."

"Among other converts we will also mention Major a. D. v. Wunster, in Sigmaringen. He was formerly captain and chief of company in the cadet-house at Wahlstatt, near Liegnitz. Rochus v. Rochow (of the house of Pleszow), captain of horse in the first regiment of the Uhlan Guards in Potsdam, who resigned his commission, and is now living at Dresden. Count Traug v. Pfeil (younger brother of Count Anton von Pfeil, who also embraced the Catholic religion), was an officer of the Yeagers, retired from active service, and is living in Nieder Diersdorf. Freiherr Franz Grimm von Grimmenstein, cavalry officer and at present commandant of the riding school at Wahlstatt, near Liegnitz. Count Alexander von Wreschowetz Sekerka v. Seditz, royal Prussian Major. Lord von Streit, commandant at Spandau, and enjoying a wide reputation both on account of his learning and erudition and solid piety. Prince Alexander v. Solans Braunfels, royal Prussian Major-General. Edward von Fehrentheil and Gruppenberg, royal Prussian First Lieutenant at Neustettin. This officer has also acquired reputation as a writer in the republic of letters by publishing a work on heraldry and a 'genealogical table of the nobility of Germany capable of promotion.' Lebrecht Gebhardt, Count v. Bluecher, of the family of the Field Marshal, who, as commander at Stettin, made his profession of faith; he is a young man, and has been promoted

from a captaincy to be a Major, being ordered to Strasland, where he is now on duty. Friedrich von Schierstedt, at present Lieutenant in the regiment of the Hussar Guards, who was received into the Church last year at Potsdam, with his brother, Aug. von Schierstedt, also a soldier in the Prussian army in the Yaeger Guards battalion. Lord von Freskow, First Lieutenant in the First Regiment of Guards, who distinguished himself by his bravery at Metz, and was severely wounded. Frieherr von Pechmann, Lieutenant in the Second Cavalry at Bamberg, who likewise renounced Protestantism in 1872. Your correspondent does not remember the names of all the different officers, especially those of the Prussian army, who recently joined the Catholic Church; only one more shall be mentioned, Count von Schulenburg, Prussian officer of the Guards, and son of the celebrated General, Count von Schulenburg. He became a Catholic several years ago, resigned his commission, and died at Mayence in the garb of an humble Capuchin monk.

"Great courage is, indeed, necessary at the present time to avow so publicly one's convictions in such prominent positions. It is, moreover, worthy of remark, that among all the Catholic officers in the Prussian army, of whom there are more than two thousand, not a single one has proved recreant to his religion. Thanks be to God that there is yet so much Catholic and manly courage in Germany. We may, therefore, with composure, look into the future; justice and truth will conquer!"

These conversions are truly remarkable; for let it be borne in mind that the officers whose names are given above all belong to the nobility of Prussia. Such show that a strong undercurrent in favor of the Church is setting in in that country, and that the prospects of the Church there are brighter than the faint-hearted would suppose. Bismarck's policy of oppression is only momentary, and is preparing the way for a rich harvest of conversions not only among the nobility but among the middle and lower classes. Orthodox Protestants are as much alarmed as Catholics at the encroachment of the secular power in the German Empire on the religious domain, and are at last, feebly, resisting it by occasional remonstrances forwarded to the Emperor, several of which have lately been published in the German papers. Seeing, then, the efforts of the State to concentrate all power, both natural and supernatural, in itself—the State according to Prussian State theology, is God, which is practical infidelity—seeing their inability to effectually resist this powerful Colossus; seeing again that the Catholic Church must have the protection of God; that she is therefore the true Church, and they will hasten to seek rest, peace and salvation in her fold.

The remarkable conversions above referred to; and other equally remarkable conversions taking place in Prussia and Germany, and the extraordinary faith, piety, loyalty to the Holy See, and courage of the German Catholics, of which they who do not and cannot read the German Catholic papers, have not the faintest idea, prove that I am not too sanguine in my views.

Very respectfully, yours,

MICHAEL DAUSH.

September 12, 1873.

#### RETRACTION OF A DYING ANTI-PAPAL JOURNALIST.

ACHILLES VALBONETTI, the manager of the 'Capitale,' one of the most socialistic and infidel journals in Rome, has just died there. Shortly before his death he drew up and signed the following ample and impressive retraction of the evil things he had written, or permitted to be written in his journal. He wrote it and signed it in the presence of two lay witnesses, whose names are appended to the document. It is as follows:

I, Achilles Valbonetti, perfectly free and sane in mind, spontaneously and freely declare that I have always professed, and still profess, all which the Holy, Catholic, Apostolic, Roman Church teaches with reference to faith and morals. And although constrained by necessity alone, I have accepted the management of the journal, 'La Capitale,' I have never adhered to the impiety, falsehood, blasphemies and heresies published by it. I have even, in certain circumstances, not failed to make known my disapproval of them. But, as my name at foot of the same, as conductor has undoubtedly scandalized the faithful, and made them think that I had fostered the sentiments of the journal, and as I am so soon to appear before the tribunal of the Supreme Judge, as a sincere Catholic and a true child to the Holy Catholic Church, in whose bosom I was born, and in which, with the grace of God I hope to die, I believe myself bound to retract, renounce and condemn everything that the 'Capitale' has written against faith and morals, against the authority and teaching of the Holy, Catholic, Apostolic, Roman Church; and I explicitly profess my adherence, formally and without reservation, to all the teachings of the aforesaid Church, especially to what the Councils of Trent and the Vatican have defined with regard to faith and morals; and finally I profess my full adherence to all the doctrines taught by the reigning Pontiff Pius IX., the infallible teacher, in his allocutions and encyclicals.

ACHILLES VALBONETTI.

"Rome, September, 1873.

"CARLO RUGGERI,

"VINCENTO CRICCA,

} Witnesses.

Mr Frederick Lockyer, of London, is the author of this little verse which contains a deal of truth:—

They eat and drink, and scheme and plod,  
And go to church on Sunday;  
And many are afraid of God.  
And more of Mrs Grundy.

An address of welcome has been presented to the captain and officers of the American steamship of war at present in Galway harbor, on behalf of the people of that city. A public entertainment was declined by the captain.

The little Sisters of the Poor are doing brave work in Yorkshire, England.