

mute"—i.e., declining to confess or plead to their indictments. By 'sarding mute' the prisoner avoided forfeiture of his landed property, but was compelled to lie naked on the floor of a gloomy cell with 'as great a weight of iron as he could bear and more' placed upon his body. His food and drink, till death released him from his sufferings or till he consented to plead were occasional morsels of the of the worst bread' and draughts of standing water. Yet out of the thirty-two Middlesex prisoners in James I's reign, who to avert the confiscation of their property and the consequent ruin of their descendants, endured the torture, three were women. . . . The proceedings against Catholic recusants were frequent; and the list of recusant names, which occupies more than thirty pages of the index, should be of value to the genealogist. Mr. Jeaffreson has given the *ipissima verba*, as he puts it, of the most exemplary indictments of Catholic priests for celebrating Mass, or for being and remaining traitorously in this country contrary to the well-known statutes of Elizabeth. Most of the priests 'put themselves guilty,' and upon those that did so capital sentence was immediately passed. The proceedings against persons 'for not coming to church' are also interesting. The majority of such persons were resolute Catholics; but a few were Brownists and members of other sects who had no sympathy with the Roman faith, whilst others kept away from church from mere laziness or a light appreciation of religion." England, then, as we see, notwithstanding the privileges of the reformation hardly exceeded all the other countries of Europe in humanity and mercy. Indeed some of the barbarous penalties, as we are told, were the direct fruits of the particular enlightenment that had come upon her.

### CATHOLIC NEWS.

A CHURCH dedicated under the title of the Purification, but better known as the Church of the Four Nations—France, Bourgogne, Lorraine and Savoy—is about to be destroyed to make way for the continuation of the "Corso Vittorio Emanuele." It dates from 1473, and has had an uninterrupted existence from that date until 1798 when the French—the Vandals of that period—closed it for a time.

Speaking of the Holy Father in review of his biography by Dr. O'Reilly, the *Independent* (Protestant) says: "We learned to admire him at Benevento and Perugia. One glance at his living face, and even a careful study of the admirable engraved portrait which forms the frontispiece of this work, will show not only the benevolence and stainless purity of the man, but will give in addition the key to his character, as at once a churchman to the core, and an Italian diplomat, inflexible, adroit, sagacious, intelligent, and who can be relied on to do the best and wisest thing that can be done with his Church but always on the traditional lines.

The Belgian Government has authorised fifteen more communes to close their hitherto existing official schools, and "adopt" the voluntary or Catholic schools in their place.

Cardinal Manning's letter to the Bishop of Liege on temperance has borne good fruit. Total abstinence societies are springing up all over Belgium.

The fact that two hundred inmates of St Joseph's Asylum, at Eighty-ninth street and Avenue A, New York City, escaped from the midnight fire which raged in the main building recently, shows the admirable discipline of the institution and the Christian heroism of the good Sisters in charge. The Sisters are real heroines, and their devotion to the friendless and suffering makes them fearless in the hour of danger.

Leo XIII. is one of the most retiring of Popes. He is rarely seen in his reception robes, still more difficult is it to observe him in his house dress. He sits constantly before his enormous artistically carved writing-desk hidden behind a heap of books, diplomatic letters, and newspapers; rarely he allows himself to be interrupted in his work in order to listen to the petitions of his Maestro di Camera.

The Cardinal-Archbishop of Westminster has just celebrated the seventy-ninth anniversary of his birthday. His Eminence was born at Totteridge, in Hertfordshire, July 12, 1808.

The German journals continue to discuss the conciliation question and some of them refer to a pamphlet published in 1860, and written by Peter and Augustus Reichensperger. These prove that the cause of the Pope interests not only the Catholics but all Powers, and Germany in particular. They recall also the words of Napoleon to Montblon: "If I have the Pope with me I can govern the whole world." Can Europe then allow Italy to absorb the Papacy?

The *New Orleans Morning Star* says: "Apropos of the death of the Very Rev. Father Dicharry and Rev. Father Rouquette, there remains with us but few creole priests. We have now Rev. Fathers Beynes, Picheret and Jobard."

Cardinal Newman, at the recent celebration of the Feast of St. Philip Neri, at the Birmingham oratory, appeared to be more feeble than ever. He had to be supported down the steps by two priests, and when he pronounced the benediction his voice was not audible half-way down the church.

General Boulanger's daughter is about to become a nun. The Provincial of the German Franciscans of America was summoned by the Father-General of his Order to return to Fulda to negotiate the return to Germany of the religious under his sway. A portion of the German Benedictines will, on the contrary, remain in the United States, where they have already founded flourishing establishments. Abbot Hillary Pfrangle, of St. Mary's Abbey, diocese of Newmark, has purchased 750 acres of ground at Greenborough, Maryland, for the erection thereon of a monastery of Benedictine Nuns, to form the Mother House for that branch of the Order.

Archbishop Elder of Cincinnati has ordered the Act of Reparation to the Holy Face, for the sins of the desecration of the Sunday, and blasphemy, to be said in all the churches after Benediction.

At the unveiling of the statue of the Dominican martyr, Father Captier, a cantata in memory of Père Captier—the words by Père Rousselin, one of the survivors of the Communist massacre, and the music by the rector, the Very Rev. Père Ligonnet—was admirably sung by the scholars.

Recently, in his native town of Blois, France, Père Monsabré, O.P., the eloquent preacher of Notre Dame, delivered a stirring discourse in aid of the Association of Christian Schools. There was a large congregation. Bishop Labords presided, assisted by Frère Joseph, Superior-General of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

The clergy and faithful of Sondrio will present the Pope with a chime of bells from the renowned foundry Prunieri of Grosio.

The Jesuits propose to erect a college in Colorado, and Denver people are anxious that their city be chosen as the site for the seat of learning. Thirty acres of ground have been donated by wealthy gentlemen. Ten more acres are required, but as the party holding them desires to make hay while the sun shines, it is doubtful if suitable arrangements can be made. Colorado Springs is also anxious to have the college erected there, and for that purpose sent a delegation to visit the Jesuit Fathers to offer them 110 acres of land and 25,000dols. The proposition is being considered.

In the course of his appeal to the people of his Archdiocese in behalf of the new St. Patrick's church in Rome, the eloquent Archbishop Ryan, of Philadelphia, says: "It is to be erected in the new portion of Rome, where a church is much needed. No one can question the fact that the children of St. Patrick have done more for the extension and support of religion than any English-speaking people in the world, and it is appropriate that they should build this representative church, and that it should bear the name of the great Apostle of the nation and their race. The proposed collection will be taken up in this diocese on one of the Sundays in July, to be designated by the rector of each church."

His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin recently ordained at the ordinations in Maynooth College a very large number of students who were presented for the various orders, 105 received the first tonsure; 92 the lectorship; 95 the order of acolytes; 35 in all were ordained subdeacons, 57 deacons and 44 priests.

The workmen are busily employed in arranging as a permanent chapel the spacious Sala Paolina, or Hall of the Benediction, above the atrium of the basilica of St. Peter, wherein were performed the solemn functions of the last canonisations and beatifications by Leo XIII. It is the intention of His Holiness to make use, for the future, of this chapel for the ordinary Papal functions, hitherto carried out in the Sistine chapel, which will henceforth be reserved entirely, as a precious monument of art, for the better preservation of the invaluable frescoes and other mural paintings which form a fitting crown to the inimitable Last Judgment of Michael Angelo Buonarrotti, to which the Sistine chapel owes its celebrity.

News comes from Santa Fé di Bogota of a most interesting gift for the Pontifical Jubilee, to be forwarded by the Diocesan Committee, who have in preparation for the Vatican Exhibition a collection of articles used by the native tribes peopling those regions prior to the Spanish Conquest, such as weapons, vestments, utensils, idols, ornaments, etc., constituting a perfect museum, destined to convey an exact idea of the early condition and customs of the natives, and of their history. At the close of the Vatican Exhibition this little museum will probably be incorporated in the Borgian Museum of Propaganda.

In a communication which appears in recent issues of our *Age Maria's* English exchanges attention is called to the vulgar error that the pieces of the True Cross preserved in various parts of the world suffice to make a cross considerably larger than the one on which Our Saviour was crucified. There is absolutely no foundation for this silly statement. As a matter of fact, the relics that are to be found would not give, if taken together, a superficies of more than four million cubic millimeters—a very small part, indeed, of the materials required to make a cross. "This is a truth," remarks the writer, "the knowledge of which it is of no little importance to diffuse; for certain laughing philosophers have done considerable mischief to religion by their exaggerations and sneers with regard to the number and character of the sacred relics treasured up in Europe and Asia."

Prince Bismarck, while in Berlin recently, inquired into the complaints made by Catholic Bishops of the vexatious exercise in Posen diocese of the right of the Government to veto, conceded under the agreement between Prussia and the Vatican. The local ober president had vetoed the nominations of parish priests, including the well-known clerical, Mr. Jazdewski, a deputy of the Reichstag; Dr. Kubowicz, a director of the seminary, and Father Radzielski, the former editor of the *Katolik* of Silesia. Prince Bismarck has directed the ober president to reconsider his veto in several cases. Another nomination which has proved offensive to Catholics was that of Herr Perkuhn to be ecclesiastical commissioner. Herr Perkuhn acted as administrator at Posen during the exile of Cardinal Ledochowski. His methods of dealing with the clergy were of a high-handed character, and the people acquired a dislike for him, and will for Bismarck if he allows the appointment to stand.

We are happy, says the *Weekly Register*, to announce that Mr. Henry Christie, who has just taken his degree at Christchurch, Oxford, has been received into the Church. Mr. Christie, whose reception took place at the Oratory, is the grandson of Professor Bonamy Price, and is a nephew of the editor of the *Guardian*.

At a meeting of the Chapter of Hexham and Newcastle, held at Durham after the funeral of Monsignor Consitt, the Very Rev. Thomas Wm. Canon Wilkinson was appointed Vicar Capitular. Canon Wilkinson is the second son of Mr. George Hutton Wilkinson, of Harperley Park, Durham, formerly Recorder of Newcastle, and first county court judge of Northumberland. The Canon was educated at Harrow, and subsequently at Durham University, where he took the degree of B.A. in 1844 and M.A. in 1845. In 1846 he became a Catholic, and studied at Oscott. He was ordained priest in 1848, and was sent on a mission to Walsingham. He was also the four-