

weakened the devoted attachment of Dr Kirby to the interests and services of Ireland. It is no exaggeration to say that even amongst the members of our patriotic hierarchy there is not one who follows with more solicitude and attention the current of political events affecting the political welfare of our people. Learned as he is patriotic, affable and kindly as he is dignified and devout, zealous servant and champion of the rights of the Holy See as he is a warm-hearted and courageous Irishman, Dr Kirby possesses the confidence and friendship of the Sovereign Pontiff, as well as the love and respect of all his countrymen who have knowledge of his life and services. We (*Irish Catholic*) know that many fervent prayers will go up to Heaven that God may long spare to Rome and Ireland the gifted and fearless Archbishop of Ephesus.

About a hundred soldiers from various regiments stationed on the Curragh paid a visit to the new Crib at Inchicore on Tuesday, January 9. They assisted at the closing ceremonies of the Forty Hours' Adoration at the Church of Our Lady of Refuge, Rathmines, in the morning, and in the afternoon drove over to Inchicore in waggonettes, accompanied by their zealous chaplain, Father Delaney, and Father Dunne, C.C., Rathmines. After spending a long time gazing in admiration at the beautiful devotional figures in the Crib, and at its artistic surroundings, they sang in excellent style the "Adeste Fideles" and other hymns. The people who happened to be visiting the Crib when the soldiers came were highly edified by their devout demeanour. The men were loud in their praises of the beautiful representation of the Nativity scenes they had come to witness.

## CATHOLIC NEWS.

(From Contemporaries.)

ONE hundred and twenty-five Hebrew children attend the parochial school of St Monica's Church, New York. Their parents besought Father Dougherty to admit them, and he gave instructions to his assistants to do so. The school has a total attendance of 1100 children.

Further details have been received from Russia regarding the massacre of Catholics in the church of Krosce, in the province of Kovno. It is now stated that many of the survivors are to be tried by court-martial for resistance to the officers of the law, and that, on their inevitable conviction, they will be sent to Siberia.

The *Popolo Romano* has just published an article from the pen of a foremost Revolutionist and Liberal, in which the highest praise is bestowed upon the heroic charity and patience of the Sisters of Charity. It is to all Catholics a subject of joy that these good Sisters are able to elicit praise, even from the enemies of God and His Church.

Speaking of the Sisters of St Joseph, the Governor of South Australia recently said:—"They could not help admiring the self-sacrifice, the philanthropy, and the piety of the good Sisters of St Joseph. They could see them in the houses of the poor, feeding and clothing the wretched. They could see them in the gaols and the abodes of vice, striving to raise the fallen and save the lost."

The latest returns from West Maitland show that there are in the diocese 31 self-supporting Catholic primary schools. The total number of children on the rolls is 2767, of whom 2458 are Catholics and 309 non-Catholics. In point of attendance the Hamilton school (Sisters of Mercy) is first on the list, with a total of 230 pupils. The return from Scone shows that of the total attendance of 88 no less than 41 are Protestant children, whose parents evidently prefer the Sisters of Mercy to the public school teachers. The Dungog (Sisters of St Joseph) figures are even more remarkable, 36 Catholics and 35 Protestants.

Among the demonstrations of love and attachment to the Holy Father which it is proposed to make at the close of the Jubilee year is to be found a Catholic congress to be held at Naples from the eleventh to the fifteenth of February, and a pilgrimage of the Catholics of that city to the Tomb of the Apostles. The pilgrimage will take place on the sixteenth of February and will last until the twentieth. The plans have been approved of by the Central Committee of Jubilee Feasts, and the final arrangements are now being made for the accommodation and comfort of the pilgrims, most of whom will be representatives of the poorest classes.

The Rev John Walford, who died at Rochampton on Tuesday January 9 was for some years a most popular assistant master at Eton College. He was in his 60th year. He took his Bachelor's degree with a first class in Classics at King's College, Cambridge, of which society he became a Fellow. In his youth he was a great athlete, and he was one of the first University men to make the ascent of Mont Blanc. He resigned his mastership at Eton on becoming a Roman Catholic, about 30 years ago. After holding an assistant mastership at Edgbaston under Cardinal Newman, he entered the Jesuit Order, and was employed by them educationally at Malta, at Liverpool, and at their college near Holywell, in North Wales. Father Walford had long been in declining health, and was a younger

brother of the Rev Henry Walford, whose death we recorded on December 26.

On January 1st, at the Irish College, Dr Kirby, the venerable Archbishop of Ephesus, celebrated his 90th birthday. At his request only a few special friends were invited for the occasion. At dinner the rector, the Right Reverend Monsignor Kelly, proposed his Grace's health, dwelling upon the affection and esteem entertained for him by countless friends at home in Ireland, beyond the seas, and in Rome by all classes of persons, including even the Holy Father himself. All then rose to their feet, while the students sang an *Eviva* with such warmth and feeling as fully showed the place their late beloved Rector has still in their hearts. The Very Rev Father Walsh, O.S.A., added his congratulations and good wishes in a short and happy speech. Dr Kirby, whose readiness and wit have by no means suffered beneath the burden of 90 years, replied, and set all laughing by declaring, on the strength of Holy Writ, that all present were old men, seeing that there not years but a good life is reckoned old age. After dinner the guests greatly admired a magnificent portrait of his Grace, recently painted at the request and expense of former students of the college now on the Mission in Ireland. It is truly a beautiful memorial of their love and veneration for their old Rector, Dr Kirby.

A correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* at Melfia (the scene of desperate fighting a couple of months ago between the Moors and the Spanish troops) describes the ceremony of dedicating a new fort which the Spaniards are erecting there, the High Mass offered on the occasion being celebrated within firing distance of the Moors. He says—"It was eleven o'clock, and I hastened behind the fort and stood near the staff, but facing the altar. Already the priests in their vestments were in their places preparing for the celebration of the Mass. The army chaplains' boxes, with the necessary appliances for the performances of the sacred function, had been carried upon the staging, and the clergymen of whom there were five, were arranging the things and lighting the candles upon the altar. Eight soldiers, with fixed bayonets and accoutred in full marching order, stood as guard around the rail. Below to the right were two bands and a massed company of buglers to furnish the music and give the signals during the celebration. At length the ceremony began, the curate-chaplain being the celebrant. In a low voice, scarcely audible from where I stood, he commenced the recital, and with excellent taste the band played Mozart's "Mass." As the liturgy was gone through at those points where in church a bell sounds softly or loudly the buglers blew their instruments, so that to the remotest regiment must have been wafted the signal of the progress of the celebration. At the Elevation of the Host the whole of the troops afoot kneeled, and the mounted men bent forward until their heads touched their horses necks. The ceremony over Marshal Campos saluted and returned his sword to its scabbard, his suite following his example. Within an hour the majority of the soldiers had been withdrawn to their quarters, the bunting and flags removed, and the convicts and engineers had resumed work upon Fort sidi Guariach. So ended the expected eventful ceremony without mishap or further incident worth chronicling. There had been two field Masses held before, but these had not been celebrated practically out of range of Moorish rifles, whereas the function of Guariach was performed under the eyes of the Mahomedan faithful and in front of their greatest local sanctuary.

When recently Archbishop Meignan, of Tours, made his official visit to Rome to receive his Cardinal's hat, and, on occasion of that visit he was entrusted by the head director of the Archconfraternity of the Holy Face with the list of good works offered to the Holy Father on his episcopal jubilee by the members of the Archconfraternity. During the audience accorded to Cardinal Meignan, his Eminence took occasion to speak to the Holy Father of the progress of piety in his diocese, and, among other things, he warmly praised the devotion to the Holy Face, whose head-quarters are, as is well known, at Tours. When the subject of the Archconfraternity was broached, Leo XIII, said, with evident feeling and interest: "We bless the work of the Holy Face and we desire its extension through the whole world." When, in the course of the same audience, the parchment containing a detailed list of the good works, prayers and communions offered for his continued preservation was presented to the Sovereign Pontiff, he remarked: "All of these offerings of the members of the Archconfraternity of the Holy Face give us consolation; in our leisure moments we like to pass in review all of these things and by this we judge of the generosity of the nation that is of noble excellence." On the same occasion, the Holy Father renewed the expression of his kindly sentiments to a priest of the Work of the Holy Face, who knelt at his feet: "My child, we bless all your efforts, and we take pleasure in giving you for all the members of the Archconfraternity our best blessing." This is not the first time that Leo XIII, has expressed his approval of the Archconfraternity of the Holy Face and given it his blessing, but this latest manifestation of his continued sanction of the devotion, should nerve the members of the association to labour more assiduously for its extension. It is a divine work and one destined to aid in the spread of God's kingdom on earth. No more beautiful or acceptable work can be engaged in