

many and such great sacrifices to make, and so many obstacles to overcome, that the sincerity and solidity of his faith cannot be questioned. According to the latest statistics, the conversions vary from six to seven hundred per month, though this number seems a small one relatively to the population. It is necessary to bear in mind that one conversion brings about many more. At the present time there is not a single English family which does not number a Catholic among its relatives or next-of-kin, and thus the prejudice against Catholicism diminishes every day." Questioned next as to his expression of sympathy for France which had created so favourable an impression, his Eminence replied: "Yes, I have a feeling of affection for France. She has at all times done so much for English Catholics that it would be ungrateful on my part if it were otherwise. Moreover, sympathy for France is universal in England. Therefore, I am painfully impressed when I find in France a prejudice and even animosity against my country. People with you are strangely and nervously suspicious. They are too apt to suspect England of sinister designs. I can assure you that I have never found any feeling of hostility towards France among those who guide our politics. Nay, they are actuated by a feeling of real sympathy, and often express the regret that it is not reciprocated. Let us hope that the clouds will pass away, for the sake of both our countries and the world at large. England and France in accord would be so great a power for good." On this the interviewer remarked that if there existed in France any such prejudices against England nothing could be better calculated to destroy them than the presence in France of such men as his Eminence, unless it were the language which the Cardinal had just used. He therefore begged that he might publish the interview, a request to which his Eminence gladly acceded.

A Retreat for Conscripts.—A retreat has been given lately at the petit séminaire of Beaupréau for the young Vendean conscripts serving under the colours. No less than 208 responded to the invitation to attend the exercises. The men were divided into six sections, each with its own standard and instructor. The exercises were attended with exemplary regularity, and the Bishop of Angers presided at the closing service. The thing has been so successful that it is intended to make it an annual affair.

ITALY.—Music and Charity.—Signor Verdi, the eminent and big-hearted Catholic musician, has decided to devote a large part of his immense fortune to founding a home of refuge for poor old musicians. The building for this purpose is now being erected at Milan and will be able to house over 100 pensioners, who will have the use of a large number of public rooms, besides concert-hall and chapel. The cost of carrying out the scheme will be no less than £20,000, all of which has been found by the veteran composer, who has, in addition, bequeathed to the home a sum which will bring in £3,000 a year as endowment. The author of "Rigoletto" makes his pilgrimage every week from Sant Agato to Milan to see how his work is progressing. Verdi is devoting his last days entirely to the composition of Church music. He is still engaged on his *Requiem*.

The Queen of Italy and Cardinal Gibbons.—Cardinal Gibbons has received from the Queen of Italy a large photograph of herself taken in her court costume. The photograph was presented by Miss Virginia Mactavish, who was commissioned by the Queen to convey the gift to the Cardinal. At the bottom of the picture is written in the handwriting of the Queen: "To James Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore." The signature is "Margarita." With the picture Miss Mactavish presented a request from the Queen for copies of all the books which Cardinal Gibbons has written, she being an ardent admirer of the Cardinal. The books will be taken to the Queen by Miss Mactavish when she returns to Italy. Miss Mactavish is a well-known figure in Roman society and a devout Catholic. The Queen of Italy, about whose affection for the Church so much has been said, has gravely offended some Italian newspapers of a Liberal shade by her recent ex-voto offering in thanksgiving for the escape of King Humbert from the anarchist Acciarito.

UNITED STATES.—A Patriotic Bishop.—Archbishop Ireland has claim to be regarded as a true American on the grounds that he is a true Catholic. "Americanism," he says, "taking the word in its true sense, means unstinted loyalty to America, and the institution of America, and consequently Americanism is for Americans a Catholic virtue blessed and protected by the Catholic Church. America need not fear while she has citizens like Archbishop Ireland.

ROME.—A Restitution of Rights.—In the quarter of Rome which was for long the ordinary place of residence of the officials and dignitaries of the Roman Curia, after the Vatican Palace became the residence of the Popes, that of the Banchi, the Curia has possessed a special church for the seat of its proper archconfraternity. This is the little church of Santa Lucia in the Via di Monte Brianzo. On January 23, 1895, the civil authorities sequestered all the property of the Archconfraternity of the Curia, including in the sequestration the provision for five chaplains attached to the church. Through its lawyer, the Avvocato Sagnori, the Archconfraternity has now vindicated its rights over all these goods, not, however, without a lengthy and complicated contestation.

Papal Gifts.—Besides sending us gifts to the Tsar and to the President of the United States copies of the most valuable Borgia volume, his Holiness has presented two other copies to rulers of States, one to King Oscar of Norway and Sweden and another to the President of the French Republic. Each presentation was made with an autograph letter. That made to King Oscar was offered by Mgr Bitter, Vicar-Apostolic of Sweden. The King received the gift with expressions of thankfulness, which he bade Mgr. Bitter convey to his Holiness. He then conferred a Knight Commandership in the Order of the Northern Star on the Vicar-Apostolic.

The Vatican.—On Monday, October 11, his Holiness received Mgr. Granello, Commissary of the Holy Office and Archbishop of

Selucia, who was accompanied by the Very Rev. P. Cormier, O.P., Procurator-General of the Order. On Wednesday he received Mgr. Peri-Morosini, secretary of the Apostolic Nunciature in France. Among those received during the remaining days of the week were P. Luigi da Parma, ex-Minister-General of the Friars Minor, and Mgr. Nardi, O.S.F.C., titular Bishop of Thebes. On Thursday morning his Holiness said Mass in the Sixtine Chapel, and in the afternoon he received the members of the Irish Pilgrimage organised by the Roman Legion of St. Patrick.

SCOTLAND.—A Munificent Gift.—The Marquis of Bute, who is after the Duke of Norfolk, the wealthiest Roman Catholic in the British Islands, has just bought Pluscarden Priory from the Duke of Fife. The Marquis is going to spend about £100,000 in restoring these ruins, which are very beautiful, and will presumably re-establish a community to occupy the renovated convent. Pluscarden is some six miles from Elgin, and has splendid grounds.

THEN DON'T WATCH THE POT.

A WATCHED pot never boils, and a watched clock never goes. Nothing is quick enough for impatience. Minutes, hours, and days are mere words after all. We are happy—a day is but an hour. We are miserable—an hour is a day.

From the summer of 1890 to the autumn of 1892 wasn't long to contented and busy people; but to Mrs. Annie Dutton it seemed like one of those tremendous geologic periods that the learned men talk about. For it was measured by weary heart-beats and footsteps taken in pain. Her trouble began as it begins with an uncounted multitude of women—the tired and languid feeling, the disgust with food, the distress after eating, the coated tongue, the grinding pain at the pit of the stomach, the nausea and vomiting of acid fluids etc.—a dreary list.

Writing of her experience recently, she says: "After a time I had so much distress that I never wanted anything to eat; the very sight of it made me sick. Night after night came, bringing sleep to others, but not to me. I was low, miserable, and worn out, and would sit for hours all alone, wishing for no company. And then so nervous. Why, the slightest noise startled me.

"Two terrible years of this I was dragged through. In that time I lost four stone in weight, growing continually weaker. I consulted doctor after doctor, but they were not able to do me any real good. I tried change of air, yet was disappointed in my hope of any advantage from it. I only lost ground, and became more and more feeble.

Then came unexpected help. In September, 1892, a neighbour of mine told me of the good Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup had done her, and urged me to try it. I had heard this medicine well spoken of for years; still I had no faith that it would benefit me in my condition. However, my husband got me the Syrup from Derby, and after I had taken it a few days I felt better. I could eat once more, and my food agreed with me. After I had used three bottles I was a new woman. *Journal*; and I have been in good health ever since. Now I recommend the Syrup to all our customers and friends, and so does my husband.—Yours truly, (Signed) Annie Dutton, Nottingham Road, Borrowash, near Derby, October 6th, 1893."

As to the opening symptoms, the narrative of Mrs. Susannah Durose is identical with that of Mrs. Dutton, so we need not repeat them.

"In October, 1890," says Mrs. Durose, "I read about Mother Seigel's Syrup in a little book. I got a bottle, and after taking it a short time I was well as ever, although I am 78 years old. My daughter, who suffered from weakness and neuralgia, took the Syrup with great benefit. I know many others who have been cured by it after all other means have failed.—Yours truly, (Signed) Susannah Durose, Hawthorn Cottage, Borrowash near Derby, October 6th, 1893."

The latter lady would be called very old, as she is 78; and, as lives average nowadays, she is old. Few of us, perhaps none, have any hope of living as long as she has. Why not? "The days of our years are three score years and ten," says David. But most of the race fail to reach 70, while many exceed it. There is no law, no edict, on the subject. We are each entitled to live as long as we can, and to be as happy as we can; and both depend (accidents excepted) on health; and health means the continued natural action of the digestive process.

And that Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup promotes *that*, a host of witnesses in England alone have testified.

A teacher once asked a small boy if he understood the phrase, "rapid enunciation"; to which he replied: "Yes'm: it's the way folks say their prayers on cold nights." We heard a missionary Father tell this once, when talking to some children about the manner of praying; and he added that a sign should be put over every little boy's bed: Five dollars fine for going faster than a walk over this bridge of prayer."—*Ave Maria*.

BRANCH of the LONDON DENTAL INSTITUTE, on the ground and first floors of the Government Life Insurance Buildings revolutionising dentistry. Sets from three guineas are supplied. First prize gold medal teeth at half the usual cost, guaranteed ten years; money refunded if work not satisfactory; a nurse in attendance for ladies; the latest appliances. The residing principal studied under Dr Tatton, of the Great Northern Hospital, London University, and has the highest qualifications.—[ADVT.]