

The Catholic World.

BAVARIA.—Honouring the Pope.—Protestants of the extreme type usually have very strong objections to allowing Catholics to do fitting honour to the Pope at festive or social gatherings, and in these colonies they have more than once attempted to make trouble when Catholics have followed their usual practice in the matter. It is pleasant to note that more intelligent Protestants can rise superior to such petty narrowness. At a banquet recently given by the newly-appointed Archbishop of Munich, Mgr. von Stein, the Prime Minister of Bavaria (Baron von Crailsheim), who is a Protestant himself proposed the health of the Pope. Referring to his own visit to the Vatican two years ago, he spoke of the powerful impression made upon him by the personality of Leo XIII., extolled the Pontiff's love of peace, which had been consistently evinced during the twenty years of his pontificate, and specially mentioned with eulogy the Holy Father's efforts to avert the unfortunate conflict between Spain and the United States.

FRANCE.—Verdi's Latest Works.—Our music-loving readers will be interested to learn that three of Verdi's latest works, all of a highly religious and devotional character, were produced for the first time in the Opera of Paris. These compositions are a 'Stabat Mater,' a canticle in honour of our Lady—consisting of the well-known lines which form the opening stanzas of the last canto of Dante's 'Paradiso'—and a 'Te Deum.' All three, which were splendidly rendered by some of the first artists, made a profound impression. The 'Stabat Mater' departs from the customary classical forms; the verses follow one another without interruption, until the beautiful liturgical chant commences, re-echoed by the female voices. The colouring is said to be brilliant, and the chorus has some magnificent and even dramatic passages. The 'Paradisi Gloria' begins with a pianissimo, rising by a grand crescendo to an imposing finale and amen. The sweet melody from Dante is written for four female voices, and received quite an ovation. The 'Te Deum' is spoken of as a really glorious composition, one of the finest pages of music ever written by the great master. Verdi is now eighty-four years of age.

ROME.—St. Christopher Columbus.—With this name according to the *Roman Echoes*, the great discoverer of America will ere long be invoked by millions of Catholics both in the Old World and the New. It appears that the Sacred Congregation of Rites was on the point of abandoning the cause for beatification of Christopher Columbus, as his marriage certificate could not be found, and it was suspected that the union, of which his son Diego was born, was not legitimate. This important document having now been discovered in the archives of Seville, the cause will be continued, and it is hoped, will be brought to a successful termination. This delay, however, has once more proved the earnestness and scrupulous impartiality of the prelates appointed to investigate into similar cases.

UNITED STATES.—The Missions to Non-Catholics.—We gave last week the names of a number of recent converts to the Church in America, many of whom owe their conversion under God to the labours of the devoted Paulist Fathers. A report has just been issued regarding the 'Missions to Non-Catholics,' which shows what remarkable progress the movement has made during the past two years. The Society is one legally incorporated body, under the chief direction of Archbishops Corrigan and Ryan, the object being to support missionaries who are engaged in giving missions in sections of the country where the people are almost entirely non-Catholic. These missions are now being vigorously carried on throughout Arizona, Texas, Kansas, Kentucky, the two Carolinas, the two Virginias, Maryland, and Delaware, and also in parts of Oregon, California, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, and New York. Five missionary priests are entirely supported by the Union and devote themselves exclusively to the work. The results achieved are certainly most remarkable. According to the report, Father Manara received 22 converts during the few months he has been at work. Forty were received in the year at the Holy Rosary Church, New York; and 12 at that of St. Joseph, at the Paulist Church 96 names were given in to the 'Inquiring Class' at the close of a mission; and in the year the Paulists baptised a total of 78 in their church. Over and above conversions, great good must necessarily be done by the removal of prejudice and misconception from the minds of the many hundreds of non-Catholics who crowd these missions. The literature of the English Catholic Truth Society, which we have so often commended in these columns, is kept on sale and extensively used by the organisation.

The Chaplain of the Maine.—The Rev. John Patrick Chidwick, chaplain of the ill-fated battleship Maine, whose coolness and courage during the disaster were described in our columns a few weeks ago, has since his arrival in New York been a guest at the rectory of St. Stephen's parish, where he was warmly welcomed by priests and people and where he served as assistant to Father Colton in the days before President Cleveland appointed him to the Navy. In an order issued by Secretary Long, Chaplain Chidwick has been commissioned with the relative rank of lieutenant in the United States Navy. In speaking of the commission Father Chidwick said that it was only in the regular line of promotion. The Secretary has also gratified Father Chidwick's desire for active duty by placing him to do duty on the cruiser Cincinnati. The war correspondents of Havana and Key West have sent Father Chidwick a complete set of vestments. A letter accompanying the present, signed by all the war correspondents, stated: 'We, the war correspondents, hereby join in offering you a token of our best wishes in the form of vestments as an Easter present to replace those which you lost on the Maine.'

PRUSSIA.—Mixed Marriages in Prussia.—Some statistics regarding mixed marriages in Prussia, based upon the last

census, have lately been published, and we hope our young men and young women readers will note, how eloquently they speak as to the disastrous consequences of such unions. On December 2 last, there existed in Prussia 278,434 cases of mixed marriages between Catholics and Protestants. In 150,365 cases the husband was a Catholic, and in 128,069 the wife was Catholic. Thus, more Catholic men than women contract such unions, though surely for men there is less excuse than for women. The following figures show the consequences:—Out of 597,921 children, the offspring of these marriages, no less than 332,947 were brought up Protestants, as against only 264,648 Catholics, a clear evidence of the disastrous results to the faith; for here, in spite of the large majority of some 22,000 Catholic fathers, we find a majority of about 68,000 Protestant children! Again, look at the following figures: Of the children of Protestant fathers 59 per cent. of the boys and 53 per cent. of the girls—in each case a clear majority—follow the religion of the father; whilst of those of Catholic fathers, only 46.6 per cent. of the boys and 42.4 per cent. of the girls are brought up as Catholics. Thus both Catholic fathers and Catholic mothers neglect their duty towards the souls of their children.

SCOTLAND.—St. Andrew's Cathedral, Glasgow. Endangered by Fire.—We learn from the Glasgow correspondent of the London *Tablet* that the Catholic cathedral of that city has just had a very narrow and providential escape from destruction by fire. The most extensive and disastrous fire (writes the correspondent) which has occurred in Glasgow for many years broke out on Monday, April 23, about ten o'clock, and continued to burn with unabated fierceness until late on Tuesday morning, resulting in the destruction of a large amount of valuable property, but happily unattended by any accident to life or limb. The area involved is the square included within East Howard street on the north, Ropework lane on the east, Dunlop street on the west, and Clyde street, facing the river, on the south, and extends about 100 feet broad by 200 feet deep, though narrowing a little towards the south end. The fire is said to have broken out in the third or fourth storey of the corner building, and it appeared to spread with lightning rapidity. In the course of five minutes from the time it was first observed the roof fell in, and the flames leapt high into the air, burning fiercely. The alarm reached the Central Fire Station shortly after ten, and in the course of a few minutes Captain Paterson, with a couple of engines, was on the scene. Seeing the character of the conflagration he summoned assistance from the Western, Northern, and Southern stations, and in less than half an hour he had six steamers on the ground, with a staff of sixty men. The anxiety of the crowd was chiefly centred in St. Andrew's Cathedral Great Clyde street, which was only divided by a narrow lane from the blazing block. The Rev. Fathers Mackintosh O'Connell, Forbes, and Towie, who reside in the presbytery beside the church, worked assiduously in removing the sacred vessels, vestments, statuary, and other valuable materials from the sacred edifice to the house of the Rev. Father Mackintosh. When it was reported that the church was in danger crowds flocked to the building. Inside the church and outside men and women were to be seen on their knees praying earnestly. Happily, the firemen succeeded in averting the dreaded danger, and the sacred edifice, in which so much interest was displayed, escaped almost unscathed. The roof of the sacristy caught fire about twelve o'clock, but the outbreak was of a slight nature, and was soon extinguished. It may be mentioned that when the fire first broke out the seventy-first annual festival of the congregation of St. Andrew's Church was proceeding in the Grand National Halls. News of the fire reached the hall before the gathering broke up, and the congregation dispersed immediately. It was feared that the Catholic school adjoining the church might catch fire, but this happily was averted. The block in the west corner of Dunlop street and Great Clyde street was totally destroyed. The damage to the surrounding property is variously estimated at over £150,000.

W H Y ?

Why do we heap huge mounds of years
Before us and behind.
And scorn the little days that pass
Like angels on the wind?
Each turning round, a small, sweet face
As beautiful as a near?
Because it is so small a face
We will not see it clear.
We will not clap it as it flies,
And kiss its lips and brow;
We will not bathe our weary souls
In its delicious now.
And so it turns from us and goes
Away in sad disdain.
Though we would give our lives for it,
It never comes again.

—D. M. MULLOCH, in the *Advocate*.

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