

The Catholic World.

AMERICA.—Noble Act of a Protestant Chaplain.—Among the Catholic soldiers of the First Ohio Volunteers was Private McGrann, who, being ill and, as he believed, dying, asked for a priest. The Protestant chaplain of the regiment, the Rev. Howard Henderson, mounted a horse, and, after a ride of six miles, secured a priest, whom he conducted to the sick man's bedside.

AUSTRALIA.—A Gifted Vocalist.—Miss Florence Schmidt, a brilliant Australian singer, is a Catholic. Her mother is Irish, and her father is a German. She is a native of Rockhampton. She left on September 7 for Paris. Experts say her voice now is much better than that of Madame Melba before she underwent the course of training in Europe.

ENGLAND.—Queen Bess—Revised.—Time is the friend of truth (says the *Catholic Herald*) and therefore the enemy and destroyer of some dear cherished ideals. The average Briton looks on Queen Elizabeth and her reign as on a figure and an epoch giving just cause for Saxon pride. But the truth is coming out. The *Bookman* is not the organ of a party nor a creed. As its name implies, it is the organ of the student. And it writes:—'Alas! the more the historical researchers and restorers scrape these great Elizabethans, the blacker they look. England was ruled by a gang of thieves, sons of the old Church robbers, and the Queen was captain of the band. She, and all of them, lived by plunder without shame or remorse.' We shall have to revise our estimate of national heroes and heroines if this go on.

Catholic Practices in Anglican Churches: Protestants Honour Magdalen.—Invocation of the Saints is no longer an exclusively Catholic practice. Appended is a verse from a hymn sung in the Protestant Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Munster Square, London, on July 21st, celebrating the feast of the Saint named:—

'Mary sweetest! as is meekest,
For thy holy deeds and lowly,
Thee we hail as 'Ocean Star.'
Name thou bearest which thou sharest
With that other blessed mother,
Who in rank outshines thee far.

Again

Magdalene! our praises heeding
Aid our vows by interceding.'

We are glad (says the *Catholic Herald*) to see our friends getting back to the truth. Such practices will not do them harm. Saints are honoured as servants of God, and such honour refers eventually to Him.

Converts from the Anglican Church.—Cardinal Vaughan the other day expressed a cheerful confidence that the result of the Pope's refusal to recognise Anglican Orders was bearing good fruit in bringing over converts to the Catholic Church. Mr. Corrance, a Ritualistic clergyman, who has become a Catholic, confirms this in an article in the last *Contemporary Review*:—'The young Ritualistic party were so anxious that the Pope should recognise Anglican Orders, and a disappointed poor clergyman was heard to exclaim, when the decision became known, that the Pope would have to spend a considerable amount of extra time in Purgatory in consequence of his failing to rise to the occasion. The publication of his Holiness' Bull denying the validity of Anglican Orders was very near causing a considerable secession of the extreme section of the clergy at the time. One of the clergy (a clever man, who had done his part in persuading his fellows to remain) remarked to the writer, 'if a few of the more prominent had started at that time the rest would have followed.' A variety of considerations, of ties worldly or sentimental (such as a long life's work), combines to keep the older men in the Anglican communion, considerations of whose power, perhaps, they are hardly conscious of as influencing their decision. And the young men follow them as the bell-wethers of the flock. *Apropos* of the superficiality of some people's religion, the following story by Mr. Corrance may be cited as a curious example. In his article in the *Contemporary Review* he says:—A Catholic priest recently told the writer that a lady who attended a fashionable Ritualistic Church came to him and desired to become a Catholic. He told her it would be necessary that she should first receive some instruction, at which she seemed surprised. She did not return again for some considerable time, and when at length

she came, it was to say that as they had now started incense at her church she thought she would stop where she was.

INDIA.—Protestant Missionaries.—The editor of a Protestant journal (says the *Ceylon Catholic Messenger*) asserted some time back that Protestant missionary efforts are worse than useless. A well-informed Protestant correspondent, after having congratulated the editor on his frankness in dealing with the above subject, continues as follows:—'My experience of India dates from John Company days until less than half-a-dozen years ago. . . I number a good many missionaries among my personal friends, and yield to none in my admiration of their motives. But of the later generation of Protestant missionaries both in India and China, my experience convinces me that a very large proportion are wholly unfitted for the work, even were we all agreed that the work is one which it is necessary to do, which I need hardly say is by no means the case. Protestant Missionary work in these days is being more and more taken up as a mere means of earning a living; and if the missionaries in Dr. Wilson's time, and of his stamp, were unsuccessful, what can we reasonably anticipate but something very like disaster as a result of work taken up on merely mercenary grounds? There may be—every earnest man must hope there is—some great unseen purpose working through these efforts at the proselytation of the 'voiceless teeming millions' of India and China; but all that merely human intelligence can discern emerging from the chaos of Protestant missionary effort in those countries is confusion and disaffection, big with evil possibilities.

PRUSSIA.—Catholic Statistics.—From official statistics it is learned that Prussia contains 4,719 Catholic parishes, 135 of which are of quite recent erection, and the total number of Catholics is about 11,000,000. Of these 160,000 Catholics belong to Berlin, and have only eight parishes among them. Bavaria contains 4,115,000 Catholics divided among 2,800 parishes. The capital, Munich, contains nearly 370,000 Catholics. The number of Catholics in the other States is as follows: Wurtemberg, 620,000; Baden, 1,050,000; Saxony, 140,000 as against 3,000,000 Protestants; Hesse, between 280,000 and 300,000; Oldenburg, 70,000. The 'Reichsland,' i.e. Alsace Lorraine, contains nearly 1,400,000. It is reckoned that in all Germany there are about 20,000,000 of Catholics. *Whitaker and The Statesman's Year Book* state that the census of 1890 gave 17,671,929 Catholics for the Empire.

ROME.—The Pope Receives the President of Brazil.—The Pope has received the President of Brazil, whose reception at the Vatican followed a visit to the King and Italian Ministers. This is the first time since 1870 that the chief of a Catholic State has been received by the Pope after having previously visited the great dignitaries of the kingdom, and the event is consequently exciting much comment.

A Munificent Gift to St. Peter's.—His Eminence Cardinal Rampolla recently presented the Vatican Basilica with what may well be described as a princely gift. It consists of a sum of one hundred thousand lire. (£4000), which his Eminence sent to the two Camerlenghi of the Basilica, Mgr. Costantini and Mgr. Misciatelli, together with a letter in which the donor expressed the wish that the interest of that sum, viz., 3000 lire a year, should be spent in the acquisition and restoration of sacred vestments and precious ornaments for the Basilica.

Waves beat upon a rock for years. 'Were I not strong,' moaned the rock, 'I need have borne but the first blow.'

Good fortune and bad are equally necessary to man to fit him to meet the contingencies of life. Few men who have not experienced the vicissitudes of fortune know how to bear them with firmness or are fit to meet them.

Happy are they whose intercourse with the world has not changed the tone of their holier feelings nor broken those musical chords of the heart, whose vibrations are so melodious, so tender and touching in the evening of age.

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Ophir, January 8.

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