

RETURNING TO THE FOLD.

Lady Cotton, widow of Admiral Cotton, who died at Bombay in 1894, has been received into the Church in Rome. The ceremony took place in the chapel of the Holy Office. The Very Rev. Father Fleming delivered an address on the occasion, and his Holiness sent the convert his blessing.

In a letter to one of the Southampton (England) papers, Mr. F. C. A. Harrington says he is given to understand that forty-seven persons, or thereabouts, have embraced Catholicism in that town in consequence of Ruthven's anti-Catholic lectures.

Paris has been somewhat interested in the change of religion of Miss Maud Toland, of Philadelphia, who joined the Catholic Church recently. She was received into the Church by the Very Rev. Father Osmund Cooke, of the Passionists. Miss Toland is shortly to marry the Baron Frederic Meyer de Schauensee of the Swiss Guards of the Vatican. The wedding will take place in London, and Cardinal Vaughan will perform the ceremony.

The Rev. Arthur Wentworth Bennett, M.A., lately curate in charge of St. Gabriel's Anglican Church, Bromley-by-Bow, London, E., has been received into the Catholic Church, and is now studying for the priesthood at St. Mary's, Bayswater. Mr. Bennett has joined the Oblates of St. Charles.

The Rev. A. T. Mitton, M.A., lately Vicar of Markyate, Dunstable, has been received into the Church by Father Humphrey, S.J. (himself a convert), at Farm Street, London, W. Mr. Mitton formerly acted as an Anglican minister at Stowmarket, Halliwell, Stockport, Huddersfield, and Weston. He is a Cambridge graduate.

The conversion is also announced of the Rev. W. R. Clarke, lately curate of the Anglican church at Aughton, Ormskirk.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND ART.

In an article on 'What is Christmas?' *Reynolds' Newspaper* says:—No subject has exercised pen, pencil, or voice more than the birth of Christ. But here comes in a curious fact—that while the Protestant communities have never ceased to dwell upon the virtues and teachings of this marvellous personality, it has been the Roman Catholic Church which has embellished the theme in the most striking manner. Our own National Gallery, and hundreds of picture galleries abroad, are filled with religious pictures of priceless value. The overwhelming majority has been painted by Catholic artists. The sublime churches—poems and pictures in stone—that decorate Europe, including our own cathedrals and abbey, have been the work of Catholic architects, who have been mostly monks. The vast bulk of sacred music, including the best pieces used in Protestant services, have been composed by Catholics. Now, if people really believe in their religion, they would give the best to God. Yet in England we find buildings, erected for secular purposes, excelled in magnificence those devoted to the service of God, and that the Protestant communities have not built a single sacred edifice, with the exception of St. Paul's Cathedral, which comes within a hundred thousand miles of the great Roman Catholic structures such as Westminster Abbey, the cathedrals of Peterborough, Norwich, Salisbury, Lincoln, and so on. Indeed, not only is this the case, but farther—modern church buildings are the most ghastly, unseemly, repulsive lumps of stone and mortar that the dullness of mankind has ever conceived. These are facts, our readers can draw the moral.

THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR.

In the course of a review of a book on the Little Sisters of the Poor, the *Dublin Review* summarises the history of the Order.—

The Little Sisters of the Poor is an institution which, founded less than 50 years ago by a young curate with no resources save his stipend of £16 a year, assisted by two poor seamstresses and a peasant woman, has covered the whole earth with its branches and taken its place with the most beneficent creations of Catholic faith. It has now 250 houses, of which 29 are in the United Kingdom, and gives food and shelter to over 33,000 of the aged and indigent poor of both sexes. The name of the humble servant woman who was its first almsgatherer is so closely interwoven with its early history that its Sisters throughout Brittany are still known as 'Joanne Jugans,' and a street in St. Servan is called after the lowliest of its inhabitants. Here in a wretched attic the Abbe Le Pailleur placed his two young novices with Jeanne as their mitron, and hither, in October, 1840, they brought the two old women who were the first pensioners of the Little Sisters of the Poor. During the time the two girls still pursued their calling as seamstresses, while Jeanne, by various forms of service, earned wages which also went into the common fund. With every extension of the undertaking fresh help was forthcoming for it, and thus it progressed from a garret to a basement and then to a house built for it by the charity of the public. Now the Little Sister, with her basket on her cart, is a familiar figure in every large city, and the Abbe Le Pailleur has lived to see the great idea with which heaven inspired him realised to an extent that prophetic vision alone could have foreseen.

The attention of our readers resident in Wellington is directed to the advertisement in another column by Mr. J. Dawson, electrical engineer, Lambton Quay. Mr. Dawson makes a speciality of fitting up electric lighting apparatus, and has, we understand, given the greatest satisfaction in work carried out by him. Persons requiring electric work in town or country will consult their interest by applying for estimates to Mr. Dawson.—*.*

HISTORIC NUNS.

We should like to place a copy of Madame Belloc's *Historic Nuns* in the hands of every member of the Women's Protestant Union; but as that is impossible, we (*Catholic Book Notes*) must content ourselves with hoping that her most useful volume will, through the libraries and bookstalls, be read by at least a certain number of these excellent but misguided persons. Many Catholics feel that a knowledge of the actual working of the Church in our times is at least as likely to be useful to Protestants as the history of those who, from the nature of the case, are far removed in time and surroundings. As a matter of fact there is room for all records, the onward march of the Divine creation is recognisable in the latest as in the earliest ages of the Church, and the same spirit which inspired the first Apostles governs the actions of the missionaries at home and abroad, known and unknown, who form the Church's army to-day.

For Catholics, as well as for Protestants, these sketches of historic, and we may add heroic, nuns form excellent reading. Mary Aikenhead, the foundress of the Irish Sisters of Charity; Catharine McAuley, who established the Irish Sisters of Mercy; Philippine Duchesne, who took the nuns of the Sacred Heart to the New World, and Eliza Ann Seton, who became a Catholic because 'she had seen in Italy the practical working of the Catholic Church,' and who established the Sisters of Charity in Maryland, are the nuns selected, and it would be difficult to render their lives other than interesting, although it must be admitted that certain writers have great powers in that direction. Madame Belloc, however, is not only never dull; she writes vividly and selects the incidents best calculated to impress the reader. Better still, although she is always edifying, she never makes an effort to be so; she is not continually calling on us to admire this evidence of humility, or that heroic action; she allows these to speak for themselves, and most eloquently they do so.

We have no prejudice against those who are talking and working for the advancement of the position of women, but we doubt whether the most earnest of them will do as much towards realising their ideals as any one of the four nuns whose lives are here recorded, and still more do we doubt whether their efforts will ensure as great benefits to the community at large as have resulted from the quiet, prayerful, simple lives of these holy women.

MADE IN GERMANY.

A GREAT deal yet remains to be done for Irish industries, writes an exchange. Not very long ago 13,000 suits of clothes arrived in Dublin from Germany, and the material in all the garments is woven from German peat. Peat has been applied to many useful purposes, but certainly human ingenuity has surpassed itself in making the product of the bogs available for the wearing of textile fabrics. Yet this has not merely been done in Germany, but by the very irony of fate a trade in the finished article has been established in the capital city of Ireland—the land of bogs. Those who have examined the Irish and German peat declare that the former is much more suitable for making into cloth than the latter, possessing more fibre, and being altogether of better quality. Yet the enterprise of the German has succeeded with the inferior article, while the use of the Irish product has not even reached the stage of experiment. Surely here is a matter to which our Irish capitalists might turn their attention. A vast deal of Irish money has been lost in foolish tyre speculations, which, if it had been used to develop some Irish industry, might have resulted in advantage, while at the same time producing great national benefits. It might be well worth the while of some of our friends to make at least an investigation into the possibilities of Irish peat being utilised for the purposes to which the Germans have successfully applied it.

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LONDON DENTAL INSTITUTE.—£1000 has been deposited by the principal with the Bank of Australasia at Dunedin as a guarantee of our worth. See advertisements. Complete sets from £3 3s; gas, 2s 6d; extractions, 2s 6d and 1s. Absolutely painless. All work guaranteed 10 years. Money refunded if not found satisfactory.—*.*

All of the best men in New Zealand are riding Dunlop tyres, and when such riders as Sutherland, Barker, Wall, Allan Jones, Scorer Jones, and Tierney, and a host of other back-markers plump straight for the reliable tyre, others will do worse if they do not take the experience of these flyers.—*.*

Visitors to Wellington in search of a comfortable hotel to stay at will find all their wants provided for at the Railway Hotel, Thorndon Quay. This well-known and popular house is still conducted by Mr. J. Dealy, and is convenient to both Railway Stations. Trams to all parts of the city pass the door every few minutes.—*.*

The Austral Cycle Agency, George street, Dunedin, calls attention to its stock of bicycles and accessories. In selecting its goods the firm maintains that it is guided solely by quality, and that this in turn brings an increasing business. Intending purchasers of bicycles are invited to inspect the firm's stock.—*.*