

The Catholic World.

AFRICA.—The School Question in Transvaal.—In a leading article on the school question the *Potchefstroom Budget* after expressing surprise that the public school had not by means of an entertainment given the public an opportunity of judging the progress made by its pupils, goes on to say:—Another school that always commands notice is that of the convent. The foregoing schools are State-aided. They are so circumstanced that they sail easily along unencumbered with serious financial difficulties. They have a bank to draw upon, and, when it is considered what the cost of such schools is to the State Exchequer, it must be admitted that they have a bank that furnishes them with extremely liberal advances. The Educational Bill of the Transvaal is a tall figure. As compared with the average cost per head in the Free State, Natal, and the Cape Colony, the Transvaal average is excessive. For this reason, if for no other, the public should be able to judge of what is being done in a fashion outside the dry statistics returned to the Educational Department. The Convent School, on the contrary, is a purely voluntary institution. When this is borne in mind, it is not only surprising that such schools rise above their financial difficulties, but that they furnish a standard of educational training that is not surpassed, if equalled, in the Transvaal or the Colonies. We cannot disguise the fact that it is a regrettable feature of the Transvaal System to lend such a deserving institution no financial aid. We do not expect to see rapid or startling changes in the policy of the Educational Department, but one thing is as certain as that there is a sun in the heavens, changes on a liberal and comprehensive basis must take place before the Transvaal system can be considered one of National Education.

Nuns in Natal.—A correspondent of the *Cape Daily Telegraph*, in describing a trip made from Port Elizabeth to Natal, says:—There is an excellent sanatorium in the best part of the Berea, under the management of the French Augustinian Nuns, who are all skilled and trained nurses. The building is situated on a splendid site overlooking the town and bay, and is built of red brick. It contains twenty-eight rooms, besides an operating theatre, and all the usual adjuncts of a first-class hospital. The institution is a most popular one, and such good work has been done by the Sisters that their fame has spread to the Cape Colony. Nazareth House has also a branch here, and is likewise beautifully situated on a still more commanding eminence, not only affording a view of Durban and its picturesque scenery, but of the country looking towards Pinetown and the north. Success seems to follow the work of the Nazareth Sisters, for the place is not nearly large enough for their requirements, which will necessitate additional building.

AMERICA.—The Church Among the Indians.—The Venerable Archdeacon Scriven (says the *Ave Maria*) gives a most interesting account of Indian missionary work on Vancouver and adjacent islands. Though he is an Anglican, he has the highest praise for the Catholic missionaries, and does not minimise by one jot or tittle the results of their labours. He says: 'The Roman Church has in fact, to our loss, but to her honour, entered into this field of mission work, and is occupying it with great zeal and no small success. There is of course a live Presbyterian work being carried on at Alberni; but the work of the Methodists seems to have taken chiefly the form of proselytising among the Roman Catholics.'

ENGLAND.—The New Westminster Cathedral.—When completed the new Westminster Cathedral will be one of the finest ecclesiastical structures in Europe. Though it will be somewhat hidden by the high mansions, let in flats, which surround it, its lofty campanile, 232 feet high, will tower over all the buildings in the neighbourhood. The architect of the new cathedral has wrought in the spirit of the days 'when art was still religion'; and he (Mr. John Bentley) has put a soul into his work. Before he drew the plans he spent three months on the Continent studying the best specimens of the Byzantine style. Although he has taken his leading ideas from St. Mark's, Venice (for the domes), St. Ambrose's, Milan, and St. Vitale's, Ravenna, the Cathedral is not a mere servile copy of any one of these or of any other church, but is stamped with a certain originality, the designer having allowed some time to elapse after his return and his own conception to take definite shape in his mind before he traced a single line. It is a bold thing to challenge comparison with St. Peter's at Rome, but the architect has no hesitation in saying that the interior, at the first glance, will convey the idea of size and vastness more impressively than does the great masterpiece of Bramante and Michael Angelo. Not until the visitor begins to examine closely and to compare the colossal figures and details does he realise the grandeur of the greatest of earthly temples. Not so with the new Westminster Cathedral. Its long drawn nave, extending 312 feet, and its vault, reaching 117 feet, with the skilful combination of triple lateral arches, will be sure to impress the visitor with a sense of vastness and loftiness. From the beginning of the work in 1895 to 1st December, 1898, about £73,000 has been paid to contractor, architect and clerk of works. The total cost of erection cannot at present be accurately estimated.

FRANCE.—The Panegyric of Joan of Arc.—As has been already announced (says the *New Era*) Archbishop Ireland is to preach the panegyric of Joan of Arc at the Orleans festival in honour of the holy maiden of Domremy, whose sacred and patriotic mission has borne such marked fruit in the history of Anglo-French Europe. The eloquent Archbishop of St. Paul is not the first English-speaking member of the episcopate who has figured in Orleans Cathedral as a French pulpit orator. In 1862 Bishop James Gillis, of Edinburgh, sounded the praises of Joan of Arc in the presence of Napoleon III, and the illustrious Mgr. Dupanloup, then

Bishop of Orleans. The Scotch prelate then had the honour of being congratulated by the French Emperor on the happiness of reconciling his fellow bishop and the sovereign, whose mutual relations had till that auspicious occasion been rather cold.

GERMANY.—Rev. Prince Maximilian.—The Rev. Prince Maximilian, of Saxony, known to Londoners during his ministrations at the German Church in Whitechapel, has, it is announced, been appointed Curé of the principal Catholic Church of Nuremberg, the old German city of which Longfellow sang so sweetly. Renouncing his title, he wishes to be known in future as Dr. Wetten, the surname of the family who have filled the Saxon thrones since the fourteenth century.

ROME.—Lenten Discourses for English Visitors.—The course of Lenten sermons in the Church of San Silvestro in Capite, Rome, frequented by English speaking visitors, were to be delivered this year by the Rev. Father Maturin. The name of the eloquent preacher (says the *New Era* correspondent) is well known in England, and his conversion from the Anglican brotherhood known as the Cowley Fathers, to which the Rev. Luke Rivington also belonged, was a matter of much interest. He succeeds the Most Rev. Archbishop Keane, late Rector of the Catholic University of Washington, who has occupied the pulpit of San Silvestro for a considerable time. The Archbishop preached on the Sundays in January, and the eloquence and devotional nature of his sermons are very effective in winning hearts. There is no doubt that Archbishop Keane is one of the greatest preachers in the English tongue to-day. Many conversions have followed his clear and admirable exposition of Catholic doctrine.

SYRIA.—The Maronites of Antioch.—Monsignor Floyeck or Hoyeck, the new patriarch of Antioch and all the East, is well known in Paris (says a correspondent). The last patriarch was Monsignor Peter Haggie, or Hadji, known as John XIII. He was an intense patriot and an energetic ecclesiastic, for he was able to raise the Archiepiscopal See of Baalbek from a state of absolute poverty to one of prosperity. When he went there he had only a straw-thatched hut or cabin to live in, but he was soon able to build a palace and a seminary. In summer the Patriarch of Antioch lives in the shade of the famous Cedars of Lebanon, at Canoubin, and in winter he lives at Bekerki. He rules spiritually over about 210,000 people, and has under him about a dozen archbishops and bishops.

UNITED STATES.—Death of an Irish Priest.—The Rev. Father J. J. Hynes, of Holy Rosary Church, Woodland, United States, died recently at the Sisters' Hospital, Sacramento. Father Hynes was 52 years of age, and a native of County Meath, Ireland. He was educated at St. Mary's College, Mullingar, Ireland, studying under the late Bishop Nulty. He was ordained for the priesthood at All Hallows' College, Dublin. He came to the United States in 1870, and his first charge was at Gold Hill, Nevada. Afterward he was located at Eureka, Grass Valley, Chico and Woodland, having been for eight years at Chico and eleven at Woodland. He leaves a nephew, Father James J. Hynes, of Marysville, who was with him at the time of death.

The Catholic Total Abstinence Union.—The Catholic Total Abstinence Union (says Bishop Tierney, speaking some time ago) is the official and duly authorized organization in the Church in the United States, whereby the sentiment of total abstinence is encouraged and its statements and practice are guarded from all danger of fanaticism. For more than a quarter of a century this organization has done vigorous work against the drink evil, and has done it with an unblemished record for prudence in speech and wisdom in action. It has pursued a path at once conservative and intelligent, so as to deserve the unsolicited commendations of the Hierarchy and the approval of the Holy See. It has gradually grown from a mere handful of twenty-five years ago until to-day it is the largest fraternal and religious association in the Church in America, embracing a membership of 20,000.

GENERAL.

Missionary Notes.—Bishop L. Roy, Superior-General of the Missionary Society of the Holy Ghost speaking at the National Congress, in Paris, some time ago, said that the first to receive the title of Vicar Apostolic was St. Ansgar, or Oscar, the Frankish monk consecrated by Pope Gregory IV, in Rome in 843, for the evangelisation of the North of Europe; the Congregation of Propaganda was founded by Gregory XV, in 1622; the Society of the Propagation of the Faith was constituted in Lyons in 1822.

Visitors to Ashburton will find excellent accommodation, combined with moderate charges, and the best attention at the Ashburton Hotel, of which Mr. J. Mullan is proprietor. Mr. Mullan is well and favourably known as a caterer for the comfort of the travelling public, and has always given the greatest satisfaction to his patrons.—*

Detective-Superintendent Caminada (of Manchester) has retired, after a period of 36 years' service in Manchester, during which time he had arrested no fewer than 1225 prisoners, and recovered nearly £10,000 in fines. Of the many stories told of this celebrated detective, one refers to a daring attempt to rob Cardinal Vaughan (then Bishop Salford) of his pectoral cross as he was leaving St. Augustine's, Manchester. The Cardinal was in the act of blessing the assembled people when a notorious swell-mobster stole from him his Eminence the magnificent cross which had been presented to him by the De Trafford family. The man only partially succeeded, however, as Mr. Caminada, who was hovering about in the crowd, was on his track in an instant, and the costly cross was restored before even the Cardinal knew what had happened. The detective was really not on duty at the time. He was present as a Catholic.