

CATHOLIC NEWS.

The Rev. J. Moultrie, who was until recently Anglican curate of Christ Church, Doncaster, has joined the Catholic Church.

When the Church of St. Bernard, in New York, was destroyed by fire on Monday morning of last week the whole interior was completely ruined, except a crucifix, which wholly escaped even the faintest injury.

The Vatican library has increased by 100,000 volumes during the past year. All the new books are gifts from foreigners, sent to the Pope on the occasion of his jubilee. The speculum for the equatorial photographs has also arrived; it is entirely of iron and steel.

The Holy Father has addressed a letter to Dr. Windthorst, warmly eulogising his zeal in founding "The German Catholic People's Society," one of the principal objects of which is to combat Socialism.

Professor Newman, in his reminiscences of his brother the Cardinal, says he agrees with an expression he has heard made use of that the leader of the Tractarian movement would have shone as a lawyer quite as much as he did in the Church.

In Silesia 620 of the country schools are under the control of the barons; of these, 240, with their 586 teachers, belong to the Lutherans, while the remaining 380, with their 598 teachers, are under Catholic influence. The Hebrew Baron Rothschild owns eighteen schools, which, strange to say, are under Catholic teachers. The majority of these schools (patronage schools they are called) are very poorly provided for. The riding whip of the baron is the principal wand of authority.

On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception a new Catholic Cathedral was consecrated at Mandalay, the old capital of Burmah. The Cathedral was built at the sole expense of a wealthy Burmese convert to Catholicity. On the following day the Very Rev. Rocco Tornatore was consecrated Bishop and Vicar-Apostolic of Eastern Burmah. Mgr. Tornatore was one of the pioneer preachers of the Gospel among the half-savage Karen tribes in the Shan Hills, and has been a missionary in Burmah since 1868.

Dr. Hurd von Schlozer, the representative of Prussia at the Vatican, in an audience granted by the Pope, announced that while the German Government was unable to accede to the return of the Jesuits to Prussia, all other religious bodies were free to return. The permission necessary for the return of the Jesuits, Dr. von Schlozer said, was withheld for the present.

Appropos of the publication of the letters of Lord Sydney Godolphin Osborne, it is not generally known that his youngest son "seceded" to Rome, and is now on the clerical staff of the Brompton Oratory. The Rev. R. B. Godolphin Osborne is in point of fact one of the ablest Catholic preachers in London.

By her will, the late Lady Edith Noel gives all her personal estate and effects to the Catholic School of St. Vincent de Paul at Mill Hill, London, and appoints as sole executor of her will her brother-in-law, Sir Alan Bellingham, by whom the value of the testatrix's personal estate has been sworn at £2,684 3s 8d.

The newspapers have been conjecturing a good deal as to the nature of the forthcoming Encyclical on the social questions, but nothing really definite is known on the subject.

Pere Didon has commenced a series of sermons in the Church of La Madeleine, Paris, with the object of soliciting subscriptions to erect a church in Rome, as a present to the Pope, upon the occasion of the celebration of his episcopal jubilee.

At the annual Catholic reunion in the Birmingham Town Hall, the Duke of Norfolk, who presided, said the number of forms of religious belief, which twenty years ago were under one hundred in this country, were now as many as two hundred and fifty.

The petition to the Holy Father for the canonisation of Columbus bears 900 signatures, including those of archbishops and bishops in various parts of the world. The Holy Father has written a warmly commendatory letter to the promoters of the Columbus monument at Buenos Ayres.

Mr. William Young Craig, ex-M.P. for North Staffordshire, and a large colliery proprietor in the same district, has recently joined the Catholic Church. Mr. Craig is a Liberal and a vigorous advocate of Home Rule. A large employer of labour, he is exceptionally popular with the working classes throughout the Potteries.

Negotiations between Russia and the Vatican are, it appears, still continued. Last week the Russian envoy to the Vatican returned to St. Petersburg for instructions, particularly, it is said, in reference to an appointment to the Archiepiscopal See of Moheloff.

M. Gorex, a learned physician of Bruges, in Belgium, recently ascertained the fact that the figure on the crucifix in the cathedral at that place is a real human body in a perfect state of preservation. It is said to have been in its present position since the beginning of the 11th century.

At the Catholic Congress at Coblenz last autumn it was resolved to take immediate steps to erect more churches at Berlin, where the rapid growth of the capital has left a large Catholic population dependent on two churches in the centre of the old town. The foundation-stone of the first of these new churches, dedicated to St. Sebastian, has just been laid. The church will cost nearly £30,000. The Protestant municipality of Berlin has given the Catholics the ground for the church free and £20,000 to the building fund, to which the Emperor has added a personal donation of £3,000. He sent one of his officers to represent him at the ceremony.

May 13, 1892, will be the centenary of the birth of Pius IX. A committee has been formed in Italy to celebrate the occasion, (1) by completing and solemnly inaugurating the monument to the great Pontiff at the Basilica of San Lorenzo, outside the walls, (2), by erecting a monument to Pius IX. at his native place, Sinigaglia, (3), by presenting an address of loyal devotion to the reigning Pontiff Leo XIII. in a special audience on the day of the centenary.

Cardinal Simor, Archbishop of Grau and for the past twenty-four years Primate of Hungary, died at Grau lately. By his death one of the most powerful and distinguished prelates of the modern Catholic Church disappears. His career justifies the boast that the truest of democracies is the priesthood, for he was the son of a poor shoemaker, and rose step by step through sheer abilities in the most exclusive country in Europe to be the peer of Kaisers and the companion of Princes.

The fourth centenary of Christopher Columbus is about to be celebrated at Buenos Ayres by the erection of a statue to the great discoverer. To the promoters of this project the Holy Father has addressed a brief of warm encouragement, "Columbus," says his Holiness, "has done such great things, his genius and constancy have been the source of so much benefit all over the world, that few men can be compared to him. But, if his memory is in great honour with Us, it is specially because, in undertaking difficult voyages, in supporting great fatigues, and encountering immense dangers, he had for his aim to open the path to unknown regions for the propagators of the Gospel." The Pope concludes with his blessing upon the project, with which he repeats the expression of his hearty sympathy.

The Centrum or Catholic party is taking lessons from the Socialists, who, as is known, desire to be recompensed for the unconstitutional ravages of the Iron Chancellor during the period when the special laws against them were in force. In the same way, the Church now demands restoration of the clerical salaries sequestered during the Kulturkampf. Now Windthorst's party is considering the advisability of sending to the Reichstag a number of Jesuits to battle for the readmittance of the order into Germany as the Socialist leaders did for the suppression of the special laws framed against them, Father Aschenbrenen, who, by his personal bravery in the battle of Le Bourget in October, 1870, won the Iron Cross of the first class, is to be pioneer Jesuit Deputy in the Reichstag. He will be put up for election at the first vacancy that occurs.

William's sudden determination to put an end to the Kulturkampf is interpreted as an indication that he feels the necessity of having Catholic Bavaria solidly at his back in case the ship of state strikes rough water. He will not allow the Jesuits to return to Germany, but in other respects the Catholics now enjoy equal liberty with Protestants in his empire, and he has had a long personal letter from the Pope thanking him in affectionately paternal tones for his action in the matter. This marks a very notable change from two years ago, when the young Kaiser's visit to Rome was made the vehicle for a characteristic Bismarckian insult to the venerable Pontiff; but, then, everything is changed in Germany since that unworthy period.

An exemplification of the catholicity of the Church, in the universal significance of the word, was witnessed in St. Peter's Church, New York, on the Feast of the Epiphany. Mass on that morning was celebrated according to three rites—the Latin, the Syro-Greek, and the Maronite. "It was the same sacrifice, the oblation of Christ, with varying ceremonies and in different languages; and afforded a lesson to the two classes who declaim against the unity and the cast-iron discipline of the true Church," remarks the *Catholic Review*. The services reveal the fact to the general public that there are Syrian and Armenian colonies in New York, just as there are Hungarian, and Italian and German colonies.

A glaring instance of the philistinism of irreligion is reported from France. Some gentlemen connected with the Education Department subscribed enough money to have Millet's picture, the *Angelus*, engraved, intending to send copies of the engraving to the public schools. The parcels, it is said, had actually been made up for distribution, when some godless jacks in office intervened. The word "Angelus," they declared, "reminded them of the worst days of superstition." They could not let it pass; and so the schools lose the pictures. Only in Scotland, we believe, or among Irish Presbyterians, could bigotry like this be matched.