

was a very different matter from an authoritative resolution of the Church, such as we suppose a resolution of Convocation may be assumed to be. So great in fact, is the change that the Church may almost be looked upon as having entered upon a new phase of her existence. As to the success of religious orders in the Church of England, that is quite another thing. We confess we do not belong to the ranks of those who are sanguine enough to expect it. That the religious orders have succeeded in the Catholic Church, may, in fact, be taken as one of the proofs of the Church's divine origin. Where the supernatural principle, however, is wanting, that which depends on it for life and growth cannot of necessity be found. But this is another question. What we now see is a recognition, to all intents and purposes, of the infamy that surrounds the memory of King Henry VIII made by the Church that he founded, and an acknowledgment that, in destroying the religious houses, he inflicted upon the country an untold evil. Never before did any institution, religious or secular, do such marked dishonour to the memory of the man to whom it owed its existence.

## CATHOLIC NEWS.

(From the Liverpool *Catholic Times*.)

A new Catholic weekly paper is about to be started in the Eternal City with the title *La Vera Roma*.

An International Congress of Catholic men of science is to assemble in Paris in the first week of April.

There were twenty-one members of the Sacred College present at the funeral of Cardinal Christofori.

Mr Frederick Walton Atkinson, solicitor, has taken the degree of Bachelor of Laws, with honours, at the London University, being second amongst forty candidates. Mr Atkinson is a convert.

A monument to Columbus is to be erected in one of the *Piazas* of Rome, and on the occasion of the centennial representation the work of the celebrated Morlacchi, presented in Italy and at Dresden in 1828, will be reproduced.

The Abbé Boyer, Canon of the Cathedral of St. André, Bordeaux, has been named a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour. The Abbé, as military chaplain, was present at many engagements during the war of 1870.

According to a work written by the Rev Father Gagarin, a Jesuit, and called "The Russian Archives, and the conversion of Alexander I," Alexander I., Czar of Russia, was converted to the Catholic faith towards the close of his life.

Cardinal Mermillod has issued an appeal to the Catholic youth of the world, in the name of the Italian Association of Catholic Youth to celebrate worthily the third centenary of the death of St. Aloysius Gonzaga by joining the pilgrimage to Rome.

Père Monsabré has been presented by the Holy Father with a chalice as a token of satisfaction with the ability which the rev. gentleman displayed in his Advent sermons at the Church of St. Andrea della Valle.

Preparations are being made for the visit of the Austrian Empress to the Holy Land. Her journey there, undertaken in a truly Catholic spirit, will be not a pleasure tour, but a pilgrimage. She will spend the Holy Week in Jerusalem.

Mr. Richard Acton, son of Lord Acton has written to the *Pall Mall Gazette* stating that there is not a shadow of foundation for the report that he had joined the Anglican communion—an announcement which was asserted in that journal on the authority of an Oxford correspondent.

The Duke of Norfolk is indignant at the action of the Government in reference to Mr Gladstone's Religious Disabilities Bill, and in a letter to the *Times* he says it is an ungrateful surprise to many Catholics to find their claims for justice sacrificed to the noisy declamation of heated bigotry.

Cardinal Lavignerie has received a splendid offering for the promotion of his good work. The Marquise de Brives, a lady of 98 years, who is without heirs, has, after providing for old domestics and poor friends, settled £640,000 on his Eminence in return for an annuity of £1000.

An English correspondent of the Paris *Univers* describes with enthusiasm the good work carried on at Wolvey, Hinckley, by a convert, Mr C. Arnold, aided by the Rev. Austin Richardson, another convert. The correspondent states that during his residence at Ventnor, Isle of Wight, Father Richardson converted 47 persons, among them being his own mother.

The result of the Spanish elections has been a complete victory for the Catholic Conservative Ministry. As many as 289 Ministerialists were returned, and all parties in the Opposition taken together have only obtained 154 seats. Of the Opposition 25 are Republicans, 7 Carlists, and 89 Liberals of the party led by Sagasta.

Two Jesuit Fathers, Rev. J. N. Strassmaier and J. Epping, have undertaken the laborious task of deciphering the three Babylonian

tablets which were acquired a few years ago by the British Museum. The kind and the extent of the astronomical knowledge possessed by the Chaldees is shown by these two tables, and now rests on a purer foundation than mere speculation.

The ladies of Paris are embroidering a magnificent carpet for the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, at Montmartre. It will be worth about 100,000 francs. In the centre is a view of Montmartre, above the arms of the city of Paris, and on each side those of Jeanne d'Arc and Henri IV., whose armies once encamped near the hill. The names of the donors are embroidered on the border.

Baron Nicolai, otherwise known as Father Dom Jean Louis Nicolai, formerly lieutenant-general in the Russian army and aide-camp to the Czar, has died at the monastery of the Grande Chartreuse, to which he retired about twenty years ago. He was Governor-General of the Caucasus, and it was he who suppressed the rising under Schamyl.

French Catholics are mourning the death of Sister Céline, who, during 57 years, and notably through the troublous Franco-Prussian war times, was a tender nurse to the wounded soldiers. She was born in 1800, and it is said that she was one of the most brilliant *dames d'honneur* at the Court of Charles X. After the fall of that monarch she joined the sisterhood of St. Vincent de Paul.

The Commendatore de Bossi, the veteran explorer of the Roman catacombs, and the chief living authority on the antiquities of the first five centuries, is still making important discoveries. He has lately unearthed the basilica of St. Sylvester, the Pope of Constantine's days, containing the tombs of six of the earliest of the Roman Pontiffs. He also discovered the tomb of Priscilla, the mother of the Senator Pudens, in the cemetery bearing her name, a discovery that carries us back to the apostolic age.

General Sherman, who died recently, was married to a Catholic lady of Irish descent, a grand-daughter of one of the men of '98. Thanks to her influence Catholic chaplains were appointed in the Federal armies during the War of Secession. His sons were educated as Catholics, and one of them, Father Thomas E. Sherman, S.J., is now completing a special course of study at the Jesuit college in Jersey. The General was visited on his death-bed by a Catholic priest, who administered to him the last rites of the Church.

How effectually real power departs from a priest when once he has severed himself from the Catholic Church. A writer in one of the reviews—Mr. W. F. Stockley—has been giving his opinion of the influence exercised by ex-Père Hyacinthe, and from his remarks, which are based on personal observation, it appears that his auditors scarcely ever regard the would-be reformer as a serious religious teacher. They treat his place of worship more as a lecture-hall or theatre than as a church. Many forget to take off their hats until they are some time in the building; conversation is freely indulged in, and the sermon is discussed in the same way as an address from M. Francisque de Sarcy at La Salle des Conférences. This is the preacher upon whose words crowded congregations once hung with devout reverence. But greater ecclesiastics than he—men such as De Lammennais—became as sounding brass when they fell away from the teaching of the Church.

Everybody who is at all acquainted with life in the East knows how difficult it is to make converts to Christianity amongst the Orientals. There are no people on earth so thoroughly conservative of usages and religious ideas. So far as Christianity is concerned, the East is all but immovable. Good work, however, is being done by Catholic missionaries in many Eastern quarters, and amongst the most successful evangelists are the Capuchin Fathers. A correspondent of an Italian Catholic paper has just been relating the nature of their labours at Trebizond and Erzeroum, and the facts he gives point to solid progress. The Capuchins are so revered for their poverty that many of the poor entrust to them the education of their children, and the Fathers have also won a high reputation as medicine-men. At dispensaries which they have established in Trebizond and Samsun over 16,000 invalids are attended to every year. Numerous conversions are effected, and one of the probabilities of the future is the return to the true Faith of a very large body of Armenian schismatics through the zeal of the good Capuchin Fathers.

Baron Friedrich Schmidt, the celebrated Gothic restorer, was once asked by his friend, Friedrich Piecht, why he had become a convert from Protestantism to Catholicism. The answer he gave is noteworthy. "Because," said he, "I have come to recognise the Catholic Church to be the mother of truth and of art. Amongst Catholics I have always found liberality of mind, spirit, humour, wealth of fancy, solidity, and fulness of thought. In the Prussian bureaucracy with which I had to deal before my conversion I found only stiffness and insipidity. Was it any wonder, then, when I felt so attracted by Catholicism, that I should at length openly embrace it?" The lesson of breadth and depth of thought which Baron Schmidt learned from his study of the Catholic Church he practised effectually during his brilliant career.

The "Old Catholics," who were to reform the Catholic Church off the face of the earth, and to refresh men in every land with the