

The Catholic World

CANADA.—The Ruined University

The death is announced of Father Charles Fulham, O.M.I., one of the professors in the University College of Ottawa, who succumbed on December 8 to the injuries he received during the fire which, as reported in our columns recently, destroyed the college. He was a Meath man, and was only thirty-three years of age. The Ottawa University has its charter from the Government since 1866, and is empowered to grant degrees, but the statement that it is endowed is not correct; it receives no money from public sources. As a Catholic University it is the creation of the late Pope, who made the Archbishop of Ottawa its Apostolic Chancellor.

ENGLAND.—A Vicar condemned

The Anglican Bishop of Worcester recently condemned an article in the Press by the Rev. C. Beeby, vicar of Yardley Wood, near Birmingham, as directed against the whole conception of miracles, and against the virgin birth of Our Lord in particular. The vicar has since sent in this resignation.

Canon Lynch

The presentation of an address of congratulation and Canonical robes to Canon Lynch took place on Monday, December 21, in the Hulme Town Hall. A grand concert was held on the occasion.

The Redemptorists

The Redemptorists have purchased Windhill House and St. Katharine's High School, Bishop's Stortford, with five acres of ground attached, for the purposes of a monastery. A new church is eventually to be built in the grounds, which adjoin the parish church.

Westminster Cathedral

The very beautiful crucifix designed by the late Mr. Bentley and recently painted by Mr. Simonds was blessed on a recent Sunday at the Westminster Cathedral by the Right Rev. Mgr. Provost Johnson. It was an unpretending ceremony, but most interesting as a revival of an old custom in the Catholic Church. In its position, about 100 feet from the ground in the centre of the Cathedral, the crucifix cannot but be recognised as giving a most ecclesiastical tone to the whole building. The weight of the crucifix is about three tons, and the manner in which it was raised by pulleys and ropes into its proper place reflects great credit on the presiding genius at the Cathedral. The cost of this unique work of art is not less than £600.

Archbishop Bourne

Archbishop Bourne, of Westminster, was having a sort of triumphal progress homewards from Rome when the last mails left. He was received at Milan by representatives of Cardinal Ferrari, Archbishop of Milan, and the Catholic Press Association. An address on parchment was presented to him, and Cardinal Ferrari made a gift of a relic of St. Charles Borromeo for Westminster Cathedral. The relic consists of a portion of the body of St. Charles in a crystal urn, which is enclosed in a magnificent silver case. After Mass at Milan two days later before the exposed remains of St. Charles Borromeo, Archbishop Bourne left for Monza, where he had a most cordial reception at the Seminary. Dr. Bourne afterwards returned to Milan, where he was present at a literary and musical entertainment at the Academy. Cardinal Ferrari gave a dinner to his honor, at which distinguished ecclesiastics and laymen were present. Speaking at the Theological Seminary of the diocese of Milan, in the presence of 300 students, expressed his satisfaction at having been able once more to visit the celebrated Seminary which, he recalled, had been founded by St. Charles. Continuing, the Archbishop said: 'I encourage you to arm yourselves with sound piety and a knowledge of sacred and profane science, so that you may face and cure modern ills. This was recommended to me by the Pontiff when he expressed a wish soon to see a seminary founded in Westminster. Archbishop Bourne's enthronement took place in Westminster Cathedral, on December 29, the feast of St. Thomas the martyr, Bishop of Canterbury.

The 'Rock' on a Reef

Few people that value religious peace and the ordinary decencies of controversy will regret that the 'Rock' is in difficulties. A correspondent of that violent Protestant news-sheet has made a fervent appeal in its columns for funds to support the paper. It appears from a report of a case that came before the City of London Court, in which auditors sued the 'Rock' Newspaper and Publishing Co. for their fee of five guineas, that a subsidy has been received from the Church Association. The 'Rock's' correspondent evi-

dently thinks that there should be a further and a larger gift, for he says that the £50,000 the Church Association is about to raise 'will be of little use to secure the Protestant Parliament, which is so urgently needed, unless public opinion is formed by such a paper as the "Rock" is.' To the correspondent's letter the editor appends a note declaring that 'a crisis has overtaken the "Rock" like the "Pilot" and asking: 'Will Protestants rescue the former as Ritualists did the latter?' If, after having been in existence not for a short time, like the 'Pilot,' but for some forty years, the 'Rock' is losing £300 a year, the prospect for intending rescuers is not altogether roseate. We take no pleasure (says the 'Catholic Times') in the 'Rock's' distress, but we hope that it will learn a useful lesson from its troubles. The bigoted and fanatical contributions to which it has been continually lending its columns were enough to kill any paper. Why not try fair, respectable argument?

FRANCE.—Combes at Work

Having expelled many of the religious Orders from their teaching establishments, M. Combes is now engaged in providing schools to replace those which his persecuting laws have yet to close. Altogether (says an exchange), he has to deal with some 3500 schools which are still being conducted by Congregations who are authorised. These schools, too, must be seized in the name of the State! Two thousand two hundred of them are for girls, and one thousand three hundred for boys. His prefects have sent him in an account of what provision could be made for taking over the work, were he to expel even these authorised. Congregations of teaching Orders. Nineteen hundred may be closed at once, as there is for that number of schools a sufficiency of State schools to take over the pupils from them. In the rest of the cases, either additional or entirely new accommodation must be provided before the State schools could deal with the dispossessed scholars. Apparently M. Combes does not hesitate at the prospect. He has held a Cabinet Council, discussed with his Ministers his programme, and is prepared to lay the matter at once before the Chambers. Thus the dechristianisation of France proceeds apace.

ITALY.—The Pope a Collector

Before his accession to the Chair of St. Peter, the Pope had accumulated a collection of over 10,000 post-cards. He is still an enthusiastic collector.

A Rumor Contradicted

Rumor has been 'at it' again in regard to Pius X. This time it again repeats the old wheeze about his intention to quit the Eternal City. The London correspondent of the London 'Morning Post' says he has received what may be almost termed an official declaration that the Pope has no intention of leaving the Vatican.

A Monument

The design for the statue of Leo XIII. which is to be erected as a memorial of the late Pope, on the hills overlooking his birthplace at Carpineto, has now been completed by Signor Ernesto Bondi, the sculptor to whom the commission was entrusted.

Fire Practice

Since the last fire at the Vatican the authorities have been studying the question of securing better protection of the building. The Pope, accompanied by Cardinal Merry del Val and the Papal Court, recently witnessed from the balcony a fire-extinguishing experiment, which was made in the Cortile del Belvedere. Fire was set to some wood saturated with petroleum and other combustibles, but the flames were quickly subdued by the new type of fire-extinguisher. His Holiness expressed satisfaction at the result of the experiment.

Pius and the Scriptures

The present Sovereign Pontiff takes a special interest, as did his predecessor Leo XIII., in promoting the reading of the Scriptures. The Association of St. Jerome, whose object it is to introduce the Gospels into the houses of the people in Italy, have lately had an audience with his Holiness, and the Pontiff enthusiastically praised their work. The perusal of the sacred text, he said, could not but prove profitable to every class of society. It brought solace to the poor and the suffering, while to the highly-instructed it supplied abundant food for meditation. Learning that Father Ghignoni was about to begin a course of sermons explanatory of the Gospels in the Church of St. Maria in Aquiro, he expressed keen satisfaction at the news, and said he would impart a special benediction to him and his auditors. When Catholics are well aware that their clerical leaders are thus eager for the circulation of Catholic versions of the Scriptures it is hard that they should so often have to reply to the accusation that the Church is hostile to the diffusion of the Bible.