

of the world, the agony of His cross, to establish this Church, this fold for you. For your dear sake, He came. And what are you doing? You are thrusting His priceless Christmas gift away from you. You are putting Him out of your life—making His heart to ache worse than when the spear transfixed it. Child—named after His beloved Mother—you won't do that? Surely, surely you do not want to go out into that dark country beyond the Catholic faith where all is unbelief and indecision? Let me show you what you are doing. Let me prove to you what a heritage you are renouncing, you, who are named for Christ's Mother. You know, just as surely as you stand there, that this man will never become a Catholic?'

'Yes, Father,' she answered, humbly.

'Can you prove to him the beauty of your faith? The reasons why you believe? Child, you have need to learn them yourself before you can teach another. Be wise, be wise. You would want to drift away from us. You would want never to come to church?'

'Oh, no, no, Father—'

'Yet what gift of grace are you so sure of that this will not happen to you? Listen to an old priest who has seen greater, stronger holds on faith than yours give way beneath the carping criticism of those who did not understand. Listen to me now.'

'Yes, Father.' His voice was so grave and gentle and so sad. 'I will listen.'

'Put off your marriage to this man for six months. Come to me then for instruction, say just one half-hour a week. Let me show you why you are a Catholic. Join the Sodality. Ah! You don't want to lose Mary for a Mother? You don't want to lose, from out your life, the glorious presence of God upon the altar? Now, do you?'

'No, Father.'

'I thought not—I thought not. You are my own good little lamb, who will not drift away from us. I will pray for you.'

He put his hand upon her shoulder gently.

'God be with you, little struggling soul!' he said.

She left the sacristy. With kindly words he followed her to the door. She went away from him—down the steps. He stood looking after her.

'God be with you all, my people,' he said. 'God be with you all, and hear my prayers for you. There are worse things than death in this world, mother,' he went on, raising his eyes to the star-studded sky. 'And while I make petition for them—and you—do not forget, when it is God's will, to do the like for me, and those who are given to my charge.'

He went back again to the light that burned before the hidden Christ. And there he knelt. The heavy burden at his heart grew less. He saw the woman puffed with her own conceit grow humble. He saw the clouded home made bright and those in it made happy because one man could conquer his besetting sin. He saw the dormant soul of the girl, fragrant and fresh as a flower with devotion and love for God. All this he saw. And the heart of the priest beat high.

If dreams came true!

You know Father Laurence, you people who read these lines. We all know him. He has come to us, every one of us, when most we needed him.

Let us be prodigal. Not of our good works, our alms, our love alone—but of our prayers for our priests, for those who daily win God's grace for us.

God be with them! Let us pray for them.—Donahoe's Magazine.'

## The Catholic World

### ENGLAND.—Death of a Provincial

The Rev. Father Colley, S J, Provincial of the Society of Jesus, died at Stonyhurst College, on February 12. The deceased, who was an Englishman by birth, was in his 56th year.

### Rescue Homes

The organisation of Children's Rescue and Protection Societies in Catholic dioceses is steadily gaining ground. The latest, says the 'Daily News,' is that just set on foot in the diocese of Clifton, the Bishop of which is Dr. Burton, who was formerly for many years rector of a Mission in South Shields. At the present moment there are well-established children's rescue societies in the following dioceses:—Westminster, Southwark, Birmingham, Salford, Liverpool, Shrewsbury, and Clifton. The number of orphan, destitute, and deserted children wholly maintained by these societies probably exceed 2500, and at the cost of £30,000 per annum. In this number and expenditure are not included many hundreds of children inmates of orphanages, homes, and institutions not directly affiliated to

and the outcome of the establishment of these children's rescue societies.

### Catholics and Political Parties

In the course of his Lenten Pastoral, read in the Catholic churches of London, Archbishop Bourne defines the position of Catholic electors at the forthcoming County Council elections. He points out that they are now face to face with a great crisis in education, and every voter must realise the obligation which is upon him. They should inform themselves of the principles of those who solicited their votes, and give their vote to no man upon whose sincerity they were unable to depend. They should support those alone who publicly and frankly, and without any subterfuge, promised to act fairly in every detail towards the voluntary schools of London. The Catholic Church had no alliance with any political party. From all alike she claimed fair treatment and liberty to do her divine work. In return she offered to all her heartiest co-operation in all those things which conduced to the moral advancement of the nation and mankind. Catholics, therefore, should work in close union with their clergy in the coming election, that the results might be of a nature to assure the safety of their schools.

### FRANCE.—Distasteful Duty

A Paris correspondent states that one morning recently 1000 troops, infantry, cavalry, and artillery, accompanied by 65 mounted police, left Vannes by special trains to ensure the expulsion of the few monks known as the 'Brothers of Lamennias,' who were in charge of the head house of their Order at Floermel, in Brittany. The bell of the convent chapel kept ringing the tocsin from four o'clock in the morning. The troops on arrival surrounded the building, and the official liquidator, on being refused admittance, ordered the doors to be broken open. Whilst this was going on a patient who was in the convent infirmary died. A threatening crowd collected, but the display of military was such that they made no serious attempt to prevent the expulsion from being carried out. Six officers of the Vannes garrison refused to take part in the proceedings, and were placed under arrest. It is said that after a period of imprisonment in a fortress they will be dismissed from the Army.

### Return of the Nuns

The recent laicisation of the Marseilles hospital (writes the Paris correspondent of the 'Glasgow Observer') has caused some sensation, as the Hospital Commission, presided over by Dr. Quiriol, had fought the moderate Municipal Council on the question and had carried the day. The nuns left on the 1st of January. Dr. Quiriol and his colleagues were satisfied, but it soon became evident that it was easier to expel the nuns than to replace them. Everything went from bad to worse, and in the few weeks which followed the departure of the nuns the ratio of hospital mortality in Marseilles increased fivefold. In the face of these results, Dr. Quiriol—to his credit be it said—did not hesitate to recognise that he had made a mistake in working for the expulsion of the nuns. He has requested the Superioress to allow her nuns to return to the hospitals, and particularly to the one under his own charge; and this is now being done. A curious question is thereby raised, and the Public Prosecutor is considering whether Dr. Quiriol should not be prosecuted for opening, without authorisation, a Congregational establishment. This is enough to show the effects of the beautiful regime we live under.

### ROME.—The Patriarchate of Venice

Monsignor Scalabrini, the Bishop of Piacenza, concerning whom several paragraphs have recently appeared the press, as it is reported that he will shortly be nominated to the Patriarchate of Venice in succession to Pius X., is a rather distant family connection of the Bishop of Salford, Dr. Casartelli. Bishop Scalabrini has completed his 64th year, and has been 29 years Bishop of Piacenza, having been consecrated to that See at the early age of 35. Before that he was Professor in the Seminary of Como. As Bishop, one of his chief cares has been the welfare of the Italian emigrants to America, in whose interest and at the request of Leo XIII. he visited the United States some two years ago. The appointment is so opposed to the Bishop's own desires that it is now considered unlikely to take place. Monsignor Scalabrini was one of the episcopal guests bidden to Manchester for the consecration of Bishop Casartelli last September, but was unfortunately prevented by urgent business from attending.

### SCOTLAND.—A Bequest

It has been announced that the late Canon Donlevy left a sum of £1000 for the erection of a new marble altar in St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh.

### A Prelate's Coat of Arms

The Right Rev. Dr. Chisholm, Bishop of Aberdeen (writes a correspondent of the 'Catholic Herald'), has