

'I never read newspapers or anything else now,' replied the man, a faint reflection of Jack's eagerness showing itself above his apathy.

'But you should inquire into this,' said Jack. 'The name struck me as peculiar when I read the notice, which is why I remember it. The solicitors are in Castle Street—Messrs. Croft and Owens. Can you prove your identity?'

'Yes. I had a dim hope of one day going home like the prodigal, so did not quite blot myself out. If you would care to know what the "something to my advantage" is—'

'Of course I would,' answered Jack, warmly. 'There is my address. Call, or send a note. With all my heart I hope you are on the way to something good.'

He hastened to rejoin Cicely, who listened with deep interest to his narration of his remarkable conversation with the man.

'It is like a page from a story,' she commented. 'Jack, don't you hope that there will be a "happy ever after" for the poor fellow?'

Several days later Jack received a letter dated from a nursing home in the city. It stated that Mr. Edmund Briarly was lying there seriously ill with pneumonia, and had expressed an earnest desire to see Mr. Walmsley. With the smallest possible loss of time Jack betook himself to the institution, and was soon in the presence of the unfortunate man whom he had befriended, who could only gasp forth a few broken sentences of gratitude, and a brief summary of the concluding portion of his sad life history.

'My father died a few years ago. Thank heaven, he forgave me, and would have taken me back, but he could not find me. He never altered his will, and his fortune comes to me too late—too late, I mean, for me to misuse and squander. The solicitors had me brought here. Thanks to you, I am dying in comfort. I am thinking that if he could forgive, and if you, a stranger, could be kind and pitiful to a wretched outcast, surely the One Who died for me—surely She who told him, "They have no wine," will compassionate my greater necessity.'

'You are a Catholic?' almost gasped Jack. 'Oh, then—then let me fetch a priest!'

When Jack left the institution an hour later, the repentant prodigal had gone to that Father Who is best pleased when His children are safe home with Him. The valley of the shadow had been brightened by the sacramental presence of the Redeemer and by the heartfelt prayers of 'kindred in Christ.'

'I distinctly told you ivy leaves, Cicely! The idea of sticking roses into a toque like that! You are a selfish, careless little monkey!'

Miss Rimmer, returned from holiday-making, bounced into the sitting-room, the offending headgear in her hand, but she paused at sight of Jack Walmsley and wished that she had spoken a trifle less loudly and harshly.

'Don't mind me,' he said, genially. 'May I mention that you will soon have a chance of getting your millinery properly done, as Cicely is pledged for the future to trim my toques only. We intend to be married in September.'

'Mamma will have something to say about that,' declared Miss Rimmer, with rather spiteful significance.

'Mamma' had indeed much to say, but it was all of an approving and complimentary nature when she learned that, through a succession of strange circumstances, Jack Walmsley had become a wealthy man. To him had Edmund Briarly bequeathed the whole of his money.—'Ave Maria.'

The Catholic World

ENGLAND.—His Last Work

What may be regarded as the late Cardinal Vaughan's last literary work is shortly to be published. It is entitled 'The Young Priest,' and deals with that period of the young ecclesiastic's life which the Cardinal regarded as the most anxious and critical of his career. The manuscript was finished a short time before the Cardinal's death, and he devised it to his brother, Monsignor John S. Vaughan.

A Distinction

The University of Louvain has conferred an honorary doctorate on Abbot Gasquet, O.S.B., in recognition of the value of his historical writings.

Church Improvement

The Most Rev. Dr. Bourne, Archbishop of Westminster, unveiled on a Sunday recently a handsome new

high altar, which has been placed in St. Joseph's Retreat, Highgate, at a cost of £2000, by Mrs. Lootens, in memory of her husband and of the Rev. Father Lootens. Pontifical High Mass was sung by Bishop Stanley, and the preacher was Bishop Bagshawe, who mentioned that the day was the tenth anniversary of the death of the Rev. Father Gerard, the builder of the church. In addition to the erection of the altar, the sanctuary has been decorated with frescoes, representing the Nativity, the death of St. Joseph, and the Crucifixion, at a cost which will exceed £700.

The Bishopric of Southwark

The news (says the 'Catholic Times') that the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda has definitely decided to recommend the Holy Father to appoint Father Amigo to the Bishopric of Southwark puts an end to a state of suspense which must have been trying to all concerned. The delay was caused by the difficulty experienced at Rome in making a choice between ecclesiastics whose merits are so deserving of recognition and whose claims were, naturally enough, urged with very earnest advocacy. One of the most admirable features in the government of the Catholic Church is the unanimity with which the decisions of the Holy See are received. When Rome has spoken all Catholics must readily accept the decision. Now that the choice of the authorities has fallen upon Father Amigo, Catholics of every shade of opinion will heartily give him their sympathy and support in the important work that lies before him. In the prime of life, full of energy, and animated by the highest possible motives, he enters upon his new duties with the promise of a most successful episcopate, and in schemes for the advancement of the Church in the metropolis there will, no doubt, be the closest co-operation between him and his distinguished friend, the Archbishop of Westminster.

FRANCE.—Not the Cause

'It is a well known fact,' remarks a writer in the London 'Athenaeum,' 'that in France the discomfiture of the Catholic Church is not the triumph of Protestantism. This is shown by the attitude of certain eminent Protestants like M. Ribot, who has been a most active opponent of the extreme anti-clerical policy of the Waldeck-Rousseau and Combes Ministries. We might also call attention to the resolutions of the Lutheran synod of Paris last autumn deploring the same policy.'

ROME.—Admitted to Minor Orders

The Rev. W. H. Drage, formerly curate of All Saints' Church, Plymouth, who became a convert some months back, is a student of the College of St. Bede, Rome. He has now been admitted to Minor Orders. Mr Drage is one of several converts who worked at All Saints' during the Rectorship of Father Chase, and who have become students (as did Father Chase) of the College of St. Bede.

A New Departure

According to the 'Daily News,' Cardinal Merry del Val, the Papal Secretary of State, has made arrangements that in future all Encyclical Letters emanating from the Vatican shall be published not only in Latin, German, French, and Italian, as hitherto, but likewise in English, and that this version shall be officially issued and simultaneously with those in the other languages.

The Pope and the People

A correspondent of the 'Westminster Gazette' at Rome writes: 'It is really astonishing, when one recalls the stately days of Leo XIII., to mark the changes in the Vatican under the new Pope. On the grand staircases women with babies in their arms, poor folk from the Borgo, and rough-clad peasants shock the propriety of papal chamberlains. Pius X. likes to see them all, and the poorer they are the better he is pleased. Almost every afternoon he receives some hundreds of people in the great gallery of the Maps.'

SCOTLAND.—Presentation to a Priest

The Very Rev. Canon Stuart, of St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, was recently the recipient of a substantial presentation from his former parishioners of St. Columba's. The Rev. Father Mullan occupied the chair, and was supported by an array of clergy from all parts of the archdiocese. The proceedings were inaugurated by a high-class concert. During an interval an address was read, and the presentation made. The latter consisted of the Canon's portrait in oils, a purse of sovereigns, and a carriage cloak. The address, which was read by Mr. Edward Macdonald, an esteemed member of the congregation and a convert to the faith, expressed sincere regret at Canon Stuart's severance from the mission after thirteen years' connection with it, and enumerated the work he accomplished during his pastorate, which included the establishment of the schools, the purchase of the presbytery, and the freeing of the church from debt. The address also referred in