

time. I was always hungry but I never stole anything. I always remembered the Sister of Charity who taught me to be honest. When I was tempted, I seemed to feel her cool hand on my forehead, as I had often felt it when a child. At last I enlisted. You know how much a soldier has at any time, and now we have siege and famine.'

The Duke was kind-hearted; and on listening to this terrible story of privation from a soldier whose uniform was exactly like his own, he felt deeply moved. It was well for his high-bred indifference that the evening breeze dried his eyes which were wet with tears.

'Jean,' he said, 'if we live through this dreadful war, I may be able to be of service to you. At present there is no place to get food except at our commissariat; but as I have more rations than my appetite craves, we will share them, won't we, comrade?'

The hand-clasp which sealed this compact was sincere; then, as it was getting dark, the two went into the tavern where about a dozen men were stretched out on heaps of straw, and, lying down side by side, they too soon slept the deep sleep of fatigue.

About midnight Jean-Victor awoke, roused by the pangs of hunger, doubtless. The wind had swept away the clouds, and a ray of moonlight, streaming in through a hole in the roof where the chimney had been, illumined the graceful blonde head of the Duke, making him look like an Endymion. Jean-Victor was looking at the sleeping figure with mute admiration, when the door opened and the sergeant called out the names of the five men who were to relieve the sentinels posted along the road. The Duke was of the number, but so soundly was he sleeping that he did not hear the call.

'Let me go in his place, Sergeant,' said Jean. 'He's tired out, and I'm his comrade.'

'As you please,' replied the officer.

Half an hour later near and rapid firing resounded through the night air. In an instant the men were on their feet. They crept out of the tavern, their fingers on the triggers of their guns, and looked cautiously up the road, which shone white in the moonlight.

'What time is it?' asked the Duke. 'I was to go on duty to-night.'

'Jean-Victor went in your place,' someone replied.

Just then a soldier came running down the road.

'What's going on?' all asked, as he halted to get his breath.

'The Prussians are coming! Let's get to the fort in a hurry.'

'And your comrades?'

'They're all coming—all but Jean-Victor.'

'Where is he?' cried the Duke.

'Dead' hit in the head with a bullet. He didn't have time to think. He never knew what hurt him, poor fellow!—'Ave Maria.'

The Catholic World

AFRICA—Return of a Missionary.

The Rev. Father McDermott, of the Congregation of the Holy Ghost, who has done good work for the Faith in Nigeria, is returning to Africa after his visit to Great Britain and Ireland. He has not only succeeded in procuring for the Nigerian mission the services of several Brothers, but he has collected, especially in Ireland, a good sum of money. He is taking out five Sisters in addition to the three already determined on for Southern Nigeria. They are much needed for hospital duties, and the self-sacrifice of which the Sisters give proof in ministering to the afflicted makes a deep impression on the natives. Father McDermott, instead of going directly to Calabar, is proceeding up the Niger River to the new cotton fields, in which he has taken an earnest and practical interest. The work there is going on with every prospect of success.

ENGLAND—A Golden Wedding.

The golden wedding of Sir Percival and Lady Radcliffe was celebrated recently at Ridding Park, near Harrowgate. The Bishop of Leeds celebrated Mass, and a Brief from the Pope was read, enrolling Sir Percival a Knight of St. Gregory.

Catholics at Oxford.

Amongst those who were presented recently at Oxford for degrees were the following Catholics:—M. A., E. G. O. Vignaux, of Pope's Hall; B. A., W. H. Connolly, of Hunter Blair's Hall; C. C. Catterly, R. J. S. Monteith, C. D. Plater, and I. C. Scoles, of Pope's Hall.

A Catholic Custom.

Following the custom common to Catholic countries, Mass of the Holy Ghost—the 'Red Mass,' because of the color of the vestments—was heard recently by the

Catholic judges, barristers, and solicitors. For the first time the Mass was said at the new Catholic Cathedral, the Church of SS. Anselm and Cecilia, in Lincoln's Inn Fields, having hitherto been used. The Cathedral was crowded, and in the front portion of the nave seats were reserved for barristers and solicitors, the former wearing their wigs and gowns. Chairs were set before the high altar for the use of the judges, and of these two were present, Lord Justice Mathew, who wore his robes of black and gold, and Mr. Justice Walton, who was in scarlet and ermine. Sir John Day, who retired from the Bench some years ago, also occupied one of these seats.

Catholic Mothers.

Nearly a thousand London mothers, many of them accompanied by their children, assembled in the nave of Westminster Cathedral one evening recently for Vespers and Compline. Archbishop Bourne, addressing the congregation, dwelt upon the powerful, penetrating, and permanent character of a mother's influence, and impressed upon his hearers that it was only by prayer and good example that they could fulfil their high function and discharge the grave responsibilities which attached to it. The service was concluded by a solemn Benediction, and the Archbishop then walked down the nave, blessing the mothers and their children.

FRANCE—Ministerial Action.

The Minister of Justice (writes a Paris correspondent) has taken advantage of the Long Vacation to have the famous Triptych of the Court of Cassation removed. When crosses and religious emblems were removed, early in the year, from all Courts of Justice, the Court of Cassation, the highest Court of Appeal in France, protested against the historic work of art, which dates from Louis XII., being taken from its possession, and for some time it looked as though the Government had given way. But as soon as the judges and lawyers left, M. Combes' workmen walked in, and the Triptych was removed to the Louvre. At their first meeting on the re-opening of the Courts, the judges unanimously adopted a resolution protesting against the Government's action, congratulating the First President on the steps he had taken to prevent the removal of the Triptych, and appointing a committee to consider what steps should be taken to get back the Court's property.

Not a Matter of Principle.

The closing of clerical educational establishments (writes a Paris correspondent) is not in all cases purely a matter of principle. It implies also, sometimes, certain material advantages, of which the Simon Pures of the Bloc are not above availing themselves, as is shown by the following. One of the leading members of M. Combes' majority, Radical member for one of the Departments of Brittany, had secured the appointment of a friend and neighbor of his, a retired naval officer, to the post of Governor of a small group of islands which were lately declared a French colony. The officer hesitated, as he was a married man with a family and the salary was only 12,000 francs (£480). 'Take the appointment in any case,' said the Deputy to his friend. 'We shall see to your requirements. The Minister cannot give you a higher salary, and the credits do not allow of more being paid. But there is over there a Marist College which is paid a Government subsidy. We shall suppress it. This will leave you with some more money, and the business of the liquidation should bring you an important addition to your salary.' This instructive conversation—about which the officer made no mystery, and which he gave out in explanation of his acceptance of such a poorly paid post—is now the edification of Brittany.

ROME—Congratulations.

On the occasion of his name day Cardinal Merry del Val received many visits from Cardinals and high prelates, who offered greetings and presents. Monsignor Stonor, who was slightly indisposed, wrote a letter conveying his good wishes, at the same time sending his Eminence as a present a history of St. Anthony the Hermit. The Cardinal was very pleased with the present, which he has decided to place in the Vatican Library.

SCOTLAND—A New Church.

There was recently laid the foundation stone of St. John's new church, Portobello, by the Archbishop of St. Andrew's and Edinburgh, in the presence of over thirty priests, a large gathering of the congregation, and many lay friends from near and far, including several prominent Protestants of the town as well as many of the leading Catholics of Edinburgh and district.

A Successful Bazaar.

Towards the end of October a great Catholic bazaar was held in Dundee in aid of the debt of St. Andrew's