

ENGLAND—Cause of Canonization

A Rome correspondent states that it is proposed to introduce at Rome the cause of canonization of Father Dominic, the Passionist, who received Cardinal Newman into the Catholic Church.

The Diocese of Birmingham

The Right Rev. Edward Hsley, Bishop of Birmingham, who has been celebrating his Episcopal Jubilee, is only the second Bishop of that diocese since the restoration of the Catholic Hierarchy in 1850. He presents an interesting link with that event by reason of the fact that he was consecrated by Dr. Ullathorne, the first Bishop of Birmingham, who represented the English Vicars-Apostolic in Rome when they petitioned for the restoration of the Hierarchy.

Catholic Re-union at Oxford

A reunion was held in the Town Hall, Oxford, recently, to celebrate the silver jubilee of the Bishop of Birmingham. Lord Edmund Talbot, M.P., presided, and among those present were Sir John Day, Lord C. Crichton-Stuart, Lord Fielding, the Hon. A. Bertie, Monsignor Kennard, Father Bernard Vaughan, and Mr. Grissell, Papal Chamberlain. Heartly congratulations were offered by the chairman, Father Day, Mr. Gresham Wells, Monsignor Kennard, and Mr. Urquhart to the Bishop, who briefly acknowledged the compliment. Father Vaughan, in addressing the gathering, said that he had received a telegram from the Vatican as follows:—'The Holy Father blesses you and all taking part in the jubilee welcome to your good Bishop.'

Westminster Cathedral

A movement has been instituted by the 'Catholic Herald' to raise funds, estimated at £20,000, amongst the Irish people in Great Britain, for the decoration of one of the side chapels in Westminster Cathedral in honor of St. Patrick and the Irish saints. Archbishop Bourne has written cordially approving of the project; and Dr. O'Donnell, Bishop of Raphoe, and Dr. Fenton have agreed to become trustees of the fund. Lord Justice Mathew has been asked to become a third trustee. Dr. O'Donnell in agreeing to act says that the chapel should be worthy of Ireland's faith, and of its landmarks in England, past and present. In the seventh century Irish missionaries from Lindesfarne evangelised the greater part of England, and in all England at the present time the bulk of the Catholic population is Irish, or of Irish descent. To these two great achievements of Irish faith on English soil, the Irish chapel of Westminster Cathedral should do ample honor. Then the numerous Irish population resident in London rightly desire to see in the great city a beautiful chapel that will enshrine the holiest records of their race and fortify their resolution to uphold the unbroken tradition of Irish love for the faith of Christ. Irishmen visiting London will seek in such a shrine for a congenial haven of rest. To residents and to visitors alike may the chapel of St. Patrick and the Irish Saints be a joy and an inspiration.

HOLLAND—An Innovation

Queen Wilhelmina, in appointing a Catholic, Herr Jonkherr Van Green, as her private secretary, puts one of that faith in a responsible position in the royal household for the first time since the Reformation.

ROME—Silver Jubilee

Cardinal Vincenzo Vannutelli recently celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his Episcopacy, he having been created Titular Archbishop of Sardi in 1880. A solemn 'Te Deum' was sung on the occasion. His Eminence received many congratulations from Great Britain, and especially from Ireland, where he made many friends during his recent visit. Monsignor James Smith, Archbishop of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, the only member of the British Episcopacy in Rome, was present at the ceremony, and congratulated the Cardinal, in company with Monsignor Fraser, Rector of the Scottish College. The Pope sent an autograph letter to Cardinal Vannutelli congratulating him on his Jubilee and on the many missions he has so successfully accomplished in the interests of the Church.

Beatifications

To the list of beatifications already given in our columns as likely to take place during the coming year, another well-known name may now be added (says the London 'Tablet'). It is as good as certain that the process of the Venerable Duns Scotus will be completed during the year 1905. Simultaneously with this announcement comes the news that the doubt as to his birthplace has been at last cleared up. A manuscript has been discovered, dating from

less than half a century from his death, in which he is described as 'e provincia Hiberniensi,' so that Dr. Healy, now Bishop of Tuam, was well justified when he showed in the 'Ecclesiastical Record' over twenty years ago that the 'Subtle Doctor' was an Irishman.

Eucharistic Congress

The sixteenth international Eucharistic Congress will be held at Rome from the 4th to the 7th June, 1905. This organisation was founded twenty-five years ago, and the first international Congress was held at Lille in 1881. It is proposed, consequently, to celebrate in the capital of the Catholic world the silver jubilee of the work of the Eucharistic Congresses. The city of Rome has been chosen for the coming Congress at the express request of Pius X., who desires that the utmost external solemnity should give to these Eucharistic celebrations a character of exceptional grandeur. Special pilgrimages will be arranged in France, Belgium, and Spain on the most advantageous terms. Committees are being formed amongst the Catholics of other nations also, all of whom desire to be represented at the Congress.

The Pastoral Character

During the celebrations in honor of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin the Holy Father delivered an allocution to a large number of Bishops from every part of the Church. The 'Univers' has obtained an almost verbatim report of his words from some who heard them. Especially did the Pope urge watchfulness over the seminaries. An atmosphere of independence, he said, not only in matters of obedience, but of doctrine, had penetrated the sanctuary. Certain young priests, animated by the critical spirit which rules to-day, had come to lose all respect for the science derived from the great masters in theology, the Fathers and Doctors of the Church, who interpret the revealed deposit of truth. 'If ever,' he concluded, 'you have in your seminaries a savant of this new type, get rid of him as soon as possible, and do not, at any cost, impose hands upon him. You will always repent of having ordained one such, even one only, never of having excluded him from Orders.' Such words from the Holy Father (says the 'Catholic Times') are a proof of his recognition of the supreme importance of the sincerity which should accompany the pastoral charge.

SOUTH AFRICA—Golden Jubilee

In recognition of the golden jubilee of his priesthood, the Right Rev. Dr. Leonard, Bishop of Cape Town and Vicar Apostolic of the Western District of the Colony, was the recipient of addresses and gifts from the Catholic clergy and laity in the Cape Peninsula and throughout the whole of his Vicariate. Congratulations were poured in from all sides. The address from St. Mary's parish, Cape Town, was accompanied by a purse of 450 sovereigns. The Bishop, who is in feeble health, had a most cordial reception. In the addresses testimony was borne to the great success of his work as a Bishop.

UNITED STATES—Expressions of Sympathy

It is pleasant to notice (says the 'Catholic Standard'), among the tokens of respect and sympathy tendered to Bishop Spalding of Peoria, in his serious illness, that not only in the different Catholic churches but in nearly every Protestant church in Peoria there were prayers for his recovery, and that the Protestant Ministerial Association, at a meeting on January 9, passed resolutions expressing their deepest sympathy for their Catholic brother.

Generous Offers

It is announced that six men have pledged £1000 each towards raising the sum of £30,000 which is desired to erect a new building for the House of the Good Shepherd in Chicago. These men are Archbishop Quigley, Michael Cudahy, John R. Walsh, John Cudahy, John A. Lynch and John F. Bremner. Twenty-five men will be asked for subscriptions of this size and then an appeal will be made to the public.

Catholic Statistics

The 'Catholic Directory' for 1905 presents some interesting statistics. The figures for the United States are: Archbishops, 15; Bishops, 88; clergy, 13,857; churches, 11,387; seminaries, 83; students, 3,926; colleges for boys, 191; academies for girls, 692; schools in parishes, 4235; children attending, 1,031,578; orphan asylums, 252; orphans, 37,822; charitable institutions, 987; persons in institutions, 1,201,899. Total population, 12,462,793. The archdiocese of New York is the largest in the United States and the smallest is that of Baker City, Oregon, with a Catholic population of 3,218.