

'Come,' said Madame Blanchet, tenderly clasping her arms about the frenzied and grief-stricken girl—'come, let us go to your father.'

Emma went with her like a child. When they came to the room where they had laid him, Madame lifted the handkerchief from the cold white face.

'See!' she said. 'How peaceful he looks—how content! His last wish was for the Sacrament of Penance, his last thought a prayer. He is in the hands of God. Be consoled, my child! Do not despair. You, too, will be forgiven. God is very merciful.'

For a moment Emma gazed uncomprehendingly into the face of the good woman. Then the words which she had just heard seemed to pierce her bewildered brain. As she gazed lovingly at the face of her dead father, tears long delayed coursed down her pallid cheeks. After a few moments she turned to Madame Blanchet.

'He is in purgatory,' she said. 'As you remarked a while ago, he is in the merciful hands of God. I believe it, and I will live henceforward so as to show that I believe it.'

Then, softly sinking to her knees, and clasping her arms about the coffin which held all that remained of the father to whom she had been so devoted, she began to recite aloud the Acts of Faith, Hope, Charity, and Contrition.

As the passionate fervor of the prayers died away into soths, Madame Blanchet saw that the poor girl could endure no more. Tenderly lifting her in her arms, she led her away from the sorrowful scene, hallowed and blessed by this sublime consecration.

From that hour Emma Margeron took up the burden of a life devoted to her fellow-beings. As she lived, so she died, lamented by the tears and succored by the fervent prayers of those whom she had befriended, instructed, and assisted on the way of salvation.—'Ave Maria.'

## The Catholic World

### ENGLAND—Papal Distinctions

The Holy Father has been pleased to number among his Domestic Prelates the Very Rev. Provost Dawson, of St. Wilfrid's, York, and Vicar-General of the diocese of Middlesborough; and the Very Rev. Canon Shanahan, of Thornaby, in the same diocese.

### Exiled French Nuns

Exiled French nuns belonging to the Congregation of St. Joseph of Cluny have purchased a small estate in Stafford, where they intend to devote themselves to every kind of good work. They will visit the poor and the sick and teach classes, and they hope to establish a novitiate for English-speaking subjects. The Sisters have houses in almost every part of the British Empire, but till now have never had a house in England.

### FRANCE—The Pope and the President

President Loubet has addressed an autograph letter to the Pope, thanking his Holiness for the congratulations which he sent him on his escape from the attempt which was recently made upon his life and that of the King of Spain while they were returning from the opera in Paris to the Elysee.

### A Cardinal's Jubilee

The 'Semaine Religieuse' of the diocese of Autun publishes a letter addressed by the Pope to Cardinal Perraud on the occasion of the Cardinal's jubilee. The 2nd and 3rd June were the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination and of his first Mass, and were at the same time the seventieth anniversary of the birth and baptism of the Pope. In his letter the Pope writes as follows:—'We shall have great pleasure in celebrating with you these days of the 2nd and 3rd June, in uniting our joy with yours, and in sending the expression of our mutual gratitude to the God Who has shown Himself so good towards us. If, by reason of the trials which the Church of Christ has to suffer in your country, great grief is mixed with our joy on this occasion, know that we take our share, with all our heart, in your joy and in your grief. For, both of us, we ardently love France, you as your mother, we as our daughter.'

### A Matter of Jurisdiction

Grave indeed (remarks the 'Catholic Times') is the blow dealt at the principle of ecclesiastical authority by the article number fifteen of the Separation Bill. Hitherto the Bishops have been able to make their wills operative in the financial, as well as the spiritual, sphere. But henceforth they will be powerless. The local Associations of Worship are to have complete control of the goods of the Church, and as they will be composed of inhabitants living and domiciled in the

commune concerned, it is clear that the principle of ecclesiastical jurisdiction over ecclesiastical property is seriously imperilled. The Bishops will practically cease to wield control in matters affecting parochial property of any kind. Several speakers appealed to the Chambers not to violate the ordinary ecclesiastical legislation, but in vain. The Government resisted every amendment, and forced through the clause as it stood; thus delivering the parishes and their property to a committee of people who may be Catholics, Jews, Free-thinkers, or anything under the sun. The passing of article fifteen will make arrangements with the Holy See more difficult than ever.

### HOLLAND—Catholic Legislators

It is not very many years since the power of the Catholics in Holland was a small, almost a negligible quantity. But they have imitated their German co-religionists in nursing their political strength, and now they are a very strong force. The press has just recorded the results of the general election to the Second Chamber of the States-General. Twenty-three Catholics, thirteen Orthodox Protestants, eight Liberals of the Left, three Liberals of the Right, eight Historic Christians, and five Liberal Democrats have been returned. The Catholics have formed a working agreement with the Orthodox Protestants, and the united body can easily overcome the opposition. They are led by Dr. Kuypers, who has made a close study of politics and has proved an excellent leader under circumstances often of a delicate kind. Whilst the Ministry is conservative in its general principles, its policy is really democratic, and the legislation which it has initiated and carried through has been prolific of advantages to the humblest classes of the people. The inhabitants of Holland are so content with the arrangement between the Catholics and the Orthodox Protestants that their verdict when elections occur is equivalent to a vote of confidence.

### ROME—Catholics and Public Life

An Encyclical Letter addressed by the Holy Father to the Italian Bishops, and dealing with the action of Catholics who are Christian Democrats and the clergy, was published on June 19. His Holiness encourages the institution of popular associations, around which all other associations of an economic character should rally. Catholics are called upon to take a share in public and political life so as to benefit thereby Christian civilisation and promote the material well-being of the people. The Pope goes on to say that the Church has always demonstrated its virtue of adaptiveness according to time and to the needs of civil society, while upholding the integrity of moral faith. Catholics belonging to economic associations and public administrations must always be subject to ecclesiastical authority, at the same time, however, enjoying the fullest freedom regarding temporal interests. The Pope, therefore, reproves those who do not follow that doctrine. After urging the clergy to hold aloof from party strife, his Holiness concludes by bestowing his benediction upon the Italian Bishops, clergy, and people. The Encyclical (adds Rauter's Agency) is regarded as another step towards conciliation between Church and State. Up to the present Catholics have been forbidden to take part in elections.

### SCOTLAND—Opening of a New Church

On Sunday, June 18, St. Joseph's new church, Blantyre, which has been erected at a cost of £9000, and rendered by its architectural beauty quite an ornament to the district, was solemnly opened for divine worship in presence of a large congregation, many of whom were local Protestants of note. The ceremony was performed by Archbishop Maguire, who subsequently presided at the High Mass and preached for the occasion.

### UNITED STATES—A Catholic Vanderbilt

The little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Reginald C. Vanderbilt was recently baptised at St. Joseph's Church, New York, R.I., by the Rev. Louis J. Deady, the rector, the Rev. Wm. A. Doran assisting.

### GREGG SHORTHAND—A NEW ZEALAND RECORD.

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