

# The Catholic World

## ENGLAND—Education Council

A pastoral letter signed by the Archbishop of Westminster and the Bishops of all the Catholic dioceses of England and Wales on the work of the new Catholic Education Council was read recently in all the Catholic churches. The pastoral points out that the Education Council has been established in order to have one strongly-constituted central body to deal with Catholic education under all the aspects which fall under the purview of the Board of Education, and as it is estimated that the income necessary for the most pressing needs of the Council will be £6000 a year, an appeal is made by their Lordships to the faithful for funds.

## Death of Mgr. Nugent

By the death of the Right Rev. Mgr. Nugent the Catholic Church has lost one of its most distinguished prelates and Liverpool one of its most notable citizens. The venerable clergyman, who had reached the patriarchal age of 83, had for some years past lived in retirement after a long and arduous career, which was spent in the service of his fellow-man. His native city was the principal scene of his labors, and the monuments to his philanthropy are numerous and practical. He was a great educational worker, introduced the Sisters of Notre Dame into Liverpool, founded a boys' refuge which saved many a lad from ruin, and organised the League of the Cross, one of the most successful temperance associations of the present day. His zeal for the advancement of Catholicism, his work as a social reformer, and his unceasing labor among the poor won for him the title of Monsignor in 1892, a well-merited distinction which drew him congratulations from all quarters. He was the founder of the 'Catholic Times' and the 'Catholic Fireside,' both of which papers have a very large circulation among English-speaking Catholics. Touching tributes were paid to his memory by the press of Liverpool, the Magistrates of the city, the Council of the Chamber of Commerce, the Volunteers, the Good Templars, and others.

## FRANCE—The Associations of Worship

There can be no doubt now (says the 'Catholic Times') that the French Government, by instituting Associations of Worship in place of the canonical parishes, intend to weaken the collective power of the Church. In the discussion of the details governing these new-fangled Associations, the Ministry resisted every attempt to give them the smallest measure of liberty. They may not receive foundations, nor legacies; they may do practically nothing which a free committee can do. They are tied hand and foot. The money they receive from the church is to keep the priest and the services, and outside these two objects the Associations have no power or control over their own funds. Nay, they may not even accept financial help from the department or the commune, should such help be offered. They are to be kept strictly in tutelage, and their real master will be the State auditor. It is impossible to foresee the effect of this plan of replacing the ancient parishes by new Associations of Worship. But one thing is already evident, the Bishops and priests henceforth have no more power, in matters of finance, than an office boy in the Bank of England. The Separation Bill has reduced them both to mere functionaries. Their position under the Act will be regrettable, and perilous to the best interests of ecclesiastical order.

## ITALY—Catholic Organisation

The Catholic press in Italy has received the Papal Encyclical with expressions of deep gratitude. For some time past, whilst the Pontiff had been maturing his proposals, uncertainty has reigned amongst the Catholics. Many feared that it would not be possible to restore unity in the Catholic ranks. The Encyclical has dissipated all such fears. It is admitted to be a document of high practical value, laying down the basis for a speedy development of the Catholic electoral strength. Already the work has begun. The Pope has appointed a Commission to organise the Catholic forces, and a programme of forthcoming meetings has been drawn up. It is the desire of his Holiness that the Italian Catholics should follow the example set them by their German brethren. He is a close student of Catholic action in Germany, and has been very favorably impressed by the legislation which the Centre Party has succeeded in enacting for the benefit of the workers. If, under the direction of his Holiness and the Bishops, the Italian Catholics can, in the course of time, point to equally

useful measures, as the fruit of their efforts, it is probable that there will be a general organisation of Catholics throughout the world on similar lines.

## ROME—Catholic Missions in the East

According to a cable message received last week the Holy Father has transferred from France to Italy the protectorate of the Franciscan Convents and Missions in Constantinople, Adrianople, Bosnia, and Moldavia. This is regarded as a significant illustration of the improvement in the relations between the Vatican and the Quirinal.

## SCOTLAND—Progress in Glasgow

The progress of the Catholic Church in Glasgow and surrounding districts (writes the correspondent of the 'Freeman's Journal') is truly marvellous. There are to be found in the city to-day many who remember the time when one church did duty for all the Catholic inhabitants. A few Sundays ago, another new mission was opened in the city, viz., St. Luke's, Govan street, which makes the sixth church and parish on the south side. Sixty years ago we had but two priests in the same district; we have now 35. In like manner is the Faith spreading in the north, west, and east of the city. Wherever a new church is opened it is at once filled with earnest congregations. It would seem as if Providence has favored to an extraordinary degree the reign of the present Archbishop. He is constantly being called upon to perform opening ceremonies and invariably preaches on these occasions. That he has been richly endowed with oratorical powers, those who have heard him on both sides of the Channel readily admit, but where he excels most is in administration.

## UNITED STATES—Progress of the Church

Mrs. Jerome, a lady well known in journalistic circles in Sydney and Melbourne, is now now on a visit to the United States, and succeeded a few weeks ago in obtaining an interview with Cardinal Gibbons regarding the position of the Catholic Church there. In reply to a question as to the extent of the work before the Catholic clergy his Eminence said: 'At the present moment the Catholic population of the United States of America numbers about 14,000,000, which is about four times the entire population of your country of Australia. If we add to these figures the Catholic population of the Philippines and Porto Rico, the Catholic population under American Government would exceed 20,000,000! In the hierarchy of the United States the Bishops number about 100, and these include one Cardinal, 13 Archbishops, and 86 Bishops, and every year we are adding new Sees in the country, and I am happy to say that conversions are occurring in every direction.'

In his letter of apology to the secretaries of the Home Rule meeting at Sydney, the Hon. C. C. Kingston, M.H.R., the Federal ex-Minister of Customs, states that his health and business matters prevented him from leaving Adelaide for a while. And he adds: 'Let me, however, take this opportunity of assuring you that neither my friendship for Mr. Redmond nor my sympathy with the great cause of Irish Home Rule has diminished, or is likely to diminish in the slightest degree. All honor to such patriots as he, and his brother, who for many years have been fighting to secure to Ireland those blessings of self-government which we all enjoy in Australia. And may the good God speed the early accomplishment of their hopes.'

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