

# The Catholic World

## AFRICA—Murder of Missionaries

The Press Association sends a long account of the escape of the Universities (Church of England) Missionaries, whose station at Masasi, in German East Africa, was sacked by natives in August last. The black rebels burned down their stations and killed the Europeans. Canon Porter in the course of a letter says: 'A remarkable experience befell the Benedictine Mission. Almost before they realised what had happened, a Brother had been killed and a Father and Brother wounded. In their terrible plight they all solemnly knelt while Father Leo gave absolution. On seeing the Sign of the Cross the raiders fled.' All the Fathers were seriously wounded. One of the Sisters is missing (which means dead), and the Bishop and four of his companions have been killed.

## ENGLAND—Appointment of a Bishop

The news from Rome to the effect (says the 'Catholic Times') that Monsignor Canon Cowgill has been promoted from the position of secretary to that of Coadjutor to the Bishop of Leeds will be received with sincere satisfaction throughout the diocese. Monsignor Cowgill is not less the choice of the Holy Father and the Bishop than of the clergy and laity, with whose work and wishes the duties of his position have long made him familiar. His fitness for his new post is so well known that when it was reported that a Coadjutor was about to be selected by the Holy See, his name at once occurred to the Catholic public as that of a priest eminently qualified to fill the responsible office. Under Dr. Gordon's administration, steady and constant progress has been achieved by sturdy, unremitting energy. The diocese has been equipped with first-rate ecclesiastical buildings and educational institutions, and everything possible has been done to meet the requirements of the missions. That wise policy will be continued, and as Monsignor Cowgill is popular with all classes, it may be safely assumed that there will be no slackening of co-operation with the episcopal efforts.

## FRANCE—Cures at Lourdes

The Rev. Father Brady, Newport-on-Tay, who recently returned from a visit to Lourdes, described to the congregation of St. Mary's Church, Lochce, the miracles which he witnessed at the shrine. He said they were wrought during the procession of the Blessed Sacrament. Among the infirm persons was a girl, who had been brought to Lourdes dying of consumption. When the Bishop touched her with the monstrance she jumped up and cried out in French, 'I am cured.' She was at once taken back to the hospital and examined by the doctors, who found that she had been completely cured, and that both her lungs were sound. In the same way a woman, suffering from cancer and a paralysed girl were restored.

## ROME—An Ecumenical Council

Of much importance to the whole Church is the news given by the Abbe Odelin to a representative of the 'Gaulois' on his return to France from Rome, where he has been as a member of the 'Workingmen's Pilgrimage.' The Abbe, who had a special audience with the Pope, states that as soon as the Separation Bill has been passed by the French Senate the Bishops will hold a general meeting, and with the approval of the Holy See will adopt resolutions to meet the new situation. His Holiness, the Abbe added, intends to convoke an Ecumenical Council so soon as circumstances will permit. It will sit at Rome, and will be a continuation of the Vatican Council, which was interrupted in 1870. There is certainly an ample programme of work for a Council to undertake. There are the social and educational questions, and numerous administrative matters which might well receive attention. The reunion of the Churches, a subject to which Leo XIII. devoted so much thought, the bearing of modern discoveries on Biblical criticism, and the position created for the religious Orders will also, it may be assumed, receive consideration from the Council.

## British Pilgrims

Writing of the reception by the Holy Father of the pilgrims of the English Catholic Association, a Rome correspondent says:—The audience was attended by more than the usual pomp. The Pope, in white, attended by the Archbishop of Westminster, the Bishop of Salisbury, and the Bishop of Liverpool, passed down the hall, and expressed kind words as he went from one to another. Afterwards a book containing the address signed by 6500 British Catholics, including Lord Denbigh, expressing loyalty to the Holy See, was presented. Father

J. P. Bannin then presented an offering of over £100. The Pope thanked the pilgrims and gave the Apostolic blessing. In the evening the pilgrims dined together, covers being laid for 200. Complimentary speeches were delivered, and Archbishop Bourne congratulated the Catholic Association on the success of its pilgrimage. After dinner he held a reception.

## Sports at the Vatican

The closing function in connection with the sports at the Vatican (writes a Rome correspondent) was extremely impressive. At eleven o'clock punctually his Holiness, preceded by the Swiss and Noble Guards, and accompanied by Monsignor Cogiano de Azevedo, Major-domo, and Monsignor Bisleti, Master of the Chamber, and by two Chamberlains, Monsignors Misciatelli and Sanz de Samper, entered the Sala Regia, where all the athletes, numbering over 600, were assembled, lining three sides of the vast hall. His Holiness was dressed all in white and wore a satin band round his waist embroidered in gold, red shoes, and a handsome pectoral cross. He looked about him smiling with satisfaction at the fine display of young men. All the athletes knelt down and kissed in turn the Holy Father's hand as he passed through their ranks, caressing the youngest and exchanging a few words almost with each. Then, smiling pleasantly, he ascended the throne, while tremendous applause and cries of 'Long live his Holiness!' burst forth from all the lads present. Commendatore Pericoli read an address. The Holy Father then rose, and in a clear voice delivered a discourse, saying it was indeed a sweet consolation to him to find himself among them, who represented the age of generous inspirations and of brilliant and powerful victories. 'Our Lord Jesus Christ,' said he, 'used to meet with His best friends amongst the young, and I, looking at you now, can tell you that I love you. More than a father, I am a brother and a friend to you, and as such I admire, praise, and bless you with all my heart, all your noble sports and matches, as all bodily exercises tend to prevent anything bad from finding a place in your hearts and to keep you from sloth, which is the father of all vices. Be good, have faith, piety, and religion, and you will be strong to overcome human prejudices, and never feel ashamed that you are Catholic Christians. Your actions will bear fruit, and even your adversaries will be obliged to bow before your virtues. I bless you all here present, also your families at home, your friends, your clubs, and your sports. I bless you all, my dear children, with a father's love!' The Holy Father's speech was greeted with great applause and enthusiastic shouts of 'Long live the Pope!' His Holiness was visibly affected and expressed his high satisfaction at the great success of the sports. In the afternoon all the athletes assembled in the Court of San Damaso for the distribution of prizes, but owing to the uncertain weather only the three grand prizes were handed personally by the Pope to the winners.

## SCOTLAND—A Record

At the next ordination ceremony in Glasgow archdiocese no fewer than twelve students of St. Peter's Seminary will receive Holy Orders. This number marks a record in the history of the College, the highest previous number being eight.

## Death of a Highland Priest

General feeling of regret was felt in all parts of Scotland at the news of the death of the Rev. Allan Macdonald, which took place at Eriskay, South Uist, after an acute attack of influenza. Born at Fort William in 1859, he entered Blairs College in 1871, Valladolid in 1876, and was ordained at Glasgow in St. Andrew's Cathedral by the late Archbishop Eyre in 1882. His funeral was attended by a number of priests from the mainland and different parts of Scotland. Amongst the chief mourners were Mrs. McInnes (sister), Glasgow; Mrs. McHardy (sister), Helensburgh; and Mr. Macdonald (brother), Inverness, for all of whom the deepest and sincerest sympathy is felt and expressed.

The Convent of Mercy, Yass, prepared 41 candidates for the practical and theoretical examinations in connection with the Sydney College of Music, all of whom were successful.

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