

disquieting reports about the health of Cardinal Callegari, Bishop of Padua, a man of delicate health, whose condition had caused concern last summer, and of Cardinal Moran, Archbishop of Sydney. Happily, Cardinal Gotti rallied about January 25, and the improvement has steadily continued.

The Swiss Guard

On Sunday, January 21, took place the first of the fetes in celebration of the fourth centenary of the founding of the Swiss Guard. The commemoration commenced with Mass in the Vatican, celebrated by the Holy Father, at which only the Swiss Guard and its officers were present. 'At ten o'clock a 'Te Deum' was sung in the chapel of the corps at the German Cemetery. At noon a tablet commemorating the occasion was unveiled with great ceremony in the Swiss barracks at the Vatican. In 1505 Pope Julius II. obtained a permanent company of 200 men from the Swiss cantons to guard his vast household. Michael Angelo was commissioned to devise a costume for the new guard, and shortly afterwards the great artist had them clad in the black and yellow uniforms which look so picturesque to-day in the great halls and corridors of the Vatican. Twenty-two years subsequent to this event—in 1527—Rome was taken and sacked by the hordes of the Constable de Bourbon. History tells us that some thousands of those fierce soldiers attacked the Square of St. Peter's and were gallantly held at bay for six hours by the faithful Swiss Guard. When overwhelming odds at length prevailed, the Guard was slaughtered to a man. The heroic fidelity to the person of Christ's Vicar has been frequently displayed since, especially during the invasion of 1860 and 1870 by Victor Emmanuel.

Visitors from Many Lands

One never realises the power and majesty of the Church (writes the Rome correspondent of the Philadelphia 'Standard and Times') until he has spent some time in Rome, and even then his idea of it is but imperfect and faint unless he has been here during the first days of the new year. During these days the divine commission of 'teaching all nations' given to the Twelve is shown in its fruit in the strange faces to be seen in Rome. We shall not go to the greater or lesser basilicas, to the gorgeous temples or beautiful churches for an instance of the universality of the Church. We go instead to the English-speaking Church of St. Sylvester's, where from January 6 to 13 every year each nation holds a service according to the distinctive rites recognised by the Holy See. During these days, therefore, Solemn High Mass is celebrated each morning according to the Greek, the Syro-Maronite, the Ruthenian, the Rutheno-Greek, the Greek-Slavonic, the Armenian, the Chaldean, and the Syrian rites. Every college of the different European nations takes part in ceremonies there, and sermons are preached in every tongue. In addition to congregations of the officiating priests, people of every persuasion throng this church.

Important Discovery

The greatest interest (writes a Rome correspondent) has been aroused in art circles in Rome by the unexpected discovery of an artistic treasure within the walls of the Vatican Palace. While some workmen were making repairs in one of the rooms the other day, they found that a partition wall and ceiling concealed four hundred beautiful pictures, which seem to belong to the age of Julius II. No sooner did this find come to light than another followed. It was remarked that one end of the floor of the room was not composed of the same material as the remainder. On closer scrutiny an artistic floor, beautifully inlaid, was found hidden away under the one on which the men stood. The floor, which is splendidly preserved, is at present in the hands of the art workmen of the apostolic palace.

UNITED STATES—Chinese Missions

Rev. Henry I. Stark, of the Paulist House in San Francisco, tells some interesting things about the Chinese missions conducted by the Paulists in that city. 'We have a school of 300 Chinese children there. This is conducted under the auspices of the Helpers of the Holy Souls. Five of the Sisters are natives of China. They speak not only Chinese, but Italian, French, and English. They are influential not only in this country, but in China as well. There are eighteen Sisters in our school altogether, and they are doing splendid work among the boys of the Chinese quarter. We have made many converts among the Chinese, and we seem to have the Oriental confidence in a way no other people have ever possessed it.'

A Family Total Abstinence Union

Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Cummings, of Akron, have, with their nine children, organised the Cummings Family Total Abstinence Union, a branch of the Catholic Total

Abstinence Union of Ohio, and have received a charter. Excepting in one other instance, the Costello family, in Cleveland, this is said to be the only case in Ohio where an entire family is organised as a temperance society auxiliary to a State association.

Catholics in Congress

There are fewer Catholics in Congress this year than there have been for some time (says an American contemporary). In the last Congress there were thirty-two, while in this we have only twenty-six. The loss, however, is entirely in the House, the Senate showing an increase of one, making three in all.

Gregorian Chant

In conversation with some of the clergy, on a public occasion lately, Archbishop Quigley said that it was his intention to establish in Chicago a school of music where Gregorian Chant would be taught by professors who received their musical training in the most celebrated conservatories of Europe. He will make it imperative that all organists of churches take a course in this school and receive their diplomas therefrom. In this way, uniformity can be obtained.

The National Chaplain

There have been many Catholic chaplains in the American army, but to-day, for the first time in its history, the 'National Chaplain' is a Catholic. He is the Rev. John F. Leary, of Kansas. He was elected Chaplain-in-chief at the national encampment held last September. The war service of the chaplain was as a member of the Fifteenth New York Engineers. That was before he became a priest. He served in the Wilderness, at Spottsylvania, and at Appomattox. Though he was wounded at Bermuda Hundred, he was able to get back to his regiment in time to be in at the finish at the Appomattox Courthouse. He has been a priest for about a score of years, and has made a reputation as a forceful, witty speaker.

Misplaced Generosity

'It requires a vast deal of courage and charity to be philanthropic,' remarked Sir Thomas Lipton, apropos of Andrew Carnegie's giving. 'I remember when I was just starting in business. I was very poor and making every sacrifice to enlarge my little shop. My only assistant was a boy of fourteen, faithful and willing and honest. One day I heard him complaining, and with justice, that his clothes were so shabby that he was ashamed to go to chapel.'

'There's no chance of my getting a new suit this year,' he told me. 'Dad's out of work, and it takes all of my wages to pay the rent.'

'I thought the matter over, and then took a sovereign from my carefully-boarded savings and bought the boy a stout, warm suit of blue cloth. He was so grateful that I felt repaid for my sacrifice. But the next day he didn't come to work. I met his mother on the street and asked her the reason.'

'Why, Mr. Lipton,' she said, curtsying, 'Jimmie looks so respectable, thanks to you, sir, that I thought I would send him around town to-day to see if he couldn't get a better job.'

The following resolution was proposed by the Rev. D. Lawton (Kilmore) at the meeting in Melbourne in connection with the celebration of St. Patrick's Day:—'That this meeting of Irishmen and friends of Ireland, assembled on Ireland's National Festival, do hereby proclaim their unswerving fidelity to the cause of Home Rule, and their confidence in the Irish National Party, under the leadership of Mr. John Redmond, and assert their belief that the Old Land can never enjoy to the full the blessings of enlightenment St. Patrick brought to Ireland while deprived of the right of self-government on the lines existing in Australia, Canada, and other parts of the British Empire.'

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