

The Catholic World

CHINA—Reported Massacre of Marist Brothers

A Rome correspondent, writing under date March 1, says: 'The Superior of the Marist Brothers here, has received a telegram from Shanghai stating—'five of our brethren have been murdered—three aged 20, two aged 27. The whole community have been destroyed and have joined the army of martyrs.'

ENGLAND—Death of a Priest

The death has occurred at Widnes, Lancashire, of the Very Rev. Dean Finegan, at the age of sixty-five. The deceased gentleman was born in County Meath, and was educated at Navan Seminary and Lisbon. He was made Dean in 1877, and in 1900 he celebrated his silver jubilee as priest. On that occasion he was presented with an address and monstration.

A Franciscan Foundation

The Franciscan Capuchin Fathers of Olton, near Birmingham, have bought St. Kenelm's College, in the parish of Temple Couley, Oxford. Temple Couley has not been the seat of a religious house since 1274, when the Knights Templars, who had a preceptory there, transferred it to the neighboring parish of Sandford. The Franciscan Friars will take possession as soon as the buildings can be put in order for their reception.

The School Question

Four thousand Catholic people of Manchester, Salford, and district, assembled in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, on Monday night, March 5, passed strongly-worded resolutions on the subject of the proposed changes in the Education Act, so far as they may affect religious instruction in Catholic schools. Right Rev. Dr. Casartelli, Bishop of Salford, who presided, said the meeting represented a thoroughly popular movement. It was not the Bishops and clergy who had had to drive the people on; to tell the truth, they had almost had to hold the people back. Personally he had felt himself to be in the position of a man driving a team of mettlesome steeds and holding them in with all his might lest they should go too suddenly and too far. The movement was the outcome of the deep impression on their minds that they were standing at a moment of grave crisis, perhaps the gravest crisis before which the Catholic Church in England had stood for the greater part of a century. The Labor Party seemed committed to an absolutely secular and irreligious education, and in face of that Catholics would have to consider how long they should co-operate with the Labor Party in Parliament. Catholics held true to their faith handed down to them unbroken across the centuries, and which they were bound to hand on unchanged and undiminished to the generations that were to follow.

Catholic Successes

A Classical Fellowship at Jesus College, Cambridge (which was founded by a Catholic Bishop of Ely more than four centuries ago), has just been awarded to Mr. Wilfrid Jerome Farrell, B.A., who graduated with the highest possible honors in classics in 1904. He had previously held an open Scholarship at the same College. Mr. Farrell, who is an alumnus of Ushaw, where his father was before him, is the first Catholic who has been elected in modern times to a Fellowship at Cambridge, though there are several at Oxford. An open Mathematical Scholarship, worth £80 per annum, has just been won at Brasenose College, Oxford, by Mr. Valentine O'Connell Miley, a pupil of the Jesuits at Beaumont College, Old Windsor.

FRANCE—The Future

In his address at the Consistory (says the 'Catholic Times') the Holy Father summarily explained the difficulties of the religious situation in France which the Encyclical described in detail. The Government have displayed the keenest ingenuity in crippling the Church. Everything possible has been done to nullify the authority of the Holy See, and to make the Bishops powerless. In the new law the Roman Pontiff and the Bishops are not mentioned. The whole of the public administration of worship is vested in associations of the citizens, and these are the only religious organisations officially recognised. If any differences arise amongst them, they are to be settled, not by the Bishops or the Holy Father, but by the Council of State. In denouncing the law his Holiness declared that it favors schism, and it is evident that, owing to the action of the State, he fears dissensions in the future.

Still, with the courage of a true Apostle, he urges French Catholics to be of stout heart. Amidst the difficulties of the moment the consoling thought presents itself that if the opponents of the Church in France are wily and determined, the faithful are staunch and true—devoted with their whole hearts to religion and the Holy See.

ROME—The General of the Jesuits

A cable message received on Friday reports the death of Very Rev. Father Luis Martin, General of the Society of Jesus. About a year ago Father Martin was obliged to have his left arm amputated on account of a malignant tumor which developed there. Father Martin, who was a native of Spain, was born in 1846; he entered the Jesuit Order in 1864; was professed in 1881, and made General in 1892.

The Golden Jubilee of the Pope

The Catholic Young Men's Society of Italy has taken up the plan for securing a worthy celebration at Rome and throughout the world of the Pontifical Jubilee of 1908, and has invited the co-operation of kindred societies at home and abroad. It proposes, besides a Roman pilgrimage and Congress, a movement on behalf of youth and poor churches—something like this, very near to the heart of Pius X.

The Irish Martyrs

Cardinal Logue, during his stay here (writes a Rome correspondent), is devoting his attention to the work connected with the canonisation of the Venerable Oliver Plunkett. The case has now reached the stage called 'the introduction of Apostolic process' before the Congregation of Rites for further inquiry. This Congregation has already appointed Cardinal Vincenzo Vannutelli to report on the case. Monsignor Murphy, the late Rector of the Irish College, had been nominated Postulator or supporter of the Beatification, but his death delayed the work. His place will now be taken by another Postulator, who is likely to be the Very Rev. Dr. O'Riordan, the present Rector of the Irish College, who is unfortunately detained at the Home of the Nursing Sisters of the Little Company of Mary through an internal complaint.

SCOTLAND—Religion in Schools

Referring to the question of teaching religion in the schools, Dr. Turner, the Catholic Bishop of Galloway, says in his Lenten Pastoral: 'Our schools are not mere workrooms for training slaves and fitting machines for the service of this world; they are primarily and essentially nurseries of citizens for Heaven. Rather than abandon the mission school, we are prepared to sacrifice presbytery, church, chapel, and everything else. If our resources are too slender to maintain both a priest and a Catholic teacher in the same mission, the priest must go, that the teacher may remain and the children be instructed.'

SOUTH AFRICA—Church Progress

An occasional correspondent in Cape Colony writes as follows to the London 'Tablet':—'Few persons have an adequate idea of the manner in which the Church has progressed in Southern Africa. It was planted in an uncongenial soil, where the prevailing religion was Calvinistic, whose adherents do not really hate Catholicism but a creature of their imagination styled 'Romanism'; where the Blessed Virgin is said to be exalted above our Saviour and idolatry believed and practised. Now there are seven Bishops (Vicars-Apostolic) and one Prefect-Apostolic. In the eastern vicariate of Cape Colony alone there are 55 priests and more than 400 religious. Great successful Jesuit missions exist in Rhodesia, the Oblates possessing flourishing stations in Basutoland, and the Trappists in Natal, Zululand, and Transvaal, are performing a wonderful work. The gospel of work is effectively taught, natives are not taken out of their sphere, and their natural besetting sin of self-concern fanned into a flame which is now, unfortunately, beginning to threaten the white man's rule. 'Africa for the African' is now the teaching of the Ethiopian Church, and the whirlwind following upon the wind of erroneous philosophical and theological teaching makes numbers of men now declare that in enumerating the plagues of South Africa we must add that of 'missionaries.' The organs of Catholicism in South Africa are 'The Catholic Magazine,' published in 'Cape Town under the able editorial direction of Dr. Kolbe, himself a convert; a magazine in Durban, Natal, and the Jesuit Missionary 'Zambesi Record.' In the Parliament of Cape Colony we have only two members, but we have no reason whatever to complain of the Protestant press, and there is a spirit of religious fair-play in existence which renders South Africa comparatively a fair field for Catholics.'