

The Catholic World

AUSTRIA—Catholic Activity

The Catholic Schulverein in Austria numbers now 60,735 members and 439 branch-unions. During the year 1905 the society received 5,658 new members and held 900 different meetings. The main object of the Verein is the support of denominational schools, and opposition to the so-called free schools.

ENGLAND—Papal Honor

The Holy Father has promoted Monsignor William Hill, of the diocese of Salford, from the rank of Private Chamberlain to that of Domestic Prelate. Monsignor Hill was for several years secretary to both Bishop (afterwards Cardinal) Vaughan and Bishop Bilsborrow, and also Chancellor of the Salford diocese. He was nominated Private Chamberlain (cameriere segreto) by Leo XIII in recognition of his many services in 1897, and this title was renewed in 1903 by Pius X., who now gives him this 'step' in the prelature. At present Monsignor Hill is secretary of the Lancashire Infirm Clergy Fund, and is rector of the little country mission of Samlesbury, near Preston.

Proposed Presentation

The Metropolitan Chapter of Westminster are taking steps to make a suitable presentation to the Right Rev. Dr. Johnson, D.D., Bishop of Arundel, who for more than forty years has labored in the administrative service of the archdiocese.

A Memorial

An influential committee of London Catholics has been formed to place a tablet in the Carmelite Church at Kensington, where the Queen of Spain heard Mass on the morning of her departure for her marriage, as a thanksgiving for her Majesty's providential escape in Madrid. The Duchess of Norfolk was the first to subscribe.

Death of a Canon

The death has occurred at Redcar, of the Very Rev. Canon Edward Wedderburn Riddell, one of the oldest and most popular priests in the Middlesbro' diocese. Deceased was connected with one of the oldest Catholic families, being nephew of the eighth Baron Beaumont and brother of the present Bishop of Northampton. He was in his seventy-sixth year. Canon Riddell was educated at Downside and Ushaw, but was ordained at York, and last year he celebrated his golden jubilee as priest and received a handsome public testimonial. He was the first Catholic priest in Redcar, where he resided for thirty-two years, and received the dignity of Canon a quarter of a century ago, when the Middlesbro' diocese was established with Dr. Lacy as Bishop.

London Society

Preaching in London recently at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm street, on the Pharisee and the Publican, Father Vaughan said life, especially the life of the leisured class, was artificial. Society was exposed to the temptation of being idle like the Pharisee, formal, conventional, and unreal, even in prayer. On the stage everything was unreal. Was the London season less conventional or unreal? The debutante beauty might be before God less than her maid who waited up half the night for her, nay, less than the meanest scullery-maid below stairs; while the millionaire with means to buy up whole countries might be in God's sight far less pleasing and very much more guilty than the lowest groom in his stable-yard. It was a lamentable pity that society was so shallow, so hollow, so unnatural, and so unreal; but, most of all, it was a pity that it did not attempt to return to its true and genuine self at least on Sundays. To pretend to be what one was not, to pose and attitudinise before one's fellow-beings was silly enough; but to carry on the childish game before the Almighty Himself was not only silly but sinful. Mayfair, so studded with chapels, was fast discovering it had little need of any of them. What, then, became of the privileged denizens of the West End from Saturday to Monday? Were they on the river, or in the country, or where; Certainly they were not in any church.

GERMANY—Cologne Cathedral

Cologne Cathedral is generally regarded as the finest piece of Gothic architecture in the world. The first edifice, built in the ninth century, was burnt, and the foundation of the present Cathedral was laid in 1248. The choir was finished in 1322, nave about 1390, and the

south tower in 1447. But after the close of the fifteenth century little was done, and the building remained in its unfinished state until 1823, when the work of renovation and completion was taken in hand, but it was not until October 15, 1880, that the final touches were given, and a solemn service to celebrate the fact was held in the presence of Kaiser Wilhelm I. The great central portal of the Cathedral on the west facade, which appears to be in danger, is 93ft high and 31ft wide, the side portals being 38ft high and 18ft wide. The towers are 512ft in height. Meister Gerard is supposed to have been the original designer of the Cathedral, but his plans no longer exist, and the building was completed by modern architects.

ROME—The Vicar of the Jesuits

Father Roger Freddi, who governs the Society of Jesus as Vicar until the meeting of the next Congregation, at which a General will be elected, was born on March 22, 1846. He made his studies at Rome, Laon in France, and Rochampton in England.

The Holy Father's Appreciation

Mme. Anna Conover, whose work on the Continent for the prevention of cruelty to animals is so well known, has received from his Holiness the Pope an autograph letter expressing entire approval and appreciation of her noble work, and conveying the Apostolic Blessing to Mme. Conover and to all who assist her in it.

Beatification

The solemn ceremony of the Beatification of Padre Bonaventura, of Barcelona, took place on Sunday, June 10, at St. Peter's, Rome, in the presence of many Cardinals and prelates, the Chapter of the Vatican, and a numerous attendance of the general public. The Basilica was beautifully decorated and illuminated. The Pope proceeded to St. Peter's in the evening to venerate the newly-beatified Padre.

SCOTLAND—Silver Jubilee

On Sunday, June 10, the silver jubilee of the opening of St. Francis' magnificent church, Cumberland street, Glasgow, was observed by the Franciscan Fathers and their flock with great solemnity and rejoicing. The preacher both morning and evening for the occasion was the Very Rev. Father David Fleming, O.F.M., the Provincial of the Order for Great Britain.

A Generous Donor

Mr. James Brand, J.P., K.S.G., has made the handsome donation of one thousand pounds sterling to the building fund in aid of St. Aloysius' new church, Garnethill, Glasgow. The amount now in hand is close on £5000.

SPAIN—A Kind and Generous People

The Spanish wedding (says the 'Catholic Times') has naturally turned public attention to that land of which so little is known and so much imagined, and we have even been treated to some commendations of the usually maligned Spaniards, their ways and manners. To Catholics the most interesting feature of this Hispanophile movement is that even their religion now becomes an object of praise! To an issue of the 'Sun' Mr. J. Bates has contributed some interesting and impartial columns of 'Sunny Spain,' in the course of which he shows that religion has made the Spaniards what they are—kind and very generous. There is no Poor Law, nor need for one, in that land of countless charities. Toradors and aristocratic belles vie one with another in helping and caring for the sick and destitute. A Board of 'Beneficencias,' its members taken from all classes, administers relief, and women, who in Spain have but scant influence in public life and politics, devote themselves to supporting such societies as the 'Santa Rita' and 'Our Lady of Noe.' Once a week they give up an afternoon to sewing for the poor, and they think nothing of visiting the most wretched of slums. How different is this truly apostolic charity—which is equally apparent in other Catholic countries—from the English Poor Law system of treating unavoidable poverty as a crime. Time was when here the poor were everybody's care, but that was in the ultra-Protestant's 'barbarous middle ages'; nowadays most charities exist for other purposes than ad majorem Dei gloriam.

Letters of Congratulation

The Bishop of Madrid (says 'El Universo') has received a request from the United States to place certain letters of congratulation in the hands of King Alfonso XIII., and this he has done. In one of the letters to the King, Father Clements, of Nashville, Tennessee, says the Catholics of America are immensely proud of the Catholic spirit displayed by his Majesty, and of his fearlessness and courage. They are also delighted to know that the Queen has been led by the Grace of God to enter the true fold.