

The Catholic World

ENGLAND—A Leading Catholic Passes Away

The Hon. Frederick Charles Edmund Petre, chairman of the Brentwood justices, died on July 18. He had been for a short walk, and was returning to his home, Bay Cottage, Shenneld-common, when he fell. He was taken into his house, and died shortly afterwards. Born in 1824, the third son of the 11th Lord Petre, he was the uncle of the present peer.

Death of a Philanthropist

In the death of Mr. Arthur Chilton Thomas (writes a correspondent) Catholic Liverpool loses one of its most charitable and self-denying supporters. His work in connection with the Father Berry's Homes, which are to-day a credit to Liverpool, is a unique accomplishment, and will stand as an enviable and estimable monument to his name. Born at Penmaenmawr (Wales), the son of a Welsh parson, he, with the rest of his family, immediately after the death of his father, embraced the Catholic Faith. He studied for the Bar, and was a pupil of the present Mr. Justice Walton. He had many distinguished class-fellows, amongst whom were Lord Robert Cecil, M.P. Mr. Thomas was actively engaged on the Northern Circuit, but practically relinquished his profession about ten years ago. His first introduction to the work of child rescue and charity was in 1891, when he was appointed secretary and hon. manager to one of the St. Vincent de Paul Homes for Boys in Shaw street. From this date forward he threw himself into the work of child rescue, and in co-operation with the Rev. Father Berry, established all over the city what are now known as 'Father Berry's Homes.' Mr. Thomas has been in ill-health for the past twelve months, and a journey through Italy was undertaken recently in the hope of restoring health. Mr. Thomas was managing director of the Catholic Publishing Company, proprietors of the 'Catholic Times' and 'Catholic Fireside.'

ROME—The Society of Jesus

During the past week 75 members of the Company of Jesus, representing the 25 provinces of the Order, met in Rome to elect the new General. Each provincial head was to be accompanied by two delegates elected in secret ballot by their brother members. According to the last statistics the number of members of the Order exceeds 16,000. A cable message states that Father Wernz, a German, has been elected.

The Health of the Holy Father

The Sovereign Pontiff (writes a Rome correspondent, under date July 14) continues his daily round of audiences with unabated kindness. So far as appearances go, he is in excellent health, and this is maintained by the frequent walks he takes in the Vatican Gardens. Everyone feels that the Pontiff is profoundly preoccupied by the consideration of the remedy to be applied to the condition of affairs in France. In all probability, for many years past, no such difficult problem came before a Pontiff for solution as that which awaits his decision in the country which boasted of being the eldest daughter of the Church.

About the Index

Two or three books which have recently excited a good deal of interest (writes the Rome correspondent of the London 'Tablet') are about to be put on the Index, and thereby hangs a little tale which may be instructive. Quite lately a distinguished Italian writer had a conversation with a Cardinal on the subject of the Index, and the practice of condemning books. The writer explained to the Cardinal that nowadays it was worse than useless to put books on the Index, because the public condemnation served only as an excellent advertisement. The moral, in his eyes, was that the more dangerous a book is, the less the ecclesiastical authorities should have to say about it. The Cardinal, however, took care to explain that the members of the Congregation of the Index were quite well aware that their condemnations sometimes served to increase the sale of forbidden books, but they continued to be necessary for all that. For the scope of the Index is twofold: first, to prevent good Catholics from reading contaminating literature, and secondly, to let the rest of the world know that this or that work, though written by a Catholic, and sometimes professing to teach Catholic doctrine, is disavowed by the Church. In this way the Index serves as a reliable guide to those outside the Church, whether they like it or not, as well as to those within.

The Peace Congress

The question as to whether the Holy See is to be represented or not at the next Peace Congress at The Hague continues to excite some interest in Italy (writes a Rome correspondent), and some very curious revelations on the subject have been made this week. Thus, for instance, it appears that under the first Pelloux Ministry in 1899, Canevaro, who was Foreign Minister, and therefore the one whose opinion should have counted for most, was entirely in favor of the participation of Leo XIII. in the Congress, and did actually receive the thanks of Holland for his attitude on the subject. But at the last moment Vacchelli, Minister of the Treasury, and Fortis, Minister of Agriculture, bitterly opposed the admission of the Holy See, and Canevaro was obliged to eat his own words. Something of the kind appears to have happened under the Fortis Ministry last year when there was talk of summoning the Peace Congress again. Tittoni, who was then Foreign Minister, thought that Pius X. should be represented, but other Ministers objected. Just now Giolitti holds the reins, and it is believed that he is quite favorable to the idea of having the Holy See to take part in the future Congress. It is well-known that Russia, Germany and Austria-Hungary, as well as Spain and Holland, would be pleased to see the Holy See represented, and it is more than likely that President Roosevelt is strongly of the same way of thinking.

SCOTLAND—The Commission of the Peace

Rev. Father M'Daniel, pastor of Bathgate, has just been appointed J.P. for the County of Linlithgowshire, on the recommendation of the Lord Lieutenant of the county—Lord Rosebery. There are only four or five priests throughout Scotland holding a similar position, and Father M'Daniel is the first to receive the appointment in St. Andrews and Edinburgh diocese. The new J.P. is very popular not only with his brother clergymen, but with all classes. Besides himself, his family has given three sons to the Church and three daughters to the cloister.

UNITED STATES—A Prelate's Kindness

The Archbishop of San Francisco, Most Rev. Dr. Riordan, has turned over his house to the Presentation Nuns, whose institutions were swept away by the fire. His Grace has leased a small place at San Mateo, and will remain there until such time as his home in the city is available for his use. He goes back and forth by train almost daily, and the business of the diocese is conducted as usual at the diocesan office. The Sisters, who suffered such a heavy loss by the late catastrophe, are deeply touched by the Archbishop's thoughtful consideration in providing them a temporary home. The house is new, and the interior has been re-arranged to meet the requirements of an improvised convent. Beyond the breaking of the chimneys, the Archbishop's residence passed through the earthquake uninjured, and by placing it at the disposal of the nearly one hundred Sisters rendered homeless by the calamity which razed the greater part of the city, his Grace solved a very serious problem confronting these religious.

Archdiocese of Chicago

In Chicago (says an exchange) there are more Poles than there are in Warsaw, more Bohemians than there are in Prague; more Jews than there are in Jerusalem; more Irish than there are in Dublin; nearly as many Germans as there are in Berlin, and there are more Catholics there than there are in Rome. The Catholic activity existent in Chicago is something almost amazing. Nothing like it obtains in any other city in the Union. There are more than one million Catholics in the city, and these are ministered to by 452 diocesan priests and 191 priests belonging to religious Orders. When you reflect that England does not contain so many Catholics as the archdiocese of Chicago, you will begin to marvel. Chicago, has, moreover, 170 churches, and these have 125 parochial schools, attended by an army of 70,000 pupils. There are six Catholic orphan asylums in the city and one for infants, four industrial reform schools, one working boys' home and three day nurseries. In all, 100,000 young people are being trained by the Church. Within the city, also, there are ten colleges and academies for the education of young men, and these are attended by nearly 2000 students annually. There are 23 academies for girls and these were this year attended by 4,265 women. In open competition the parochial schools and Catholic High Schools have proven themselves superior to the schools of the State. All this is but a tithe of the Church's work. Chicago has nineteen Catholic hospitals, and each has thousands of patients during the year. There are, in addition, nine Catholic homes for the aged poor kept by the Little Sisters of the