

# The Catholic World

## CANADA—The School Question

In a letter to the 'Sun' of Baltimore, the Rev. Robert P. Kerr, a Protestant minister, who has been travelling in Canada, writes:—"The Roman Catholic Church is very powerful in the Province of Quebec, and nearly all of the French are found within its pale. The Church possesses great wealth and a magnificent system of educational institutions. In the Province of Quebec the public school funds are divided per capita between the Protestants and Catholics, there being two distinct sets of school boards and schools. In the Catholic schools the Catholic faith is inculcated and in the Protestant schools the Bible is as thoroughly taught as geography or arithmetic. I find a great reverence for law and for the Sabbath Day, and there are twenty-six times as many homicides per million of inhabitants in the United States as in Canada. There is a similar ratio between the two countries in other criminal statistics. I find the churches filled at both services on Sunday, the evening service being as well attended as that of the morning."

## ENGLAND—The 'Red Mass'

In accordance with what has become an annual custom, the Catholic members of the legal profession in London assembled in Westminster Cathedral on October 23 for the Votive Mass of the Holy Ghost, or, as it is more generally termed, the 'Red Mass,' celebrated in order to invoke the Divine blessing on the ensuing session of the Royal Courts of Justice.

## A Church Opened

Costing £10,000, and planned to accommodate a congregation of 600, a handsome Catholic church was formally opened at East Hill, Wandsworth, recently by Bishop Amigo, of Southwark, and Father Bernard Vaughan preached the dedication sermon.

## Papal Distinction

At the request of the Bishop of Birmingham his Holiness the Pope has graciously conferred the dignity of Knight of St. Gregory on Mr. E. A. Olivieri, J.P., of Selly Park, for his distinguished service in the Catholic cause.

## A Presentation

Mr. John St. Laurence, K.S.G., has been presented with an illuminated address and testimonial on the occasion of his retirement from the post of secretary to the Catholic Voluntary Schools' Association. The Archbishop of Westminster made the presentation.

## Death of a Catholic Nobleman

Lord Arundell of Wardour died in the Royal Palace Hotel, Kensington, London, on October 26. He had gone up on the previous Tuesday to be present at a meeting of the Catholic Peers, and to take his place in the House of Lords during discussion on the Education Bill. On the day previous to his death he received the last rites of the Church. There was widespread sorrow when the news of his death reached Wardour and Tisbury and the surrounding villages. The late Lord Arundell had endeared himself to all. He was regarded with feelings of the utmost respect and esteem. The body was taken to Wardour. An immense concourse of people assembled at Tisbury to accompany the body to the church at Wardour Castle. His remains were interred, after Mass and burial service, in the vault under the church, where rest many of his noble ancestors.

## Religious Profession

On November 13 (writes an esteemed Dublin correspondent under date November 5) will take place at Rochampton, the Reception and Profession of several New Zealand young ladies—Misses Nechtildes and Cecilia Kennedy, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Kennedy, Wellington; Miss D. Loughnan, daughter of Mr. Henry Loughnan, of Christchurch; and Miss Smith, daughter of Mr. William Smith, of Kaikoura. The Very Rev. Dr. Watters, S.M., of Dublin, is to preside, receive the vows, and preach on the occasion.

## FRANCE—Mayors Suspended

Nine French Mayors have been suspended for having replaced crucifixes in the schools.

## War Against Religion

The Mayors of not less than three hundred and eighty-six French towns (says the 'Catholic Times')

have sent in their resignations rather than consent to the taking down of the crucifixes in the Communal schools, and several prefects have followed their example. In many places the inhabitants have carried the crucifixes back to the schools in procession, and nailed them to the walls. Instances of children being punished for having rosaries or prayer-books in their possession are increasing, and the French papers of the Opposition are full of particulars of this sort of petty persecution. Throughout the country from end to end the names of God, Jesus Christ, and the Virgin Mary, and even of the saints, have been effaced from all the school books, and a teacher who recently opened school hours with the Lord's Prayer was immediately denounced by the Freemasons of the town, and lost his position within twenty-four hours for this awful crime (!); but a teacher who held the crucifix in his hands for the children to spit upon as they went out of the school was immediately promoted to another place—rather fortunately, since some of the people of the town had announced their intention of lynching him in the public streets if they could catch him! There can be no question whatever that before very long a frightful revolution, which will exceed in horror the Commune of 1870, will break out in France; they will use dynamite this time instead of petroleum.

## GERMANY—The Emperor's Predilections

The well-known Catholic proclivities of the Emperor William appear to be exciting the alarm of the Evangelical party in Germany. The Berlin correspondent of 'Le Temps' telegraphs as follows to his paper:—"The National Liberals and also the Evangelical Union compared with bitterness the reply of William II. to the note of felicitation sent by their Congress with the telegram addressed by the Emperor to the Catholic Congress of Essen: To the latter William II. himself despatched his warm thanks, but to the National Liberals and the Evangelicals he simply transmitted his thanks through his Chief du Cabinet, M. de Lucanus. This has irritated the 'Leipziger Tageblatt' profoundly. It says:—"There is nothing more distressing or significant to Evangelicals than the hope entertained by the members of the Catholic Church that they will one day count the Emperor William amongst the faithful. We profess ourselves ignorant of the private religious sentiments of the Emperor, but nobody can deny that the imperial attitude denotes a strong bias towards Catholicism. We do not forget the warm protestations of adherence to the Evangelical faith proclaimed on the heights of Wartburg, but we cannot fail to see that the Catholic clergy are treated with more consideration by the Emperor than the Protestant clergy. His predilections are for monasteries, and those who occupy them. The imperial desire is to revive the ideal of the Middle Ages, and we see in this mental attitude a strong approach to Catholicism. The Emperor perhaps aims at a practical end, and hopes that the Catholic and mediæval ideal will aid him in realising his own romantic ideal; but this personal ideal of the Emperor has much of analogy with the Catholic cause."

## ITALY—The Holy Father and Venice

The Pope intends to benefit Venice, by donating a number of standard meteorological instruments to the Observatory of the Patriarchal Seminary. The instruments have been specially made by the manufacturer, Mr. J. J. Hicks, of London, who had inquired before of the pleasure of his Holiness. The Pope chose these for the Observatory of Venice, in particular an anemometer, with the thought that by it the sailors would know when it was dangerous to go out of port. It will be set on the top of the Observatory, visible to all. On October 27, Mr. Hicks drove to the Vatican with Canon Pyke, of St. John's, Islington; Miss Hicks, and Miss Sperati. Dr. Lapponi, at whose villa they called, drove in another carriage. The instruments had been arranged in a hall adjoining the Papal apartment by Mr. Hicks two days previously, and when his Holiness came to see them he was provided with pictures and explanations in Italian of the gifts. Each of the instruments had been verified at the British Physical Laboratory, and almost all are without errors, 'so that,' to use the words of the donor, 'they become standard for ever.' Every one has engraved on the glass: 'Made by J. J. Hicks, London, and presented to his Holiness, Pius X., 1906.'

## SPAIN—The Queen

The 'Diario Universal,' in an article on the Queen of Spain's birthday anniversary, says that all Spain renders homage to her Majesty's beauty, and warmly praises her discreetness and her sympathetic bearing.