

The Catholic World

ENGLAND—St. Patrick's Day

The Irish service in Westminster Cathedral on St. Patrick's Day was largely attended. The sermon was preached by Father Augustine, Prior of the Capuchin College, Rochestown, Co. Cork. The Benediction was given by the Right Rev. Dr. Fenton. The Archbishop, being absent from London, was unable to attend.

FRANCE—The Holy Father's Sympathy

Cardinal Merry del Val, on March 13, sent the following telegram to the Bishop of Frejus expressing the Holy Father's regret at the Jena disaster:—'The Holy Father, profoundly afflicted by the misfortune that has befallen the French nation and fleet, expresses through you his sorrow and sympathy. Praying for the eternal repose of the victims, he blesses with all his heart the families so terribly tried.' The Bishop has replied that the French nation, the fleet, and the afflicted families are deeply grateful.

The Nuncio's Papers

The debate in the French Chamber on the seizure of the Vatican archives at the residence of the Papal Nuncio (says the 'Catholic Weekly') gives a further striking illustration of the underhand chicanery and shifting subterfuge which have characterised the conduct of the Government throughout the whole history of the recent legislation against the Church in France. The chief argument used by M. Pichon, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in justification of the illegal seizure of the papers, was that at the moment of the rupture of diplomatic relations between France and the Vatican the latter, contrary to all precedent, had neither placed the archives of its Paris Nunciature under seals, confiding them to a foreign Power, nor notified France of any such intention on its part. On the other hand, France, on June 20, 1905, and on August 1 of the same year, notified the Vatican of the formal rupture and took the necessary precautions as to the safety of the French diplomatic archives in Rome. Thus, it is contended, Monsignor Montagnini remained in Paris in no way the official guardian of the archives, and the Government had a perfect right to prevent him from conspiring against the Separation Law and to seize his papers and expel him.

Impossible Conditions

'We know (says the 'Croix') from a direct source that the rupture of the negotiations has produced at the Vatican a feeling of relief rather than of disappointment. It is by condescension to the desire expressed by the Episcopate that the Pope authorised the negotiations, although he dreaded their obscurities. He has seen their failure without regret. There is only one solution: a direct and loyal understanding. The Government insists that the cure be personally responsible for the heavy repairs. This requirement alone suffices to prevent an arrangement. The importance of the demand will be understood when we state that the repairs in Paris alone amount to £100,000. Monsignor Dadolle, Bishop of Dijon, declares: "Such conditions for the lessee are altogether exceptional. It is impossible to consent to such demands. Whatever might be their good-will, 550 out of my 600 priests would be quite unable to accept such a charge. The Bishops' move was made with the intention of general pacification. This understood, the people will know on whom it should fasten the responsibility for the continuation of the conflict. It will know this the better when it considers the results of the referendum of the municipalities, which in immense majority have shown themselves favorable to the project of contract we proposed. For my diocese, for example, where the greater number of the municipalities are radical, I received only seven refusals out of 515 communes.' As to the possibility of new attempts to arrive at an agreement, the Prelate did not think there was any opening for them, in view of the attitude of the Government, which maintains its pretensions, not only on the point of the repairs, but also on the other questions which concern the very principle of the rights of the hierarchy.

INDIA—The Archbishop of Madras

His Grace the Archbishop of Madras (Dr. Colgan) has given over charge of the Archdiocese to his coadjutor, the Right Rev. J. Aelen, D.D., owing to failing health. The announcement was received with widespread regret by Catholics throughout India. Dr. Colgan has been 63 years in the ministry in the Madras Archdiocese, and nearly 25 years in the episcopate.

His Grace is now at Yercaud, and a public meeting of the clergy and laity of the Archdiocese of Madras will be held in St. Mary's College Hall for the purpose of taking steps to celebrate the silver jubilee of the episcopal consecration of the Archbishop.

ROME—St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day was celebrated in all the Irish institutions in Rome, and especially at the Irish College, the Church of San Clemente, where the Irish Dominicans are established, and Sant' Isidore, of the Irish Franciscans. Cardinal Vincenzo Vannutelli celebrated early Low Mass at the Irish College.

The Remote Cause of the Conflict

The Holy Father on Sunday, March 17, received in audience the Right Rev. Dr. O'Gorman, Bishop of Sioux Falls. Discussing at length the situation of the Church in France, his holiness said Archbishop Ireland was correct when he said the remote cause of the conflict was that the French clergy and leading Catholics failed to follow the advice of his illustrious predecessor.

ITALY—The Training of the Young

A new association has been formed in Italy for training the young to respect the old, women, and children, and for teaching them not to deride the unhappy and the weak; to avoid blasphemy and indecency; not to ill-treat animals; not to harm plants and trees; not to injure buildings or monuments, and to behave as gentlemen should.

ROME—Death of a Convert

There died recently in Rome Mrs. Morgan, widow of the late Rev. Mr. Morgan, Episcopalian clergyman at Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire. The deceased lady belonged to the distinguished family of the Scottish Leslies, and on one side traced her descent from Queen Margaret of Scotland. She became a convert during the lifetime of her husband, wrote many popular stories, and contributed a bright interesting life of her saintly ancestress, Queen Margaret, to the publications of the Catholic Truth Society.

The Holy Father's Name Day

The Holy Father, at noon on Monday, March 18, received the members of the Sacred College, who, led by Cardinal Oreglia, down of the College, went to greet his Holiness on the occasion of his name day, which occurred on March 19. The only member absent was Cardinal Nocella, who was suffering from an apoplectic stroke. His Holiness thanked them, and conversed with each member. He did not make any allusion to the situation in France. On the Pope's name day many telegrams and addresses of congratulation arrived at the Vatican from Italy and abroad. The Pope celebrated Mass early, admitting to it his sisters and about 200 distinguished people, mostly foreigners.

Insincerity of the French Government

The nature of the situation as between France and the Holy See is shown by not a few facts (writes a Rome correspondent). The Government has been proved insincere by the whole course of events and by all the efforts to settle the question which it has made of its own initiative. These efforts make it clear that the aim all along has been to entrap the Church, but the Church has each time rendered vain the artifices designed to discredit it morally after the material spoliation. Having failed to catch the Church, the Government is now engaged in an attempt to justify its violation of the Nunciature archives by means of publications in the 'Messidor' and 'Matin.' This policy is supposed to be merely the prelude to some new audacity by the French Government, and though M. Clemenceau's measures are not those of Danton, still he may have a surprise in store for the public. Some newspapers have stated that the French Hierarchy was in a mood to give a trial to the Law of Separation; its attitude has been at all times the very reverse. There never was such union and dependence on Rome in any crisis of a national Church. Time was, under one of the earlier French kings, when the Abbot of Cîteaux received from the Pope a medal, the legend of which praised him because he alone had withstood the monarch in defence of the rights of the Holy See. Now all the French ecclesiastics are on the side of the Holy See. In the assembly of the national Prelacy then not a Bishop stood with the Pope. There is not one who has not done so with a full heart during all this crisis.

UNITED STATES—The Laetare Medal

Miss Katherine Eleanor Conway, editor-in-chief of the 'Boston Pilot,' has been awarded the Laetare medal for 1907 by the University of Notre Dame, South