

The Catholic World

AFRICA—An Extensive Vicariate

Bishop O'Gorman's Vicariate of Sierra Leone, Africa, covers 40,000 square miles, with a population of 3,000,000. Working with him are twenty-two priests and twenty-five Sisters of St. Joseph. The climate is the most unhealthy of the whole continent, and has earned for the district the title of the 'White Man's Grave.'

AUSTRIA—Heroic Nuns

The recent water outburst on the hills just outside Vienna was a disaster of terrible magnitude. A scene of heroism was witnessed outside the Hospital for Feeble-minded Women. Several nuns, hearing of the peril of the nineteen inmates, determined to save them at all costs. The great mass of water was rushing along at an incredible speed, but the nuns without the slightest hesitation, entered it, and after much difficulty succeeded in reaching the hospital. Then they spread out jumping sheets, and into these the terrified inmates leapt one by one, and were carried away to a place of safety.

CHINA—The Catholic Population

Father Madrey, S.J., missionary at Kiang-Nan, has compiled statistics which show that, out of a population of over four hundred and seven million, there are one million Catholics in China. The increase of Catholics last year was reckoned to be nearly 90,000.

ENGLAND—Entertaining Royalty

Father Bernard Vaughan has again been entertaining Royalty in the East End, having the other day among his audience at Dunstan's Court the Archduchess Marie Therese, the Princess Henri de Bourbon, the Archduchess Marie Annunziata, and the Countess de Bosdi, who took the opportunity of a passage through London to be present at one of the instructions to a thousand East End children. They visited also Lady Edmund Talbot's settlement. The House of Bourbon are no strangers to the English Jesuits, for Don Jaime, the eldest son of Don Carlos, was their pupil at Beaumont.

Catholic Young Men's Societies

The annual Conference of the Catholic Young Men's Societies of Great Britain was held this year in Dumfries, and was attended by a hundred and fifty-eight delegates from the principal branches of the Society in England and Scotland. As in the previous year, when the proceedings were held at Dundee, a large number of delegates were from the Lancashire and other Northern towns, whilst the Scottish centres of the organisation were also well represented. The decision of the Council to hold the Conference for the fourth time in Dumfries met with universal approval, for, as has before been remarked (says an exchange), the town has high claims upon the interests of Catholics. In the dark, dismal days of the Reformation the old Faith had some of its noblest champions in the ancient town, and in the recesses of this Nithsdale the lamp of faith has never in all the long, lingering years of the religious night that followed altogether died out. The Conference, which was held under the auspices of the Central Council, afforded remarkable proof of the power and vitality of the Society, and although the reports showed that numerically it is not nearly so strong as formerly, it is making steady progress, zealous priests having united with representative laymen in furthering its interests, and the efforts of those who are engaged under its banner in bringing about the regeneration of the Society upon a basis of Catholic principle and practice.

Death of a Convert

Mr. Reginald Balfour, who died suddenly at his home at Hampstead on Friday, July 19, leaves behind him a memory that will be one of lifelong kindness and affection in all who knew him. His health was fragile even when he was at Westminster School; it caused him to be invalided home from South Africa, where he had an appointment from Lord Milner; and it made pauses in his 'Morning Post' work and in his 'Dublin Reviewing'; but never was it dreamed that it limited his time on earth to 32 years—a tenure of life which left him still a boy in his good looks and in his receptive mind. After his conversion to the Church, he became a keen student of Franciscan literature, his feeling as well as his scholarship being preserved to us in 'The Seraphic Keepsake'; and he collaborated with Father Benson and with Mr. C. Ritchie (his cousin) in the production of that 'Alpha-

bet of Saints' which has attained, among books of its class, an unprecedented popularity. He married a daughter of the Rev. Francis Warre Cornish, Vice-Provost of Eton, and a grandniece of Thackeray—herself a writer and a convert to the Church.

GERMANY—Retiring from the World

In the highest aristocratic and Court circles of Germany a profound sensation has been caused by the retiring from the world of Prince Lowenstein-Wertheim-Rocheftort to enter the Dominican Monastery of Benle, near the Dutch frontier. Prince Lowenstein is seventy-three years old, and has vast possessions in Prussia, Bavaria, Baden, and Hesse, his income being reckoned at £300,000 a year. His lands and other real property remain in the possession of the family. He is the brother-in-law of Don Miguel of Portugal, and uncle of Prince Alfonso, brother of the Spanish pretender, Don Carlos. He was the leader of the ultramontane aristocratic party in the Prussian House of Lords, and is a man of singular earnestness and sincerity. Of late years the prince has become widely known as the head of a powerful movement to abolish duelling. Among the most notable recruits were the Kings of Saxony and Wurttemberg.

INDIA—The Government's Appreciation

The Government of India has awarded the Kaiser-i-Hind Medal to the Rev. A. Muller, S.J., in recognition of his charitable services. Father Muller's name is widely known in India as Director of the Homoeopathic Poor Dispensary at Kankanady, opened in 1891. To these has been since added through his untiring zeal and energy a fine hospital, a Poor House, and a Leper Asylum, while the Plague Hospital, opened in 1902 at the outbreak of the bubonic plague, rendered very valuable services during the epidemic.

ITALY—Socialists make a Mistake

An anti-clerical epidemic has arisen over Italy lately and has broken out spasmodically in many ways and places (writes a Rome correspondent). The people of Tivoli were celebrating the feast of their patroness lately—St. Symphorosa. They had fireworks in the evening. The students of the Irish College went to witness them, and returning home to the College Villa afterwards—for their country villa where they pass the holidays is outside the town—they were attacked by some Socialists. Those cowards thought they were dealing with Italian Seminarists. They soon found their mistake. The Irish students stood and did not let themselves be knocked down without knowing why. The result of about two minutes' attack and defence was that the cowards ran—except one, who had to be taken to the hospital, and is probably still there.

Where the Money came from

The recent outbreak of anti-clericalism in Italy, says the 'Corrispondenza Romana,' has been fostered by the contribution of £6000 from the French Freemasons to the campaign funds.

JAPAN—A New Mission

The Society of the Divine Word (Steyl, Holland), at the request of Bishop Berlioz of Hakodate, will take up work on a new mission in Japan—the Hondo Island. Rev. Dr. John Weig, now in China, will take charge.

ROME—The Vatican Palace

I am informed from an authentic source (writes a Rome correspondent) that the proposed improvements in the Apostolic Palaces of the Vatican, which consist in the building of a house for the accommodation of the Vatican employees, and the removal of the Vatican Printing Press from its present site to a new and larger one in old Cavalerizza, or ring of the Noble Guards, will need an outlay of about £80,000. This expenditure will also cover the cost of the alterations in the offices of the Secretariate of State, which it is proposed to remove from the third to the first floor.

Jubilee Celebrations Suspended

It will come as a shock and a sorrowful surprise to Catholics all over the world (says the 'Catholic Times') that the Holy Father should even have had to contemplate the advisability of suppressing the celebrations in honor of his sacerdotal jubilee. But the condition of affairs in Rome, and in many other cities in Italy also, is such that a concourse of Catholics, native and foreign, would run serious risk of insult and perhaps outrage at the hands of the wild sectaries and furious anti-clericals who are ever on the lookout for an opportunity to manifest their hostility to the Church. Of late that hostility has been more than usually bitter, and the manifestation of it has been made comparatively easy by the tolerant attitude adop-