

The Catholic World

AUSTRIA—Catholic Congress

The Catholics of Hungary held recently their seventh national Catholic Congress at Buda Pesth. Over 5000 persons attended. A Eucharistic Congress was held in the city at the same time.

Sad Fatality

Lightning struck a Catholic church at Lemberg, the capital of Galicia, on Sunday, September 1, during High Mass, at which there was a large attendance. Four persons were killed and sixteen injured more or less seriously.

ENGLAND—Charitable Bequests

Mrs. Ellen Hotham, of St. James's street, Piccadilly, whose death occurred some time ago, has left to the Crusade of Rescue, a great London Catholic charity, a bequest of £28,000. The deceased lady has also left £1000 to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in England. The Church and its charities also benefit materially by the will of Lady Knill, widow of Sir Stuart Knill, Bart., who was Lord Mayor of London in the late eighties.

Catholic Esperanto League

An interesting outcome of the recent International Esperanto Congress, in Cambridge and London, is the formation of a Catholic Esperanto League for Great Britain and Ireland. The prime mover in the project is Dr. O'Connor, who has been one of the pioneers of the 'universal tongue' in England.

In the Cloister

The recent announcement that certain prominent ladies are to found a school for the promulgation of their ideas in the New Forest calls attention (says the 'Westminster Gazette') to the number of titled women who lead the simple life within the walls of a convent. The Ladies Minna and Etheldreda Howard, sisters of the Duke of Norfolk, are both nuns. The former belongs to the ancient Carmelite Order, whilst the latter is a very hard-working Sister of Charity. Lady Edith Feilding, sister of Lord Denbigh, is also a Sister of Charity, and works in a Catholic medical mission in China. Four sisters of the present Lord Herries are nuns, whilst Lord Petre has three sisters who have also renounced the world. Lady Frances Bertie is in a convent at Harrow, and Lady Leopoldina Keppel, sister to Lord Albemarle, and the Misses Ellen and Marie French, sisters of Lord French, are also members of religious communities.

FRANCE—A Pastoral Letter

The Cardinal-Archbishop of Lyons has published a Pastoral Letter on the religious situation in France and the duty of Catholics. He recommends the formation of Catholic associations, attacks the atheistic character of the teaching in the public schools, and dwells on the necessity of establishing free Catholic schools.

The Jubilee of Lourdes

The Bishop of Tarbes has sent to the Catholic Bishops of the whole world a letter in which, with the sanction of the Holy Father, he invites them to establish committees in their dioceses for promoting pilgrimages to Lourdes on the occasion of the jubilee, in February next year, of the apparition of Our Lady.

GERMANY—Organisation of Catholic Workers

The German Catholics, by organising the Catholic working classes (says the 'Catholic Times'), have set an example to other Catholics the value of which will be duly appreciated at a time when hostile demonstrations are made against the clergy in more than one Continental country. The report presented year by year to the German Volksverein by Dr. Pieper, the general director, during the sitting of the Catholic Congress, invariably indicates that the association has been advancing. This year the number of members is 565,700 as compared with 510,000 last year. In the course of the twelve months over 55,000 fresh adherents have been gained. This is the outcome of energetic propaganda work. Millions of copies of pamphlets and leaflets dealing with questions in which the people take a close interest are circulated. Courses of lectures are arranged in the large centres of population, and meetings almost innumerable are held at which the clergy and the laity join in the discussion of social and economic subjects. Naturally the effect is to educate

the Catholic masses, to strengthen their religious feeling, and to guard them against errors and false principles. The Catholic workers throughout Germany are the mainstay of the Centre Party, and always stand firmly by the ecclesiastical authorities. Professor Rossetti, of Florence, who represented at Wurzburg the Catholic People's Association, which has been founded in Italy, with the approval of the Holy Father, announced that it has already fifty thousand members. It is to be hoped it will in the course of time become as strong as the German Association. If it does we shall hear of no attacks on the Italian clergy.

ROME—The Rector of the Irish College

The Right Rev. Mgr. O'Riordan, Rector of the Irish College (writes a Rome correspondent under date August 26), recently gathered strength, and is now able to travel. He has left Rome for Florence, on his way to Ireland. Monsignor O'Riordan's many friends in Rome look forward to his return greatly improved in health and strength to continue his special work here.

The Promotion of Science

An international association for the promotion of science among Catholics has just been formed in Rome, under the patronage of his Eminence Cardinal Rampolla and other members of the Sacred College. For the present its headquarters are at the Vatican Observatory.

An Australian Prelate

The Right Rev. Dr. Murray, O.S.A., Titular Bishop of Issus and Vicar Apostolic of Cooktown, Queensland, Australia, was received in special audience by his Holiness on August 17 (writes a Rome correspondent). It was the first audience that the Bishop has had with the Pope, and, naturally enough, it had a very profound interest for the Bishop. His Holiness was particularly gracious. In conversation on the questions of the diocese of Cooktown, and indeed of the state of religion in Australia in general, Pius X. showed a remarkable acquaintance that one might almost describe as intimate. His Holiness also spoke freely of the events that are taking place in Rome. That the Pontiff fully appreciates the zeal and devotion of the Bishops and clergy and people of Australia was made evident in several remarks he made. He spoke of the liberty to increase and develop, without annoyances and hindrances, which the Church enjoys in Australia, and contrasted this liberty with the simulacrum of liberty to which it is submitted in other countries. The conversation altogether lasted for close upon an hour, and the Bishop was exceedingly gratified with this audience, and with the great kindness and graciousness of Pius X.

The Cardinal Secretary of State

On August 27 (writes the Rome correspondent of the 'Catholic Weekly') a numerous representation of the Catholics of Marino waited on the Cardinal Secretary of State to offer him a richly illuminated address protesting against the recent outrage perpetrated against his Eminence at Marino, and expressing their profound devotion to the See of Peter. His Eminence in reply said: 'For all the people of Marino I entertain only sentiments of affection and goodwill, and I wish I could approach and do good to those who have insulted me without knowing me. The real responsibility does not rest with them. They, like so many others these days, have been led astray by those unhappy persons who abuse the good faith of the people to excite its passions with lies and calumnies, the disturbers who, unhappily with impunity, by their writings and their discourses, strive to rouse the masses against religion, against the Church, and against the Pope, trampling underfoot the purest glories and the best traditions of the nation. And yet even these, in their own fashion and in spite of themselves, now protest against the attack made in Marino: In face of the general reprobation which has resounded throughout Catholic Italy, honest Italy, the Italy of culture and refinement, and of the protests which have been made in all parts of the world, the unhappy authors of the attack would like to shirk their responsibility and throw the onus of their deeds on the individuals or the persons who have acted under their inspiration. They protest, therefore, and they do so after their own manner, now denying the facts, now seeking to minimise their gravity, and now expressing a regret which would be efficacious were it coherent. But since the principal authors of the attack protest, let us take note of the fact because their protest gives greater relief to yours, inspired by sentiments truly noble and worthy of a great Catholic and cultured nation; and let us hope that our adversaries will cease to promote a campaign the consequences of which they themselves profess to condemn.'

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