

The Catholic World

BELGIUM—A Serious Loss

The theft of Van Dyck's superb picture 'The Raising of the Cross' from the Church of Notre Dame, at Courtrai, in Belgium, has, as may be imagined, created a sensation. So impressed were the ecclesiastical authorities by the enormity of the loss that they telegraphed immediately to M. Hamard, the chief of the detective service in Paris, for his assistance. So far, however, no traces have been found of the picture or of the men who cut it from its frame and carried it off. 'The Raising of the Cross' was painted by Van Dyck in 1631, at the order of Roger Braye, a Canon of Notre Dame, who paid the artist a sum of one hundred livres for it. In 1794 it was taken to Paris, where it remained until 1815, when it was restored to the church of Courtrai.

ENGLAND—Death of a Catholic Lady

The Hon. Mrs. Dundas, mother of the Marquis of Zetland, died at West, Stone House, Chichester, on Sunday, December 8. Great regret was manifested on receipt of the sad news at Richmond, where she was a familiar figure and a regular attendant at the Catholic church, along with her daughters, Ladies Charlotte and Alice Dundas, during their stay at Middleton. The Hon. Mrs. Dundas was the daughter of James Talbot, of Talbot Hall, Co. Wexford. She married in 1843, the Hon. Charles Dundas, who died in 1866.

Catholic Interments

Just a week after the remains of Bishop Bonavent ure Giffard and his brother Andrew had been finally laid to rest in the chapel cloister at St. Edmund's College, Ware, a faculty was granted by the Chancellor of the Anglican Diocese of London (says the 'Catholic Times') for the transference to the college of the body of Bishop Douglass, who had been largely instrumental in founding the institution. With the exception of Dr. Leyburne and Dr. Challoner, all the Bishops who represented the London district during the period of the four Vicariates, that is, from 1688 to 1840, are now interred at St. Edmund's. For years past records and registers have been examined to discover where Bishop Douglass was buried. It was only on October 3 last, when the grave at St. Pancras was opened for the removal of the bodies of Bishops Bonavent ure and Andrew Giffard that the coffin containing the body of Bishop Douglass was found. It is singular that none of the registers of St. Pancras Parish Church and the Parish Church of St. Andrew's, Holborn—the church of the parish in which he lived—contained a notice of his burial. When in 1784 Bishop Bonavent ure Giffard was interred in the grave the Burial Service of the Church of England was read, Catholics not being then allowed to use their own rite. May it be the explanation of the absence of Bishop Douglass's name from the registers that the Catholic service was quietly employed at his interment in 1812, and that registration was on that account purposely avoided.

ITALY—Anti-Religious Campaign

The anti-religious 'bloc' (says the 'Catholic Weekly'), not content with the absolute dominion it has acquired in France, is inaugurating a campaign in Italy, on lines identical with those which have achieved such evil success in France. The Minister of Public Instruction (should it not be 'd'struction?') is embroiling his French counterpart of the 'Fine Arts,' M. Briand, by preparing the public for a removal of artistic treasures from the churches to which they belong, and for the appropriation by the Government of valuable documents preserved in ecclesiastical archives. In the midst of all these storms, raised by the anti-Christian hate of the Lodges, the venerable figure of Pius X. stands calm, firm and undaunted, knowing well, not merely from the promises of Christ, but from the teaching of his 'ory' as well, during nineteen centuries, that it is not the Rock of Peter that will be shattered in the process.

ROME—Revision of the Vulgate

The letter (says the 'Catholic Times') which the Holy Father has addressed to Abbot Gasquet and his colleagues on the Preparatory Commission for the Revision of the Vulgate reveals his affection for the distinguished Son of St. Benedict and his collaborators, and his confidence in their ability to execute their commission. He congratulates them on having entrusted to them a work so difficult that men distinguished for learning, and some of them even from the rank of the Pon-

tiffs, devoted themselves to it without success. The paleographic and historical science in which the Benedictines are so eminent, is to him a perfect assurance that the researches of the Commission will be exhaustive. The librarians of Europe will be ransacked, and not only will all the old codices containing Latin versions of the Scriptures be examined, but every effort will be made to discover manuscripts which may throw fresh light on ancient Biblical texts.

The Gregorian University

On December 6 (writes a Rome correspondent) the annual distribution of prizes, following the concursus which took place in July, was held by the Superiors of the Gregorian University, the Jesuit Fathers, in the Church of St. Ignatius. The entire body of students, secular and regular, belonging to Italy, France, Austria, Germany, the two Americas, Belgium, England, Scotland, Spain, Ireland, Canada, Holland, Finland, Roumania, and Switzerland, to the number of over one thousand, were in attendance. Cardinal Marinelli, of the Augustinian Order, who presided, was accompanied by Archbishop Seton, Bishop Giles (Rector of the English College), Monsignor Fraser (Rector of the Scotch College), Father Wenz (General of the Society of Jesus), and the various Rectors of the Colleges affiliated to the University. In the long list of those who have gained the Doctorate of Theology both the English and Scotch Colleges have had two each. Two Englishmen, one Scotchman, and a candidate from the Bode College have been awarded the Licentiate in the same subject; while two of the former and three of the latter nationality gained the bachelorship. It may be mentioned that both the English and Scotch Colleges have secured several brilliant triumphs at this last competition of nations. On an examination of the list of premiums it appears that in the Dogmatic Theology of the second, third, and fourth year's class a Scotchman comes fifth, and in that of the first year another Leite of the Thistle is first. An Englishman leads the van in the Aramaic language, and a fellow countryman of his takes the first premium in physiology. In the list of those to whom degrees in Philosophy were awarded both Colleges stand well to the front, as they also do in the various classes.

Cardinal Rampolla

His Eminence Cardinal Rampolla attained on Sunday, December 8, the 25th anniversary of his consecration as a Bishop. The Chapter of St. Peter's, of which he is Archpriest, presented him with an illuminated address on the occasion. His Eminence thanked the Chapter in a few cordial words, in which he referred to 'the English Cardinal,' Cardinal Howard, by whom he was consecrated Bishop in St. Peter's. Cardinal Rampolla was only 39 at his consecration in 1882, so that he is still, comparatively, a young man, being just over sixty-four.

UNITED STATES—The See of New York

The See of New York was erected by the Pope on April 8, 1808. It is the desire of Archbishop Farley to celebrate the centenary of this event by the consecration of St. Patrick's Cathedral, preliminary preparations for which are now being made. The interior of the great Gothic edifice is to be remodelled.

A Catholic Millionaire's Bequests

Final settlement of all controversy over the will of the late Count Creighton, the Irish-American millionaire, has been reached. The estate is appraised at approximately £800,000. Seven heirs not mentioned in the will, who had filed contests, are pacified with £10,000. The Little Sisters of the Poor renounced a bequest of £20,000 because the Mother-General in France was unable to spare Sisters to found a new branch of the Order in Omaha. Creighton University is the biggest beneficiary with £250,000.

A Princely Gift

It is reported that Mr. Charles M. Schwab, the steel magnate, has made a gift of Richmond Beach, Staten Island, to the Sisters of St. Francis of New York, who will establish a hospital for crippled children there. The property is valued at £80,000, and was purchased in 1900 for the purpose of making it a summer outing place for poor mothers and children. Five large two-and-one-half-story frame hotels, two pairs and many bathing houses were built. A steamboat to ply between the beach and New York was launched and christened 'Happy Days,' but the collapse of the Shipbuilding Trust occurred and work on Richmond Beach was stopped.

The Philippines

Reliable statistics show that the total Catholic population in the Philippine Islands is 6,862,413. Minister-