

The Catholic World

ENGLAND—A Venerable Religious

Mother Mary (Catherine Philip Bathurst), who was interred on December 19 at St. Dominic's Convent, Harrow-on-the-hill, had reached her eighty-third year. She was the youngest daughter of General Sir James Bathurst, K.C.B., who was the second son of Dr. Bathurst, Anglican Bishop of Norwich. In 1850 she joined the Catholic Church, and worked for some time at Greenwich under Father (afterwards Cardinal) Manning. Subsequently she founded the Orphanage of St. Philip for boys at Birmingham. Later she gathered a community of Dominican Tertiaries at Ghent, which issued in the Congregation of the Holy Rosary. Many years afterwards she founded, on Cardinal Manning's invitation, the convent at Harrow, and in time St. Dominic's became the chief House of the Congregation, of which the deceased was Mother-General till some eighteen months ago.

Loyalty to the Holy See

The Holy Father has forwarded to the Archbishop of Westminster the following reply to a telegram despatched by the Catholic Women's League, expressive of loyalty to the Holy See:—'Holy Father deeply appreciates the sentiments of loyalty and filial homage of the members of the Catholic Women's League assembled under your Grace's presidency, and affectionately blesses them and their Archbishop.'

Catholics Statistics

According to the 'Catholic Directory' for the current year, the Catholic population of the British Empire is now estimated as follows:—In the United Kingdom, 5,500,000 (viz., Great Britain 2,180,000; Ireland 3,320,000); Gibraltar, Malta, and Gozo, 215,000; Asia, 2,085,000; Africa, 350,500; America, 2,810,000; Australasia, 1,092,500 (viz., Australia, 955,500; New Zealand, 107,000; Fiji and other Islands, 30,000); total Catholics in the Empire, 12,053,000. The total number of Archiepiscopal and Episcopal Sees, Vicariates Apostolic, and Prefectures Apostolic in the British Empire is 183. In England and Wales there are the Archbishop of Westminster, with two Bishops Auxiliary, and fourteen Bishops of Suffragan Sees (one See, Northampton, being vacant), with a Bishop Auxiliary for Hexham and Newcastle, a Coadjutor for Leeds, and an Auxiliary for Portsmouth. In Scotland there are the Archbishop of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, with four Suffragan Bishops; and the Archbishop of Glasgow. There are also in England two Archbishops and one Bishop who are retired. Of 4075 priests in Great Britain, 2654 belong to the diocesan clergy and 1421 to religious Orders. One hundred and fifty-eight of the diocesan priests are invalided, retired, or unattached, and a few others are abroad. Of the 1421 priests belonging to religious Orders, many are French exiles; and a large number are not engaged in parochial or missionary work. There are 1273 Catholic churches, chapels, and stations in England and Wales which are certified by the Registrar-General as places of worship, and 1232 which are registered for marriages. Many of the stations in Great Britain have only an occasional not a weekly service. The lists of Catholic titled personages are large, and show a considerable increase within recent years. There are twelve Catholic members of the Privy Council of Great Britain and nine of Ireland. The Catholic members of the House of Lords number 34. The Catholic members of Parliament for England total eight, and for Ireland seventy-three.

GERMANY—A Pilgrimage

The German Association of the Holy Land has planned a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. It will leave Cologne on March 23, and the cost of the journey for each pilgrim will be about £75.

INDIA—Consecration of a Cathedral

The Catholic Cathedral, Lahore, one of the finest ecclesiastical buildings in India, was consecrated by Bishop Essternmans on November 19. Later the same day the remains of Dr. Godfrey Pelckmans, third Catholic Bishop of Lahore, were transferred from the Dalhousie Cemetery to the crypt of the new Cathedral.

ROME—The Sacred College

The latest additions to the ranks of the Cardinals raise the number of members in the Sacred College to sixty-two—six Cardinal Bishops, fifty-one Cardinal Priests, and five Cardinal Deacons. One (Cardinal

Oreglia) was created by Pope Pius IX., and forty-six by Leo XIII. The remaining fifteen are the creations of the present Pontiff. Of the Cardinals, thirty-six are Italians. The representatives of the other nationalities number twenty-six. Twenty-seven Cardinals are resident in Curia.

The Pope and the French Government

The terms of the reference made by the Holy Father to the French Government on December 18, after he had imposed the biretta on the new Cardinals, were singularly strong (says the 'Catholic Times'). After having addressed the other Cardinals, he continued: 'I congratulate you, beloved sons of France. I was anxious to afford the Catholics of your country a new proof of my special attention; and as I thought of giving this testimony there presented themselves to my mind all those distinguished prelates who, obedient to my word, with wonderful unity and with quiet but powerful resistance faced the persecution of which they have been victims and the deceitful offers of a Government which, openly insulting all the laws divine and human, sacrilegiously encroached upon things the most holy. By preferring hardships, poverty, and misery, they have, whilst inspiring all good men with confidence, given an earnest of certain victory. Thus, what was meant to be destruction has proved to be a work of construction. To all these champions who merit the applause and admiration of the world it is sweet to me to express my gratitude on this occasion. His Holiness went on to speak of the Catholic traditions of Rheims—the See of which Monsignor Luçon is Archbishop—and of Marseilles, over which Monsignor Andrieu presides as Bishop, and in concluding said that though grieved at the persecutions to which the Church was subjected, he had faith in their energy and their power of sacrifice.

The Public Consistory

As arranged (writes a Rome correspondent), the Public Consistory was opened on Thursday, December 19, by his Holiness. Robed in violet-colored vestments, by reason of the season of Advent, the Cardinals of the Court, the Archbishops, Bishops, and prelates of other countries who are staying in Rome, awaited the arrival of the Sovereign Pontiff in the vesting chamber, where a magnificent procession was formed and advanced to the Consistory Hall. As the really important business is always completed at the Secret Consistory it is not necessary to go into the details of the public sitting. At half-past nine the new Cardinals, each attended by a master of ceremonies specially assigned to him for these days, proceeded to the Sistine Chapel, where they took the customary oath. In the afternoon the Holy Father, seated on the Papal Throne, amid his Court, imposed the red biretta on the new princes, who advanced towards the Pontiff making the prescribed genuflections and knelt before him. The ceremony over, each kissed the foot and hands of his Holiness and retired to be received in private audience by the Pope and Cardinal Merry del Val successively. The audience of the Cardinals with the Pope is worthy of attention for the indignation shown by the Pontiff at the action of the French Government. As soon as Cardinal Gaspari had returned thanks to the Holy Father in his own name and that of his colleagues for their elevation to the Senate of the Church, Pius X. read a discourse thanking them for their sentiments of loyalty and filial affection. When the turn of the French Cardinals came to be addressed the voice of the Pontiff rang through the hall. He recalled the sacrilegious spoliation of the Church in France by the Government, and expressed his joy at the fidelity of the entire clergy there, both Bishops and priests, who, united in thought and deed, knew how to suffer without yielding to wheedling or persecution. Then, blessing all present, the Pope retired to his private apartments.

A Mean Policy

In a recent issue of this paper (says the 'Catholic Times') our Roman correspondent described one of the first acts of the Blocard Municipality, of which the Freemason Nathan is the head. In the budget of the Roman Corporation figured every year the trifling sum of a couple of hundred lire for the Capuchin Fathers. Priests of the Order have during centuries accompanied to the cemetery the bodies of the most necessitous poor in the capital. The little honorarium was given as a token of gratitude. But the Blocards care little for the feelings of the poor if they can injure religion, however slightly, at their expense. The donation was suppressed by Signor Nathan and his supporters. The Romans love their religion and their traditions, and when they heard what had been done there was general indignation. The 'Corriere d'Italia'