

The Catholic World

ENGLAND—An English Iona

The Benedictines, who have been established for several years at Appuldurcombe, Lord Yarborough's fine place near Wroxall, in the Isle of Wight, have acquired Quarr Abbey from Mr. T. B. H. Cochrane, the Deputy-Governor of the island. The island (says the 'Westminster Gazette') is rapidly becoming an English Iona. It now contains twelve religious houses, one of which—that of the Carmelite nuns—is connected in the person of the Abbess with a stormy episode in European history. This lady is the widow of Don Miguel, famous in the Portuguese war of succession, who died in 1866. She was for a short time the titular Queen of Portugal.

Westminster Cathedral

A Catholic, visiting Westminster Cathedral at intervals of, say, twelve months, (writes a London correspondent), cannot fail to be struck by the steady progress being made in the adornment of the metropolitan church. It is not so long since the opening of the great baldachino lent an added beauty to the vista from the nave, and since then have come the handsome grilles to the Blessed Sacrament chapel and the recumbent effigy and decoration in the Vaughan chantry. Further works are being rapidly pushed forward, in view of the Congress next September, by which time it is hoped to have the marble work in the Lady Chapel finished; and as soon as this is done, mosaics are to be begun in the chapel of the Blessed Sacrament. As bit by bit the Cathedral begins to glow with color and marble, one is able to realise in imagination how magnificent will be the effect of the completed decoration.

Golden Jubilee

A presentation was made in the early part of January to the Right Rev. Dr. Graham, the Bishop of Plymouth, to commemorate the completion of his fifty years in the priesthood. Subscriptions were received from the whole of the diocese, and the result was the presentation of a cheque for £450 and a cloth of gold set of vestments made in convents in the diocese. Lord Clifford of Chudleigh, in asking the Bishop's acceptance of the gifts, assured him that the contributions towards the cheque had come from every part of the diocese, and from practically every member of every mission.

A Convert's Faith

The late Lord Brampton is the subject of a kindly sketch from the pen of Father Gavin, S.J., in the 'Farm St. Calendar.' Lord Brampton's simple faith was (says Father Gavin) a thing to marvel at. Belief in the doctrines of the Church came quite naturally to him. He might have been a Catholic bred and born, as we say, so firm, so simple, so childlike was his faith. He never seemed to have even a temptation to doubt, and if we inquire the secret of his love and devotion to Catholic truth one may safely trace it in the dim light granted to us to a great humility of heart. He thought nothing of himself, of his intellectual acquisitions, which won in life such conspicuous success. He never referred to them in conversation to exalt himself above others. He seemed unaware of them. To such a mind and heart Catholic truth appeals. To the arrogant and the uppish and wise in their conceits God refuses the gift of faith. Once Lord Brampton made his great act of submission to the Catholic Faith, he sat at her feet like a little child to listen and to learn. Such was his posture to the end.

Lady Brampton's Will

The will of Lady Brampton was proved in London on Thursday, January 2, and the value of the property sworn at £316,060 gross, including personality of the net value of £315,662. This is considerably in excess of the value of Lord Brampton's property, practically the whole of which—the gross value being £141,853 and the net personality £141,674—he left to his wife. Lord Brampton died on October 6, and Lady Brampton on November 17 last. The executors are the Most Rev. Francis Bourne, Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, and the Right Hon. (Lord) Edmund Bernard Talbot, D.S.O., of Buckingham Palace-gardens, London, and Mr. Philip Witham, solicitor, of Gray's Inn. The bequests are as follows: £10,000 in 2½ per cent. Consols to the Hospital of St. John and St. Elizabeth, London, to be applied towards the permanent endowment of that hospital, and not for any other pur-

pose; £200 to the Right Rev. Bishop Brindle, of Nottingham; £100 to the Catholic Truth Society, of Southwark; £100 to the Right Rev. Mgr. Johnson, of Archbishop's House, Westminster; £200 to each of the executors of her will; £100 to Florence Lady White, of 4, Ashley-place, Victoria street, S.W.; £200 to Mary Wimperis, of 37, Half Moon street, Piccadilly; a life annuity of £250 and such furniture as she may select to her niece, Catherine Reynolds; the marble bust of Lord Brampton to be placed in a suitable position in the Hospital of St. John and St. Elizabeth; the portrait of her husband by the Hon. John Collier to the National Gallery. She makes provision for the care of her old horses as well as Lord Brampton's, and directs that she should be buried with her husband and her mother in the vault at Kensal Green Cemetery. The residue of her property she leaves to the Archbishop of Westminster for his own absolute use and benefit. Though there is no instruction as to the use of her residuary estate, which after payment of duties, etc., will amount to over £250,000, the Archbishop of Westminster has declared that he received from Lord and Lady Brampton at the time of making their wills an intimation of their wishes as to the disposal of this sum, and in accordance with these wishes the Archbishop has stated how this sum will be utilised: (1) To make generous provision for giving promising ecclesiastical students opportunities for pursuing a higher course of study either in England or at such foreign centres as Rome, Paris, Jerusalem, Beyrout, Freiburg, Louvain, etc., and (2) for the benefit of the Hospital of St. John and St. Elizabeth at St. John's Wood.

FRANCE—A Right and a Wise Thing

The following is an extract from an article by a non-Catholic, which appeared in a recent issue of the 'Saturday Review':—For Pius X. with no physical force or diplomatic influence behind him to take up the gauntlet that French Jacobinism had thrown down seemed to the ordinary man the height of folly. It was an act of the highest heroism. Pius VI. when he flung the "civil constitution of the clergy" in the face of the National Assembly, Pius VII. when he defied Napoleon, did no braver thing. But the brave thing was also the right and the wise thing. It brought home to French Catholics, clergy and laity alike, that French Christianity was at stake. And French Catholicism made a noble response. For the first time in the history of France, the French Church stood solid for the Pope against the rulers of the State. In a moment it was apparent that French Chauvinism had been beaten. The very prefects warned M. Clemenceau that France would not allow her shrines to be desecrated. The Jacobin Ministry consequently collapsed like a pricked bladder, and with a bad grace abandoned the churches to their rightful owners. And then the true heart of France spoke in the voice of the local communes, offering to give to the priests of the Church the free use of the presbyteries from which they had gone forth for the sake of the faith, and in the generous gifts that in every diocese, from Normandy to the Pyrenees, flowed freely into the treasury of the persecuted Church, to the amazement even of the most faithful. To-day the cathedrals and churches of France hold larger and more earnest congregations than ever they held in the days of the Second Empire. So far, then, as the battle between Christianity and Jacobinism has proceeded in France, M. Clemenceau and his merry men have accomplished certain things; but things which were far from their purpose.

GERMANY—A Charitable Queen

The German Catholic papers give glowing accounts of the generous charity of the late Queen Karola of Saxony. She spent a hundred thousand marks each year in works of beneficence, and never refused an appeal made by a person in want. But though so free in giving to others, she granted herself no luxuries, and in her bedroom hung at least twenty large pictures of relatives and friends on their death-beds. She wished to be reminded continually of the approach of death.

INDIA—Consecration of a Bishop

The consecration of the Bishop of Poona, the Right Rev. Henry Doering, S.J., took place (says the 'Catholic Register' of St. Thome de Meliapur) on December 8 in St. Patrick's Cathedral which was crowded. The Consecrator was the Archbishop of Bombay, assisted by the Bishops of Mangalore and Hyderabad.

ROME—The Cause of Beatification

The Congregation of Rites on January 14 discussed the cause of Beatification of Mother Barat, foundress of the Ladies of the Sacred Heart, and on January