

The Catholic World

ENGLAND—The Holy Father's Jubilee

The Pope's Jubilee will be celebrated this year in various ways. The Duchess of Norfolk is the president of a committee of English Catholic ladies to raise funds to present his Holiness with 100 silver Communion chalices.

FRANCE—Death of Cardinal Richard

His Eminence Cardinal Richard, Archbishop of Paris, died on January 28. Cardinal Merry del Val telegraphed the Pope's benediction. The deceased Cardinal was born at Nantes in March, 1819, was named Bishop of Belley in October, 1870, was appointed Coadjutor to Cardinal Guibert, Archbishop of Paris, in May, 1875, became Archbishop of that See on July 8, 1886, and was created Cardinal at the Consistory of May 24, 1889.

GERMANY—Catholics and Universal Suffrage

In the debate in the Reichstag on the Prussian franchise the leaders of the Catholic Centre and the Radical Union supported the demand for universal suffrage, but deprecated the street demonstrations.

A Cardinal on the Catholic Press

The Cardinal-Archbishop of Cologne, Most Rev. Dr. Fischer, has been impressing an important truth on the Catholics of his diocese. A reception was held in his honor by the staff of the 'Kölnische Volkszeitung,' and in reply to a speech by Herr Bachem, proprietor of that journal, his Eminence observed that owing to the difficulties which Catholics are called upon to face, and the increasing attacks upon religion, the clergy and the Catholic press should continually strive to make the good relations between them more and more perfect. The view to which the Cardinal has been giving expression is strongly held in Rome. The 'Civiltà Cattolica,' the other day, in an article on 'The Omnipotence of Journalism,' affirmed that the world is governed by public opinion and this by journalism, that nine-tenths of those who read newspapers allow their editors to do their thinking for them, and that 'in public life to-day there is no other criterion of truth, honesty, uprightness, justice, except that which is coined by journalism.'

An Extensive Diocese

Cologne lost in 1907-54 priests by death; 81 students were ordained priests. The total number of priests—secular and religious—is 2228, of which number 55 are golden jubilarians. Eighty-five theological students are to be ordained priests in the course of 1908. The number of Catholics is about two millions; and yet Cologne is not the largest diocese in Germany.

ITALY—Anti-clerical Libellers Condemned

For the past month various cases in which justice has been done to priests defamed by anti-clericals in Italy have been reported (writes a Rome correspondent under date January 26). These have served to open the eyes of many to the campaign of violence and calumny carried on against the clergy in the larger cities of this country. The latest case comes from Comacchio, where the Salesians have an institute. The Socialists of that locality attacked Don Rubino, the Salesian Superior, in the usual way through the columns of their organ, 'Insoorgiamo.' Without any hesitation he brought the case into court and had it investigated publicly. The result was the passing of a sentence anything but pleasing to the very excellent editor of 'Insoorgiamo,' for the praetor sent him to prison for a month, inflicted a fine of 350 francs, and ordered him to pay all costs and then make restitution for the losses incurred by the Salesians on account of his articles. This sentence may be regarded as comparatively light. Only last week two editors in South Italy were sent to prison on a similar charge for ten months each, so that their villeggiatura next summer will be enjoyed in prison.

ROME—Decree of Beatification

The decree of Beatification of the Venerable Mother Barat, foundress of the Order of the Ladies of the Sacred Heart, was read on Sunday, January 26, in the Consistory Hall at the Vatican in the presence of 300 persons. The Pope delivered a short allocution. The beatification will take place on May 24, at St. Peter's.

The Feast of St. Agnes

The annual celebrations held on the Feast of St. Agnes, January 21 (writes a Rome correspondent), were attended by a vast congregation of Romans and

foreigners, for the memory of the girl-martyr is always dear to Catholics. Over the catacomb in which her parents buried the martyr's remains on the night of her death in 305, under Diocletian, High Mass was celebrated in the beautiful church which Constantine built in 324 at the request of his daughter Constantia. This church, restored by Pope Honorius in the seventh century, has been fortunate enough to escape the hands of the renovators, so that to-day, after the many vicissitudes to which Rome has been subjected, we have the fine old Church of St. Agnese, a mile and a half from the city walls, in all its primitive grandeur. During the celebration of Mass the ceremony of blessing the pair of lambs—emblems of sacrifice and innocence—from the wool of which the Palliums worn by Metropolitan throughout the world, as a symbol of spiritual jurisdiction, are woven, took place. The lambs were borne into the church in baskets, bound with red and blue ribbons, and looking extremely pretty as they reclined on damask cushions. On being blessed upon the altar under which the body of St. Agnes reposes, they were taken to the Vatican to be again blessed by Pius X. The Holy Father then sent them to be cared for by the Sisters of St. Cecilia in Trastevere. At Easter their white fleeces will be shorn and given, as is customary, to the Pope to be woven into palliums which are placed in a golden urn over the tomb of St. Peter.

The Vatican

The word Vatican (says an exchange) is often used, but many do not understand its import. The term refers to a collection of buildings on one of the seven hills of Rome, which covers a space of twelve hundred feet in length and one thousand feet in breadth. It is built on a space once occupied by the garden of Nero. It owes its origin to the Bishop of Rome, who in the early part of the sixth century erected a humble residence on its site. About the year 1160, Pope Eugenius rebuilt it on a magnificent scale. Pope Innocent II. a few years afterwards gave it up as a lodging to Peter II., King of Aragon. In 1305, Clement II., at the instigation of the King of France, removed the Papal See from Rome to Avignon, when the Vatican remained in a condition of obscurity and neglect for more than seventy years. But soon after the return of the Pontifical Court to Rome, the Vatican was put in a state of repair, and again enlarged, and it was thenceforward considered as the regular palace and residence of the Popes, who one after another added fresh buildings to it, and gradually enriched it with antiquities, statues, pictures, and books until it became the richest depository in the world.

SCOTLAND—Catholic Progress

Interesting statistics are given in the 'Catholic Directory' as to the progress of the Church in Scotland during 1907. The baptisms for the year totalled 20,546, Glasgow archdiocese having the largest number—14,783, and the diocese of Argyll and the Isles the smallest, 289. The remainder were distributed as follows:—Edinburgh archdiocese, 2998; Dunkeld, 1294; Galloway, 725; and Aberdeen, 455. Confirmations for the year in Scotland reached the number of 11,546, distributed as follows: Glasgow, 9012; Edinburgh, 955; Dunkeld, 874; Aberdeen, 306; Argyll and the Isles, 305; and Galloway, 54. There are now more schools in the north than there were in 1906, the total being 212. Colleges and convents number 69, and there are no fewer than 37 charitable institutions carrying out the good work of relieving the poor. Ecclesiastical statistics show that there are 552 priests in Scotland, 95 of these being regular priests. The number of missions north of the Tweed is 236, and there are 7393 chapels. It is interesting to note that the total Catholic population of Scotland is close on 520,000, more than half that number being resident in the Glasgow archdiocese.

Gaelic-Speaking Catholics in Nova Scotia

Writing in the London 'Tablet' of the Gaelic-speaking Catholics of Nova Scotia, a clerical correspondent says: In Antigonish an old woman brought out from her breast a beautiful pectoral cross, a peculiar cross with two cross-bars like an archiepiscopal processional cross, with an inscription, 'S. Ignati, ora pro me'; on the reverse was 'Sine peccato originali.' I asked if she knew anything of the history of the cross. She replied 'no,' only that she heard that it once belonged to the Eastingean bana, the 'fair Bishops.' Now, the 'fair Bishops' were Bishops John and Aeneas Chisholm, Vicars-Apostolic, who are buried in the island of Lismore near Oban. She had it from her mother-in-law, a Mrs. MacQuarrie, from the island of Eigg, in the 'Old Country,' whose maiden name was MacDonnell. With these data, I wrote to the parish priest of