

The Catholic World

CHINA—The Work of the Jesuits

Five miles from Shanghai, China, is a famous observatory in charge of the Jesuits. The priests there are doing magnificent work among the natives. The technical schools, where the boys are taught printing, carpentry, and other useful trades, are conducted on practical lines, and are a tribute to the self-sacrifice and earnest zeal of the Jesuits. The time of the Empire is regulated by the observatory. The influence exerted over the outside population by this institution is commonly known.

ENGLAND—An Uncommon Occurrence

The very uncommon spectacle (says the *Catholic Weekly*) of a Catholic priest discoursing to an attentive and appreciative audience composed of Protestant clergymen, in a Protestant hall, upon subjects of Catholic teaching, might have been witnessed recently, when Father Charles Coupe, S.J., delivered a course of lectures on the 'Infallibility of the Pope' to a body of Anglican clergy, constituting the 'Popular Deanery Society for Sacred Study,' at the Christchurch House, Poplar. The lectures were delivered by Father Coupe at the special invitation of his hearers.

ROME—Papal Honor

In company with Father Crotty and Father Treacy, of the diocese of Ossory, Mr. Thomas Loughlin, of Victoria, is on a visit to the Eternal City (writes a Rome correspondent). Few Catholics in Ireland or the United Kingdom deserve better of the Church than this gentleman, who has given the sum of £40,000 towards erecting a church for his native parish of Kilkenny, and intends to expend £7000 in addition for the building of a suitable spire. Mr. Loughlin, who is the guest of S. Clemente's, has been honored by Pius X. with the Knighthood of S. Gregory the Great, as a tribute to his princely generosity.

The Pope and the French Pilgrims

The Holy Father on November 18, addressing the French pilgrims who visited Rome for the jubilee, said: 'If I have said the "Miserere" for the troubles of the Church in France, I have felt that I ought also to intone the "Te Deum" for the consolation afforded me by the spirit in which the French Catholics have made sacrifices for the faith.' An address to his Holiness was read by the Archbishop of Rheims.

The Holy Father's Jubilee

The Rome correspondent of the *Catholic Times*, writing with reference to the celebrations in connection with the Holy Father's jubilee, says:—The illuminations of the cupolas of the different churches at night presented a magnificent spectacle. Thousands of many-colored electric lights covered the cupolas, and thus afforded a scene of great beauty to the people, who were to be found in knots admiring it from every point of vantage. Many private houses were content with hanging out the old-fashioned Chinese lanterns; while in some of the smaller churches the still more old-fashioned method of illuminating by tow and grease ignited in earthen saucers was resorted to—another example of the tenacity with which Italians cling to their ancient customs. A spirit of jubilation seems to have filled the city, but there was one spot out of harmony with the rest. That is the apartment where the 'Giordano Bruno Society' holds its gatherings. There a black flag was hung at half-mast. This was intended as an insult to the Holy Father, but it was really only a sign that those who raised it are of the same temper as the enemies who persecuted Our Lord when He was on earth. On account of the incessant rain, St. Peter's Dome could not be illuminated on Monday evening, November 16, as was intended. The illumination was accordingly deferred until the following Thursday. During the day three hundred men swarmed over the gigantic dome, preparing for an illumination such as had not been witnessed in Rome for over thirty-eight years. It is reckoned that at 6.30 p.m. fully 80,000 people were standing on the great Piazza di S. Pietro awaiting the display. Half an hour later the illumination was at its height. The effect was magnificent. The Sanpiettrini crawling over the roof of the dome to attend to the wires presented a weird appearance. Admirable arrangements were made by the civil authorities to prevent accidents. All traffic of trams and cabs was suspended in the vicinity of the Piazza, while forces of military and gendarmes were present to keep order.

The Holy Father

One has heard (says *Rome*) of the Pope's old watch which he will not change for another because it was a

present to him from his mother, and because 'it ticked off her last moments on earth,' but he has another still more precious present from her, recalling those distant days when he was parish priest of Salzano. It is a little pocket edition of the *Imitation of Christ*, which is his inseparable companion—a little volume, old and worn, and bearing many marks of long service. His private secretary, Mgr. Bressan, observing it open one day on the Pope's desk, and making some remark about the poor binding, Pius X. said with a smile: 'The *Imitation*, like *The Little Flowers of St. Francis* and the *Confessions of St. Augustine*, seem to me out of place in rich bindings; humble and pious books like them look better in modest press.' Pius X. does not read many books, but he never takes up a book without finishing it, and not frequently he makes the latest volume he has read the topic of conversation with his secretaries. We know how he glances every day over all the Catholic papers published in France and Italy, but the *Difesa* of Venice is always set aside for a more careful perusal. When he was Patriarch of Venice he declared more than once that he would sell his ring and pectoral cross if necessary for the support of this paper—now, when in the Vatican, he reads the whole of it, even, or rather especially, the birth, death, and marriages. 'Have you seen,' he will say to Mgr. Bressan, 'poor — is dead?' and he will recall some of the good points or some characteristic trait of the deceased. On such occasions Pius X. invariably uses the soft Venetian dialect, which your true Venetian, from prince to peasant, employs in his intimate conversation.

SCOTLAND—A Golden Jubilee

This year his Lordship Bishop Chisholm, of Aberdeen celebrates the golden jubilee of his priesthood, having been ordained priest in Rome on the 15th May, 1859. The Canons of the Cathedral Chapter have had under consideration an appropriate mode of celebrating his Lordship's Jubilee, and the Provost and Canons have formed themselves into a committee, with Mgr. Wilson of Elgin, Vicar-General of the diocese, as secretary. A circular has been issued soliciting the co-operation of the clergy and laity of the various missions of the diocese for the promotion of the celebration, and it is pointed out that many of the Bishop's friends, who are not members of his flock, will, it is believed, avail themselves of the opportunity of showing their esteem for him by joining in the celebration.

UNITED STATES—The Passing of the Puritans

The diocese of Boston has just celebrated its centenary. The period upon which Archbishop O'Connell and his people have been looking back (says the *Catholic Times*) was a time of wonderful growth for the Catholic Church. Fittingly, therefore, was the celebration, which was marked by many demonstrations of religious, social, and patriotic feeling, closed with a great civic parade in which forty thousand men took part, and which was witnessed by three hundred thousand people. 'The Puritan,' said the Archbishop, in his eloquent and powerful centennial address, 'has passed from New England; the Catholic remains.' It is a marvellous change. As his Grace remarked, the Catholic on his advent met with a double antipathy. In New York the Dutch and the Irish soon understood each other. In Maryland the English Catholic welcomed his English Protestant kinsman. But in New England, besides religious prejudice, the French and the Irish Catholic encountered the added enmity of race. The Puritan has failed, and the members of that Church, which knows no race distinctions, survive. To-day three million Catholics occupy the limits within which one hundred years ago the Catholics were few and without resources. The diocese of Boston has been blest in the past; and, as the Holy Father says in a letter to the Archbishop, it is also blest now in having at its head a prelate who fulfils the duties of his spiritual charge with such splendid success.

The Catholic University

The annual church collection in the United States for the Catholic University of America, with a small balance from the previous collection, amounted this year to 96,905 dollars. Cardinal Gibbons writes:—'While the financial condition is very encouraging, we must all admit that the University will not be on a proper financial footing, until its endowment of 2,000,000 dollars is completed.'

The Position of the Catholic Church

Archbishop Quigley, of Chicago, in a letter of welcome to the Catholic Missionary Congress, which was opened in Chicago on Sunday, November 15, wrote:—'The Holy Father has taken the Church in America from its position of dependency and given it its full canonical rights. In doing this, he recognised the fact that it is fully able to take care of its own interests and to aid in the work of the Church at large.'