

The Catholic World

BELGIUM—A Striking Speech

At the jubilee celebration of 25 years of Catholic government in Belgium (writes the Rome correspondent of the *Advocate*), the Premier, a fervent Catholic, made a striking speech. Amongst other things, he said: 'Gentlemen, I wish I could communicate my sentiments of hope and enthusiasm to the young people. Let them remember that strong countries only can carry far and wide the benefits of civilisation and Christianity. What a glory for Catholics if our little nation could give to other nations who have not our faith the proof that nothing tending to the welfare of the people is foreign to us. We must increase the welfare of the working classes and the prosperity of agriculture. All this we can do if we lay aside our little quarrels and unite for the common good. What about titles or qualifications? For me, I want only one—Catholic, pure and simple. Catholic and patriot at the same time, for Belgium has always shown herself the faithful child of the Church. Behold what I want to say to you. I only ask you for one thing. I have here old and faithful friends. I worked formerly under the auspices of your great Bishop at the Congress of Social Works. At one of these Congresses an Alsatian priest said to us, "Go to the people." Another said, "Go to the agricultural classes." We did go to the industrial and peasant classes, and everywhere we had the happiness of seeing such a multitude of beneficent works and industries arise as it would be impossible to enumerate. These works and enterprises have earned for us the blessings of God and 25 years of power. This power we will keep if we only show ourselves worthy of it. For this we must forgive injuries, forget the past, also march hand in hand. Would that I could dissipate all old misunderstandings as if by a magic wand.'

ENGLAND—A Catholic Lord Mayor

After an interval of sixteen years (says the London *Daily Express*), we are to have once again this autumn a Catholic Lord Mayor. In the year 1892-3 Sir Stuart Knill was Lord Mayor of London, and this year his son, Sir John, will follow in his footsteps.

FRANCE—The Government and the Hierarchy

What is the French Government's intention with regard to the members of the Episcopate? Is it determined to imprison Cardinals and Bishops? It looks (remarks the *Catholic Times*) as if it will have to do so or to renounce the campaign against them upon which it has entered. The Cardinal-Archbishop of Bordeaux has been brought before a police magistrate, and has been defiant. He frankly assured his prosecutors that he would not obey the Law of Separation, and that it was non-existent for Catholics from the moment the Sovereign Pontiff, the incorruptible guardian of morality, condemned it as derogatory to the property, the authority, and the liberty of the Church. Over 90 French Archbishops and Bishops have now, by communications addressed to Cardinal Andrieu, associated themselves with the course he has taken. The Bishop of Bayonne and three other prelates have refused to pay fines. They will continue to disregard the Separation Law. A second condemnation will mean imprisonment. Will M. Clemenceau play the part of a little Bismarck during the recess by throwing priests, Bishops, Archbishops, and a Cardinal or two into gaol? If he does, he will not succeed in injuring the Church, for she is never so powerful as when enduring a Kulturkampf, but he will assuredly damage the Republic by provoking the hostility of Frenchmen in whose minds lingers one spark of devotion to the Catholic Faith.

ITALY—Catholic Women Protest

The petition signed by 40,000 Italian ladies and presented to the Chamber of Deputies the other day against the immoral publications, which are so shamelessly displayed nowadays in every large city, will certainly (writes a Rome correspondent) have a beneficial effect on literature and art for years to come. No new legislation is needed for the reform; all that is required by the women of Italy is the institution of a commission to investigate the character of current publications and to define more minutely what precisely comes within the arm of the law. The petition was received by the Chamber with welcome, and strong speeches were made on the license allowed to publishers under the guise of liberty within recent years.

ROME—The American College

One Sunday morning in 1802 (says *Rome*) an emigrant ship from Ireland arrived in New York. Her passengers were more dead than alive. They had a dreadful voyage, which lasted six weeks, and during which they narrowly escaped shipwreck three times. But some of them were determined at all costs to hear Mass on their first Sunday on American soil. In those days New York was not even a diocese, but the emigrants were easily directed to an unpretending church, where the Holy Sacrifice was offered up. At the end of the Mass the priest found in the Offerory plate a shining gold sovereign. 'It was put in the

plate,' said the sacristan, 'by a poor man. He looked as if he couldn't afford to give it. His clothes are worn and ragged, and it seemed to me that he stood in need of a good dinner.' 'Here, take it back to him,' said the priest. But Nicholas Devereaux refused to take back his gift. 'I meant it as a thank offering to Almighty God for preserving me,' he said. Fifty years later the same Nicholas Devereaux was one of the foremost advocates for the founding of a Catholic college in Rome for the education of American priests, and he was able to promise his thousand dollars as one of the first founders.

The Cause of the Irish Martyrs

It is with a good deal of pleasure (writes the Rome correspondent of the *Catholic Times*) the public will hear of the very satisfactory progress made by the cause of the Irish Martyrs in general, and that of the martyred Archbishop of Armagh in particular, during the past few months. The cause of Oliver Plunkett, which was begun several years before the causes of the body of Irish martyrs, is naturally the more advanced. Already the summary of the Apostolic Process is on the point of completion. The arguments of the *Advocate* (technically called 'informations'), which are based on the summary of the Diocesan Processes, are finished and will be immediately submitted to the Promoter of the Faith, or, as he is popularly called, 'the Devil's Advocate.' Needless to say, the progress attained is the result of long and tedious labor, a fact which a great many persons—and often persons whose position would incline one to think they should understand the complications and minute scrutinies involved in every step taken by the Sacred Congregation of Rites—seem to forget only too frequently. Volumes have been written on the processes of beatification and canonisation, and each detail mentioned in these works must be gone through with as much rigor and care as if the entire cause depended upon it.

SCOTLAND—A Credit to the Force

Constable Patrick Burke, a native of County Clare, who has been a member of the Glasgow Police Force since 1903, has been made the recipient of a cheque for £3 from the Carnegie Hero Fund Trust, as well as a certificate of merit in recognition of a conspicuous act of bravery. On the evening of May 20, during the progress of a fire in a tenement in Frederick lane, Glasgow, Constable Burke, after promptly warning the tenants, was informed that an old man had been left behind in one of the upper rooms. The constable fought his way through the burning premises and suffocating atmosphere to where the old man was lying unconscious, and carried him safely back to the street. Bailie Shaw Maxwell, who made the presentation at the Central Police Office, said that Burke (who was the first from Glasgow to be placed on the roll of honor of the Carnegie Hero Fund) was a credit to the Glasgow Police Force.

UNITED STATES—A Centenary

St. Joseph's College and Academy, at Emmitsburg, Maryland, the Mother House of the Sisters of Charity in the United States, has just celebrated its centenary. It was founded in 1809 by Mrs. Elizabeth Ann Bayley-Seton, the famous Mother Seton.

A Well Deserved Honor

The editor-in-chief of the *Catholic Encyclopedia* has just been honored by the Pope, receiving the Knighthood of St. Gregory from the Pontiff's hands (says the *Monitor*). That is a good thing for the *Encyclopedia*; while, as for Dr. Herbermann himself, all his friends rejoice, knowing how well he deserves the honor. For years he has been conspicuous as an educator, and in the United States Catholic Historical Society he has done noble work for the Church. No Catholic layman in this or any other country was ever more deserving of the honor than the Holy Father has conferred upon Dr. Herbermann.

Works of Charity

There are 56,000 devoted Catholic women in the United States (says an exchange) engaged in that beautiful work which finds expression in the labors of such organisations as the Sisters of Charity, Sisters of Mercy, the Little Sisters of the Poor. They have over 600 colleges and academies for women, 700 institutions for charity, and 3000 parochial schools; they have 1,000,000 orphans, patients, strays, waifs, and aged people to care for, 70,000 girls in their colleges and academies, and 800,000 children in their parochial schools.

GENERAL

The Propagation of the Faith

Once more (says the *Monitor*) the United States takes second place in the list of countries contributing to the work of Catholic missions, according to the annual report of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Notwithstanding the persecutions of the Church and the new demands upon French Catholics, France still leads the world in her zeal for the apostolate. The ten countries that contributed the largest amounts are: France, 616,427dol.; United States and her colonies, 193,122dol.; Germany, 133,411dol.; Belgium, 76,837dol.; Italy, 48,226dol.; Argentine Republic, 36,003dol.; Spain, 34,359dol.; Mexico, 24,135dol.; Switzerland, 17,964dol.; Ire-