

Society, was in Rome during his last illness. He solicited an audience with the Pope, which was granted to him. He at once began to address him on the necessity of a change of heart, belief in the one Hope of sinners and abandonment of all creature mediators. He announced to him the glad tidings, and assured him there was pardon for all. He warned him against the figment of baptismal regeneration, and then, proceeding to apply the word, he urged him, though in the eleventh hour, to receive the Bible, the whole Bible, and nothing but the Bible. The Pope listened with marked attention, and displayed considerable emotion. When it was ended, he answered Mr. O'Niggins that it was his fervent hope that they two would not die without finding themselves in one communion, or something of the sort. He declared, moreover, what was astonishing, that he put his sole trust in Christ, 'the source of all merit,' as he expressed it—a remarkable phrase. . . . 'This was not all,' continued No. 2; 'he called together the Cardinals, protested that he earnestly desired God's glory, said that inward religion was all in all, and forms nothing without a contrite heart, and that he trusted soon to be in Paradise—which, you know, was a denial of the doctrine of Purgatory.' And so these good people went on, quite convinced that the Pope had been 'converted,' and that he had been snatched as 'a brand from the burning.'

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The notion that anyone would seriously think of attempting to 'convert' the Pope is not so far-fetched as it might appear, and the *American Catholic Historical Researches* for July gives an account of an old-time Philadelphia lady who actually set out for Rome on that very mission. She was so satisfied herself of the truth and force of Protestantism that she was sure she had only to see the Pope, put the matter before him, and he would be immediately convinced. The journal just named quotes the facts concerning this Protestant apostle from Mr. George Hazlehurst in the *Ledger*, February 3, 1907. Particularly interesting is the conclusion of the mission and its effect on the lady's own opinions. This zealous lady was the wife of the British Consul, Mr. Peter. Mr. Hazlehurst says: 'She was Sarah Worthington, of Cincinnati, the widow of Edward, youngest son of Rufus King, and a great-aunt of Nicholas Longworth, the husband of the President's daughter. Among other things, Mrs. Peter, after she was a widow for the second time, conceived the idea that she had received from heaven a message to convert the Pope into a Protestant, and, accordingly, after borrowing the necessary funds for a journey from her brother-in-law, James Gore King, she set out for Rome on her arduous mission. I can well recall the story told me by one of my aunts, who was in Rome at the time and who sat next to Mrs. Peter at a midnight Mass in St. Peter's. In the middle of the Mass Mrs. Peter turned to my aunt, asking her what her impressions were of the service. Of course, my aunt, being a Protestant, replied in the usual denunciatory language so common even among educated people at that time. Mrs. Peter made no reply, but three weeks from that time was seen walking barefoot in a religious procession, carrying a lighted candle through the streets of Rome. On her return to America she gave her property in Cincinnati to the Church of her adoption, and ended her days as a religious devotee.' There may be a good deal in the idea that 'the way to convert Romanists is first to convert the Pope,' but the efforts so far made have not been very encouraging.

CATHOLIC CONGRESS

The sectional committees charged with the arrangements for the Third Australasian Catholic Congress (says the *Catholic Press* of September 2) have been working very zealously, and, though the opening date is almost a month ahead, they have all the machinery in running order. The preceding Congresses were remarkable, but the coming one promises to be brilliant in many respects. The social side will be exceptionally splendid, and the conversazione and the musical festival, to be each held in the Town Hall, will achieve the proudest place amongst the other notable events of the year. The programme for Congress week is comprehensive, and congressionists—the lists in the various parts of Australasia are fast filling—will not have to complain of a lack of variety, not only as regards the papers contributed, but as regards every other feature of the gathering. After the religious opening on Sunday, 26th inst., at St. Mary's Cathedral, the hierarchy and visiting clergy will be entertained by the Catholic laity of Sydney at a luncheon at the Town Hall. The Cardinal will be celebrating the silver jubilee of his arrival in Australia about that time, and St. John's College within the University will celebrate the golden jubilee of its foundation. The Congress will close on Sunday, October 3, when the foundation-stone of the completion of St. Mary's Cathedral will be laid. The following day St. Columba's Missionary College at Springwood will be blessed and officially opened.

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RETURNING TO THE FOLD

The *New World*, of Chicago, states that General Matthew C. Butler, of Columbus, S.C., has been received into the Church.

The only surviving son of the American novelist, Mr. Bret Harte, has been received into the Church by the Rev. Dr. Hagan, Vice-Rector, Irish College, Rome. Mr. Harte and his wife were confirmed in the Basilica of S. Agatha by the Right Rev. Dr. Linneborn, Bishop of Dacca.

Mr. Campbell, of Dunstaffnage, who is not yet 21 years of age, and the head of one of the oldest families in Scotland, has been received into the Catholic Church (says the *Catholic Times*).

The Misses Hilda and Vivian Terress, daughters of Admiral Terress, of 94 Mount street, Grosvenor square, were received recently into the Church at the Pro-Cathedral, Dublin.

Dr. Eugene Wasdin, of Charleston, South Carolina, a surgeon-major of the United States army, and formerly a Methodist, has been received into the Catholic Church. He is at the head of the Government Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee.

Mr. Louis Davis, only son of Sir Louis Henry Davis, of the Supreme Court of Canada, has joined the Catholic Church in Ottawa. A brother of Sir Louis, living in St. Paul, Minnesota, has long since become a Catholic.

Rev. C. I. Smith, formerly rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Charleston, South Carolina, has been received into the Church. The congregation of St. Paul's is normally a colored one.

Miss Holmes, daughter of Sir Richard Holmes, for many years librarian at Windsor Castle, and granddaughter of the late Dr. Gee, Vicar of Windsor and Canon of St. George's, has been received into the Church at St. Bernard's Convent, Slough, by the Rev. J. Francis Drake.

We (*Catholic Times*) are informed on good authority that the Rev. S. E. Spooner Lillingston has been received into the Catholic Church in Rome. From 1889 to 1891 he was curate at the Anglican Church, Paignton, and he has since been curate at St. Cuthbert's, Kennington, and at St. Augustine's, Kilburn.

Some months ago we (*Glasgow Observer*) had the pleasure of recording the reception into the Catholic Church of Miss Downs, daughter of the late Mr. Downs, minister of the parish of East Kilbride. We are now able to add that her younger sister, Miss Muriel C. Downs, has received a similar grace, and had the happiness of entering the true fold on June 15 at the Church of the Jesuit Fathers, Farm street, London.

In the private chapel of Senor Ferrando de Teresa, in the City of Mexico, some weeks ago, Mr. William Vernon Backus and his two children, Richard Cecil Backus and Mrs. Edna Backus Scott, were received into the Catholic Church by the Apostolic Delegate, Monsignor Ridolfi. After the adults had been baptised, Baby Virginia Scott, daughter of Mrs. Backus Scott, was received into the Church by the Apostolic Delegate.

The *Michigan Catholic* says that Theodore Parsons Hall, one of Detroit's best known and most highly respected pioneer residents, who died the other day, was shortly before his demise received into the Catholic Church by the Rev. A. H. B. Nacy, rector of St. Paul's Church, Grosse Pointe, Mich. Mr. Hall was a descendant of one of America's most noted families, and besides being a business man, was a profound scholar, his late years being spent quietly with his family and his books.

In St. Gall's Church, Tintah, Minn., on the feast of Pentecost, Charles F. Uebelhoer, made a public profession of faith and was received into the Catholic Church by Rev. James Walcher. Until recently Mr. Uebelhoer was a Lutheran minister, and was noted for his zeal and learning. He was born in 1874, in Germany, was graduated from the Universities of Heidelberg and Bonn, and was ordained in 1899 in Baden. He was sent on the foreign missions in connection with the German Evangelical Synod of North America. His first mission was at Strassburg, Sask, Canada. Later Mr. Uebelhoer preached at Eden Valley, Minn., which was his last mission. He will enter St. John's College, Collegeville, Minn., to study for the priesthood.

Mr. J. Wyn Irwin, the Australasian representative for Gregg shorthand, having re-established his headquarters in Christchurch, is making a speciality of tuition by mail, and offers, for the month of September only, a reduction of 25 per cent. on the usual fee for the complete mail course in Gregg shorthand. This system of shorthand is remarkably simple, and, it is said, can easily be acquired by mail within three months. The offer is a very liberal one, and advantage should be taken of it by those desirous of learning the system. A line to the Gregg Shorthand College, Box 199, Christchurch, will receive a prompt reply....

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