

The Catholic World

ENGLAND—A Distinguished Visitor. The Right Rev. Mr. Balmigard, one of the officials of the "Vatican Library," has arrived in London with a view to collect manuscripts in the public libraries of an important work which he is preparing of a history of the Papal Bills and other documents issued by the Pope from 1189 to the present date. He has discovered, in the British Museum and the Record Office, a large collection of these, and has been offered by the officials every facility for examining and even photographing them.

FRANCE War Against Christianity

The *Times* is to be congratulated on the publication of the articles written for it by M. Tavernier (says the *Catholic Times*). To say, as our contemporary does, that more has been heard in England of the views taken and often carried into effect by successive French Ministers than of those favored by the clergy and the Catholic laity, is but a very mild statement of a fact of which we have frequently complained. To put the truth plainly, the British press has been nimbled by the French atheists and the case of the Catholics whom they faithlessly persecuted has never been adequately presented to British Protestant readers. M. Tavernier has now, however, let a much light upon the intentions and doings of the persecutors. In the two articles which have appeared in the *Times* he has explained that the persecution is a deliberate schéma, long since concocted, for the destruction of Christianity in France. He has quoted confessions of atheism by the organisers and leaders of the campaign. M. Vianyi, the Freethinking Minister of Labor, only spoke the truth when he said, "We have bound ourselves throughout the past to a work of anti-clericalism and irreligion." He boasted that they had put out the lights in the heavens with but a declaration of atheism which had been made in other words by M. Gambetta, M. Clemenceau, M. Ferdinand Buisson, M. Paul Bert, and other men by whose efforts the present régime was established! About what the conductors of the campaign mean there can be no mistake. It is war to the death against any and every form of worshipping God.

GERMANY—A Prosperous Catholic Society

The German Catholic Journeymen's Society is one of the most prosperous in the world. It is divided into diocesan groups. That of Rottenburg has 2800 members and owns property to the amount of £40,000.

ROME—The Treasury of St. Peter's

The treasury of St. Peter's, by far the richest collection of church ornaments and vestments in the world, although open to the public, has hitherto been seen with difficulty owing to the very small space of the room in which it was contained. Thanks to Cardinal Rämpella, Archpriest of the Basilica, and Monsignor de Bisoglio, Dean of the Chapter, to whom the work of arrangement was entrusted, the treasures are now properly set out, and arranged behind glass in two rooms which have been set apart for the purpose, behind the sacristy. The gain is not only to the public, who can see them more easily, but it also contributes to the preservation of the more ancient vestments. Among these may be instanced the famous dalmatic of Leo III., worn at the coronation of Charlemagne, and since erroneously called the dalmatic of Charlemagne, a marvellous specimen of Byzantine art, which has kept its beauty of color for fully 1100 years. Many of the cope and other vestments, of which there is a vast collection, are hardly less beautiful and interesting. The most ancient treasure of all is the *Croce Vaticana*, which, according to tradition, was given by Justinian, Emperor of the East, and date from the sixth century.

Works of Mercy

The result of the works concluded in Reggio Calabria by the Pontifical Delegation (writes a Rome correspondent) is a source of much consolation to the Holy Father. This became specially evident during the audience given to his delegates, Monsignor Cottafavi and Count Roberto Zilari, who came to Rome for the purpose of giving *viva voce* to his Holiness an account of what has been done for the poor people of South Italy. A long list of churches, schools, convents, orphanages, hospitals, etc., erected in those parts by means of the sums entrusted to the Pope by Christians from every part of the world, was read to him. With that keen discernment so characteristic of the Pope, his Holiness examined the details of each undertaking and the plans made for further improvements in aid of the Calabrians. At the end of a half-hour Pius ^{VIII} expressed himself well pleased with the works achieved by the delegation and warmly thanked them for the assistance given him so unspareingly. In Messina the foundation stone of the great church which was to be reared in memory of the hundred thousand dead that perished in the earthquake was laid on October 1st by the Archbishop of that See, Monsignor

Municipal Authorities of the ruined city. This will be the second church built in stone since the catastrophe, the first being now so near completion that the Archbishop expects to consecrate it on the first anniversary of the destruction of Messina.

голоса ведущего

Dr. George Matheson Cullen has been elected to the position of Bailie at a meeting of the Edinburgh Town Council. He has the distinction of being the first member of the Catholic Church to be elected to the magistracy of

CONFESSIO NIS ROMANICAS (1546)

SACRED HEART SCHOOL, PONSONBY

(From our Auckland correspondent.)
The annual concert and distribution of prizes took place at the Sacred Heart School, Ponsonby, on December 10. Among the clergy present were the Rev. Fathers Edge and Doyle. The programme was a varied one, and the pupils are to be congratulated on the efficient manner in which they acquitted themselves. The following were the items: Pianoforte duet, Misses Jones and Amodeo; choirs, "Zealandia"; pupils' address, Miss Rita Lanigan; vocal duet, Misses Lowry; pianoforte duet, pupils; choirs, "We shall go to school any more"; pupils; dances, sailors' hornpipes, Miss E. Dodson; pianoforte solo, Miss Amodeo; drama, "Through Darkness to Light"; in which the performers were sustained by Misses H. Doherty, R. Liamigan, M. Hopkins, T. O'Connor, E. Furey, E. Burey, Godwin, M. George, M. Dunne, A. Webb, and K. Culhane, better known as The Rev. Father Edge thanked the pupils for the nice entertainment they had given, and congratulated them on the successful examination held by Mr. Goodwin. Certificates of proficiency were presented to M. Hopkins, Rita Liamigan, Alice Webb, and Violet Analey.

The following is the prize-list:—
Standard VI.—Attendance, Rita Lanigan; Christian doctrine, A. Webb; good conduct, H. Doherty; aggregate marks, M. Higgins.
Standard V.—Good conduct, M. O'Connor; aggregate marks, M. Boulton; Christian doctrine, K. Culhane; attendance, M. Dunne; improvement, E. Furey; general proficiency, J. George.

Standard IV.—Christian doctrine, I. Anderson; attendance, M. O'Connell; good conduct, A. Ingles; general improvement, E. Dunne.

Standard III.—Christian doctrine, W. Russell; good conduct, E. O'Dowd; attendance, R. Salvage.

Standard III.—Christian doctrine, E., Povinelli; good conduct, K. Ingles; attendance, J. Parris; aggregate marks, G. Casier; general improvement, T. A. Oldham.

G. Caster, general improvement, A. O'Brien.
Standard I. Christian doctrine, K. Flynn; good conduct, B. Fee; aggregate marks, E. O'Connor; attendance

W. McMahon; general proficiency, M. Keating.

ST. MARY'S CONVENT, PONSONBY.

The annual concert and distribution of prizes took place at St. Mary's Convent, New street, Ponsonby, on December 15. There was a large audience on the occasion. His Lordship Dr. Lenihan presided, and the clergy were represented by the Rev. Fathers Edge, Doyle, Holbrook, Cahill, and Carton. The concert was opened by a brilliant duo on three pianos, "Spanish dance" (Moskowski), played by the Misses Margaret and Rosie Ralph, E. Kelly, S. Fraser, R. Shirley, and G. Darby. An address was then read by Miss D. Ferguson. The trio "Rondo" was played with precision by the junior girls' pupils—Misses K. Kelly, E. Miller, R. Foster, M. Hahn, L. Harris, E. White, I. Noton, M. Casey, and J. Evans. "Teddy bear," a chorus sung by the junior pupils, caused much merriment, each child carrying his teddy bear. The intermediate grade then played the trio "Polo," the performers being Misses D. McStay, G. Martin, M. McVeagh, D. Sheldon, M. Noton, S. Ralph, Leila Tanner, E. Lynch, and Irene Tanner. A happy solo "Marchie" which was played by Miss T. Hutchinson, received an enthusiastic encore. The senior choruses, "The noisy mill," "Carmena," and "The harp that once, were deservedly applauded. The duet "Swing song" was gracefully played by the Misses A. Farrel, L. Bolton, D. Ferguson, H. Chick, and G. Darby, at the conclusion of which Misses P. O'Connor and G. Evans rendered the "Arlingrade" arranged for two pianos in a most effective manner. The advanced pupils, Misses J. Amodeo and D. White, Evans and P. O'Connor, charmed the audience with their exquisite rendering of the duo "Buy Blas." The solo "Baby," sung by the number 5 pupils, was deservedly cheered. This was the best performance of this charming action song by Misses E. Lynch, M. Adair, M. McVeagh, and N. Kelly. In the solo, the brilliant execution of Misses M. McVeagh and D. White in the solo "Babylon" by the former, and with the sparkling duo rendered on two pianos was much admired. Miss I. Chick was heartily applauded for her rendering of the song "Sally," which was encored.