

letting you leave this place I am reposing a great trust in you, and all I ask in return is that you will allow twenty-four hours to elapse before you divulge our secret.'

Eagerly Ray gave the required promise, offering to keep silent, a week, a month, if necessary, in his gratitude and pleasure at the information he had gained and the prospect of regaining his liberty.

But she shook her head with a sad smile, she understood human nature better than he.

'Give me the scarf you are wearing,' she said, 'that I may show it to the men as evidence that a stranger has been here. I will manage the rest. They must not know that I have seen you.'

Quickly Ray took the scarf from his neck, earnestly repeating the promise to keep silence for the desired length of time.

'Now follow me' she said, and still as if in a dream, Ray went along passage after passage, ascending and descending in rapid succession. Once or twice a feeling of distrust of his guide entered his heart; she was not leading him by the way he had come; but he banished it. They went on until the sound of the sea beating upon rocks came to his ears and right in front he saw the gleam of stars in the dark sky.

'I will leave you now,' said Ray's strange guide when she had piloted him to a part of the beach which appeared familiar to him.

'You will have a long walk back to the Manor, but you will have no difficulty in finding your way, for you can see the lights for a considerable distance. I have brought you by this way, not because I do not trust you, but because precautions are necessary when so much is at stake, and you might be asked inconvenient questions. Now, good-bye.'

'Good-bye,' Ray replied, 'I cannot thank you sufficiently for your goodness,' adding impulsively, 'a happy Christmas.'

Ray found his way swiftly back to Exley Manor.

When he entered the house he found that his prolonged absence was the topic of conversation, and various were the conjectures as to his whereabouts. He saw with amusement that his sobriety—aye, his sanity—was questioned when the fact was known that he had been wandering abroad in his evening dress and dancing shoes, minus his hat and scarf; but no explanation could he vouchsafe, assuming ill-temper to cut short their excited questioning.

Mr. Langdon looked very grave. This was worse than the ghost to have one of his guests lose his reason while an inmate of the ill-fated house, and there and then he determined to vacate his new residence with all possible speed as soon as Christmas was past.

During the following day Ray pleaded indisposition and kept to his room; he could not face the questioning eyes of Bessie Langdon.

The following day he was free to tell his story to the amazed and delighted master of Exley Manor.

Needless to say the coastguards arrived on the scene just a day too late, but they found plenty of evidence to bear out Ray's story, and two mysteries were cleared up—the mystery of the hiding place of the gang which had for so long evaded the law, and the mystery overhanging the old Manor House.

Mr. Langdon's delight, now that the mystery was cleared up, at possessing a house so famous, for he knew the story would spread far and wide, was so unbounded that Bessie and Ray, who had come to an immediate understanding, found no difficulty in obtaining his consent to their marriage when they asked him later in the day.—*Catholic Fireside.*

## The Catholic World.

**BELGIUM.**—Success of the Catholic Colleges.—The Belgium official *Moniteur* gives the results of the competitive examinations recently held between colleges of higher intermediate education, and these results show that the free Catholic institutions gained an average of 19 distinctions each more than the State institutions. Thus the grand State Athenaeum of Anvers, the foremost in the country, was completely routed by the petit clerical colleges of Thielt. In the province of Limbourg four colleges competed, and the Catholic College of St. Frond carried off 21 distinctions, whilst the Commercial College of Bernigen obtained only 11, and the Athenaeum of Hasselt and Tongres got five between them. Only a few of the Catholic colleges receive State aid, those of the first rank, including the Jesuit colleges and the free episcopal seminaries, receiving no State help. Commenting on the above a Masonic sheet of Brussels laments that while the Catholics are showing great energy and zeal in the work of education, and even the Socialists are doing something, the Masonic Liberals are allowing them to 'confiscate the youth for their own benefit.'

**ENGLAND.**—Munificent Bequests.—It is said that under the will of the late Mr. Charles W. W. Dawes, of Petworth, Sussex, the Catholic Church there and in contiguous districts will come in for bequests totalling over £80,000.

**The Jesuit Church, Farm street.**—The well-known Catholic Church in Farm street, London, in charge of the Jesuits, is now being enlarged for the third time. The site was originally purchased from the Duke of Westminster at a cost of £20,000, and since that time some adjoining ground has been acquired at considerable expense. The new wing, it is estimated, will cost £13,000.

**A Successor to the late Mr Costelloe.**—The members of the London School Board have unanimously co-opted Rev. F. C. Beckley, M.R., St. Patrick's, Wapping, E., to the seat rendered vacant by the death of Mr B. F. C. Costelloe. Father Beckley was introduced by Father Brown and Mr Barnes. He is not by any

means new to educational work. Many years ago he was appointed by the Board as divisional member of the neighbouring Board schools. His presence and advice at the various local meetings of Board officials have proved of great service, not only in relation to Catholic interests, but to the community at large.

**A Memorial to the late Bishop Butt.**—An influential committee, including the Right Rev. Mgr. Bourne, the Duke of Norfolk, K.G., the Earl of Ashburnham, and Sir John Knill, are taking steps to erect a memorial to the late Bishop Butt, Bishop of Southwark, who served with the British troops during the Crimean campaign. The cost of the erection is to be defrayed by public subscription, and the memorial is to take the form of a stained-glass window in St. George's Cathedral to complete the series there which commemorate the departed bishops of the diocese.

**FRANCE.**—What the Church is doing.—Some striking statistics showing the results achieved by Catholic agencies in France are published by the *La Vera Roma*. The education given by the free Catholic institutions has saved to the taxpayers 130 million francs (over five million pounds sterling). Without costing the State one shilling, the French Catholics have given primary instruction to two million children, secondary instruction to ninety-one thousand youths, and higher and professional education to ten thousand young men. On the other side, the religious congregations (the object of so much Government persecution) have, during the same period, lodged, fed, and clothed in their asylums, hospitals, almshouses, etc., about 250,000 destitute people, including 60,000 orphans and 100,000 old people. The amount of alms collected yearly from house to house is computed at one hundred and ten million francs, about four million pounds sterling. These two sums represent an annual saving to the taxpayers of nearly ten millions sterling. In 1898 the Conference of St. Vincent de Paul distributed 13,518,952 francs (about £600,000) to the poor, exclusive of the charities distributed by the Lady Conferences. The French Catholics gave 1,094,092 francs for the support of the schools and French missions maintained by the Society of the Holy Childhood, and about five million francs (£200,000) to the Society of the Propagation of the Faith. Ninety-three French missionaries died in 1898 under the fatigues of the foreign missions, whilst many others were martyred through hatred of God and of France.

**ROME.**—Death of a well-known priest and author.—Father Ricci, General of the Order of Christian Schools, died in Rome recently, aged 74. He was the author of a number of religious works.

**Death of the Vicar-General of his Holiness.**—The death is reported from Rome of Cardinal Jacobini, Vicar-General of the Pope, who passed away on February 1 at the age of 63 years. Though of humble origin, the late Cardinal had a brilliant career, occupying successively the positions of Secretary of Briefs, Vice-Librarian of the Roman Church, Secretary of the Propaganda Fide, and Papal Nuncio to Portugal. Mgr. Jacobini was in June, 1896, created a Cardinal, in which capacity he worked actively in forming clerical institutes and organisations. Last autumn Cardinal Jacobini was appointed Vicar-General of his Holiness in place of Cardinal Parocchi, resigned, but illness prevented him from taking formal possession of his new office.

**In memory of the Rector of the Irish College.**—A short time ago there was unveiled in the Irish College, Rome, a marble bust of the late venerable and worthy rector, Monsignor Kirby, Archbishop of Ephesus. At a musical and literary entertainment which followed Archbishop Satolli presided, and many notable ecclesiastics and laymen were present.

**RUSSIA.**—The Papal Legate at the Court of St. Petersburg.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of an English paper says that the question of the status of Mgr. Tornassi at the Russian Court is about to be decided. There is a strong belief that the presence of a Papal Legate at St. Petersburg will give a strong impetus to the question of the re-union with Rome, especially among enlightened ecclesiastics and influential laymen. The subject has taken a firm hold of the universities, academies, and clergy, and is seriously disquieting the adherents of the Czar's spiritual supremacy.

**SCOTLAND.**—Death of a well-known Catholic Lady.—The news of the death of Mrs. Monteith, of Carstairs, has caused the deepest grief to the numerous friends of that estimable lady throughout the whole of Scotland. Wherever she was known she was beloved for her many excellent qualities and her kindly disposition. The deceased, although unwell, and her husband, left their home in company with their son Basil, who had volunteered for the Cape, and who was going to London to join his company. When they reached Edinburgh, Mrs. Monteith complained of being worse, and, Mr. Monteith continuing his journey with his son, she decided to remain at the Maitland Hotel until her husband's return. She gradually became worse, and died on Sunday, January 21, the immediate cause being congestion of the lungs. Mr. Monteith hurried back from London, and happily arrived before death occurred. The remains were conveyed from Edinburgh, and the funeral took place after *Requiem Mass* in St. Mary's, Lanark.

**Death of a venerable priest.**—Rev. Father William Mann, of Portsoy, who has just passed away, was recognised as the patriarch of the diocese of Aberdeen. He was 80 years of age, and had been a priest for the long period of over half a century. He studied at Vanguard, near Paris, and was ordained to the priesthood in the early forties. The deceased was a man of the most kindly and lovable disposition, and during his long career as a zealous worker in the interests of the Church he was respected and esteemed by all who knew him.