

The Catholic World.

ENGLAND.—Profession and Reception of Nuns.—

About the middle of February interesting ceremonies of profession and reception took place at Nazareth House, Hammersmith, London, when Miss Carolina de Macedo (Sister Maria Antonio), third daughter of Mr. Joachim Antonio de Macedo, Portuguese vice-consul, Leventhorpe Hall, Leeds, Yorkshire; Miss Frances Gadd (Sister Maria Alphonso), fourth daughter of Mr. E. Gadd, of Manchester; Miss Selina Bradley (Sister Mary Reginald), second daughter of Mr. H. Bradley; and Miss Agnes Moore (Sister Mary Sylvia), fourth daughter of Mr. E. Moore, took the veil. Sister Herman Joseph Weir, Sister M. Alexander Harbison, and Sister Bernard Joseph Bagnall made their profession of first vows. The Very Rev. Father Dominic (Provincial), O.D.C., Kensington, assisted by the chaplain, Rev. W. Burns, and Very Rev. Father Aidan, O.F.M., performed the ceremony. Amongst those present were Mr. and Madame de Macedo, the Misses A. M. and L. de Macedo, and Messrs. Q. F. and Louis de Macedo, Mr. West, and a few other friends.

FRANCE—The work of the Assumptionist Fathers.—

A French paper gives an account of the labours of the Assumptionist Fathers among the poor and the working classes. In addition to the numerous orphanages conducted by them, in which they train up abandoned children and fit them for trades, and the asylums in which they receive and support aged and infirm artisans, they instituted and carry on another unique and meritorious work of charity. This work is to relieve the temporal and spiritual wants of poor mariners (fishermen and seamen of every kind), by fitting out hospital ships which go in search of poor seamen on the coasts of France, Belgium, Newfoundland, and other countries. These poor seafarers are obliged often to spend their lives on the waves or on the storm-beaten coasts of the Atlantic, where they remain abandoned and without any opportunity of religious succour. The Assumptionists have succeeded in uniting into a directive committee the leading personages of the French marine and by the diffusion of their paper *La Croix*, and by the subscriptions obtained through this means they have fitted out two hospital ships (the St. Peter and St. Paul), containing a chapel, a medicine store, an infirmary, and a library of good books. With these two ships the Fathers, at the risk of their lives, bring help to the thousands of barques scattered over the cold and perilous seas. Twice these ships were utterly wrecked, but the Fathers, undaunted and hopeful, fitted out new ones, and have continued to this hour their heroic mission.

ITALY.—The Closing Century Commemorated.—

Colossal memorial crosses are to be erected this year on 19 Italian mountain peaks in commemoration of the closing century. This work is being done by the International Committee of Homage to the Redeemer of the World, and the peaks chosen for the crosses are Saluzzo and Ivrea, in Piedmont; Brescia, in Lombardy; Udine, in Venetia; Genoa, in Liguria; Faenza, in the Romagna; Pistoia and Grosseto, in Tuscany; Norcia, in Umbria; Aquila and Sulmona, in the Abruzzi; Fossombrone, in the Marches; Cimino, in Viterbo; Montorella or San Gennaro, near Tivoli and Rome; Maranola, near Gateta; Otranto, Reggio di Calabria, Caltanissetta and Nuora. Two crosses have already been erected near Rome—the English College in Rome having erected one on Tusculum and the Irish College one at Tivoli. These memorial crosses will be of varied designs cut from granite, marble or whatever stone characterises each region, and each will bear the inscription: 'Jesus Christus, Deus Homo, Vivit, Regnat, Imperat.'

ROME.—The Anniversary Requiem Mass for Pius IX.

—The twenty-second anniversary Requiem Mass for Pope Pius IX. was celebrated in the Sistine Chapel on Thursday, February 8. Cardinal Vanutelli pontificated and the Holy Father presided on the throne and gave the absolution. There assisted at the ceremony, at the Sacred College, Prince Colonna, the archbishops and bishops assisting at the throne, the members of the Curia, the Dignitaries and others attached to the noble court of his Holiness, the various colleges of the Roman prelaty, the generals and heads of religious Orders. In the tribunes were the members of the Diplomatic Body accredited to the Holy See, many members of the Roman nobility, together with numerous Italian and foreign ladies and gentlemen.

Funeral of the late Vicar-General.—

The funeral of Cardinal Jacobini, late Vicar-General of Rome, drew forth the most extraordinary manifestation of esteem and affection ever witnessed in Rome. A very large concourse of people accompanied his venerated remains to the Church of the Twelve Apostles, whilst a very long, compact crowd followed the bier reciting aloud prayers or the Rosary for the deceased. The streets were thronged with a reverent crowd, whilst the cortege was passing, and the ascent of Trinità di Monti, thronged to its very top, presented a grand sight. The evidence of public sorrow towards the beneficent, learned, meritorious, and beloved Roman Cardinal, could not be more solemn or more significant. All classes, from the noble to the operative, from the artistic and learned to the humblest laborer, were found mixed together. The immense Basilica was thronged with a crowd of the faithful. Mons. Ceppetelli, Vicegerent of Rome, pontificated, and there were present all the Catholic societies of Rome, the colleges, seminaries, religious orders, the academies, the Cardinals, and the Diplomatic body. No Cardinal after death ever received so spontaneous, so sincere, and so universal a manifestation of sorrow and affection as the late laborious, good, and beloved Cardinal Jacobini.

THE BOER WAR.

NOTES AND POINTS OF INTEREST TO CATHOLIC READERS.

THE DUKE OF NORFOLK.

The Duke of Norfolk has resigned the Postmaster-Generalship of the United Kingdom, and has volunteered for the front.

OFFICERS KILLED.

A London newspaper has compiled a list of British officers killed during the war, and classed them according to parentage as follows:—

Sons of Peers	...	...	8
" Baronets	...	...	6
" M.P.'s	...	...	1
" Judges	...	...	1
" Squires	...	...	19
" Army officers	...	...	27
" Naval officers	...	...	6
" Clergymen	...	...	3
" Widows	...	...	8
" Doctors or lawyers	...	...	5
" Merchants	...	...	3

This is, of course, by no means a complete list, and does not include those who fell since General Buller's third attempt to cross the Tugela river.

TROUBLE IN STORE FOR THE BOERS.

The *Birmingham Daily Mail* tells of the departure of one of the reservists for the front, showing the sublime confidence which a British soldier's wife has in the prowess of her spouse. As her husband left in the train from Snow Hill Station a woman was to be seen weeping bitterly. Full of sympathy, a bystander tried to speak words of comfort to the grief-stricken wife, when he was met with the following answer: 'Oh, it ain't 'im I'm troubling about; it's them poor Boers I'm a-thinkin' of. Bill's such a terror when 'e starts.'

CATHOLIC OFFICERS AT THE FRONT.

The call to arms (says the *London Tablet*) has been nobly responded to by the nation, and serving in the troops of Yeomanry which have just left or are about to leave for the front are many who belong to well known Catholic families. Thus of Mr. Fitz-Herbert of Swynnerton's sons, two, Mr. Basil and Thomas Fitz-Herbert, have already sailed, and Mr. Cyril Selby, brother of Mr. Selby, of Bidelestone, follows in a few days. With the North Devon Hussars goes Mr. M. de las Casas. We note that Mr. Chichester, now in Africa with the second Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment, has been gazetted Captain.

A PREMATURE OBITUARY NOTICE.

We (*London Tablet*, February 10) last week printed the following notice which appeared in the obituary columns of the daily papers: 'M'Lachlan—On Christmas Day, shot in the Market square, Harrismith, Orange Free State, for refusing to fight against his own countrymen, John M'Lachlan, jun., aged 30, eldest son of John M'Lachlan, of Wandsworth, and grandson of the late John M'Lachlan, of Lambeth.' This notice has since been the subject of questions in Parliament, in reply to which Mr. Chamberlain stated that the Governor of Natal said that the report which had appeared in the local papers some time before had been contradicted. The Governor had no knowledge of any foundation for the report or on what authority the contradiction of it was based. He was, however, trying to obtain information from Harrismith refugees in Natal, if any could be found.

THE ALLEGED IRISH BRIGADE.

Appropos of Irishmen who are alleged to be enemies of England, a Ladysmith letter in the *London Daily Chronicle* says that the writer had met with Major Kincaid, who had been a prisoner with the Boers, and had been exchanged. 'Major Kincaid,' he said, 'had seen a good deal of the so-called Colonel Blake and the so-called Irish Brigade. There was not a single Irishman among them. Blake, an American, had come out for the adventure, just as he went to the Chili war.'

THE PREMIER OF CAPE COLONY.

Mr. Schreiner, the present Premier of the Cape Colony, graduated at the University of Cambridge. He was a Fellow of Downing College, and on at least one occasion rowed No. 7 in a Downing boat. He won an exhibition at the South African College before proceeding to Cambridge. His father was German, his mother English.

HOW DESPATCHES ARE CARRIED.

Mr. W. Cumming, of Douglas, who has been in and out of Kimberley during the siege with despatches, from Mr. Rhodes, is perhaps one of the most daring and successful. On one occasion he crept for the best part of thirty miles on his hands and knees with despatches, so as to escape observation, through a country swarming with Boers. We understand that the enemy had set a price of £300 on his head.

A native runner between Kuruman and Mafeking was taking a squill despatch through and was caught by the Boers. They searched him from top to toe and let him go, having found nothing. The wily native had rammed the precious despatch up his nose.

A young Scotchman who was also engaged on this dangerous work met a commando while his pocket was stuffed full of important despatches. He had wisely wrapped the papers up in a table-napkin, and they bore the semblance of 'lunch.' When stopped and asked to show what he had in his pocket he quickly said: 'Oh,