

Death of a Priest

General regret was felt by all Lancashire Catholics when the death was announced of the Very Rev. Canon Morrissey, of Burnley. Canon Morrissey was born in Manchester, and was ordained in 1875. His first curacy was St. Mary's, Burnley, under the late Canon Rimmer, to which he was appointed early in 1876. He remained at St. Mary's ever since. Canon Rimmer died in 1891, and Father Morrissey succeeded him as rector. His ministry in Burnley was marked by much activity. Costly new schools had been built, St. Mary's Church freed from debt, and at the jubilee two years ago the fabric was restored. Two mission churches had also been built—St. Mary Magdalen's, Gannow, and St. John's, Burnley Lane. When Father Morrissey went to Burnley there was only one Catholic parish; now there are five. Two years ago, at the silver jubilee of his priesthood, Canon Morrissey was presented with a purse containing 300 guineas in recognition of his valuable and devoted ministry in Burnley. Father Morrissey expended the money on a stained-glass window at St. Mary's in memory of his predecessor, Canon Rimmer. For 23 years Canon Morrissey represented the Catholic interests on the Burnley School Board.

Westminster Cathedral

The first public Mass to be offered in Westminster Cathedral was celebrated on March 19 in the Lady Chapel, and was attended by the former congregation of St. Mary's, Horseferry road, which church has now been closed by order of Cardinal Vaughan. The Cathedral stands within the district formerly served by the priests at Horseferry road, and the erection of the larger edifice made the smaller building no longer necessary. The congregation have accordingly been transferred to the Cathedral, where the Lady Chapel has been allotted to them as a parish chapel.

FRANCE.—Orders Suppressed

By 304 votes against 246 the French Chamber of Deputies refused to admit the demands for the authorisation of preaching congregations. Including teaching congregations, 54 French religious Orders have now been suppressed. Among the condemned Orders are the English Passionist Fathers in the Avenue Hoche.

An Unlooked-for Difficulty

Writing under date March 16 the Paris correspondent of the London 'Times' says it is believed that the French Government will have some difficulty in dealing summarily with certain religious Orders which it proposes to dissolve. Some of the Orders have missions not only near at home, but also in the Far East, and it is urged that it would be unwise to close the mother houses in France. Others attend the sick and impart instruction, and the impression seems to be gaining ground that it is undesirable to suppress them, at all events with undue haste. The correspondent quotes a French friend who visited his provincial constituency and was taken to see a well-appointed hospital by the advanced Republican Mayor of the municipality visited. Finding the patients in care of Sisters of Mercy, the visitor asked the Mayor how the radical Town Council permitted this. The Mayor replied: "These good ladies cost about one-third what lay nurses would cost and do better work. When B., the prominent Socialist Deputy, was here a few weeks ago, we retired the Sisters to their own quarters for the time, leaving the lay nurses in their places. The religious images were temporarily taken down, and a bust of the Republic substituted for the statue of the Blessed Virgin."

ROME.—Discovery in the Catacombs

The discovery of a new catacomb (writes a Rome correspondent) has been followed by the finding of the tomb of Pope Damasus on the Via Appia. Mgr. Wilpert, guided by the indications of the 'Liber Pontificalis,' undertook the excavations to this intent, to the left of the cemetery of Calixtus. A vast crypt decorated with marble and painting came to light, and a room filled with broken sculptures and the rubbish of other excavations. Among the fragments of marble were two bits of an inscription, the entirety of which was preserved in its reproduction on lime. It consists of four Latin hexameters in the Damasian metre, beginning: 'Hic Damasi mater posuit Lavren (tia membra),' which stated that this mother, who must be that of the Pontiff, lived to be 89, passed 60 years of her life consecrated to God, that she had four children, and that she survived her husband. While the inscription gives for the first time the name of the mother of this interesting Pontiff, it fixes the place of his tomb, for we know that he and his sister were buried with the former. The ancient itineraries say that Mark and Marcellinus reposed 'non longe'; may not the great crypt have been their memorial shrine? In any case, they reposed in the vicinity. Professor Marucchi has very ingeniously confronted with these discoveries the inscription about his father which Damasus placed in the archives of the church near the Theatre of Pompey (which is now San Lorenzo in Damaso), and one, from the same pen, in honor of some otherwise unknown Leo in the Agro Verano. I incline to believe he has succeeded in completing Mgr. Wilpert's work of identifying this Leo as the father of the poet-Pontiff.

SCOTLAND.—An Outside Opinion

Speaking at the Scottish Reformation Society recently in Edinburgh the Rev. Dr. McEwan said: "With what strange thoughts some of them must have read in 'The Scotsman' the striking account of the recent celebration in the Catholic Cathedral in Edinburgh of the semi-jubi-

lee of the re-establishment of the Catholic Hierarchy in Scotland. The account of that ceremony he read with intense interest, and he was greatly struck by the extraordinary jubilant feeling of the meeting, and the beautiful view they had of the future and of the progress they had made during the last 25 years. Their membership had increased during these years by 150,000, and there had been a corresponding increase of ministers and priests. Though credit must be given for an amount of zeal and perseverance in propagating the view they professed to believe, it would be well if the Protestants could show similar zeal in propagating and believing what they believed to be the truth of God."

A New Church

The new Church of St. Patrick's, Dumbarton, was opened on Sunday, March 22, when the dedication ceremony was performed by his Grace Archbishop Maguire, who was accompanied by his Lordship Bishop Macfarlane, of Dunkeld, several clergymen, and a large number of West of Scotland Catholics, who travelled by a special train from Glasgow. The new building, which is capable of holding 1500 people, was crowded. The ecclesiastical history of Dumbarton goes back to a very remote period, there being many legends associating the district with St. Patrick. The pre-Reformation Collegiate Church was dedicated to St. Patrick. Old St. Patrick's Church was built about 70 years ago. In the year 1830 the Catholic population of the town of Dumbarton might be counted on the fingers of one hand, but now the congregation numbers about 6000. The new church is situated in Strathleven Place and is of a very stately appearance. It is a massive and handsome structure in red sandstone, and when finished it will cost close upon £18,000.

Death of a Priest

The death took place recently at Rothesay of the Very Rev. Canon M'Coy, St. Patrick's, Coatbridge. Deceased was born on November 4, 1832, at Glenmoran, near Strabane, County Tyrone. Two years ago his health gave way, and he retired to Rothesay. His last visit to Coatbridge was in December last, when he attended at the erection of a new altar to the memory of his predecessor. The late Canon was esteemed by all classes of the community, and there is widespread regret at his death.

GENERAL

Death of a Russian Prelate

The death of the Catholic Metropolitan at St. Petersburg, the Most Rev. Boleslaus Jerome Klopotoski, Archbishop of Mohiler and Minsk, is a serious loss to the Catholic Church throughout the Russian Empire, of which the deceased prelate was the spiritual chief. It is understood that his successor in the archiepiscopal see will be Count George Szembek, at present Bishop of Plock. There are actually three important Catholic bishoprics vacant in Russia—those of Samogitia, Vilna, and Mohilev.

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