

The Catholic World

BELGIUM

PROPOSED GERMAN CRUSADE.

That the German Catholic press has been disturbed by the publication in Germany of a book urging German Protestants and other German opponents of the Catholic Church to undertake a crusade against 'Belgian Clericalism' we (*Catholic Times*) cannot be surprised. The author is a certain Karl Zimmermann and the publication is one of a series on foreign nations issued by Diedrichs, of Jena. The object clearly is to destroy the Catholic faith in Belgium, if possible. It is due to the Catholic Church, Zimmermann says, that Germany hadn't the Flemings under her sway even before the war, and the question of the future of Belgium is to be solved by warfare against clericalism in that country. In the struggle against 'Deutschtum' the Church conquered in Belgium and 'Deutschtum' was crushed. 'Wash the dirt off the State's social countenance,' writes this elegant German, 'and you will find Jesuitism grinning at you.' A German Catholic paper, in noticing the production, states that out of respect for its readers it passes over a string of shameless insults to the Catholic women of Belgium. Zimmermann asks if Luther lived in vain, and he calls upon German Protestants, guided by no other than Nietzsche, to make an attack on the Catholic teaching by which the lives of the Belgians are governed. This typical German desires that Protestantism of the German type should take the place of Catholic doctrine in Belgium.

ENGLAND

A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER.

An enormous gathering of the Irish community of Manchester and Salford, and many others, filled the large and spacious dining saloon of the Grand Hotel, Manchester, on January 11, when Sir Daniel McCabe, D.L., K.S.S., received the congratulations of his many friends on his knighthood. In replying to the good wishes of his many admirers, Sir Daniel said he recognised that a great change had come over the Irish population of this country. When he came to Manchester as a child and lived in the Irish districts of Ancoats and Rochdale road, he remembered the attitude of the English people towards the Irish of that time. It was a cruel and un-Christian attitude. He remembered what the Irish people suffered. There were the Murphy riots and other attacks upon their people. That was more than forty years ago, and at that time outrages upon the Irish people were common in this country. He always felt indignation that such treatment should be allowed in a country which was democratic and which boasted of the liberties and rights of the people. It was said that 'England's difficulty was Ireland's opportunity.' He thought that was realised to-day in a different sense, and that the Irish people were willing to take part in the present war, and were contributing their share towards securing the glorious victory which they believed would fall to the Allies before very long. The Irish people had never liked the Germans and had never had reason to like them. Their sympathies had always been with the French, even whilst the Germans were the honored guests of Englishmen. He valued the honors conferred upon him (Sir Daniel said), not for himself, but because he believed it meant better things for the Irish in this country and at home. Irish people formed a large portion of the population of Manchester, and he thought they possessed as much civic patriotism and as much desire for the welfare of the city as any other portion of the inhabitants. He did not believe that Irishmen had ever been so united in the past as they were in the prosecution of this war.

FRANCE

MISCHIEVOUS ANTI-CLERICALS.

The French anti-clericals are still indulging in their mischievous tactics. M. Clemenceau, in *l'Homme Enchaîné*, accused the Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul at the Hospital of St. Martha, Avignon, of favoring, to the detriment of others, soldiers who manifested religious sentiments. He also accused the hospital chaplain of having delivered a sermon containing heterodox doctrine. An investigation of the first charge was held. The evidence of five hundred patients was taken. They all praised the Sisters for their kindness and impartiality. The chaplain, the Abbe Lamande, has protested in a letter to M. Clemenceau's paper that in a report which appeared in its columns a sermon was attributed to him not a word of which he had uttered. The worst of these false charges is that their authors often succeed in depriving Catholics of liberty to which they are entitled. The authorities are too ready to listen to tales of the type published in *l'Homme Enchaîné*. During the Christmas holidays, in consequence of malicious rumors, they imposed in some places regulations which prevented French soldiers from attending religious services. The Catholic soldiers do not complain when their freedom of worship is restricted by sheer military necessities, but they naturally hold that they should enjoy such facilities for religious services as are granted to the Jews and Mussulmans.

ROME

A GOLDEN JUBILEE.

With due solemnity the many friends and admirers of Cardinal Falconio, and particularly the Order of Friars Minor, of which he is a member, celebrated in Rome the golden jubilee in the priesthood of his Eminence. From all over the United States messages of congratulation reached his Eminence; special functions were held in the International College of the Franciscan Order in honor of the occasion; and, best of all, an autograph letter, cordial in the extreme, was sent to him by Benedict XV. 'On the eve of the day which signalises the sacerdotal jubilee of your Eminence,' writes the Holy Father, 'it is dear to my heart to unite with you in thanking the Lord for having preserved you to this day in florid health. I also think of the great services rendered by you to the Church during the ten lustres of your sacerdotal life. The chief standard of the episcopal office is the crozier. I take pleasure, therefore, on the occasion of your jubilee, in making a present of a crozier to your Eminence. You know that the Popes do not use croziers. But your Eminence will have frequent occasion to use one. When this happens may you remember him who put it into your hand. Meanwhile, I pray the Lord to heap heavenly favors upon you.'

NEW BURIAL-PLACE FOR POPES.

A special correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle* telegraphs from Milan: To overcome the grave difficulties connected with the removal of the bodies of Pontiffs across the city of Rome to the Lateran Basilica, which is the true cathedral of the Popes, a new burial-place is being prepared for the reception of the present and future Popes in the Chapel of Presentation in the left transept of St. Peter's. A kind of catacomb is now in the course of construction in the right wall, the lower part of which will contain niches for coffins, leaving the upper portion free for monuments, so designed as not to clash with the harmony of their surroundings. Pope Leo XIII's wishes will, nevertheless, be respected and his body conveyed to St. John's at Lateran as soon as a public funeral can be conveniently arranged. Cardinal Merry del Val, as president of the Special Commission, has selected the spot temporarily occupied by Pope Leo's remains in the wall outside the choir chapel for the new monument to Pius X.'s memory. The design for the monument will be definitely chosen at the Easter reunion of Cardinals, from a large number of projects presented by Catholic artists in various countries.