

politics nor antagonistic to Catholicism? I hope Father Stettner is not ignorant of the splendid religious revival which has taken place in French literature in the last forty years. Authors of first rank like Brunetière, Ollé-Laprune, Bourget, Coppée, Henry Bordeaux, René Bazin, Reynès-Monlaur, Maurice Barrès, leaders in religious thought, are popular in France and abroad. Is it in France only that the public school system is atheistic? Is not Father Stettner familiar with the incomparable school system maintained by French Catholics to counteract it? I doubt that it will ever be duplicated in any country. Besides parochial schools and Catholic colleges, the great Catholic universities of Paris, Lille, Angers, Toulouse, are a noble evidence of the vitality of Catholicism in the higher classes.

"The French Government has persecuted the Church! It should be distinctly understood that the French Government does in no way represent the religious mentality of the French people. The majority of voters which has placed such a Government in control, compared to the total number of citizens, is a small minority. Everywhere a minority of unscrupulous politicians can always snatch the power from the hands of a majority of honest citizens. Are not the Bolsheviki a minority in unfortunate Russia? The Church in France has been persecuted! But how did the French Catholics withstand the persecution? Were the 40,000 priests of France, deprived of their income, of untold millions of property, unworthy of their trust? Is there in the whole of Christendom a clergy more enlightened, more united in spirit, more docile to the voice of the Supreme Shepherd than the French clergy? And how magnificently the French Catholics rallied around their leaders!

"Religious persecution in France has been a failure. The separation of Church and State has accumulated material ruins; but by breaking the governmental shackles of the Napoleonic Concordat it has (how unintentionally!) given the Church a greater freedom. Catholicism has progressed in the throes of persecution. All over France, the old churches have been maintained and many new ones erected. In the diocese of Paris alone, more than forty parishes, with new churches and schools, have been established in the last fifteen years. Religious communities still in large numbers are helping the Catholic clergy in the work of reconstruction, and France, as ever, leads in mission work in foreign countries. 'By their fruits you shall know them.' The French Catholics can indeed triumphantly accept the challenge. A terrible fight was forced upon them; gallantly they accepted it and they have won."

Offer faithfully to God all the little troubles of life.—*Mother M. of the Sacred Heart.*

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

M. C. (Pahiatua).—Thanks for verses. Will use later on. Do you really believe it? We have known very many countries intimately and found very many good people in all of them—even in Germany and England.

P. O'D. (King Country).—Much interested in your letter and sorry space proves too restricted just now for republication. When the bigger Harmsworth kennels have ceased baying "No-Popery" or "To Hell or to Connacht" it is usual to find lingering echoes in the editorial suites of back-block papers of world-wide reputation. It is all part of the game. One does not know whether to marvel at the effrontery or pity the ignorance of the scribes who are the pillars of the Orange lodges in this country. No wonder the lodges meet at the full of the moon.

MISS M. H.—Sorry cannot oblige you. We have tried to get badges and songs, and failed.

"ROMAN SCHOLAR."—Once more: WE DO NOT PUBLISH ANONYMOUS LETTERS. We will not reply to correspondents who forget this.

A. H.—We imagine he must have been dreaming of golf "links," or perhaps he thought it was printing "inks": "I" make a big difference—especially if mentioned to a Cockney.

"FLYING."—The story you refer to is that of Jim Plant, a Dublin bookmaker of world-wide fame, who, after a day of disaster at Leopardstown, remarked cheerfully: "Nothing left in the way of bad luck now only for someone to mistake me for a crow and shoot me when I am going to Heaven." Yes, there are other stories of Jim Plant; for instance, what he said when told that Father Pierce was on retreat.

"ANXIOUS."—It is quite true to say that (1) the Hierarchy, (2) the clergy, (3) the loyal Catholics are against prohibition. *Look closely at those who are for it here, and draw your own conclusions.* Many no-Popery bigots? Oh, no! Read over their names and ask yourself what mercy or justice Catholics might expect from many of them. "Show me your company and I'll tell you what you are," is a wise saying.

C. O'B. (?)—Your writing worse than the editor's. Get a typewriter next time. W.P.B. this event, and won easily.

F. W. B. (Christchurch).—We agree. Sir Joseph is almost as culpable as Mr. William. And, moreover, William is true to his Ulster backers. Still, as Sir Joseph has so humbly taken a back-seat, what can the poor man do only come to heel gracefully.

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