

THE CATHOLIC WORLD

A FAMOUS ABBEY.

It may be of more than passing interest to recall (says an exchange) that the French Abbey of Melleraie carries a distinct link with English and Irish monastic life, having been formerly established at Lulworth, Dorset. Whilst, in 1794, some French exiled Trappists were passing through England from Valsainte, Switzerland, to establish a monastery in Canada, they were received and protected by the English Government as French refugees. While waiting for their vessel to sail, a proposal was made to them by Mr. Thomas Weld, of Lulworth Park, Dorset. The result was that they settled at Lulworth, and later a new monastery was erected for them under the title of St. Susan, and raised to the dignity of an abbey in 1813. Owing to restrictions placed on the abbey, the community left Lulworth in 1817 and settled at Melleraie. From it were directly founded the famous Abbey of Mount Melleraie, Ireland (so named from the French mother-house), and the Trappist Monastery near Kingsbridge; indirectly also, the Trappist House of Mount St. Joseph, Roscrea, and St. Bernard's Abbey, near Leicester.

SPAIN DEDICATED TO SACRED HEART.

An incomparable religious demonstration took place recently in Spain when King Alfonso publicly consecrated the country to the Sacred Heart, and at the same time inaugurated the colossal statue of the Sacred Heart, which has been placed on the eminence near Madrid known as Nuestra Senora de los Angeles—Our Lady of the Angels,—which is recognised as being the geographical centre of Spain.

The long procession defiled in superb order up the steep ascent to the deep portals of San Miguel, with infantry, artillery, red and blue lancers, the Confraternities, the clergy, the Nuncio, the Cardinal Primate, 22 bishops, the King, the Queen, all the Court, the Ministers, and the grandees of Spain.

After the Mass in the open air, the Act of Consecration of the whole country was read in a firm clear voice by the young King, standing high above the wonderfully picturesque groups; while at the same hour it was read in every church in Spain. Then the procession wended its way from the open air altar to the foot of the statue, which rises, with a background of snow-capped mountains, the Guadarrama, to look down over the plain of La Marche to the capital of Spain.

Only one dissenting voice has been raised on this occasion. The Minister Romanones, who was not present, has protested against the action of the King as contrary to his sentiments and those of the Socialist atheists.

THE CHRIST OF THE ANDES.

Those who believe in religion as a social force are convinced (says the *Freeman's Journal*) that a real peace foundation must rest on it, and that unless it does, no enduring peace will ever be attained. It is for this reason that the example of two republics—Chile and Argentina—who on the very eve of war agreed to settle their differences and seal their amity through religion, deserves the widest attention. "Christ of the Andes," the famous bronze statue erected on the highest pinnacle of the Cordilleras between the two countries, is an ever-elocquent example of a peace sealed by religion.

BEATIFICATION CAUSES.

News has been received by the Provincial of the Irish Capuchins (says the *Freeman's Journal*) that the investigation held by the Sacred Congregation of Rites in Rome into the Causes of Father Fiacro Tobin, a native of Kilkenny (who died in 1656), and Father John Baptist Dowdall, an Ulsterman (who died in 1710), has been satisfactorily concluded.

The names of these Capuchins were omitted from the list presented to his Grace the Archbishop of Dublin for investigation in the Ordinary or Informative Process opened by him in December, 1903, and concluded in 1904. In response, however, to a petition from the Provincial of the Capuchins in Ireland, the Archbishop on June 4, 1917, instituted a distinct Process to investigate their Causes. The evidence thus collected was sent to Rome, and after full consideration has now been pronounced sufficient to establish a *prima facie* case in favor of their claims to be called Martyrs. The Archbishop will, no doubt, in due time be authorised to hold under Apostolic Delegation a complete investigation into the circumstances and causes of their death.

From the Eternal City comes the news that the process of beatification of the Venerable John Nepomucene Neumann, C.S.S.R., one of the pioneer priests of New York and Pennsylvania, has again been taken up by the Sacred Congregation of Rites. The Cause was under consideration when the war began, but had to be postponed. The Venerable John Nepomucene Neumann was a native of Bohemia. He entered the seminary at Budwels in 1831. While yet a seminarian he landed in America on June 2, 1836, and was ordained a few weeks later by Bishop Dubois of New York.

"EVERYTHING FREE."

This now familiar motto adopted by Knights of Columbus war workers has brought the order into great prominence. It is gratifying to know that the standard of Catholic citizenship has been thereby so well maintained. It would be of course unthinkable that the Knights of Columbus having gone to the public for funds should do anything other than distribute them without serving any commercial purpose. The work was purely patriotic. Hence the society supplied comforts to the soldiers at the front without charge, thus giving meaning to the motto, "Everything Free."

The arrangement suited all but some of the non-Catholic war workers. The American Y.M.C.A. was especially angry and tried to persuade the Government to limit free service to 10 per cent. It was, if you like, a showing up of some brands of patriotic Christianity, and has had the effect of putting the K. of C. on a more or less national footing, at least in the United States.—Exchange.

HEAD OF THE PAULISTS: IRISH-AMERICAN PRIEST ELECTED.

An Irish-American priest, Father T. Burke, C.S.P., has been chosen as Superior-General of the Paulist Community. The Order devote their lives mainly to missionary work, and Father Burke, in this capacity, has visited every State in the Union. He is a brother of Father John J. Burke, C.S.P., the brilliant and energetic editor of the *Catholic World*, and an active member of the National Catholic War Council. The two brother priests—and they have a sister who is a nun in the House of Mercy—were born in New York. The new head of the Paulist Order is but 47 years of age.

BELGIAN DECORATION FOR CARDINAL LOGUE

Cardinal Logue has received through the Belgian Legation in London, from the King of the Belgians, the diploma creating him "Grand Officer de l'Ordre de la Couronne," together with the insignia of the Order. It is specially stated that this distinction has been conferred on his Eminence in recognition of the kindness shown to the Belgians in Ireland during the war.

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