

The Catholic World

CANADA—A Far-away Mission

Bound for Isle a la Crosse, in the Land of the Midnight Sun, two Sisters of the Grey Nuns left Montreal in January. They proceed by rail as far as Prince Albert, and from there continue their journey by dog sled to a point 300 miles north, a Hudson Bay Company's post, known as Isle a la Crosse. There they will establish a mission for the children of the Indians, the trappers and the explorers. A mission was founded at that far-away post as long ago as 1846 by Fathers Tache and Laffecho (says the *Central Catholic* of Winnipeg). It has since been carried on by the Oblate Fathers, the Grey Nuns establishing a hospital and school there in 1860, when the whole journey from the Great Lakes had to be made with such conveyances as the fur-traders of that day could provide. At the present time the population of the mission at Isle a la Crosse is 1100 nomadic Indians, 800 Montagnais, and 300 half-breeds and Cree. Rev. Father Robert, O.M.I., is in charge, and he is assisted in his work by two priests and four Brothers.

ENGLAND—Westminster Cathedral Monstrance

Lecturing before the members of the Royal Society of Arts, Mr. Omar Ramsden, dealing with the work of silversmiths and goldsmiths, incidentally made an interesting reference to the monstrance of Westminster Cathedral. Designed to be in harmony with the Byzantine fane, it was, at the same time, meant to be representative of our own day. Although of large size and heavily jewelled, it is required to be carried in procession by the priest. Thus it is made up of layers of exceedingly thin metal, strengthened at the edges. The combination of the wheel shape of the traditional monstrance with that of the cross should, he thought, be specially noted. Describing its jewels, he pointed out that the four crystal pomegranates are in allusion to the Old Testament, as the cross is to the New. Both are bound together with a circle of symbolical heavenly clouds. The four enamel panels represent the signs of the four Evangelists, and those of the reverse four scenes from the life of our Lord. The square of ornament immediately around the crystal cylinder containing the Sacred Host is a conventional illustration of the vine, while the similar part of the reverse has a design based on the wheat. The figures around the stem are those of St. Peter, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Clare, and St. Colette. St. Peter, the audience were reminded, is the patronal saint of the diocese. The monstrance is made from the gold, silver, and jewels obtained by melting up the personal jewellery and household plate of the donor, who, some years ago, became a Colettine nun. Westminster Cathedral has, of course, a number of monstrances; the one above described is that in general use on Sundays.

FRANCE—The Neutral School

The Civil Tribunal at Rheims (says the *Catholic Times*) has given its support to the movement for suppressing opposition to the neutral schools—a movement which, it is currently believed, has, from the first, been engineered by the Government. As one of the signatories of the joint Pastoral condemning these schools and certain manuals used in them, Cardinal Luçon, Archbishop of Rheims, was sued by the Federation of Teachers for five thousand francs, or £200, damages. The Tribunal has ordered his Eminence to pay five hundred francs, or £20. It may be taken for granted that the members of the French Hierarchy will not be deterred from the discharge of their pastoral duties. How they meet persecution may be inferred from the words which Cardinal Coullié, Archbishop of Lyons, addressed on February 24 to his Diocesan Congress. 'Our faith,' said his Eminence, 'is the object of the fiercest warfare. We must don our armor for battle, for the defence of our liberties, of our Christian homes, and the souls of our children. Be ready, then, for the fray, and let your courage be equal to any sacrifice.' The Government will not take issue directly with prelates so firm and combative. But it will continue its policy of pin-pricks in the hope—a vain hope—of wearying them and so reducing them to inactivity.

INDIA—A Representative Catholic

The Hon. P. F. X. Saldanha, of Mangalore, South India, a descendant of one of the converts of St. Francis Xavier, has just been appointed by the Governor of Madras a member of the Legislative Council to represent the Catholic community of South India, in accordance with the Act conferring upon minorities the right of representation. The Archbishop of Madras, who presided over a special meeting of the South India Catholic Association, recently conveyed to Mr. Saldanha the felicitations of the people he has been called upon to represent. A nephew of the Hon. P. F. X. Saldanha, in the person of Dr. Goncalves, is well known in London as a member of the medical faculty.

ITALY—Preserving Works of Art

True to the traditions of the Church in Italy (writes a Rome correspondent), the Cardinal-Archbishop of Milan

has taken an initiative, which will preserve for posterity the many works of art stowed away in the religious houses of his diocese. In the churches and other ecclesiastical edifices of Milan and the surrounding countries works of art are to be found in abundance. Many of these are unknown and neglected; for though the State has declared all to be national monuments and has hedged them in with rules, very little control is exercised over them. At the instance of Cardinal Ferrari a Commission has been appointed to remedy this state of things. Four priests and four laymen have been nominated to compose this Diocesan Commission which will watch over the artistic treasures of the archdiocese and bring under the notice of the episcopal Curia cases of damage or negligence on the part of those placed in charge. Perhaps the best result from the initiative of the Archbishop will be the fact that in future it will be easy to lay blame on the proper shoulders in case of loss or injury to hidden treasures.

ROME—Gift of the Emperor of Germany

Through the medium of the Prussian Minister to the Holy See, the Emperor of Germany has forwarded to Mgr. De Waal, rector of the Teutonic Church beside the Vatican, the sum of 20,000 marks for the benefit of the library of that institution. The Teutonic library is one of the finest in Rome, and is open to students of all nationalities and religious persuasions.

SPAIN—Catholic Defence

The hierarchy, clergy, and Catholics of Spain are wisely preparing for future struggles (says the *Catholic Times*). The present Government will, it is expected, try its hand at legislation limiting the rights of the Church. Any such attempt is doomed to failure. But other opponents of the Church will succeed Señor Canalejas at some future time and will enlist the services of the Spanish enemies of Catholicity in a crusade against ecclesiastical liberties. It is well that the Spanish bishops and their flocks see the wisdom of making ready for the conflict. They are establishing 'juntas parroquiales,' or parochial organisations which should be able to give a good account of themselves in the event of defence being necessary. Each parish is made a little theatre of social activity. The parish priest encourages his people to meet and to discuss the questions which most intimately affect the welfare of the people, and when resolutions have been adopted all heartily combine in carrying them out. In this way a network of parochial committees has been laid down in Madrid and other dioceses, and a new spirit of mutual helpfulness has been instilled into the breasts of the faithful. Just now the Catholic bodies in Spain are holding meetings of protest against the re-opening of the so-called neutral schools, and some of these assemblages, such as that of Valencia, have been so largely attended and so influential as to show beyond doubt or question how unwavering is the fidelity of the majority of the Spanish people to the Church.

UNITED STATES—A Convert

Mr. William H. Penn, a direct descendant of William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania, died on February 16, at his home in Newark, N.J., at the age of forty (says the *Catholic Standard and Times*). He was the seventh generation of the historic Penn family. He is survived by his father and mother, the former being William Penn 6th, and by his wife, two daughters and a son, William Penn 8th. Mr. Penn was born in Elizabeth, and was educated in the public schools there. He went to Newark twenty years ago, where he had since lived. He established the William Penn Lamp Company, of which he was head at the time of his death. He was converted to the Catholic faith about two years ago, and was a member of the Holy Name Society of St. James' Church.

Charitable Bequest

The Convent of the Sacred Heart, St. Louis, through Mother Donnelly, has received 200,000 dollars, the whole estate of her uncle, Rev. Michael McFaul. Father McFaul's father was a wealthy citizen of St. Louis, and the share of his fortune that fell to the priest was allowed to accumulate. Much of it was dispensed in private charity, during his life, and the remainder he bequeathed to Mother Donnelly.

Catholic Churches

The city of Chicago has more Catholic churches than any other city in the Union. There are 187 churches in Archbishop Quigley's city, while New York proper, that is, Manhattan and the Bronx, has 138. The city of Brooklyn has 110, while Philadelphia boasts 99. In St. Louis there are 83 Catholic churches and in Pittsburg may be found 68 edifices. There are 61 churches in the city of Boston and also 61 in Cleveland. In Buffalo there can be counted 56 Catholic churches; Baltimore has 47 and Cincinnati 46.

Catholic Indians

There are 299,870 Indians in the United States, of whom 55,771 are Catholics. One hundred and thirty-eight priests minister to their wants, and 197 chapels, 17 day schools, and 53 pay schools are for their exclusive use.

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