

# The Catholic World

## ENGLAND—Appointed Vicar-Apostolic

The Rev. H. Gregory Thompson, headmaster of St. Augustine's College, Ramsgate, has been appointed Vicar-Apostolic of Gibraltar, in the place of the late Bishop Barbieri. Born in 1871, near Mold, a son of Mr. Edward Thompson, coalmaster and director of the North and South Wales Bank, the new Bishop was educated partly at Oscott and partly at St. Augustine's College, Ramsgate.

## Provincial of the Jesuits

The Very Rev. Father Joseph Brown, S.J., who has been for nearly five years Rector of St. Francis Xavier's, Liverpool, has been appointed Provincial of the English Province of the Society of Jesus, in succession to the Very Rev. Father Sykes, S.J., who has filled the office since 1904. The new Provincial has had a distinguished career. Born at Liverpool in 1856, he was educated at Stonylhurst, taking his B.A. at London University, and being ordained in 1888. He was appointed Superior of St. Mary's Hall, Stonylhurst, in 1893, and five years later became Rector of Stonylhurst, which position he relinquished in 1896 to take up the Rectorship of St. Francis Xavier's College. It is understood that Father Brown's place at Liverpool will be taken by the retiring Provincial, Father Richard Sykes, S.J.

## FRANCE—Liquidation Scandals

The Seine Court demands a reduction of 75 per cent. in the fees of certain liquidators. So enormous are the accounts of the liquidators, and so heavy the total of fees and costs implied, that the Court of the Seine has had to exact a reduction of 75 per cent. This astounding figure (says the *Univers*) is no invention; it is the Court itself which has insisted on the reduction being made, after a close inquiry and investigation on the part of its financial administrators. Take the case of M. Ménage, who had fixed his total of fees at a million of francs. After discussing it with the Court, this figure was brought down to 500,000, just one-half, as a result of the discussion. The discount was already heavy, but not sufficiently so. The lowest Finance authorities considered, in fact, that this half ought to have been still further reduced to 75 per cent., which would leave to M. Ménage annual fees of 18,000 francs, or for six years of liquidation 108,000 francs. Yet M. Ménage exacts 580,000 francs for official expenses. On this sum the Court would require a diminution of 150,000 to 200,000 francs. So the liquidator will have to prove that this sum is owing to him. Nor is M. Ménage's case unique. We give it as typical because this liquidator is, we are assured, one of the least 'voracious.' We may well ask to what did the 'voracity' of the others amount?

## GERMANY—The Kaiser and the Monks

We (*Catholic Times*) give in our present issue a special account of the reception of the German Emperor at the Benedictine Abbey of Beuron and of the memorable speech his Majesty delivered on the occasion. At a time when so many enemies of Christianity are combating it in every quarter and sowing the seeds of unbelief, this expression of deep religious conviction by the Kaiser is most welcome. The degenerates of France and Portugal have set their hands against the monks. They have slandered and libelled them, persecuted them, and cast them forth. Not so this strong Emperor of a mighty nation. 'We monks,' said Archbishop Schober, 'sons of Benedict, the great Patriarch of the West, strive each day, in conformity with the principles of our Order and with our holy rule, to give God what is God's.' And the Emperor, replying, said: 'Continue to labor on the lines of your predecessors and to support me in my efforts to maintain religion for the people. This is all the more important as the twentieth century has let loose ideas which can be successfully combated only with the help of religion and the support of Heaven. This is my firm conviction. The Crown I wear can only warrant success by basing its strength on the Word and Person of the Lord.' It is but a natural interpretation of his Majesty's words to read them as an appeal to the religious Orders of the Catholic Church not to be dismayed by temporary trials in the great work they are performing for God and men. They should also be a source of encouragement to Christian rulers in the grave difficulties they have to face owing to the machinations of the foes of Christianity.

## ITALY—The Press and the Mayor of Rome

It has been remarked in Rome (writes a correspondent) that the impression conveyed by Reuter's representation of the Nathan incident has not been quite clear. On reading a Reuter's message sent on November 10, I find that the only impression one gets is that the clerical papers alone protest against Nathan's conduct. To show how false this is I quote verbatim the *Corriere della Sera* on Nathan, which paper is anything but clerical. It says: 'Ernest Nathan, on learning that the Mayor of Montreal, a Catholic and the representative of Catholics, voted along with the Municipal Council, a censure on a speech full of in-

sults to Catholicity delivered by the Mayor of Rome, has lost his temper and written an acrid letter in reply, enclosing a French and English translation. The idea of the two translations is a splendid one, as the text of the epistle is not graceful Italian. The Mayor of Rome is rather confused in his composition. He makes detours in phrases slightly labyrinthine, and uses imaginings over which one must pause to arrive at a legitimate suspicion of their approximate meaning. Thus, with regard to the wish that the First Magistrate of Montreal "may be compensated for his Catholic zeal in current coin in the limited sphere in which he moves," what does that mean? Does it mean that the Canadian gentleman would accept small change in return for the gratification given to some prelate? It is not possible. The stupidity is too great. But there is one part that the Mayor of Montreal will thoroughly comprehend—viz., the remark that the Mayor of Rome advises him to mind his affairs as Mayor without mixing himself up in those of others. All we say is the advice is good. So good is it that probably the Mayor of Rome will finish by following it himself. On the happy day that he decides to follow it, perhaps, in case he is Mayor, he will deliver addresses as Mayor and not as ex-Grand Master of Freemasonry, and will feel convinced that to give proof of being a good administrator for the city of Rome it is not necessary to say insolent things against the Pope and Catholicism.'

## ROME—The Pope and the Eucharistic Congress

The arrival of his Eminence Cardinal Vincent Vannutelli in Rome from America was followed next morning by a most interesting interview with the Holy Father. Pius X., although already well informed of the details of the Eucharistic Congress of Montreal, and of the Cardinal's reception in the United States, felt anxious to hear from the Papal Legate himself further particulars of the great Catholic manifestation in Canada and the States. His Eminence gave a most consoling and, indeed, enthusiastic account of the success of his mission, and of the strong, thoroughly organised state of the Catholics in the New World. The Holy Father expressed his deep satisfaction at the Cardinal's report, and repeatedly uttered words of good-will and benediction with regard to the prelates, priests, and faithful of Canada and the United States. While on his return to Europe Cardinal Vannutelli received the following thoughtful marconigraph from Mr. Guerin, Mayor of Montreal: 'Grateful Montreal wishes you a happy voyage and sends an expression of homage to the Holy Father.'

## The New Vatican Observatory

In the inauguration of the new Vatican Observatory, which has been completed under the direction of Cardinal Maffi, Archbishop of Pisa, Father Hagen, S.J., and Father Luis, Director and Vice-Director respectively of the observatory, the fostering care which the Church has ever had for science, has once more been illustrated. The observatory, which consists of the Tower of Leo IV. and the summer residence of Leo XIII., situated in the highest part of the Vatican Gardens, is calculated to be one of the finest in the world; for none but the most superior class of astronomical instruments and fittings have been chosen. On account of the uncertain state of the weather, the Holy Father hearkened to the advice to inaugurate the observatory in the Vatican. Here, surrounded by the ecclesiastical and lay dignitaries of his court, his Holiness listened to an eloquent address from Cardinal Maffi suitable to the occasion. Opening his discourse by mentioning how the Pontiff had honored him in entrusting to him the work of organising the observatory, the Cardinal Archbishop of Pisa spoke of the obstacles that had to be overcome in the task, the place the institution holds among other observatories, and the perfection of the instruments procured. 'In these gardens, perhaps on this spot,' continued the Cardinal, 'your predecessor, Clement VII., amid Cardinals, Bishops, and prelates, listened to a lecture from Widmanstadt, who explained—one hundred years before the trial of Galileo (1633)—the heliocentric doctrine and the movement of the earth round the sun. He met with neither corrections nor silence. But the Pope presented to him a Greek codex of Alexander of Afrosidia, which is now preserved in the public library of Munich, in Bavaria, and honored him with the title of domestic secretary. Human passions, which misled both the followers of Ptolemy and Copernicus, deprived the Church for a brief period of its happy state of serenity. Now, after four centuries, the scene in which Clement VII. figured is renewed, and you, Holy Father, on this day amid the joyful applause of all, give to another astronomer, such as Widmanstadt of Germany, the power to write—and in a sense with greater truth: "In the Vatican Gardens I explained the doctrine of the motion of the earth." At the end of the address Pius X. congratulated the Cardinal and bestowed on Father Hagen a medal in commemoration of the day.'

## SCOTLAND—A Golden Jubilee

The Very Rev. Donald Provost Mackintosh, of Mingarry, Moidart, Inverness-shire, celebrated his golden jubilee on November 30, the Feast of St. Andrew. The Provost was ordained at Ratisbon on November 30, 1860, in the Scots' College there. Provost Mackintosh was born in Glenfinnan, and took charge of the parish of Moidart after the death of the Rev. Charles Macdonald in 1894.