

The Catholic World

ENGLAND—The Brighton Converts

The Rome correspondent of the London *Universe* states that by the Holy Father's express desire the five Brighton clergymen who were recently received into the Church are about to enter the Academy for Noble Ecclesiastics, where they will prosecute their studies for the priesthood.

Progress in Liverpool

It may be noted, as a tribute to the effective work accomplished during the episcopate of the present Bishop of Liverpool, that during the years in which Bishop White-side has ruled that diocese some 20,000 converts have been received into the Church.

The New Bishop of Portsmouth

The Right Rev. Dr. Cotter, who acted as Auxiliary to the late Bishop Cahill, has been appointed Bishop of the Portsmouth diocese. The intelligence has been warmly received by the members of all classes and creeds in Ryde, where Dr. Cotter succeeded Dr. Cahill as Rector of St. Mary's Church. Like his predecessor in the See of Portsmouth, Dr. William T. Cotter is an Irishman and proud of belonging to a race so distinguished for its faithfulness to the Holy See. He was born in Cloyne, County Cork, in 1866, on the Feast of St. Thomas, December 21. The connection of his parents with the Navy, however, brought him early into contact with the southern shores of England, and till the age of seven years he attended St. Joseph's School, Plymouth. Here it was that he was prepared for Confirmation and received his First Communion from the hands of the Bishop of Plymouth. He was afterwards educated at St. Colman's College, Fernoy, and at Maynooth, where he was elevated to the sacred ministry in 1892 by the Bishop of Cloyne. The Bishop-Elect first came to the Portsmouth diocese in 1898. His first mission was St. Mary's, Ryde, where he was stationed for thirteen years. In 1902 he was made a Canon, and in 1905 was consecrated Bishop of Clazomenae. Dr. Cotter officiated as Bishop Cahill's secretary until the latter's recent death. Bishop Cotter is generally beloved by Catholics and liked and respected by the non-Catholics amongst whom he lives.

The Duke of Norfolk's Decoration

In its issue of November 26 the *Osservatore Romano* publishes in its official column an announcement of the distinction of the 'Milizia Aurata' (Order of the Golden Spur) recently conferred upon the Duke of Norfolk. It is worthy of notice that the Holy Father on reorganising this Order limited its number to one hundred. Up to the present only five have been nominated to the coveted distinction, which ranks second in the seven species of decorations conferred by the Sovereign Pontiff. The names of the four confreres of the Duke of Norfolk of the 'Milizia Aurata' are the Marquis de Comillas, Spain, who assisted the Pope so wholeheartedly in rescuing so many little ones made orphans in December, 1908, by the Calabrian earthquake; Count Blumenshild, president of the Society of Papal Army Survivors; Baron Charette, officer of the same army; and Count Ubaldini, who holds the rank of captain in the famous body. November 25 was the golden jubilee anniversary of the Duke of Norfolk's succession to his honors and dignities, his father, the fourteenth Duke, who enjoyed the family honors for only four years, having died just fifty years ago that day. The Duke is therefore not only premier duke by date of creation, but by his own long tenure of the title. He is still strong and hearty, and with his young family growing up about him, carries his three-and-sixty years very lightly.

Catholics and Divorce

Many and various have been the views on divorce tendered in evidence before the Divorce Commission (says the London *Universe*). If the Commissioners have learned how the different Protestant bodies differ one from another, or by individual opinions, on this most important subject, they have also learned how united Catholics are, not only in disallowing the principle of divorce, but also in preserving social and domestic conditions which do not call for the 'remedy' of such a process. To take the evidence of a London priest of many years' experience in a poor mission, Prior Kelly, O.S.A., it was shown that during forty-six years' work at Hoxton he had never met with a case where a Catholic among his flock had applied for divorce, while even separation orders were not readily sought for. Drink, unemployment, and other evils often enough play havoc with the domestic lives of the Catholic poor, but with it all these people recognise the inviolate character of Christian marriage, and thus set an example to other stations and other creeds.

FRANCE—Ceased to Exist

The Abbé Houtin, who, in spite of the Pope and the French Hierarchy, persisted for over two years in carrying on his parish on the lines laid down by the Government, has made his submission to his Bishop, and to-day throughout the length and breadth of France there is not a single Catholic 'Association cultuelle' in existence.

GERMANY—The Kaiser and Religion

The Italian papers (says a Rome correspondent) have occupied themselves a good deal with the interest in religion shown in the address of the Emperor of Germany to the Benedictine Fathers of Beuron, given in the last issue of the *Catholic Times*. It is worthy of remark that the honor which William of Germany showed to Pope Leo XIII. on the occasion of his visit to Rome a good many years ago is still remembered and spoken of in all circles in this city, as it was evident the Emperor went out of his way on the occasion to pay respect to the aged Pontiff.

Progress of the Church

The Catholics are steadily winning back lost ground in Germany. The Berlin correspondent of a British Nonconformist organ informs us that, according to statistics to which a well-known religious journal in Berlin has access, the Catholic population of Prussia has increased within the last forty years from 33.56 per cent. of the whole to 35.80 per cent., and the Protestant population has decreased from 64.89 per cent. of the whole to 62.59. So that since the war with France there has been a decrease of 2.30 per cent. in the Protestant population, and the Catholics have increased 2.24. Various explanations of this alteration in the relative proportions of Protestants and Catholics to the general population are offered. One is the rapid increase of the Poles in the eastern provinces, and another is the higher average of the number of members in Catholic families. The rise in the Catholic percentage may be partly due to these causes, but it may also be safely attributed in part to the effects produced by the greater religious earnestness of the Catholics.

ROME—The Next Consistory

Not for a generation (writes the Rome correspondent of the *Catholic Times*) has any Consistory been better written-up than that which has been waited for in vain for the past two years. Forecasts regarding its date and prophecies as to the creation of Cardinals were numerous, and journals seemed never tired of examining the possibilities that a few months might bring. So much was this the case a half year ago that it has been said the Holy Father disliked the very mention of the term Consistory. At present there is no hope in ecclesiastical circles as to the holding of a Consistory for a considerable time, if such a ceremony be not held in the spring; for the Roman exhibitions opens in May, and no great Church function will be held during the time in which the Italian Government is engaged celebrating the fiftieth year of the unification, or perhaps more correctly, disunion of Italy. The Sacred College, which when complete contains seventy members, now counts fifty-three, seventeen of whom were raised to the Purple during the present Pontificate. In the case of several Cardinals advanced years and ill-health indicate that vacancies may be expected in the Senate of the Church before long. Information has reached Rome that Cardinal Juzyna, Archbishop of Cracow, has had a stroke of apoplexy, and is in a serious condition. The Cardinal Archbishop of Vienna has seen over ninety winters, and Cardinal Oreglia, 'doyen' of the Sacred College and the only surviving creation of Pius the Ninth, leaves his residence very seldom owing to age and infirmities.

Death of a Cardinal

The death of his Eminence Cardinal Samminiattelli, which took place on November 24, at his villa of Monte Castello, in Tuscany, where he had gone to pass the autumn months, removes a rather striking figure from the world of Rome. As far back as 1857 the future Prince of the Church arrived in Rome, and entered the Capranican College, being then at the age of seventeen. Three years afterwards he was admitted to the Academy of Noble Ecclesiastics. In 1863, after being ordained priest at Pisa, Father Samminiattelli returned to Rome, where he passed the next two years in study, winning the doctorates of theology and Canon Law in the Roman College and the University of Rome respectively. In 1868 Pius IX. in person consecrated the young prelate Titular Archbishop of Thiana, and nominated him Papal Eleemosynary, a post he filled for fifteen years until his elevation to the Sacred College by Leo XIII. in 1899.

An Echo of the Last Conclave

Cardinal Puzyna, Archbishop of Cracow, who is reported to be seriously ill, is the member of the Sacred College who intimated at the last Conclave that the Emperor of Austria wished to use the veto against Cardinal Rampolla. The Cardinal Dean replied that the communication could not be received either officially or officiously. Cardinal Rampolla said he was greatly troubled at the grievous wound inflicted on the liberty of the Church, but that for himself nothing more welcome or pleasing could have happened.

UNITED STATES—Federation of Catholic Societies

The ninth annual convention of the American Federation of Catholic Societies, held at New Orleans, was a most successful gathering. Principal amongst the resolutions adopted at the concluding session was one of denunciation of the administrative officers of the Republic of Portugal and of commendation of the State Department of Washington for delaying recognition of the new Government. Horror was expressed at the 'barbarous inception' of the new Republic.