

The Catholic World

ENGLAND

FATHER BENSON MADE A MONSIGNOR.

It is with much pleasure I announce (writes the Rome correspondent of the *Catholic Times*) that, in recognition of the labors of Rev. R. H. Benson, the Holy Father has appointed him a Cameriere Segreto. The dignity carries with it the title of Monsignor. For a considerable time Pius X has been kept in touch with the zealous work of Monsignor Benson, both in the pulpit and in the literary world.

FRANCE

A NOTE OF DISCORD.

The 482nd anniversary of the raising of the siege of Orleans by Blessed Joan of Arc was celebrated in that town on Sunday, May 7, and Monday, May 8, before large crowds. On Sunday night a standard, a replica of the one borne by Joan of Arc when she entered the town in 1429, was handed by the Mayor to Mgr. Touchet, the Bishop of Orleans, and on Monday there was the traditional procession through the streets, which were decked with more than the usual amount of bunting. A note of discord was struck by the order of the Government that the military should not take part in the ceremony in common with the municipal and ecclesiastical authorities. The four regiments of reserve troops now quartered at Cercottes accordingly marched past the statue of the Maid only after the religious celebration had been closed by the blessing of the crowd by the Bishop of Orleans. The Bishop of Orleans, in an interview with a representative of the *Eclair*, strongly condemned the course taken by the Government, and said the object of the authorities was to banish religion and its representatives from every public act of French life.

A DEATH-BED REPENTANCE.

It is reported by *La Croix* that on April 27, M. Constant Dulau, French deputy for Saint-Sever, finding himself dangerously sick, asked for the consolations of religion. Though unable to write, he made a full retraction of his parliamentary attacks upon the Catholic Church in full possession of his faculties with a firm voice, and before four persons, of whom two had been chosen to act officially as witnesses. He disowned his votes as deputy, and all other public acts of his contrary to the laws and sacred rights of the Catholic Church, and asked forgiveness from God and from men. M. Dulau fervently repeated the expression of his sorrow for the past on receiving Extreme Unction, and declared his wish to die a faithful child of the Church. It should be said that he had not voted for the Law of Separation. But, later on, yielding to evil influence, he allowed himself to be dragged into approving all the iniquitous measures resulting from that law! Having become a member of the 'bloc,' he supported all its anti-Catholic doings. It is probable (says the *Catholic Weekly*) that there are others in the Chamber of whom the same might be said, and who will be brought to their senses by the approach of that great disabuser, Death—that is, supposing that they are granted the time and opportunity. As St. Augustine tells us, God will always accept our repentance, but has not promised us our own time for making it.

ITALY

A VENERABLE CARDINAL.

It may be said that Catholic Italy from Pius X. downwards has celebrated the Silver Jubilee in the Sacred College of his Eminence Cardinal Capececiaturo, Archbishop of Capua, who though in his eighty-eighth year, still rules his diocese with all the vigor and clearness of mind that characterised him forty years ago (writes a Rome correspondent). From the Holy Father, each member of the College of Cardinals, and a large number of Bishops of Italy and France, the aged Cardinal has received autograph letters bearing touching testimony to his life-work as a theologian, spiritual shepherd, writer and organiser. From his pen no less than twenty-five works have come; while the number of pamphlets that have been published by him is very large. Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore, writes to the great ecclesiastic:—'I feel deep pleasure on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of his elevation to the Cardinalate in offering to the Venerable Archbishop of Capua my most sincere congratulations and good wishes, and in expressing the great admiration I have for a man who by his tireless zeal as a priest and a writer has done so much for the good of religion. May God in his goodness preserve him for many years. Not only Capua, but the world has reason for rejoicing on this anniversary of so illustrious a member of the Sacred College, who for so many years has labored so zealously in the vineyard of the Lord.'

ROME

RECEIVED IN SPECIAL AUDIENCE.

The Very Rev. J. T. Crotty, O.P., on May 4, presented to the Holy Father in special audience Mr. Holden, ex-Mayor of Adelaide, and family, all the members of which, including Mr. Holden himself, are Protestants. As a souvenir of his first visit to the Vatican, as Pius X said, his Holiness bestowed a medal on Master W. Holden, the youngest son of the ex-Mayor.

CONFERRING THE PALLIUM.

In the presence of the Roman Court, and the Armenian and Greek prelates, priests, and laity of Rome, the ceremony of presenting the Sacred Pallium, as the symbol of jurisdiction from the Head of the Church, was performed on May 2 by Pius X in response to the postulation made a week previously by Peter Paul XIII., Patriarch of the Armenians of Cilicia (writes a Rome correspondent). This is the third occasion on which an Armenian Patriarch has received the Pallium from the Roman Pontiff, the first having been in the case of Abraham Peter I., at the hands of Pope Benedict XIV., and the second having occurred in the reign of Pius IX., who imposed the sacred symbol of Anthony Peter IX., afterwards Cardinal. In the Court of Rome the new Patriarch of Cilicia is known as one of the most indefatigable prelates in the East. His Beatitude, who went through his ecclesiastical course in the Propaganda College, Rome, is an accomplished linguist, speaking fluently the chief languages of Europe as well as several Eastern tongues.

THE POPE RECEIVES BLUEJACKETS.

Although not quite fully recovered from his slight indisposition, the Holy Father on May 1 gave audience to a number of English sailors and officers, most of the latter being Protestants. The Pope (writes a Rome correspondent), well knew the anxiety and eager desire of these men to take advantage of their chance visit to Naples, to come to Rome to see the Vicar of Christ, and he could not disappoint them. So when Mgr. Prior presented them, his Holiness received them most cordially, and addressed them in words that are likely to remain with them for life. He laid special stress on the great necessity of showing reverence and ready obedience to those in command.

SCOTLAND

APPOINTED CANON.

The Rev. John McIntosh, Buckle, has been warmly congratulated on his appointment to the dignity of Canon of the Cathedral Chapter of Aberdeen. The vacancy occurred in consequence of the election of the Very Rev. Canon Kyle to the Provostship, in succession to the late Provost McDonald. Canon McIntosh is one of the most popular and highly esteemed priests in the Aberdeen diocese, and his genial personality has gained him hosts of friends among all classes and creeds in the district where he has labored so long and so successfully.

SPAIN

THE RELIGIOUS ORDERS.

Señor Canalejas has brought in his Associations Bill, and it has been read in the Chamber. It might perhaps best be described as a measure the object of which is to worry the religious Orders (remarks the *Catholic Times*). Under it officials who are enamoured of red tape and love to exercise administrative pressure will have a happy time. In the training of the monks and friars there must be a new departure. They will have to acquire not only all the knowledge necessary for the discharge of their sacred duties, but also that requisite for the business of a notary. Registers will be to the right of them; registers to the left of them; registers in front of them, and registers all round them. Their names, their ages, and other particulars must be carefully noted down. And they must be experts in making out accounts. Of the accounts of associations which collect and distribute funds for the benefit of their numbers, or for benevolent, educational, or similar purposes, there is to be an investigation by the governor of the province every three months. Every third year there is to be an examination of balance-sheets, an inquiry into assets and revenues, and we know not what besides. Strangers must be on the registers of their consulates and of the governors of the provinces where they live before they can become members of the associations, and not more than a third of the members of any association can be foreigners. The measure must inevitably have a disturbing effect on the activities of religious communities. But the worst consideration suggested by it is that it is merely a sop to the anti-clerical Jacobins. Waldeck-Rousseau addressed reassuring terms to the Church of France like Señor Canalejas' language to the Church in Spain, but his Associations Bill was followed by spoliation and persecution.

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