

The Catholic World

FRANCE

USELESS EXPENDITURE.

The Paris *Univers* has the following item from which may be drawn a number of morals:—St. Alban-d'Ay is a fine village situated in the mountains of Ardeche. In the village there are 157 children of school age. There are four schools to accommodate these children—two free or Catholic schools, and two lay or government schools. The two free schools have eighty-one boys and seventy-one girls; the two lay schools have four boys and one girl. The cost of the two lay schools is 6000 francs a year, the five pupils costing about 1200 francs to educate, each boy coming to 750 francs a year and the only girl costing 3000 francs. The free schools on the other hand do not cost the treasury anything.

AN EDIFYING SIGHT.

The first Sunday of Advent the good people who attended Mass at the Abbatial Church of Notre des Ermites, France, beheld M. and Mme. Benoit Kaelin, followed by their twenty-four children, approaching the Holy Table. The oldest child was fifty years, the youngest twenty.

GERMANY

THE POSITION OF THE CENTRE PARTY.

The decision of the German Bundesrat of the Imperial Council making the anti-Jesuit Act more rigid in its repression of the activity of the religious Orders against which it is directed has had an excellent effect on the discipline of the Centre Party (says the *Catholic Times*). As in the case of every party which has fought in the political arena for many years, the Centre has had some critics even in the ranks of its friends—people who, whilst agreeing generally with its programme, have differed from it on this point or that. The Bundesrat has silenced these critics and objectors. All the Catholics now feel that it is their duty to put aside subordinate questions for the moment, and in the matter of religious liberty to press for equality with non-Catholics. They have closed up their ranks and with perfect unanimity demand fair play. A meeting which has just been held in Cologne to voice this claim was one of the largest and most important in the history of the Centre Party. By a resolution which was adopted it called upon the Bundesrat to revoke its recent decision and to abolish the obnoxious law in accordance with the will of the Reichstag, repeatedly expressed. If this demand is not complied with the agitation against the Act will become more and more formidable, and the Government will have to reckon upon an extremely difficult situation in the Reichstag.

PORTUGAL

THE RUIN OF THE COUNTRY.

El Universo, of Madrid, states that it is informed by a London correspondent who is in the closest relationship with King Manoel that there is no truth in the rumor that the Portuguese Monarchists intend to make another attack on the Republic from the Spanish frontier. The Monarchists have been well advised (says the *Catholic Times*) in resolving not to take such a course. The best policy for them to adopt is that of allowing the Republicans themselves to give the Republic its quietus. If the Republicans were well-meaning, well-conducted men, with honorable principles and an earnest desire to serve their country's interests, they would probably succeed, sooner or later, in making the Republican regime acceptable to the people. But they are self-seekers who do not understand disinterested motives. They have fomented disorder and kept it alive; have endeavoured to wreak vengeance on those who have in any way obstructed them in the execution of their schemes; and have mismanaged, muddled, and squandered the nation's finances. They have brought Portugal to such a condition that even a considerable number of those who

were formerly in favor of the Republic and helped to make it popular at the outset do not disguise their belief that the only method by which the land can be saved from utter ruin is the re-establishment of a military dictatorship.

ROME

A GREAT EDUCATIONAL WORK.

There can be no doubt that the work done by the Irish Christian Brothers in Rome is immensely to the benefit of the Church, the city, and the country (says a Rome correspondent). It is needless to dwell on the devotion with which the Brothers apply themselves to their labor of love—the training of those who seek knowledge. There is perhaps no place in the world where this work is subjected to keener examination than in Rome, for the city may be said to be international in the educational sense. It is therefore a testimony to the excellence of the results brought about by the Brothers' efforts to say that all who investigate them admire them. Whenever occasion offers many people who are eminently qualified to judge in this matter bear witness to the good fruit due to the Brothers' zeal. Expressions to this effect were heard from many at the distribution of prizes to the successful students of the Brothers' Free Night Schools, a ceremony which was performed by his Eminence Cardinal Bisleti. There was a representative gathering of British and Irish residents, with a distinguished visitor or two. It was stated that in the night schools there were last year over five hundred youths and men drawn from all walks of life. They desired to improve their minds, and the Brothers afforded them ample opportunities. English, French, German, indeed all the subjects that may be considered serviceable for those who seek to earn a living amongst progressive people, are well taught. The Dramatic Club showed what it could do by putting a play on the boards, and those present were unanimous in regarding it as a remarkable proof of the intelligence and ability of those who took part in it.

TWO IRISH NOBLE FAMILIES.

The titular church of the Cardinal Archbishop of Seville has a special interest for Irish Catholics. On the floor outside the balustrade of the high altar are two marble inscribed slabs of large size let into the pavement, recording, as Donovan's *Rome* has it, 'the virtues and the vicissitudes of members of the noble families of O'Nial and O'Donnell, whose remains repose beneath their monumental slabs.' King James I. of England having determined on the ruin of O'Nial, he, together with his wife, his two younger sons, and nephew, and the other, O'Donnell, Earl of Tyrconnel, with his son and brother, fled their country for ever, and reached Rome, 'the common parent of all nations.' Here in this church the epitaphs recall the fate of these 'banished Earls,' and to this spot on the Janiculum Hill the pilgrims from Ireland turn their steps when they visit the Eternal City.

UNITED STATES

DEVOTED TO THE SERVICE OF GOD.

Miss Martha Hickey, the last of a family of seven to embrace the religious life, entered recently the novitiate of the Sisters of Notre Dame, the Summit, Walnut Hills, Cincinnati. There were seven in the Hickey family, five brothers, who are all priests of the Cincinnati archdiocese, and two sisters. One sister has been a Notre Dame nun for many years. Miss Martha is the youngest, and since the death of her mother a few years ago, has been alone in the world. Her decision to enter the convent makes the last link in a remarkable record—a whole family devoting themselves completely to the service of God. The brothers are all prominent pastors. Rev. William D. Hickey is pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Dayton, and Dean of that district; Rev. Charles H. Hickey is pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Dayton; Rev. Edward P. is pastor of Holy Trinity Church, Middletown; Rev. John Hickey, pastor of Holy Name Church, Mount Auburn, Cincinnati, and Rev. George, pastor of St. Mary's Church, Urbana.

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