

## Current Topics

### The Eucharistic Congress of 1928

A cable from the Archbishop of Sydney to the Bishop of Dunedin announces the important news that the Eucharistic Congress will be held in Sydney in 1928. This singular honor to Australasia will be appreciated by all our readers, and it cannot but promote the cause of Catholicity under the Southern Cross. We all remember what an inspiring effect the jubilee celebrations in Wellington had, and how impressed non-Catholics were with the magnificent procession and other displays of religious devotion. The Eucharistic Congresses have all been events of world-wide importance, and they are the most splendid manifestations of Faith known in our day. The last Congress was held at Amsterdam; the next will be held in Chicago in June; and then in due course will come the celebration in Sydney, at the beginning of the year 1928.

### The New Cardinals

Four new Cardinals have been created. One is the Archbishop of Armagh, now Patrick Cardinal O'Donnell; a second is the Nuncio to Paris, now Cardinal Cerretti, who is well-known in Australasia, where he was Apostolic Delegate for three years. The daily papers announce that the third was the Secretary of State, which is of course absurd, considering that that office is always held by a Cardinal, and the present occupant has worn the red hat for many years. The Henri Gasparre in question is not the Secretary of State, whose name is not Henri (or Enrico) but Peter. The new Cardinal was Nuncio to Brazil and titular archbishop of Sebaste. He resided in Rio Janeiro. The fourth name is that of Cardinal Alexander Verde, Secretary to the Congregation of Rites, Protonotary Apostolic, and a distinguished official of the Curia. His learning and zeal have now been rewarded by the highest distinction the Pope can confer on any ecclesiastic.

### The Terrible Turk

The recent deportation of 8000 Assyro-Chaldaeans into the interior of Turkey was carried out with the usual atrocities for which the Turk is notorious. Villages were sacked, men, women and children were murdered, and the whole proceedings were attended with sickening bloodshed. Old men who could not march fast enough were slain; women were stoned to death; girls were violated; children were flung down ravines; more than two hundred Christian girls were either ravished or sold for harems. The Patriarch of the Syro-Chaldaeans Christians protested against this inhuman conduct. These poor people helped the Allies during the war but now, with their usual gratitude, the Allies are leaving them at the mercy of the cruel savages who but for the Versailles statesmen would have been driven out of Europe. The kindness shown by these gentlemen to their former enemies, the Turks, is one of the mysteries which still remain unsolved.

### Orange Police

The cables announce that 2500 policemen in the North East of Ireland have refused to disband as a whole-time armed force. They have taken possession of five barracks in Belfast, and at other stations they have locked out their superior officers. An ultimatum has been sent to Sir James Craig to the effect that the rebels want £200 a man, cash down, duty free, and no parley about it. They refuse to surrender the barracks and arms until the Government pays them. The cable continues to inform us that nobody takes the strike seriously, and, in the next breath, goes on to say that the Government is offering terms, which are, two months leave on full pay, amounting to £30 a man. It is too bad that this little incident should occur to disturb Sir James Craig in his career of persecution and penalisation of Catholics. But it is a long lane that has no turning. Even the Protestant papers are joining Mr. Devlin in protesting against the nefarious boycott of Catholics in the Wee State.

### France in Danger

A cable announces that the *Matin* gives prominence to an article calling for the formation of a committee of public safety to steer France through her present crisis. It declares that the moment has arrived for a sacred union to save the country. Evidently the lessons of the war have been lost on the Frenchmen. No sooner was victory secure than the public allowed the very people who were found incapable of carrying on the war to come again into power. Persecutions of Catholics began in the same old way; and the climax of absurdity was reached when a man denounced as a traitor was recalled to govern. It is all on a par with the brutal policy which sowed lasting seeds of enmity in Germany by quartering the black troops in Rheinland. A Mussolini is badly needed in France.

### Ancient Remains

Scientists are puzzled by the discovery of ancient remains in Arizona. Swords, a cross, Hebrew inscriptions, and other objects have been unearthed during the course of excavations near Tuscon. It is said that, at their face value, they mean that Romans and Jews must have been in America in the period from about 760 to 900 B.C. Many experts regard the relics as genuine but others hesitate. Among the discoveries are a seven-branch candlestick and what look like Masonic emblems. Skilled archaeologists are mystified all the more because some of the objects were embedded in stone through apparently natural processes.

### An Old Tradition

Dr. Howley, Bishop of St. John's, Newfoundland, spent much time in the study of ancient Norwegian sagas, in hopes of finding some light on the past history of America. He discovered that there was a tradition concerning the arrival of travellers, many

centuries before the time of Columbus, and from the evidence he believed that the voyagers were Christians, and not unlikely monks. The sagas tell that they landed, carrying a strange ensign, singing a strange chant, and dressed in a strange manner. On the other side of the Atlantic, in Ireland, there is also an old tradition that in one of his voyages St. Brendan reached America, or the western land afterwards named America. Fitting the two traditions together, the strange ensign would be the standard of the Cross, the chant the Latin hymns, and the attire the habits of the monks. Whatever about the truth of these accounts, they would certainly provide a useful theory for the explanation of the mystery now baffling the discoverers of the Roman relics at Tuscon in Arizona.

### Ulster Alarmed

Belfast has found out that her trade with the United States is suffering seriously. The slump has affected the export of mineral waters, tobacco, and linen. And the figures are down to the extent of about £1,000,000 for the past year. The decay of business is felt all over the North-East. Derry has lost much business and its port is almost deserted. Newry is also suffering. Dublin opinion blames partition for a good deal of the trouble, and there are many Protestant business men in Ulster who agree. For one thing, the boycott of the linen trade by the Irish in the United States still continues, or has never been counteracted. Cutting off Derry from Donegal has driven her best customer elsewhere to market, and the Catholics are leaving Newry. The argument of pounds, shillings, and pence is appealing to the Orangemen whom neither justice nor charity could move what time they indulged in pogroms which even the Turks could not surpass in bloodthirsty cruelty.

### Eloquent Figures

The Council of Federal Churches admits that the statements of Prohibitionists must be taken with a grain of salt. Even some of their tales have not the merit of being *ben trovati*. It was amusing to hear several visitors to America assure their hearers that Prohibition was a wonderful success and that all the stories about the increase of crime and intoxication were all nonsense. The *Irish News*, September 12, quotes some startling statistics compiled by Senator Bruce, of Maryland, an independent American statesman, who has been examining the records of the Courts in Post-Prohibition days. The figures are indisputably authentic—compiled from the records of the Department of Justice, the proceedings of the Courts, and the official Police Returns of cities. From the Senator's compilation it appears that "The Arrests for Violation of the National Prohibition Act Made by Federal Prohibition Officers Since the Effective Date of that Act" (1920) were:—

1920 (5 months) .....	10,548
1921 .....	34,175
1922 .....	42,223
1923 .....	66,936
1924 .....	68,161