

## Here and There

For the first time in history a Bishop has been consecrated in the Cathedral of Aix-la-Chapelle, that picturesque structure which was the foundation of Charlemagne and the scene of the coronation of a long series of German kings. Dr. Straeter, who is to be Provost of Aix-la-Chapelle and Auxiliary Bishop of Cologne, has the distinction of being the first Bishop elevated to that high rank in the edifice, his consecration as Titular Bishop of Caesaropolis having taken place on July 9 at the hands of Cardinal Schulte. Dr. Straeter was born in Aix-la-Chapelle, in the suburb of Forst. Following his consecration he was installed as Provost of the Cathedral by Cardinal Schulte. Thirty-seven German Emperors were crowned in the great Cathedral of Aix-la-Chapelle, or Aachen, between 813 and 1531. The precious relics obtained by Charlemagne and Otho III. for the imperial chapel were the objects of great pilgrimages in the Middle Ages.

The Rev. Father Peter Rouillac, a noted missionary, died at a private hospital in Mittagong, New South Wales, on Saturday the 21st ult. He was born in Brittany in 1852, came to Australia in 1882, and later joined the staff of the Marist Missionaries in Fiji. Father Rouillac was twice shipwrecked in the islands, and on the last occasion was so severely injured that he was compelled to abandon missionary work. He was a fearless man, and his courage, combined with his accurate knowledge of the Pacific Islands, enabled him to perform feats of seamanship that astounded even mariners themselves. On one occasion, a small open boat containing one white man and four black boys attracted considerable attention as it entered Sydney Heads and slowly made its way up the Harbor. With surprise the authorities learned that the feeble craft had come all the way from New Caledonia, safely piloted by Father Rouillac. Latterly, he resided at Villa Maria, Hunter's Hill, Sydney.

Dr. Joseph Oswald Smith, Abbot of Ampleforth in Yorkshire, in August celebrated the 50th anniversary of his profession as a monk in the English Benedictine Congregation. The Benedictine Fathers of Ampleforth managed to get home from their various missions to take part in the celebrations, which were attended by Cardinal Bourne and the Archbishop of Liverpool. The most significant function of this jubilee celebration is the laying of the foundation stone of the new Abbey church by Cardinal Bourne. The County of Yorkshire, which is the largest in the whole of England, is famous for its monastic ruins, and at one time it must have contained more monastic houses than any other English county. Yorkshire has also its own saints, both of ancient days, and those English martyrs of the Reformation period. Two of the great Cistercian saints, St. Aelred, of Rievaulx, and St. Stephen Harding were Yorkshire men, as was St. Robert, of Knaresborough. Apart from his writings and his learning, Abbot Smith has the distinction of being the first territorial Benedictine Abbot in England to be blessed and enthroned since Abbot Feckenham was installed and restored as Abbot of Westminster in the reign of Mary Tudor.

Diplomats, scientists, and distinguished men from every walk of life gathered in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York, in the closing days of September for the funeral rites of the late Dr. Jokiehi Takamine, eminent scientist and perhaps the best-known Japanese in the United States, who became a convert to the Catholic Church six weeks before his death. Dr. Takamine, who was a samurai of the Kanazawa clan, was one of the first graduates of the University of Japan in engineering and surgery. Later he studied chemistry at the University of Glasgow. He then went to New York, where he had a brilliant career as a scientist. Dr. Takamine's two greatest chemical discoveries were adrenalin, now used by surgeons throughout the world to raise blood pressure, which is accomplished through the contraction of the small arteries, and takadiastase, which has done much to improve the brewing of saki and the making of indigo. Adrenalin has made possible bloodless surgery in minor operations, especially on the eye, ear, and throat. Dr. Takamine took an American lady, herself a convert, as his wife, and through her as well as his study of all religions, he was led into the Catholic Church, wherein alone he found that which he sought—a religion of authority and revelation.

Dom Leander Ramsay, O.S.B., who at the recent conventual chapter held at Downside Abbey, was elected Abbot in succession to Dr. Butler (resigned), was formerly a clergyman of the Anglican Church. The new Abbot was born in 1863, and after attending King's College School in London, and taking his degree from Exeter College, Oxford, was ordained to the Anglican ministry. Shortly after his ordination he was appointed a Fellow of St. Augustine's College, at Canterbury, and in 1893 was nominated Vice-Principal of the Wells Theological College, one of the more important of the theological seminaries of the Anglican Church. It was in 1895 the Abbot abandoned his Anglican career, and made his submission to the Catholic Church. He entered the Benedictine Order, and four years after his submission was ordained priest and appointed to the staff of the Downside School, of which he subsequently became head-master. Father Ramsay becomes the third Abbot of Downside, a house which while tracing its monastic lineage to the pre-Reformation Benedictines, was not raised to the rank of an abbey until 1900. Abbot Ramsay is a Master of Arts of Oxford, and as head-master of Downside School he raised the prestige of that establishment to the rank of that enjoyed by the great Protestant Public Schools like Rugby and Harrow.

The death of Sir Charles Santley occurred during the last week of September (says a Home paper). The great singer died in London in his 89th year. His death has evoked expressions of more than conventional regret from the public and press, for Santley was quite a singular figure in the musical world. He gave to his art the tribute of sacrifice, as in his early career he embraced hardship out of devotion to his musical ideals rather than avoid it by the abandonment of them. Besides being a great vocalist in the aural sense, he was a great artist, perhaps the greatest the English concert platform has known, and that not merely because he brought to his singing the gift of an exceptional vocal organ but because also he brought to it a simplicity and sincerity which scorned—or really was quite oblivious to—all affectation. No tribute paid to his career surpasses that which declared him to have been "a high-minded gentleman and a simple and devout Christian." Santley became a convert to the Catholic Church comparatively early in life, and remained throughout a long career a devoted and exemplary Catholic. He had the distinction of being the only English vocalist, so far, who attained to the honor of knighthood, for though apparently English knighthoods are sometimes sold, they are occasionally awarded as recognition of merit. Never was the distinction more deservedly merited than when it was conferred on Sir Charles Santley.

General Richard Mulcahy's career presents several analogies to that of Michael Collins. He began life as a Post Office worker; he was unknown to his fellows in the revolutionary movement till the Easter Rising of 1916, when he came under the notice of Pearse, but he had been in the Volunteers from the formation of the force, was early active in the Gaelic League, and when the dark days of 1920-21 arrived he was already recognised as one of the outstanding minds in the Sinn Fein movement. Some of his exploits in evading capture were not less exciting than those of Michael Collins. He is a Waterford man, 35 years of age, was educated by the Christian Brothers at Waterford, and afterwards at Thurles. He did postal work at Thurles and Bantry, and was later in the Postal Telegraph Engineering Department at Wexford and Dublin. After Easter, 1916, he was deported to Frongoch, released after seven months' internment, and returned to Ireland to resume preparations for the struggle with the Crown forces, activities which were covered by an ostensible course of training at the National University for the medical profession. He soon became Chief of Staff of the I.R.A., and a "wanted" man, constantly "on the run." After the truce he retained that position, and in the Dail Cabinet took, in addition, the post of Minister for Defence. During the Treaty discussions in the Dail last December and January, he displayed marked individuality, spoke with deliberation and without rhetoric, and instantly attracted the attention of the assembly.

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