

His Honor Judge Stonor of England, who kept his eighty-fifth birthday on March 14, was appointed to a County-Court judgeship exactly forty years ago, and is still in harness—a somewhat rare achievement even in these days of "grand old men."

Sir Edward Blount, K.C.B., a railway magnate and wealthy banker, who was always a staunch Catholic, died on March 15, on the very eve of the end of his ninety-sixth year, at his residence, Imberhorne Manor, East Grinstead, England. In 1831, on returning to Paris, where he had been an attache to the British Embassy in 1829, he founded the banking firm of Blount Pere et Fils. There he spent forty years, becoming a pioneer of railway development in many parts of France. His wife with whom he spent 66 years of married life, and who died in 1897, was a Miss Jermingham. Sir Edward combined to an extraordinary degree the greatest bluntness and outspokenness with a marvellous power of holding his tongue when he wished. In 1902 he published some interesting memoirs of a long life in which he had known intimately many of the most famous men in England and France, and had done his best to maintain cordial relations between the two countries.

The question whether the late Mr. Oscar Wilde became a Catholic on his death bed has been raised by the publication of the posthumous "De Profundis." Mr. James Quinn, of 10, Chirkdale-street, Liverpool, sends us extracts from the "Free Lance," of December 10th, 1900 (edited by the late Clement Scott), to prove that he did. The dead man's friend, who is also the writer of the preface to the "De Profundis," seems to carry the matter as far as may be when he says in a letter to "St. James' Gazette":—"It was in fulfilment of an old promise that I brought a priest to his death-bed. On two former occasions he had contemplated being received—once as a young man and again on his release from Reading. If Father Cuthbert Dunn, of the Passionists was perfectly satisfied, I think your Catholic correspondent may feel reassured."—Liverpool "Catholic Times."

The Catholic ecclesiastical authorities are troubled over the losses which the Church suffers in Berlin owing to mixed marriages. They attribute the mixed marriages in a large measure to the facilities offered to young people for meeting one another at public balls and dances. To counteract this evil they suggest the formation of Catholic social associations in Berlin and other large Protestant cities, whose duty it will be to give public dances to which none but Catholics will be admitted, in this way lessening the temptation of the Catholic youth of both sexes to visit Protestant dances.—Ibid.

According to an article in the "North American Review," one-half of the students in the non-Catholic colleges of the United States is made up of men who get their education in return for washing dishes, waiting on table, working as farm hands, driving delivery wagons, taking care of furnaces, running errands, assisting in the laboratory, tutoring, and teaching night schools. This is greatly to their credit.

The "Boston Pilot" says there is a remarkable increase in the number of American converts, which is due to the impetus given to the movement for conversions by the Apostolic Mission House, Washington.

Mr. Walter Long, M.P., President of the Local Government Board, has been appointed Irish Chief Secretary; Mr. Gerald Balfour, M.P., President of the Board of Trade, has become President of the Local Government Board; the Marquis of Salisbury has been appointed President of the Board of Trade; the Hon. Ailwyn Fellows, M.P., has been named President of the Board of Agriculture, in succession to the Earl of Onslow, G.C.M.G., now Chairman of Committees in the House of Lords.

"The Irish Independent" observes: "Mr. Long, the new Chief Secretary, is fully qualified, according to all precedent, to govern Ireland, inasmuch as he has no experience of or special knowledge of the country, its wants or aspirations."

The London correspondent of the "Manchester Guardian" says: "I hear that Sir Anthony MacDonnell is more than ever determined not to yield to the Orange pressure. If he goes it will be in such fashion that he will be com-

pletely free to give to the world the whole secret history of the past two years at the Castle—and that, I fancy the Government would give a good deal to prevent."

President Roosevelt, speaking recently in New York on the sacredness of family life, said easy divorce is a bane to any nation, a curse to society, and a menace to the home, an incitement to married unhappiness and immorality, an evil thing for men, and a still more hideous evil for women.

The "Autonomous Demochristians" of Italy, who hitherto posed as Catholics loyal to the Pope, though not to the bishops, have been solemnly condemned by the Holy Father in a letter to the Cardinal Archbishops of Bologna, published on March 13 in the "Osservatore Romano." The Tablet says autonomy "is as dead as Queen Anne, thanks to this vigorous letter, but in its last convulsive struggle it showed what an ugly beast it was, for its chief organ, the "Patria" of Ancona, answered the Papal document with an article full of gall and venom. Happily the "Patria" itself is likely to disappear in a week or two."

The great Violinist, Ysaye, who is to play here on the 18th inst, pronounces his name "Ee-zah-ee," exactly like the French pronunciation of the prophet Isaiah's name.

At the last meeting of Br. 163, C.M.B.A. it was moved and seconded that the members of the Branch tender to the widow and family of our late Brother Thomas Shirley their deep sympathy in the loss they have sustained in the death of a kind husband and loving father. Be it further resolved: We pray Almighty God may grant them grace to bear their trials, that a Grand Mass be offered for the repose of his soul, that the charter be draped for three months and that a copy of this resolution be sent the Northwest Review and Canadian for publication.

Clerical News.

The following extract from a recent issue of the Peoria (Ill.) Transcript will be read with pleasure:

"Bishop Spalding has so far recovered from his recent seizure that he is able to sit up and converse freely with his intimate friends. He is gaining daily, and as soon as the weather settles he will go to Hot Springs, Ark. So far as he is concerned he is in condition to travel, and it is simply a matter of weather. When it holds fair he will go South. He is really in a much better condition than the public has been aware of, and his complete recovery is only a question of a few weeks."

The Anglican Bishop of Birmingham asks through the "Diocesan Magazine" that letters intended for him should be carefully addressed to "The Bishop of Birmingham, Bishop's Croft, Birmingham," as letters addressed to "The Bishop of Birmingham, Bishop's House, Birmingham," or merely "The Bishop of Birmingham, Birmingham" will be liable to go to Dr. Ilsley, the Roman Catholic Bishop."

Rev. Lawrence Charles Prideaux Fox, O.M.I., died at the Oblate novitiate in Tewksbury, Mass., and was buried on Tuesday last amid a large concourse of clerical and lay friends. Some fifteen years ago Father Fox was pastor of St. Mary's, Winnipeg, where his deep piety, earnest zeal, kindness and interesting reminiscences were greatly appreciated. He was born in 1820 in Devonshire, of a well connected Quaker family. At the age of twenty-three he became a Catholic, and soon after entered the Congregation of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. His ministrations in England and Ireland threw him into contact with all the notable converts of the middle of the last century, in particular Cardinals Newman and Manning and Father Faber, whose childlike devotion to Our Lady Father Fox emulated with all the tenderness of a born Catholic. Father Fox had an inexhaustible store of authentic and original anecdotes of the many distinguished persons he had met, and he told them with great simplicity of manner, never unduly asserting himself nor fatiguing his listeners. Many of these anecdotes have appeared in Donahoe's Magazine; they deserve to be published in book form, for they frequently present unexpected traits of character that are not recorded in the published biographies of the great personages he knew so intimately. During the nineteen years which Father Fox spent in Ireland he became enthusiastically de-

voted to the best interests of the Irish race. His ready acceptance of a mere suggestion from his superior that he might leave the temperate climate of the British Isles to face the Winnipeg winters at the age of 67, when his health was already seriously undermined, showed the sincerity of his religious obedience. He who had been Superior for many years in the old country, first acted as assistant under two pastors here, and then became pastor himself, a post which he vacated only on account of the growing infirmities of age, and was afterwards transferred to Lowell and ultimately to Tewkesbury, Mass., where he lived on till the age of 85, edifying his brethren and friends, writing his memoirs and keeping up correspondence with his many admiring friends in Winnipeg and elsewhere. May the dear old priest and charming friend rest in peace. We understand that a solemn Mass of Requiem for the repose of his soul will be sung in St. Mary's Church on a day to be announced next Sunday.



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Two Oblate Scholastics, Rev. Guiseppe Leonard and Rev. Ovide Pelouquin, will be ordained priests by his Grace the Archbishop next Sunday. Rev. Arthur Labonte was tonsured last week when Rev. G. Leonard received the subdeaconship at St. Mary's Academy.

Rev. Father Gascon, O.M.I., who is now 78, is at St. Charles' Presbytery near the city, suffering from rheumatism.

The Very Rev. Louis Martin, Superior General of the Society of Jesus, is suffering from carcinoma of the liver, and his life is despaired of. He has resided in Rome for the past few years. He was elected General in December 1892 at the unusually early age of 46. He had acted as Vicar General of the Society during the interval between the death of his predecessor, Very Rev. A. M. Anderledy, in January 1892 and the meeting of the General Congregation of the Order at Loyola in Spain. Father Martin is a Spaniard, partly of Irish origin. He was Provincial of one of the Jesuit Provinces in Spain before Father Anderledy chose him for Secretary of the Society in 1891. He had also been editor of the Spanish Messenger of the Sacred Heart and was probably the first journalist to be elected to so important a post as General of the Jesuits. His Grace Archbishop Langevin says that, whenever he goes to Rome, he makes it a point of having a good long talk with Father Martin, whom he invariably finds the best informed man in the Eternal City. His sagacious forecast of coming events is wonderful. Foreseeing the hollowness of the promises of the late Waldeck-Rousseau, he took measures to minimize, in the case of his Order, the effects of the persecution which he correctly anticipated, and thanks to his prudent foresight the French Jesuits have suffered far less hardships than the religious orders which submitted to government supervision.

Next Sunday evening in St. Mary's Church Rev. Father Drummond will preach the fourth of his Lenten series. Subject: "The Eternity of the Last End."

On the 19th of March, the Feast of St. Joseph, the Pope's name-day, his Holiness received thousands of congratulations. The Holy Father celebrated Mass in the presence of a few intimate friends, and afterwards lunched with his sisters. The members of the Sacred College were received in the library, where the Pope thanked them for their

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wishes, but without delivering an address. Through the Cardinals, Catholic clubs presented his Holiness with a gift of fruit and flowers, arranged in the shape of a gondola, symbolising both Venice and a fisherman's boat.

The Right Rev. Bishop Miller, O.M.I., Vicar-Apostolic of the Transvaal, has left England for Cape Town, on his way to Johannesburg.

The Rev. Francis Jager, O.M.I., one of the German missionaries in South-West Africa, was put to death on March 2nd by the natives, who are still in revolt against the German authorities.

Father Bernard Vaughan has made a great impression at Oxford, where, at St. Aloysius' he has been addressing large congregations, many Nonconformists being attracted by his sympathy.

Father Bernard Vaughan, preaching to a congregation which filled the Jesuit Church, Farm Street, London, to overflowing, made an appeal on March 19 for the Borneo mission. Of the life of the missionaries, their work, and the prospects of religion in Borneo, he presented a complete and very touching

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picture. The Prefect-Apostolic had, he said, come to England in the hope of enlisting sympathy and support. He had six hundred orphans to house, clothe and feed, but he had no means whereby to do it, and unless help was forthcoming he would be compelled to close the orphanages and to send back hundreds of children into the darkness of heathenism.

The latest advices from Rome show that the title of "Monsignor" is not attached to the dignity of Prothontary Apostolic conferred on all Vicars-General.