

The Catholic Register.

"True is Catholic; proclaim it ever, and God will effect the rest."—BALMEZ.

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TORONTO, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1900.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

Thursday—St. John, Apostle and Evangelist.
Friday—The Holy Innocents, Martyrs.
Saturday—St. Thomas of Canterbury, Bishop, Martyr.
Sunday—Within Oath of Nativity—St. Sabinus, Martyr.
Monday—St. Silvester, Pope, Confessor.
Tuesday—The Circumcision of our Lord.
Wednesday—St. Meclear, Martyr.

SACRED HINART CALENDAR.

Thursday—Love of The Sacred Heart—289,970, Intemperate.
Friday—Submission to God—223,776, Spiritual Favors.
Saturday—Defence of the Church—007,411, Temporal Favors.
Sunday—Good for Evil—290,532, Special Various.
Monday—Pray for the Church—Messenger Readers.
Tuesday—Probity—134,706, Thanksgivings.
Wednesday—Perseverance—2,726,038, Allied.

PRAYER FOR DECEMBER.

O my God, I offer Thee my prayers, works and sufferings this day, in union with the Sacred Heart of Jesus, for the intentions for which He pleads and offers Himself in the Mass, for the petitions of our associates; especially for this month for the Jubilee, 1900-1901.

Current Topics.

The State Department

War in Washington has received a cablegram from the United States Charge d'Affaires Beaugre, at Bogota, stating that a great battle has been fought at Giradet Point, Magdalena River, Colombia, which lasted two days, and resulted in a decisive victory for the Government. It is reported that 400 were killed and many hundreds wounded. Other victories by the Government forces of the utmost importance have been secured. The Government is celebrating the victories, and considers itself greatly strengthened by the success of its arms.

The State Department

Chinese at Washington received word through the British Foreign Office and American official sources, that the agreement of the Ministers of the Powers embodying the conditions which the Chinese Government must accept prior to the initiation of peace negotiations had been signed at Peking. The agreement is embodied in the following statement of the State Department:—

The following English version is understood to be in substantial equivalence with the French text of the note to be addressed to the Government of China, as agreed upon by the representatives of the co-operating powers at Peking, Dec. 14, 1900, and subsequently amended before signature.

During the months of May, June, July and August of the present year, serious disturbances broke out in the northern provinces of China, in which atrocious crimes unparalleled in history and outrages against the law of nations, against the laws of humanity and against civilization, were committed under particularly odious circumstances. The principal of these crimes were the following:—

First—On the 29th of June, His Excellency Baron von Kottler, while on his way to the Tung-Hi-Yamen, in the performance of his official functions, was murdered by soldiers of the regular army acting under orders of their chiefs.

Second—On the same day the Foreign Legations were attacked and besieged. The attacks continued without intermission until the 14th of August, on which date the arrival of the foreign forces put an end to them. These attacks were made by the regular troops who joined the Boxers, and who obeyed the orders of the court, emanating from the Imperial Palace. At the same time the Chinese Government officially declared by its representatives abroad, that it guaranteed the security of the Legations.

Third—On the 11th of June, Mr. Suijama, Chargeur of the Legation of Japan, while in the discharge of an official mission was killed by regular troops at the gates of the city. In Peking, and in several provinces, foreigners were murdered, tortured, or attacked by the Boxers and the regular troops, and such as escaped death owed their salvation solely to their own determined resistance. The establishments were looted and destroyed.

Fourth—Foreign cemeteries, at Peking especially, were desecrated, the graves opened and the remains scattered abroad.

and nationals and of restoring order. During their march to Peking the allied forces met with resistance from the Chinese army, and had to overcome it by force.

"Inasmuch as China has recognized her responsibility, expressed regret, and evinced a desire to see an end put to the situation created by the aforesaid disturbances, the powers have determined to accede to her request upon the irrevocable conditions enumerated below, which they deem indispensable to explain the crimes committed, and to prevent their recurrence.

I. (a) The despatch to Berlin of an extraordinary mission headed by an Imperial Prince, in order to express the regrets of His Majesty the Emperor of China, and of the Chinese Government for the assassination of His Excellency the late Baron von Kottler, Minister of Germany.

(b) The erection on the spot of the assassination of a commemorative monument, bearing an inscription in the Latin, German, and Chinese languages expressing the regrets of the Emperor of China for the murder.

II. (a) The severest punishment for the persons designated in the Imperial docket of September 25, 1900, and for those whom representatives of the powers shall subsequently designate.

(b) The suspension for five years of all official examinations in all the cities in which foreigners have been murdered or have been subjected to cruel treatment.

III. "Honorable reparation to be made by the Chinese Government to the Japanese Government for the murder of Mr. Suijama.

IV. "An explanatory monument to be erected by the Chinese Government in every foreign or international cemetery which has been desecrated or in which the graves have been destroyed.

V. "The maintenance, under conditions to be determined by the powers, of the factories against the imposition of arms as well as of materials employed exclusively for the manufacture of arms and ammunition.

VI. "Equitable indemnities for the Governments, societies, companies, and individuals as well as for Chinese, who, during the late disturbances have suffered in person or in property, or whose relatives of their being in the service of foreigners. China to adopt financial measures acceptable to the powers for the purpose of guaranteeing the payment of said indemnities and the interest and amelioration of the losses.

VII. "The right for each power to maintain a permanent guard for its Legation and to put the diplomatic quarter in a defensible condition, the Chinese having no right to reside in that quarter.

VIII. "The destruction of the forts which might obstruct free communication between Peking and the sea.

IX. "The right to the military occupation of certain points to be determined by an understanding among the powers, in order to obtain open communication between the capital and the sea.

X. "The Chinese Government to cause to be published at intervals in all the metropolitan papers an Imperial decree:—

(a) Embodying a perpetual prohibition, under penalty of death, of membership in any anti-foreign society.

(b) Enumerating the punishments that shall have been inflicted on the guilty, together with the suspension of all official examinations in the cities where foreigners have been murdered or have been subjected to cruel treatment; and

(c) Furthermore, an Imperial decree to be issued and published throughout the Empire, ordering that the Governor-General (Viceroy), Governors, and all provincial or local officials shall be held responsible for the maintenance of order within their respective jurisdictions, and that in the event of renewed anti-foreign disturbances or any other infractions of treaty occurring, and which shall not forthwith be suppressed and the guilty persons punished, they, the said officials, shall be immediately removed, and forever disqualified from holding any office of honor.

XI. "The Chinese Government to undertake to negotiate amendments to the treaties of commerce and navigation considered useful by the foreign powers, and upon other matters pertaining to their commercial relations, with the object of facilitating them.

XII. "The Chinese Government to determine in what manner to reform the Department of Foreign Affairs, and to modify the court ceremonies concerning the reception of foreign representatives, in the manner to be indicated by the powers.

"Until the Chinese Government has complied with the above conditions to the satisfaction of the powers, the undersigned can hold out no expectation that the occupation of Peking and the Province of Chihli by the general forces can be brought to a conclusion."

On the last day of Newfoundland December the Anglo-Fisheries, French modes vivandé respecting the Newfoundland land treaty coast spirit, and this, it is expected, will create serious complications between these two powers. It is highly unlikely that the Newfoundland Legislature will consent to renew the present arrangements, in which case grave friction will probably ensue, unless England makes another arrangement with France. The colony's position, however, is so strong with the British public that such arrangement must be decidedly favorable to the colony.

The statement that Natural Gas Out. fields are giving out has raised a feeling of alarm in all the districts that are being supplied with natural gas. The fields in Ohio and Pennsylvania have been in operation longer than those in Essex county, and still the supply bids fair to last for years, if confined to domestic consumption. Both in Pittsburg and Ohio the Companies have shut off, or are shutting off the manufacturers. The failure of the natural gas supply would mean a dead loss to Windsor of over one hundred thousand dollars in the money they laid out to take advantage of it. A very conservative estimate of the cost of connections, burners, and all other necessary expenses to enable a family to use natural gas at \$45 for each house, most people claiming that the average price would be nearer \$75. Should the gas supply give out, all this invested capital would be a dead loss.

Osman Pasha, son of the late Amir of Kurdistan, is in London to secure promise of British neutrality in an uprising of the Kurds intended to lead against Abdul Hamid, the Sultan of Turkey, when the neutrality of Great Britain, France, Germany, Austria, Italy, and Spain has been secured. Osman declares that an army of 200,000 Kurds and Armenians is ready to take the field under his banner and wage a fight for independence. He expects Russia to side with Turkey. St. Petersburg will therefore be omitted from his missionary tour of the European capitals, which has begun with his present visit to England. Osman, who is a stoic and soldierly man of 49 years of age, talked of his people's grievances and aspirations. He said: "Abdul Hamid has hopelessly demoralized the Kurd nation. At his instigation we have become a race of murderers. Under the penalty of our own lives we have been incited to butcher and massacre the Armenians, with whom formerly we enjoyed the closest bonds of affection and friendship. When the last slaughter at Constantinople was ordered my father, as chief of the Kurd troops, personally saved the lives of thousands of Armenians by holding them away from the Sultan's fury. 'I expect that Armenians in great numbers will come from the United States to join our army. I am sprung from an ancestry that has fought Turkish tyranny for generations. Notwithstanding the frequent debate we have administered to the Sultan's troops, he has managed by means of intrigue to rob us of the fruits of victory and keep us in a state of subjugation amounting to servitude. When he whipped Turkey in 1878 freedom was denied us under the flimsy pretext that Kurdistan could not exist as an independent State. We are not so sure that such a fate does not hang over us to-day. We fear the Sultan's inhuman excesses must inevitably bring him into conflict with some of the great nations of the world. We have determined to strike for our freedom before such a crisis overtakes the empire. We shall have the support of Persia. If the Czar keeps his hands off we shall achieve certain victory." Osman asserts that his military plans are fully prepared, and will be ready for execution at the latest during the mid-summer of 1901. He says that the famous Hamidite cavalry, the flower of the Turkish Army, of which he himself is adjutant-general, is composed entirely of Kurds, who are ready to fight for their head. "Kurdistan," continued Osman, "is admirably constituted for offensive military operations, being the seat of most of the Sultan's artillery forces, which the Kurds will simply close in upon when war is declared." Osman asserts that Abdul Hamid has instructed the Ambassador in London to approach the British War Office for the

purpose of inducing it to reject the Kurds' overtures.

Manitoba Attorney-General Campbell in an interview announced that it was the intention of the Manitoba Government to introduce the system of compulsory education into that Province at an early date. This step had been decided upon after mature consideration by the Government, as it was felt that something must be done to insure the proper education of the large foreign population which in the near future the province will have to take into account. It could not afford to allow these people to grow up in ignorance of the English tongue, and consequently compulsory education was felt to be a good remedy. There was also a large class besides foreigners who would be compelled under the new law to send their children to school. The Government would not at present consider the matter of free text books.

Further details of the Christians massacre of Christians in Macedonia are received from Salonica. Horrible outrages have been committed. The village of Bitunoh, in Northern Albania, a horde of Mohammedans cruised every Christian male in the place, fixing them to trees with stakes driven through the heads and feet. Many of the women were attacked, and all were carried off to Mohammedan harems. Children were chopped up before their parents' eyes at Gramus, south of Bitunoh, women were attacked in front of their husbands and fathers. The men were terribly mutilated, having their ears, fingers, toes, and limbs cut off. Many children were drowned. At Kibharitz the entire population was massacred after the vicars' flesh had been sliced off. At Banishka, a bonfire was made of 20 Christians. At Genevies, a priest of the Melnikovics, was tied in a sack and thrown into the river. The ringleader of the Mohammedans is the fanatic Haidi Islam, who boasts of having slaughtered 200 infidels with his own hands. The Serbian Consul at Mitrovia estimates the number of Christians killed at 470 men, 110 women, and 480 children. He places the number of Christian women mistreated at 886. The Turkish authorities are indifferent to the outrages, though they were committed in the Sultan's domain.

The Boer War.

The Record publishes the following views of its London correspondent:—Wrong impressions prevail regarding the relative strength of the forces actually engaged in the South African struggle. Perhaps two-thirds of Lord Kitchener's army is doing garrison duty, while recent estimates indicate that the Boers must have a total of nearly 20,000 men scattered about the theatre of war. Many of these enjoy the advantage of having rested from time to time on their farms. "We understand that private reliable advices have been received in London," says The Daily Mail, "to the effect that virtually all the districts of Cape Colony in the vicinity of the Orange River are in more or less open revolt, and that there is likely to be sharp fighting on a rather large scale before the invasion is crushed. The tactics of the Boers in rallying as many as possible of the Dutch in the back country to their cause are proving successful." Gen. Clements operating in combination with Gen. French has cleared the Boers out of Magaliesburg range. The fighting has continued from Dec. 10 to Dec. 22, before Gen. French's arrival. Gen. Clements was hotly engaged near Hekctor, the Boers holding a line of kopjes with five guns and a pom-pom. Under cover of an effective fire the British forces advanced, and after four hours' fighting took the whole position, with sixteen casualties, including two killed. The Boers lost twenty killed.

CLOSING HOLY DOOR.

CEREMONY PERFORMED THE DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS.

The closing of the Holy Door took place the day before Christmas, with the utmost pomp of the Catholic Church. His Holiness descended to St. Peter's cathedral at 11, and the ceremonies lasted until 1 p.m. The Pope then returned to his apartments, apparently not fatigued. He intoned the "Te Deum" in a resonant voice, and throughout gave evidence of being in excellent health and spirits. He used the artistic golden trowel subscribed for by the Catholics of the world in decorating the

three gilded brooks which he placed as a first layer on the threshold of St. Paul's door. The whole pontifical court participated in the ceremonies.

The spectacle inside the vast Basilica was superb. The cathedral nave was draped with gold-embroidered scarlet cloth, and the porch under which the function took place was transformed into a magnificently decorated hall. On the left of the Holy Door was erected the pontifical throne, covered with red and gold. On the right hand of the door stood tribunes for royal personages, princes, Knights of Malta, prelates, representatives of the Roman nobility, and other distinguished persons.

Inside the church every inch of space was occupied by a throng which gathered early in the morning. A strong detachment of troops, stationed in the square in front of the cathedral, controlled the incoming crowds, who literally raced to secure the best positions. The Pope left his apartments at 11:45 a.m., bore in the sacred chair and preceded by clergy with lighted candles, Bishops, archbishops, and cardinals, and escorted by the pontifical noble guards. On his arrival at the portal of St. Peter's he alighted and entered the church through the Holy Door. He appeared on the threshold, and the solemn and silver tones of the trumpet echoed through the edifice. The chapter of the Vatican met him and presented to him holy water, which he sprinkled upon the congregation. Applause being forbidden, a religious silence was observed, which heightened the grandeur and impressiveness of the moment. Borne now on the Sedia Gestatoria to the high altar, he stepped to the ground and knelt before the most precious relics of the Catholic Church, which were displayed on the altar.

Then the procession reformed and proceeded to the chapel of the Sacrament, where the Pontiff again knelt for some time, while the choir of the Sixtine Chapel chanted psalms.

AT THE HOLY DOOR.

The Pope was then borne to the Holy Door, where he alighted from the sedia gestatoria, and went to the entire procession had passed out through the door, he leaving the church last and walking to the throne, where he seated himself. A number of sacred songs were sung by the papal choir, after which Leo arose and blessed all the material employed in closing the door. Then he descended from the throne, knelt before the door, and laid, with the golden trowel, a layer of cement on which he placed three gilt bricks bearing commemorative inscriptions. Beside the bricks he placed a casket containing gold, silver and bronze medals, and bearing the head of Leo and inscriptions recording the opening and closing of the Holy Door.

The Pope having reascended the throne, Cardinal-Bishop Serafino Vannutelli, Great Penitentiary, and four other cardinals performed a similar ceremony of laying cement and three bricks, after which the masons employed by the Vatican closed the doorway with a canvas screen, painted to resemble marble, with a cross in the centre. The candles borne by the clergy were extinguished, the "Te Deum" was sung, and the Pontiff, having given solemn benediction, was immediately carried back to his apartment. It is estimated that 80,000 persons were spectators of the ceremony.

THE IRISH LOURDES.

A TRUE DESCRIPTION OF KNOCK.

It is now over twenty years since the simple, pure-hearted peasants of Knock clustered together round the gable wall of their little rustic church where they gazed in holy awe at the glorious vision before them. Mary Bern, the first to witness this heavenly sight, was at that time a very young and pious maiden; and although she has since become a model wife and mother, she is never tired of looking back and telling the facts of that eventful night.

The parish of Knock was too poor to employ paid women to clean the little chapel, yet at all times there would be found some young girl willing to spend her well-earned recreation usefully and happily near the altar. Thus it was that on the evening of the 21st of August, 1879, Mary Bern, had carefully performed the good duty, and then proceeded to cross a small field which separated her from home. She had only gone a few steps when she noticed on the grass a strange, bright light, which seemed to come from behind her. She turned round to see what could have caused it, and a dazzling light met her eye. The

gable wall of the church was covered with glowing flames. She became frightened, and thought that the whole place was on fire; and walking over nervously toward the wall, she examined it and saw that it was not the blaze of a fire, but of an unearthly apparition too strangely grand and beautiful to be seen and understood all at once. Unconsciously she knelt down in fervent prayer still gazing up at the brilliant light, which was gradually becoming clearer, according as her eyes grew accustomed to its brightness. Then she discovered that in the midst of the light there were three figures—the Blessed Mother in the centre, with her hand raised in an attitude of benediction, and a look of such deep love expressed on her face that would bring comfort to the most wretched of sinners. Standing at her right side was St. Joseph, with bowed head; and at her left St. John, holding an open book; while in the background could be seen a small white lamb, bearing a cross upon one of its shoulders. The whole group was raised about two feet from the ground, and seemed to rest in the air, a little out from the wall.

Mary Bern stayed some time in solitary rapture, and then suddenly resolved to run and call as many of her friends and neighbours as she could find, so that she might be sure her eyes were not deceiving her. In a few minutes an enthusiastic crowd had gathered on the spot, and each and all of them confirmed the truth of her wonderful report.

The vision remained in sight for fully two hours, and those humble, barefooted peasants poured forth their wants and prayers to the Queen of Heaven—the grey-haired men and women speaking in their own musical Irish, while the little innocent children warbled out the only language they had been taught at school; but all were equally accepted because the words came straight from their own Irish hearts. Towards nightfall the apparition slowly faded from human eyes, and then the people departed to discuss the wonders of that evening. Others who were misled and crippled paid daily visits to the spot and after earnest prayers were seen to walk unhelped towards the place in order to return thanksgiving. From that time until now pilgrims have thronged to Knock from different parts of the world, and even from America, and I have often heard them say they never went away discontented, and that whenever they did not obtain their special request they were certain to receive a blessing in another way, either spiritual or temporal. But at the present day there is a very large collection of crucifixes, sticks, etc., left behind, no longer needed. The original gable wall has completely disappeared, owing to the fact that pilgrim after pilgrim (including myself) each carried away a small portion of the holy cement, until all was gone; and the late Ven. Archdeacon Kavanagh was obliged to build another and enclose it with railings, which also form a protection for the pure white statue of the Blessed Mother which he erected on the same spot and in the same attitude she was said to have appeared. Visitors from all quarters of the globe come annually to Knock to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption. They generally stay about nine days, so as to be present on the 21st of August, the anniversary of the apparition. M.F.B.

AGITATORS CRITICIZED.

The "Havanna Post," whose editor is in almost daily conference with General Wood, the Military Governor, and whose editorials are an almost perfect key to the mind of the Governor, severely criticizes the agitators and commends the action of the Pope in appointing a Bishop who was without a Cuban nor a Spanish. I have no doubt but that the article was inspired. Bishop Storvick has issued a decree admonishing the laity to shun all public meetings of protest against the action of the Holy See in appointing him. The decree also declares that any clergyman who in future encourages or attends such meetings will incur the penalty of suspension.

CROWN FOR OUR LADY.

A superb crown of solid gold, and precious gems, made from jewelry, the gifts of members of the Society of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and other members of the congregation, was formerly presented and placed on the statue of the Blessed Virgin in St. Peter's church, Philadelphia, Pa., recently. The crown contained diamonds, pearls, rubies and sapphires, and cost \$1,200.