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DIOCESAN TEMPORALITIES.

His Lordship the Bishop of Birmingham, England, has taken a step in regard to temporalities of his diocese which has met with warm approval from the clergy. At a meeting of the members of the Johnson Fund, which has for its object the provision of relief for priests in sickness and during years of retirement from diocesan duty, he publicly announced that he had instituted a Commission of priests who were in possession of all information regarding the nature, amount, and application of the temporalities of the diocese. His Lordship's announcement was received with the applause it deserved, though it was already known to many of the clergy, seeing that the members of the Finance Committee, so to term it, were elected by the clergy at the diocesan synod. None the less, the appointment of this Commission of Temporalities in the Birmingham diocese, and the fact that its duties and office are not merely perfunctory but very real, deserves chronicling as an evidence that the diocesan authorities are quite willing to enlist the services of the clergy in the administration of finance. His Lordship himself has been always acknowledged to be extremely judicious and successful in the management of the temporalities of the diocese, it is said, and it is therefore with all the greater pleasure that his priests recognize the significance of his now uniting their chosen representatives with himself in the task of controlling and applying for the best the resources gathered together from the charity of the faithful.

A PAPAL LETTER.

Cardinal Couille published in his "Semaine Religieuse" extracts from an important letter which the Pope sent a few weeks ago to the General of the Dominican Order. In this letter the Holy Father urges that novices should be taught theology according to the method of the Angelic Doctor, St. Thomas of Aquinas. Reason should be the handmaid of Faith, and should ever take account "of the tradition of the Church and the doctrine of the Holy Fathers, to whom some moderns wish to prefer, even in Biblical studies, an intemperate criticism, full of itself, impatient of restraint, and pushing its rashness so far as to investigate rashly the Divine Mysteries, thus becoming corruptive of the Spirit of Faith, although it cleverly abstains from attacking the Divine oracles directly." Further, the professors are urged to avoid, and carefully to watch that their scholars avoid, the errors of the "modernists," and to resist firmly all innovations which attempt to invade the domain of philosophy and theology, to the great ruin of souls. Other counsels regard the method of preaching and the importance of personal example as a powerful means of carrying the Gospel to the hearts of hearers and bringing forth the fruits of faith, charity, and peace. The whole letter breathes a spirit of the highest apostolic devotion to the cause of teaching the Doctrines of Christ as they have been handed down from the saints of old.

ADVERTISING.

It is generally believed, by the simple and unlearned, that the art of ad-

vertising is of comparatively modern invention, but a very slight study of the subject will be sufficient to convince the inquirer that it is, in point of fact, one of the most ancient of all civilized arts. Indeed, the first advertisement was probably coeval with the first man who had something to dispose of or with the first woman who wanted something she had not got. It seems not impossible that the serpent tempted Eve to partake of the apple by means of a "puff paragraph," setting forth the merits of the fruit as a complexion beautifier. Be that as it may, the uses of advertisement were known at a very early date to the Israelites, who were accustomed to placard the streets of their cities with the utterances of kings and prophets.

The ancient Greeks, too, were much given to advertisement, chiefly through the medium of the town crier, who, however, was not permitted to offend the ears of the citizens with his proclamations unless he were accompanied by a musician to give him the correct pitch. The fact that property had been stolen or damaged was made known by means of curses, inscribed upon sheets of lead, which were affixed to the statues of infernal deities in the temple, the vengeance of the gods being thus invoked upon the persons who had stolen or injured the advertiser's goods. A rider was usually added, to the effect that should the property be returned, or recompense be paid, the owner would intercede with the gods for a remission of the punishment.

The Romans also made use of the town crier to proclaim laws, victories or sales, and the walls of the streets were covered with notices painted in black or red, or inscribed upon terra cotta slabs and let into the pillars on either side of houses and shops. Many of these wall advertisements were found in Herculaneum and Pompeii, among the most interesting being the announcements of the gladiatorial games, containing promises that shelter would be provided in case of rain and that the sand would be watered should the weather be exceptionally warm.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Catholic Columbian, of Columbus, Ohio, states that "the recent Ladies' Catholic Benevolent Association convention cost \$75,000." It then asks: "What was it worth to the association?" The railroads and the hotels and shops of Springfield, Mass., were the chief gainers. The general public also got some free entertainments.

Attorney General Bonaparte of the United States has been subjected to severe criticism for some days past. He has spoken lightly of the great captains of industry, and his words are being resented by the friends of the trusts everywhere. The Springfield Republican says that "if he is not too thin-skinned and possesses the ability to sit tight under fire, he will survive."

Casablanca, Morocco, does not exist, in spite of the daily newspaper stories about it. Casa Blanca, or Dar-el-Beida, founded by the Portuguese about four centuries ago, stands halfway between Rabat and Mogador, and is the principal market for trade between natives and Europeans. It has some 8000 inhabitants of whom 6000 are Moors and nearly 2000 Jews, the small remainder being Europeans. The annual trade is about \$3,900,000 and is divided between England and France.

We heartily congratulate our esteemed contemporary, The Pilot, Boston, on its seventieth anniversary number, which is permeated by the same high tone and scholarly thoughtfulness which has always characterized it. In the accurate report of current Catholic events, at home and abroad, in the power of expressing this information clearly, vividly, and in a man-

ner to please all intelligent persons, it is in the front rank of Catholic journalism. As to its editors, Miss Katherine E. Conway and her assistants may congratulate themselves that they have not only won their spurs, but are gilding them week by week.

IRISH STUDENTS CLASH WITH ANTI-CLERICALS.

An anti-clerical epidemic has arisen over Italy lately and has broken out spasmodically in many ways and places. The people of Tivoli were celebrating the feast of their patroness lately—St. Symphorosa. They had fireworks in the evening. The students of the Irish College went to witness them, and returning home to the College Villa afterwards—for their country villa where they pass the holidays is outside the town—they were attacked by some socialists. Those cowards thought they were dealing with Italian Semiparists. They soon found their mistake. The Irish students stood and did not let themselves be knocked down without knowing why. The result of about two minutes' attack and defence was that the cowards ran—except one, who had to be taken to the hospital, and is probably still there.—Catholic Times.

HER INTERPRETATION.

A teacher in one of the primary schools of New York recently read to her pupils "The Old Oaken Bucket." After explaining the song to them very carefully she asked the class to copy the first stanza from the blackboard, where she had written it, and to try to illustrate the verse by drawing in the same way a story is illustrated.

In a short while one little girl handed up her slate with several little dots between two lines, a circle, half a dozen dots, and three buckets.

"I do not quite understand this, Maimy," said the teacher, kindly. "What is that circle?"

"Oh, that's the well," Maimy replied.

"And why do you have three buckets?" again asked the teacher.

"One," answered the child, "is the oaken bucket, one is the iron-bound bucket, and the other is the moss covered bucket that hung in the well."

"But Maimy, what are all these little dots for?"

"Why, those are the spots which my infancy knew," earnestly replied Maimy.—Harper's Weekly.

ANOTHER TEMPERANCE BISHOP.

Bishop Feehan, of Fall River, Mass., recently named to succeed the late Bishop Stang, has always been a strong advocate of total abstinence. In speaking of his appointment, ex-Mayor Fordick, of Fitchburg, said that "for many years Father Feehan was the strongest single force in the city in assisting to success the no-license campaigns and in upholding sane temperance work." A. C. Brown, president of the Reform Club, expressed the same sentiment. Rev. Charles E. Spaulding, pastor of the First Methodist Church, said: "I have written Father Feehan expressing my regret at his departure. I have found him ever a man of such character as would be a loss to any community. He made his personality felt in temperance work, and has shown a fraternal spirit to pastors of other denominations."

THEY ARE RIGHT.

The Catholic Women's League of Toledo, Spain, have just set an example to their Catholic Sisters in this country. At a recent meeting they resolved not to allow into their homes four poisonous Liberal newspapers, and not to attend any theatre if aware that it is to present a doubtful play, pledging themselves to leave instantly any representation which proved to be opposed to Christian faith or morals, if the same attended without knowledge of its character.

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