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CATHOLIC INTELLIGENCE.

GENERAL CONGRESS. - The German Catholics have been holding their twenty-fifth General Congress at Wurzburg, the ancient capital of Franconia, at which the Dean of the Chapter of Mainz called attention to the melancholy fact that along the whole course of the Rhine there is at this moment not a single Bishop from Constance to Rotterdam. There are, in fact, but two: bishops left in the whole Prussian dominions, the Bishops of Hildesheim and Ermland, and upon them also the arm of the civil power is expected soon to fall. It is with great regret, moreover, that we notice the statement respectind the serious and alarming illness of the Archbishop of Munich. The congress took into consideration a report of the Society of St. Raphael for the protection of emigrants-which has become in Germany a very important work-and adopted a resolution in support of the school of Church music at Ratisbon.

Mexico.—The Mexican Catholics have sent a new testimony of their affection for his Holiness on the occasion of his Episcopal Jubilee, through the hands of Cavalier Enrico Angelini, Honorary Chamberlain to his holiness. This consisted of an album of three volumes, containing signatures to an affectionate address. One bound in crimson, has on the cover a representation in silver of the Pontifical Tiara, with the motto-Non proevalebunt; and on the other the image of our Lady of Gaudaloupe, chief Patroness of the State, with the legend—Non feettaliter omninatione. Exquisite miniatures adorned the first pages of the volume preceding the address, which was first signed by the Archbishop of Mexico. Mgr. Pelagio Antonio de Labastida y Devalos. Besides this, a sum of 16,028 francs, the obolus of the Mexican Catholics, was likewise presented. These Mexicans had previously [sent gifts in money and otherwise during the year. The Holy Father was deeplytouched by this testimony of devotion on the part of the fervent Catholics of Mexico, and bestowed upon them his Apostolic Benediction, at the same time charging the Cavalier Angelini to convey information of this to the Archbishop of Mexico, to all the Episcopate, and to the Catholic societies of that country.

OLD CATHOLICS .- Once more these peculiar people who style themselves "Old Catholics" have held a conventicle in Germany, this time in the old Catholic city of Mayence. Six years ago, when the new-fangled sectarianism was first started, that heresiarch, Dollinger, said that there were thousands of the priesthood, and millions of the faithful eager to become unfaithful to the Holy See. But since then?

'O Hamlet, what a falling-off was there!"

The whole "Congress" last week was not attended by as many as a hundred people. Letters of adhesion were received from the Swiss and Dutch sham-bishops. Herzog of Berne and Heykamp of Utrecht, and our friend Dr. Wordsworth, the Anglican Bishop of Lincoln, could not resist the temptation of venting his Latin, such as it is, in the shape of an epistle to the assembled renegades. But of enthusiasm, not a trace was to be found. The Hamburg Fremdenblatt, a Protestant paper, says on the subject: "It is remarkable how little attention the press and the public have paid to this sixth Old Catholic Congress. This neglect is but a consequence of the undeniable fact that the whole Old Catholic movement is a dead failure. For us this Congress has but an historical interest." Yes, just as much historical interest as the thousand and one isms in which heresy past and present has become familiar to the student. Beyond this, it would be sheer waste of time to have anything to say to Old Catholicism.—Contemporary.

APPARITION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN.-The apparitions of the Mother of God at Marpingen came to an end on the 3rd of September, as she herself had foretold to the little children to whom she thought fit to manifest herself. On this coussion Father Neurenter, the past or of the village, communicated the following particulars to the Germania, of Berlin: 'In answer to a large number of requests that have been made of me, I make the following declaration for the purpose of throwing some light on the events that have occurred here. Since the 3rd of September of the present year, the apparitions to the three children of Marpingen, namely. Susanna Leist, Catherine Hubertus, and Margaret Kunz, have ceased. They continued for fourteen months. as the children had announced from the beginning. The last words which the Mother of God spoke to them before finally retiring were ' Pray very much!" Since the 2nd of July of this year, fourteen other children of Marpingen declare that they also have seen supernatural apparitions which were very frequently repeated. The conduct of most of these children has been, it is true, without repreach down to the present day, so that I do not believe in any voluntary deceit on their part. However, the obse vations which I have as yet made have not succeeded in convincing me that toese last visions, which still continue in the case of some of these children, are real and come from God. The administration and judiciary power ought certainly take cognizance of the visions of the latter children I am thoroughly convinced of the reality and divine origin of the apparitions to these latter. As to the pretended apparitions of the others, either at Marpingen, Berschweiler, or elsewhere, I have yet received no guarantees, and consequently distrust their reality.'

CATHOLIC CELEBRATION IN SCOTLAND .- On Friday. the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, occurred the first anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of the new Benedictine Monastery and College at Fort Augustus, Invernesshire, Scotland. Any large gathering of friends was rendered impossible by the unfinished state of the buildings; but the occasion was celebrated in a quiet way by the Fathers of the Monastery and a lew of the neigh boring clergy and genity. Mass was celebrated for the first time, in the new Chapel of the Hospitium, and in the evening Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given by Bishop Macdonald, of the Northern District, who was for many years a student in a Scotch Beri dictine Monastery at Ratisbon. During the Benediction the Te Deum was song in thanksgiving for the blessing s granted during the past year. Besides the Bishop and the resident monks, Fathers Vaughan, Robertson and Cummins, O S B, there were present on the occasion the Rev. C. Macdonald and J. Chisholm, as a so Lord Lovat and Mr. A. Wield Blundell. It will be remembered that the old fort, which was built early last century to overawe the Highlanders, and to keep down Catholicity among the clans, was lately given by Lord Lovat to the English Benedictine's congregation with a view to the restoration of took place at the 8 o'clock Mass on Sunday, the monasticism in Scotland, where it is at present al. 30th, and was a very imposing sight indeed. The most extinct. During the twelve months which have clapsed since the foundation-stone was laid, the progress of the building has been so rapid as to. justify the hope that beth College and Monastery will be ready for opening before another year is passed. The alterations which were to change the to emotion of the most hardened heretic. Benedlo-northern wing of the old fort into the new college tion of the Most Blessed Sacrament brought, the have been almost completed as also are the extensive offices, including kitchen, laundry, &c., which occupy the interior of the north-eastern bastion. The new wing of the monastery, containing the refectory and the lay brothers rooms, is likewise advancing rapidly towards completion, and the rest of the monastery will be commenced before the autumn is over. Meanwhile extensive alterations have been made in the interior of the west wing, which is to be the future Hospitium, and is at presin the city assisted.

IRISH NEWS.

TYPHOID FEVER.—Typhoid fever is said to be very provalent in Cork.

STRIKE ENDED .- The strike of railway laborers in Ireland has ended.

PILGRIMAGES.—It is authoritatively affirmed that Archduke Charles-Louis and the Archduchess Maria Theresa recently made a pilgrimage to Marpingen.

Population of Mallow.-The population of Mallow having fallen below 5,000, the magistrates have obliged the public houses and hotels to close at ten o'clock on week nights and seven or Sundays.

LIBEL.-Mr. Daniel Sullivan, of the Nation, appeared before Mr. O'Donel, one of the police magistrates in Dublin, to answer for the alleged libel on Mr. Callan, M. P. The libel consists of a statement on a postcard sent anonymously to Mr. M'Carthy Downing, M.P., accusing Mr. Callan of having betrayed the deliberations of the Home Rulers to newspaper correspondents. An emphatic denial was given to the charge by Mr. Callan. Mr. Sull!van withdrew and apologized for the aspersion, and the summons was not proceeded with.

SUCCESSOR OF THE BISHOP OF KERRY .- The Dublin Mail has started the rumour that Monsignor Capel is to be the successor of the late Bishop of Kerry. We do not presume to hold ourselves forth as being so wise respecting Catholic episcopal arrangements as the leading Irish Orange organ, but we hope that we may, without too much boldness, state that their never was the smallest foundation for the rumour. It is an understood thing that Irish prelates always have been priests on the Irish mission. Monsignor Capel is (as any one may observe) an Irishman (by birth or parentage) but was never on the Irish mission. The successor of Bishop Moriarty is almost known, but no step is ever taken before the "month's mind" has passed.— London Univers.

MR. McCarthy Downing's Letter .- An acrimonious letter was that lately written by Mr. Mc-Carthy Downing, M.P., attacking the Home Rulers who believe in Obstruction. He objects to their tactics in toto, and winds up with the following wicked stab:-"I am sure that those who have applauded the faithful six are under the impression that the Republican virtues of that gallant band would prevent any of them from falling into a like disreputable position [of receiving courtesies from the Ministry.] But let me tell me Irish people that I seldom saw any two members whom the court the dress so well became as Messrs Biggar and O'Con. nor Power, with the kzee-breeches, silk stockings, low shoes with buckles, cocked hats, and swords (not Feniau) dangling by their sides, while they bowed to Mr. Speaker, and enjoyed his hospitality and celebrated wines .- Pilot. THE SHRINE OF MONASTERBOICE .- A correspondent

of the Dundalk Democrat visited the grand old ruins of Monasterboice, and is led to speak thus: "I need scarcely inform you what were my thoughts as I started on foot to explore one of the relics of the religious establishments planted through Ireland by the Cistercian manks, the sons of the great St. Bernard. Of course I thought of the past, and of the robbers who for one thousand years-that is, from the first invasion of the Danes to the present daycame amongst us like wild beasts to destroy our lives, and carry away our property. Murderers and robbers they were; their greatest crime was mising their impious hands against our religious establish. ments, and barbarously reducing them to the condition in which we see them to-day. One of these establishments was Monasterboice, and what must it have been in its glorious prime, when it looks so grand in its rules?" He describes the surviving monuments as follows:—"There are three crosses -one of them a massive Celtic cross, and the others taller, but of a different pattern. One of the latter had been broken into three parts, but last winter it was put together again, and by means of iron clasps it seems as strong as ever. On two of these crosses are pictorial descriptions of the fall of our first parents, the death of Abel, the preparation for the sacrifice of Isaac, and other portions of the Old Testament parratives, together with a representation of the Crucifixion of our Lord, and portraits of the Twelve Apostles, &c. The round tower, which is more than one hund-red feet high, has been slightly renovated, but the top is still broken, just as it was upwards of fifty years ago. Some new tombstones have been erected recently. Over the remains of the late Rev. Father Caampbell, P.P., of Tenure, is a beautiful cross. erected by the people of the parish, as a tribute to his piety and worth. Close to his grave is the oldest tombstone in the cemetery, which covers the tomb of the Archbishops of Armagh, according to the statement of the guide, who has the care of the graveyard. As to the ruins of the monastery, but ittle are to be seen; and they consist of some portions of what is described as the chapel. The dust of many high ecclesiastics lies in this place, and any one who visits it, and possesses the great gift of the Catholic faith, must feel that he treads upon holy ground. It was with regret that I left so interesting a place, so rich in treasures seldom to be found.' THE THIRD ORDER OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSIST IN

CORK -A correspondent writes :- I some time ago communicated to your ably conducted and much admired paper the steady progress of the Third Order of St. Francis in this city, and now again it is my plea-ing duty to chronicle its continued prosperity, During the week ending on Sunday, the 30th ult, there was a retreat given to the members of this order, in the church of the Holy Trinity, by the Very Rev. Father Albert Custos, provincial. The ceremonies were as follows:-5 o'clock, s.m., Mass, followed by a short lecture on the observance and 10 am.; immediately after which latter there was another lecture or short sermon for those who could not attend the carlier one. During each evening there was Rosary, with sermon and Benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament, at: half-past seven o'clock. Considering the early hour (5 o'clock) at which the morning services commenced, there was a fair congregation of devout worshippers in attendance, the greater part of them having several times during the week approached the altar rails and partook of the Bread of Life. The evening devotions were attended by overflowing congregations, who listened with devout attention to the clear, explicit, and well-delivered lectures of the very rev. provincial. The sublime truths of the Catholic faith were very keenly and forcibly express d by the rev. gentleman, with characteristic ability... Of course, I need not mention that the retreat was very largely availed of by those who were not members of the order. The general Communion closing ceremonies of the rotreat were very touch. ing and impressive. The solemn Renewal of Baptismal Voys made by old and young, rich and poor with countless lighted candles, emblematic of Ire-land's undying faith, would have stirred the heart evening's devotion to a close. On Thursday, 4th of this month, the Feast of St. Francis was ob served with unusual, solemnity in the Holy Trinity, Church. High Mass was celebrated at 12 o'clock, the celebrant being the Bev. Canon Casey, P.P. of Passage, in this county, the Rev. Abbe Cox, of the Mauritius, was deacon; and Rev. Father Lawrence. O.S.F.C., sub-deacon. Rev. Father Benedict Mary of the same order, was master of ceremonies. A large

number of clergymen from the different churches

MISCELLANEOUS.

GEN. GRANT. - Gen. Grant arrived in Paris last week and was received by the American residents

An Expensive Row.—The cost of the suppression of the riots in New York State is placed at a quarter of a million.

COMBINATION .- There is some talk of a combination of the German Catholics and Moderate Liberals with the Liberal wing in demanding from the Ministry an explanation of the financial state of the country.

No Peace -It asserted that Prince Gortschakoff, in a communication to the Russian Ambassador here, emphasized the determination of the Czar to continue the war until the condition of the Christians of Bosnia, Herzegovina and Bulgaria is definitely improved.

SITUATION IN FRANCE.—The situation in France is still causing a vast amount of surmise as to the intentions of the Ministry. The Republicans insist that the Cabinet will only remain in power long enough to preside at the elections for the Councils General, but Ministers as persistently deny such statements.

Decrees.-A royal decree has been published in Cuba promising leniency to persons guilty of treason and rebellion, and the return of confiscated property to recusants who submit within four months. It is believed that the capture of the President and other leaders of the insurrection will hasten the termination of the civil war. The prisoners of war will, it is believed, be sent to Spain.

SERVIA AND THE WAR .- The Eastern Budget hears that there is no probability of Servia commencing hostilities before next spring, and that even then she will only do so if Russia gives her an efficial assurance that her independence, together with an increase of territory in Old Servis, will be guaranteed to her on the conclusion of peace. Servia positively declines her co operation unless she can have this assurance in writing, coupled with a sufficient subsidy for her war expenses.

THE SERVIAN MILITIA -A correspondent of the Morning Post writes :- There has been a great deal of talk lately about the chances of Servia taking part in the Russo-Turkish war, but one important fact has been lost sight of in the discussion; which fact is, that the Servian militia will not fight. However ambitions Prince Milan may be he cannot make bricks without straw. If anyone had witnessed, as I did last autumn, the utter demoralization of the Servian army and the wholesale selfmutilation that was going on to avoid service, he would be as satisfied as I am that the Servian peasant has no intention of again risking his precious life to further the ends of Russia.

BRIGANDAGE IN ITALY.-It is not long since the Italian Government journals boasted of the capture of the last of the brigands. In the province of Salerno the robber chief Francolini was killed, and with him expired, as it was thought, the trade of murder and robbery in the neighborhood of Naples. But the Government was mistaken. A few days ago, between Eboli and Ponte a Sele, a band of armed men attacked some countrymen on the open highway, and gave the command 'Face to the ground." One of the assailed party was not sufficiently quick in obeying the order of the brigands, and recieved a blow on the head from the butt end of a musket, which in a few instants proved fatal. The robbers made booty of the mules, asses, and household stuff, and decamped in safety. The Diritto announces another affair which happined on the 29th of September in Sicily. On that day a squadron of carbineers and bersaglieri surprised the Plaja band on the confines between the province of Palermo and Girgenti, but the robbers escaped. Later on the same day the same brigands fell in with a patrol of carbineers and bersaglieri, and a fight ensued, in which Plaja, the chief, was wounded, but yet effected his escape Another of the brigands was wounded and taken prisoner. Two of the bersiglicit were slightly wounded.

Bin Swindle .- The latest gigantic swindle is connected with land in the Sinte of Texas, the Governor of which State has caused to be arrested at Kansas City J. It Ham, L. Stevens, and George W. Miller, charging them with forging land titles and issuing deeds for large tracts of land in Texas. The swindle originated with Ham and Thomas Tullis of Austin Ham lives in Kansas City, and through his persuasion Stevens and Miller were brought in the scheme. Stevens, a lawyer, a son of Judge Stevens, is credited with having gone into the operation innocently at first, by buying 14,000 nores of Texas land of Ham. He subsequently hecame infatuated with the money-making plan, acted freely with other parties engaged in it, and was known in Texas as the Kansas City lawyer. Better to enable them to carry out the scheme, Ham and his confederates had made duplicate copies of notarial and other scals, and obtained the signatures of many officials. They also printed blank forms and perfect copies of deeds necessary for their operations. All the titles and patents, represent-ing either State or Government, lands used by them, were forged. An immense amount of land has been conveyed by them under many aliases. About a year ago the attention of Gov. Hubbard was called to the matter, and, on looking into it the monstrous swindle was detected, involving both Texas and the United States Sixty persons are involved in the swindle, and have been arrested. To show the desperate nature of the gang, no less of the "rule" of the Third Order. Masses at 7, 8, than thirteen court houses have been burned during the past year, to deslroy evidence that could be brought against the swindlers.

> THE SOLDERS AT ALDERSHOT AND THE LATE SEIZ-THE CF ARMS AT CORE.—The London correspond. ent of the Freeman's Journal writes on Monday morning: I am in receipt of a singular letter from Aldershot. An esteemed correspondent informs me that no little sentation has been created there by an inquiry, very quietly conducted, connected to some extent with a recent incident in the south of Iroland. It is said that the discoveries made involved several soldiers, all Irishmen, but nothing has yet transpired to show that the surpected men are in any way involved. They are positions and their characters stainless. Hitherto they have had the full confidence of their officers, and for that matter they appear to have it still; but unfortunately the barrack-room rumors, which have taken an outrageous form, have not tended to the promotion of good fellowstip. I am glad to know, however, that whatever may be the upshot of the present investigation, the Irishmen in the camp maintain their soldiery character. I have my own, views of the sinister news which comes from little of her Irish capital or of her Irish subjects to have her heart warmed towards the people; in fact, she knows more of the inmates of a few Lock Marce cabins than she does of the whole Irish she was out of sight, and did not again put in an people.

NATURALISTS' PORTFOLIO.

EXTRAORDINARY PONDS AND FISH, -The ponds in the department of Ain, in France, are 1667 in number, The industry and ingenuity of men have converted the marshes into fertile plains and productive ponds construcing dykes from one hill to the other, for the plateaux are covered with small hills. When the proprietor of one of these ponds wishes to cultivate t, he draws of the water into the dyke attached to it. Wheat, barley, and oats are then sown, and the seed thus fertilized by the slime produces a crop double that produced by the land in the vicinity After the harvest is collected the water is permitted to return to its former bed, and carp, and roach, are then thrown into it. Some of those will support 100,000, of carp and 100 lbs of little roach. In the coarse of two years, these carp which weighed only one one ounce and a half, will have attained the size of two pounds and a half. The fishing begins in April and is continued until Novomber.

CHAFFINCH CONTEST.—At the town of Armentieres, in France, there is a fete du pays called kermesse or ducasse d'Armentieres in which the chaffinch and its fellows are the chief actors and objects of attraction. Numbers of these birds are trained with the greatest care, and, it must be said with some degree of cruelty, for they are frequently blinded by their owners that their song may not be interrupted by any external object. The point upon which the amusement, the honour, and the emolument rest is the number of times which a bird will repeat his song in a given time. A day being fixed, the amateurs repair to the place appointed, each with his bird in a cage. The prize is then displayed and placed in a row. A bird-fancier notes how many times each bird sings, and another verifies his notes. In the year 1812 a chaffinch repeated his song seven hundred times in one hour. Emulated by the songs of each other, they strain their little 'plumed throats' as if conscious that honour was to result from their exertions.

CARLIER-PIGEONS .- Carrier pigeons of good breed it is noticed, although they may be started in company and half bound for the same place, fly quite independently of one another. Each one selects his own coarse, some taking a higher, others a lower flight, and speeds on its way without taking any heed of its neighbours. The birds, in fact, seem to know that they are racing, and each one exerts itself to the utmost to arrive first at the goal. In the neighborhood of every pigeon-house there are always certain places, trees, &c., which are usually favourite resorts of the birds; but when coming in a race the well-bred pigeon never stops for a moment at any of these haunts, but flies straight to his own particular house, frequently arriving there in an exhausted state as to be unable even to eat the food it is most fond of. Birds which are sitting, or which have lately hat hed young, are generally taken in preferance to others for racing; but instances have been known in which carrier-pigeons of good breed which have been taken to a fresh home, and which have hatched young there, have deserted their brood and flown away to their original home at the first opportunity they had of escaping. Ashes AND IRON FOR FLOWERS -The observation

of practical and experimental gardeners seems to confirm the fact that, to procure brilliant colors in flowers, it is necessary to supply the soil with an abundance of ferruginous constituents and silica, The latter supplies a material (says S. E. Todd in one of his foreign exchanges) which is of vast importance to the production of that brilliancy of the petals and the dark grass luster of the leaves. That, if poinsh be added, or the ground be dressed round about the growing flowers with unleached wood ashes, an increased brilliancy will appear in every petal and leaf. Any person who cultivates only a few flowers in pots, or ou grassy lawns, or on spacious parterres, may readily satisfy himself of the exceedingly useful part the foregoing materials play in the production of beautiful flowers-Even white flowers' or roses that have petals nearly white, will be greately improved in brilliancy by providing iron, sand and unleached ashes for the roots of growing plants. Ferruginous material may be applied to the soil when nower are growing or where they are to grow, by procuring a supply, of oxide of from in the form of the dark-colored scales that fall from the heated bars of iron when he metal is hammered by the black-smiths. Iron turnings and iron fitings, which may be obtained for a tritle at most machine shops, should be worked into the soil near flowers; and in a few years it will be percieved that all the minute fragments will have been dissolved, thus furnishing the choicest material for painting the gayest colors of the flower garden. When there is an excess of vegetable mould in the flower bed, and a deficiency of silica or sand, the flower will never be so rich in color, not so brilliant as they would be, where a liberal dressing of sand, or sandy loam, worked down into the bed, where the growing roots could reach it. If wood ashes can be obtained readily, let a dressing be spread over the surface of the ground about half an inch deep, and raked in. A dressing of quicklime will be found excellent for flowers of every description. It is also of eminent inportance to improve the tertillity of the soil where flowers are growing, in order to have mature, plump, ripe seed. Let the foregoing mature, plump, ripe seed. Let the foregoing materials be spread around the flower, and raked in at any convenient period of the your. When soil is prepared for flowers in pots, let some sand, some oxide of iron and ashea be mingled thoroughly with the leaf would.

TABBY'S CURIOSITY SATISFIED .- The Virginia (Nev.) Enterprise tells this affecting story; "Charles Kaiser, who has the only hive of bees in town, says that, when he first got his swarm, his old car's curiosity was much excited in regard to the doings of the little insects, the like of which she had never before seen. At first she watched their comings and goings at a distance. She then flattened herself apon the ground, and crept along towards the hive, with tail horizontal and quivering. It was clearly evident that she thought the bees some new kind of game. Finally, she took up a position at the entrance to the hive, and when a bee came in or atarted out, made a dab at it with her paws. This went on for a time without attracting the special attention of the occupants of the hive. Presently, however "old Tabby" struck and crushed a bee on the edge of the opening of the hive. The smell of the crushed bee alarmed and enraged the whole swarm: Bees by the score poured forth and durted into the fur men occupying in their several regiments excellent of the astonished cat. Tabby rolled herself in the grass, spitting, sputtering, biting, clawing and squalling as cat never squalled before. She appeared a mere ball of fur and bees as she rolled and tumbled about. She was at leanth hauled away from the hive with a garden rake, at the cost of several severe stings to her rescurer. Even after she had been to distant part of the grounds the becs stuck in Tabby's fur and about once in two minutes she would utter an uncertably "yowl," and bounce, a full yard in the air. "On coming down, she would try to scratch an ear, when a cating on the back () own views of the single news which comes from the life in the street of the light and mighty personage would cause her to accession of back summers, who has all sloring held the door closed against the political prisoners has it his disposal tools capable. It is the light and mighty personage would cause her to turn a succession of back summers, and give vent to a running fire of equality political prisoners has it his disposal tools capable. of any meanness to secure the retention of the indicate of the reached the top of a tence full six feet in height.

appearance for over a week."