

vey an adequate idea of real old monastic architecture. The cloisters, one of which is 300 feet long, are paved with black and white marble and are decorated with paintings by some of the first masters, which were much admired by Prince Albert, who particularly noticed one representing the prophets, Nathan and David, by Gerard dell'Norte.

The church, which is justly admired for the correctness of its proportions, and elegance of its details, is of the Corinthian order. It was begun in 1736, and finished in 1759. The nave forms an octagon, which is surmounted by a dome, supported by eight columns. The high altar is esteemed one of the greatest curiosities of the country. It is composed of twenty-two pieces antique Egyptian and Persian marble, and was made and erected at Rome, that the virtuosi might pass judgment upon it. It secured their unanimous approbation, but at the same time their regret at its leaving Rome, as too fine a work for any other place. It is said to have been presented to the convent by Charles II., during his exile and sojourn in the Low Countries. The walls of the church are ornamented with a few choice pictures—one by Rubens, representing the triumph of Christ, is particularly remarkable, and one of the Holy Family, of Raphael's school, also demands notice.

The school is a spacious, airy and commodious building, communicating with the monastery by a beautiful hall. The school and work rooms, refectory, music, singing, and dancing rooms (each professor has a separate one), together with the lofty and particularly airy dormitories, the baths and infirmary, convey a true picture of English cleanliness and comfort. The garden extends over about four or five acres, and in it is a piazza, about 200 feet long and twenty broad, for the convenience of the pensioners in wet or hot weather. It is altogether a noble institution, and is justly renowned through Belgium and the adjoining countries (most of the Belgian, and many of the French nobility having been brought up there, for the superior education imparted in it, as exhibited in many of the brightest ornaments in our own and past Catholic generations.

This ancient monastery, so dear to the memory of our Catholic nobility and gentry, as having been the refuge of so many of their relatives during the suppression of monastic institutions in England, is a filiation of the regular canonesses of the order of the Great St. Austin from the English convent of St. Monica, at Louvain. The third superior, and it may be said, foundress, was Mary Austin Bedingfield, who was succeeded in the government of the

community by her niece, Mary Bedingfield, from which period the house has never been without a Bedingfield or a Jerningham. The late superior, Mrs. More, was the last descendant of Sir Thomas More. This esteemed lady conducted the community to England during the "troublesome times," where they remained eight years, residing at Hengrave Hall, Suffolk, the seat of Sir Thomas Gage, B. C. Among many who have renounced the brilliant prospects of the world to lead a holy life in social solitude in this convent, may be remarked the name of the principal Catholic families of England.

SPAIN.

THE WOES OF SPAIN.—A letter from Cordova, in the Catalico on the 4th inst., feelingly deplores the dreadful evils that have fallen on Spain, and rightly intimates that the Babel and confusion of ideas and principles, the shadowy substances (felt only in the cold and darkness they occasion) of the Governments that have tumultuously succeeded each other, "the bombardments of Barcelona, Rens, and other places, the misery that devours us, the anarchy that destroys us, and the other so great calamities that gnaw our very vitals, appear to the true Catholic only the commencement of that vengeance of heaven which the Divinity is yet to pour in full measure over the persecutors of his beloved spouse—the Church; a vengeance which will repeat the fulfilment of the prophecy delivered over Jerusalem by him who, though he is the Ancient of Days, is yet ever young—*Non relinqueret*, &c.: "There shall not be left one stone upon another that shall not be destroyed." Alas! and what remedy for this desperate soul-sickness has the present Government prepared? Forsooth, a decree of amnesty, which does not include the prelates and clergy, illegally and unjustly separated from their residences; a cruel and stopping order for the absolute sale of ecclesiastical property against the national will; a decree, unfulfilled, of course, like all the rest of their promises, to appropriate one third of the product to the support of the clergy and the necessities of the Church; and many other mighty things they have in store—spoken with that voice that crushes and bears down the cedars of Lebanon.

MADRAS.

Rev. P. Doyon, the Catholic chaplain of Bellary, has sent a memorial to the Board of Directors requesting an advance of salary, declaring fifty rupees insufficient for his support, and that 100 rupees with twenty for church expenses, is