

his Crucifix dispersed them all, for he answered immediately, that he should be glad and thankful to have such ransom paid, for there were many captives among the Christians, but for himself, he had vowed to live and die among the Moors, for the sake of those who were bound.

He well knew what he undertook in this vow; he well knew that such a life followed closely on the footsteps of Christ, in all its poverty, its ceaseless toil, its agony, its daily death. Such an one must be baptised with His baptism, and drink of His bitter chalice. It was for this that Father Thomas embraced such a cross, drinking deeper and deeper of its sufferings and its wounds. As he drew near to the Heavenly crown in his labours among the poor captives, he doubled his fasts, his disciplines, his heavy penances; the more was he purified by Divine love, the more vile did he conceive himself. Lent came, and every day of that holy season Father Thomas preached, holding up his Crucifix with severe warnings, with greater weeping, with more intense exhortation as he saw that his end drew near, and faith was failing among them (what would he have thought now!) and Christians were apostatizing, for they were impatient of captivity. At the end of Lent, his wasted frame gave way, and the sickness of death was upon him. On Good Friday, the awful day of the finishing of our redemption on the Cross, Father Thomas received the Last Sacraments, and prepared for his end with great devotion and compunction. The contition of great Saints should make us tremble. After this, not able to rest in his labours, he sent for the Christian captives, and gathering himself up he fixed upon them his eyes kindled with heavenly fire, and exhorted them to persevere, for if captivity on earth was hard to bear, what would it be for ever in hell? Then raising for the last time the voice which had never been heard in other service but that of God, he prophesied that on such a day, if they fainted not, they should be set free. One more word he said, 'Jesus—Redeemer;' and breathing away his meek and ardent soul in that last sound, departed to that place where none are bound either to Satan, sin, or death, to receive the Crown laid up for such as with Divine charity ransom both body and soul from chains.

On the day that he mentioned, the captives were set free and returned to their own country.

Note.—Father Thomas, a Hermit of St. Augustine, went to Africa with king Sebastian of Portugal, and died in labouring for the captives taken by the Moors, in 1582. The filling up of the story is of course purely imaginary, excepting the incident on his death-bed. See "The Sufferings of Christ," written during his imprisonment.

CONVERSIONS.

AT ST. MARY'S COLLEGE, OSCOTT.—The Rev. J. McGlenie, Perpetual Curate of Marks, Somerset; the Rev. T. W. Marshal, Vicar of Swallow Cliffe and Ansty, Wilts; the Rev. H. G. Coope; Salisbury; the Rev. Mr. Birks, of Arley, near Northwich, Cheshire; and Mr. Woodmason, jun., of Littlemore.

AT ST. CHAD'S, BIRMINGHAM.—James Boone Rowe, Esq., and Frederick Fortescue Wells, Esq., son of Lady Elizabeth Wells, of Holme Park. The two last named gentlemen are students of Trinity College, Cambridge.

MUNIFICENT DONATION.—We feel pleasure in stating that Henry Chester, of Cartown, Esq., D. L., has added another to his many claims of public respect. He has this week given to the Rev. Mr. Callan, P.P. of Termonfeckin and Sandpit, an acre of ground in perpetuity, rent free, as a site for a chapel, &c., in the parish of Sandpit, and in addition the sum of £20 towards the erection of the building.—*Drogheda Argus.*

BIRTHS RECORDED.

AT ST. MARY'S.

- 28.—Mrs. Ann Phelan, of a Daughter.
- " Mrs. Margaret Calloner, of a Daughter.
- FEB. 2.—Mrs. Mary Buck, of a Daughter.
- 5.—Mrs. Jane Jordon, of a Son.
- "—Mrs. B. Young, of a Daughter.
- 6.—Mrs. P. Maher, of a Daughter.
- "—Mrs. Ellen Cleary, of a Daughter.
- "—Mrs. C. Crowley, of a Daughter.

MARRIAGE RECORD.

- JAN. 28.—Maurice Murphy to Margaret Ferris.
- FEB. 2.—Michael Ryan to Bridget Doyle.
- "—Thomas Rigg to Mary Webster.
- 3.—Charles Ring to Mary Fletcher.

INTERMENTS.

AT THE CEMETERY OF THE HOLY CROSS.

- FEB. 1.—Alice, daughter of James and Ellen Dunn, aged 10 months.
- 3.—Nicholas Walsh, native of Kilkenny, Ireland, aged 52 years.
- 4.—William, son of William and Ellen Kavanagh, aged 7 months.
- 5.—Patrick Whelan, native of county Waterford, aged 54 years.
- 6.—Denis McKenna, native of Kerry, Ireland, aged 63 years.