

NOTES FROM ROME.

A GREAT PREACHER.—Enthusiastic audiences have lately attended the course of Lenten sermons preached in the Church of St. Charles Borneo by an eloquent Franciscan monk (Father Theodosius), whose utterances have the gift of fairly electrifying the enormous congregations which daily crowd the church.

A PAPAL EULOGY.—On the 27th ult., at the close of a meeting of the Cardinals and Consultors of the Sacred Congregation of Rites, held in the Vatican, under the presidency of the Holy Father, the Pope delivered the following brief but touching tribute:—

"Before closing to-day's meeting," said His Holiness, who was evidently moved, "we feel it incumbent upon us to signify our profound grief at the untimely death of our beloved son, Cardinal Camillo Mazzella, Prefect of this Congregation. We know that you all share in this grief, from the bottom of your hearts. For if in him we lost a counsellor invaluable for his fidelity and for the prudence of his advice, your Order has been bereft of its greatest ornament, namely, of a man whose piety, learning, and activity had deserved the gratitude of the Church. May Christ give peace to that beloved and most pious soul, awarding to it in Heaven the well-merited palm of victory."

IRISH PRELATES IN ROME.—A concert in honor of Archbishop Walsh took place at the Irish College on the 25th ult. His Grace pronounced an eloquent speech, in which he made reference to the Irish College and to the Rector, and ended by a noble tribute to the Irish nation and to the Irish language. Archbishop Walsh was followed by the Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell, Bishop of Raphoe, who also spoke on the Irish College and its successful mission, due in a great measure to the ability and zeal of the Rector and Vice-Rector. An eloquent reference to the Archbishop's love of faith and country terminated His Lordship's speech.

THE ENGLISH CONVENT.—The Sisters (Poor Servants of the Mother of God) on the 25th March kept the special feast of their institute (the Annunciation of Our Lady). His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin gave Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, and the church was filled with a gathering of the friends of the community. His Grace afterwards visited the convent, and congratulated the Sisters on the occasion of their feast day. Amongst those present to meet His Grace (who was accompanied by the Rev. Father Healy) were His Lordship the Bishop of Raphoe, Mgr. Kelly, Mgr. Tylee, Father Esser, O.P., Father Bartoli, S.J., Rev. W. Theed, Rev. Professor Lauri, and many others.

AN UNEXPECTED NOMINATION.—The appointment of the new Cardinal-Vicar of Rome has taken place at last, and, though it will not be officially proclaimed till the next Consistory, the Vicar will enter upon his duties before very long. Contrary to the expectations of many who were firmly persuaded that the appointment would eventually be filled by a member of the Roman Curia, His Holiness has chosen the successor of Cardinal Jacobini from the distant dioceses of Ferrara, in the person of His Eminence Cardinal Pietro Respighi, Archbishop of Ferrara.

FATHER FLEMING'S PREACHING
—Very Rev. David Fleming, O.F.M.,

continued his regular Tuesday afternoon discourse on the Passion of Christ at the Convent of the Little Sisters of the Company of Mary, taking up for consideration the false accusations preferred against Our Lord, to wit: preaching seditious doctrines, teaching the people to refuse to pay tribute to Caesar, and stirring up revolution; Christ's answers to Pilate's interrogation; the clamoring for His life by the Jews; Pilate's attempt to rid himself of the case; the scourging with leather thongs armed with sharp iron stars; the crowning with thorns and other indignities; and the final passing of sentence to be crucified and handing over of Our Lord to the Centurion. The lessons to be drawn from this chapter of the drama were the sublime gentleness with which Our Lord submitted; that holiness is no guarantee against suffering; and that we as the subjects of a thorn-crowned King must expect and rejoice to share in the sufferings of our Master. On Friday, March 30th, Father Fleming preached a sermon at the Church of St. George and the English Saints on "The Church as a Divine Organization," from the text "My Kingdom is not of this world." The Church militant, he said, consists of a body and a soul. The body of the Church is built up of all those who are openly in communion with her. These may or may not lead truly Christian lives. The soul, on the contrary, consists of those who lead holy, Christ-like lives. These may be of the body of the Catholic Church; they may be Protestants; they may be Pagans. True saints are found everywhere and under all conditions of life. They frequently live and die unknown, and are forgotten in the world. Father Fleming is evidently a broad and liberal-minded, as well as a very learned, though strictly orthodox, priest.

MGR. VAUGHAN'S SERMON.—At the San Silvestro in Capite, the Very Rev. Mgr. Vaughan preached a remarkable sermon on the Divine origin of the Catholic Church. The text he chose was: "For this was I born, and for this came I into the world that I should give testimony to the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth My voice." It was a sermon that should be printed and circulated among all those who hold that the written word contained and teaches all that is necessary to our salvation, and that beside this word there is no infallible authority on earth. The preacher pointed out that Christ Himself never wrote a word; that he commanded His disciples not to write and publish, but to teach and preach; that He did not say: "who read My Word," but "who heareth you heareth Me"; that the New Testament was written long after His Ascension by different persons and at different places, that the various books which were but records of the principal events of Our Lord's life on earth, or admonitions addressed sometimes to a nation, sometimes to a church or only to a single individual, were never meant to teach all of Christian doctrine; that there were a great number of these, and that it was only three hundred years after Christ that the Church in her infallibility decided which were inspired and which were not. Either the Church is infallible, and then we must accept all she commands, or she is not, and then we do not know whether all or any of the books of the New Testament were inspired, or if, perchance, some of the inspired writings were among those rejected.

ECCLESIASTICAL STIPENDS

One of the best evidences of how great the influence of the Socialistic or anti-Catholic party is, even in countries where the Governments are considered Catholic, may be found in Belgium. The question of ecclesiastical stipends is one that merits considerable attention; it seems to indicate the trend of political and religious thought, in that country:—

The Lower Chamber has been discussing during the past week or two the proposals of the Government for the enhancement of the annual stipends allowed to the parochial clergy,

As is well known, the remuneration which the Catholic clergy receive for their services is not strictly speaking a payment from the State; it is simply a form of restitution for the ecclesiastical property unjustly confiscated at the Revolution. Successive Governments in fixing the scale of stipends have not erred on the side of generosity, the amount in most cases being much below what is usually considered the living wage of an ordinary working man. In the great majority of cases the parish priest has no more than fifty or sixty pounds a year, his "vicar," or

assistant, from twenty-five to thirty, and even when supplemented by the "casuel," or fees, the amount of his income is hardly sufficient to enable him to defray his necessary expenses. As a rule, the parishes are small, the people in the rural districts relatively poor, and the "casuel" brings in but little, so that unless the priest has private means his budget at the end of the year must often show a deficit. The increase voted the other day by the Chamber on the proposal of the Government is regulated by the age of the clergyman, and the number of years he has passed in the parochial ministry. For a par-

ish priest of the first class the annual stipend is fixed at 1,100fr.; the minimum for a parish priest of the second class at 1,400fr., the maximum 1,800fr.; for chaplains and curates the minimum is to be 800fr., and the maximum 1,000fr. M. Helleputte, the Deputy for Maeseyck, urged the adoption of a somewhat higher scale, without reference to age or duration of services, but his amendment did not receive the support of the Government. Slight as is this tardy act of justice to the ill-remunerated Catholic clergy it met with considerable opposition from the doctrinaires and Socialists in the Chamber.

FROM THE FEDERAL CAPITAL.

Death has been busy during the past week or so in Ottawa and vicinity; and his unsparing scythe has cut down some good old landmarks.

THE LATE MR. JOHN O'REILLY.—Deep regret has been felt throughout the country by the many friends of the late Mr. John O'Reilly, license inspector of Ottawa, when the sad news of his death was announced. Mr. O'Reilly was born 67 years ago in By-town, now the city of Ottawa and Dominion capital, and resided there till his death, which occurred at his home, Rideau Terrace, on the 4th instant. He began life as a teacher of a private school, and in this work was associated with his brother, the late Robert O'Reilly, so well known as an educator, and subsequently the superintendent of Separate schools in Ottawa. Many men of prominence in Canada to-day received their early training at this school. Twenty-five years ago Mr. O'Reilly was appointed license inspector, which position he held up to the time of his death.

Mr. O'Reilly during his lifetime was actively engaged in various charitable works, being one of the promoters of St. Vincent de Paul Society, and its Vice-President, when death called him to his reward. He was also Vice-President of the Irish Catholic Temperance Society from its inception, under the presidency of the late Rev. Father Molloy, and under its present President, Rev. Canon McCarthy.

He leaves a wife and seven children to mourn his loss. His four sons are Frank, coal merchant; George, manager of the Ottawa Cold Storage Company; Dr. Robert and William. His daughters are Mrs. P. J. Brennan, Miss Tessie and Miss Helen O'Reilly, the latter being known as Mlle. Helen de Bideau, a gifted singer, who, having completed her musical training in Italy, is now following her profession in New York. Always a kind father, a good citizen, a firm friend and a Christian gentleman, Mr. O'Reilly's loss will be widely felt.—R.I.P.

LATE SHERIFF COUTLEE.—On the 9th April, at his late residence, Aylmer, P.Q., Louis M. Coutlee, who for nearly fifty years had been sheriff of the District of Ottawa, departed this life at the ripe old age of eighty-nine. He was born at Les Cedres, on the St. Lawrence, and was educated at Nicolet College. In early life he engaged in a general mercantile and transportation business at Carillon on the lower Ottawa, under the firm name of Montmarquet, Coutlee & Schneider, and later he was engaged in the lumber and supply trade at Pembroke, where he carried on business in his own name, and under the firm name of C. Coutlee and Aird until 1850. He was appointed sheriff of the Ottawa District in 1851, and still held office at the time of his death, and took a prominent part in the defence of the Islands below Cornwall in the wars of 1810-12 as Captain in the de Lotbiniere batt., of which his father was adjutant. He himself was active in the organization of the loyal militia at Carillon and St. Andrews in 1837, and was major of the Renfrew battalion of militia when living at Pembroke. Of late years Sheriff Cout-

lee's health has been failing and for the last couple of years he has been unable to give active attention to his office duties in which he was latterly associated with Mr. Sheriff Wright, of Hull.

In the death of Sheriff Coutlee, one of the last links in the rapidly vanishing chain that binds the end to the commencement of the century in this vicinity, it may be remarked, that he had been a classmate of the late Father Chiniquy, and could tell many a good story about the latter's early eccentricities.—R.I.P.

MR. M. F. WALSH ILL.—One of the leading and most popular Irish Catholic citizens, Mr. M. F. Walsh, has been somewhat in ill-health for a short time past, and has gone to visit his relatives at Three Rivers in the expectation of benefiting by the change and rest. During the many years that Mr. Walsh acted as private secretary to Hon. Mr. Costigan, he was brought in contact with the public to a great degree, and his kindness to all and never failing willingness to help all who had occasion to apply to him, either for advice or some service, have been the fruitful source of his great popularity. Apart from his regular duties in the service, Mr. Walsh has always been a welcome and prolific contributor to the Catholic press of the Dominion. He is recognized as an authority on many subjects connected with Canadian and Irish history and literature. It is hoped that he will return, after his Easter holiday, with new strength and perfectly restored health.

THE SESSION'S DURATION.—How long the present session is likely to last is a matter of speculation. After the Easter recess it will be much easier to form an estimate. At present it is clear that members on both sides of the House are anxious to see the prorogation before the hot weather sets in. The members of the Government say that all depends upon the obstructiveness of the Opposition; the members of the Opposition say that all depends upon the promptness of the Government in placing fresh business before the House. So, no matter how the "cat jumps," if there should be a sweltering long session, the Opposition will be blamed for having too much to say; or else the Government will be blamed for having neglected to prepare with sufficient rapidity the business of the session. In any case some one, or some party will have to bear the burden of the responsibility.

THE GENERAL ELECTIONS.—There is likewise much speculation as to the probable date of the general elections. The majority of opinions, however, lean to the idea that next winter's snow will be on the ground before the present Government appeals to the people. Certainly, there is no likelihood of a call to battle during the mid-summer holidays; and the early autumn is an unfavorable season in the country districts—except for a party that relies upon a small vote being cast. No more is it probable that the Government would care to let matters drag until 1901; so we may conclude that old man Santa Claus may be around in time for the great political struggle.

A HUNT FOR A WILL.

A press despatch from New Brunswick, contains the following peculiar story, which nicely illustrates how anxious some people are to step into dead men's shoes. It says:—Upon the incidents which followed the search for the will of Mahion Martin, four times a millionaire, who died here two weeks ago, could

be based a farce or a comic opera. After searching ineffectually for his last testament, even to drilling the safe in his library, the precious document has been found in the simplest hiding place imaginable.

Martin, who was a bachelor, started in life as a wall paper printer's

RECENT MISSION TO NON-CATHOLICS.

The sudden collapse of the "Mission to Catholics," organized last January, as an off-set to Father Younan's great "Mission to non-Catholics," is brought forcibly to the mind as a contrast with the continuous effects of such missions. In the "Missionary" for this month, we find a full and exact account of the mission preached in our St. Patrick's Church, to our Protestant fellow-citizens. While our readers are familiar with all that then took place, yet there are a few details given, which may prove of interest to many. We take the following extracts from the article in question, leaving aside all that has already been stated in these columns. After referring to the origin of the mission, the text of the article runs thus:—

The number of non-Catholics gradually increased from one thousand to fifteen hundred. The interest of the clergy and the Catholic people deepened as the mission kept drawing greater crowds every night. Many could not gain an entrance. Nothing could equal the rapt attention, the deep reverence, the intense earnestness of our separated brethren. They felt they were in the house of God and in His Presence. Even the pagan Chinamen gazed in awe and bent in adoration. The usual order of exercises was followed. Questions were answered and lectures delivered, and the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament given. The altar was decorated very beautifully, and differently every night. Hundreds of candles artistically arranged and blended with electric lights, and oil burners of many colors, and pretty flowers, added beauty and solemnity to the Benediction.

The closing service, Sunday evening, January 14, was most impressive. The huge black cross of the Catholic mission was richly decorated with garlands and clusters of flowers, sent in mostly by non-Catholics, many of whom actually took a pride in their mission. The immense blaze of light on the altar suggested the thought of our heavenly glory. It was most consoling to see that great gathering on their knees adoring the Blessed Sacrament and in fervent prayer before their loving heavenly Father. At the end of the service numbers of non-Catholics gathered round the communion rail and remained for some time gaz-

ing at the cross and altar. Even the Chinese could hardly be persuaded to leave the church.

"At the end of the mission we had 33 converts, and 137 more were placed under instruction with the fathers of St. Patrick's, especially Father Martin Callaghan, the great convert-maker. This zealous Sulpician has within the last fourteen years received into the Church 1,063 converts.

"Some three hundred non-Catholics are still attending the inquiry class, which is now being carried on every Wednesday. We feel confident the year of grace 1900 will increase the list of converts in St. Patrick's by four hundred, a figure which ere long will double itself. We opened, besides, a catechism class for the Chinese; average attendance each Sunday being eighteen. Their conversion, however, is a matter of time, as only three or four can speak a little English. Everything is under the wise direction of Father Quinlivan, the pastor of this great parish."

"Of course there were many interesting incidents. The good sisters, whose convent adjoins St. Patrick's, were deeply interested every evening as they witnessed the crowds of non-Catholics making their way eagerly towards St. Patrick's, and the struggles of some to enter before the others. These devout nuns aided the good work by their fervent prayers. A non-Catholic reproached the Catholics near him for interfering with his mission and preventing many Protestants from getting seats. "You had your mission," said he, "let us have ours." A woman looking for a Protestant place of worship came in contact with one of the fathers, who spoke to her of the mission for non-Catholics. She answered angrily, and was bitter in her attacks against the Church, on priests and nuns especially, and did not even spare the father himself. But he, in nowise offended, with great tact and gentleness took her into the church, explained a few things to her, gave her a nice seat, and requested her to listen, for once, to a Catholic priest. He met her going out after the sermon, with tears streaming down her cheeks. She thanked him, and with deep emotion assured him she would attend every night, and did so. She finally joined the inquiry class."

FATHER SINNETT'S LETTER.

Rev. J. C. Sinnett, chaplain of the second contingent of Canadian Volunteers, whose departure was the occasion of more than one touching demonstration, has written a letter from Capetown, S.A., dated Feb. 27th, to the "Ridgetown Dominion." It is an admirable contribution to the ever increasing bulk of South African war literature. There is a freshness, a good nature, a priestly kindness about the whole letter, which impel us to reproduce it in full. It runs thus:—

"We are not yet fighting—no, not even among ourselves. I fancy it would be a difficult task to bring together three hundred and twenty-two soldiers and seventy-seven sailors as good natured, as orderly and as joyous as the brave lads who are tonight, as I write, on their way to engage in one of the most deadly struggles that shall find its records on the pages of modern history.

These men, some of them at least, are no novices in war. A great many of them took part in the Northwest troubles of 1885; the others are the genuine Cowboys from the different parts of the Great Canadian Northwest. The Cowboys are commonly represented as young men who can drink hot-Scotch, kill a stranger, etc. with the same ease and indifference as they can catch and tie up a wild steer or broncho. Yet nothing is so far from the real state of affairs—the truth—as the above. The truth is they are gentlemen and rarely forget their manhood. They may like their glass of Scotch and soda and take it then, and they take their glass so all the world may know it—everything is open and above board. Yet, after several years of life among them, I would write the words in letters of gold, they are a sober lot; and I flatter myself I am a competent judge. I have seen them on the ranches, I have seen them in all the varied phases of their peculiar life, hence, I submit, I am in a position to judge.

Of the Mounted Police I need not speak. Their reputation has long since been established beyond doubt. They are men fully qualified for their hard duties. As an example, imagine yourself mounted on a spirited horse

and sent off a distance of eighty miles where cattle thieves are at work. The mounted policeman starts off in the winter, with the weather at 50 below zero, as cheerfully as he would go to a country dance, an illustration I am sure my old companions in Ridgetown and Howard will understand. In a week perhaps the policeman returns and reports to his tried and kind chief, Col. Herchermer. What has he done? You may depend on it in every case he has done his duty. But the elements in many cases have left their mark upon him—often a foot, an ear or a nose frozen. In not a few cases the Mounted Policeman has met the fate of good Father Groten—frozen to death in the discharge of his duty. Father Groten was frozen to death in March, 1891, coming from Willow-Branch (a half-breed station) to Regina. I succeeded him as pastor at Regina.

These men, then, are good and brave fellows. Never in my travels have I been treated with greater respect and affection than by the members of the N. W. M. P. If I chanced to pass their way the morsel of food would be divided with a great big heart and real pleasure, and I was made to feel that there was no humbug about their goodness. The priests in their turn have many occasions on their far west missions to do something for them, and what little we do for any one is transmitted to the whole force. How sweet it is to live like brothers!

Regarding Col. Herchermer, the commander, he is a man now over sixty years of age. I need only say he is an efficient officer, and as kind as a father to the men, and as anxious for their comfort. You may depend that the Colonel and his brave men will give a good account of themselves, especially if left to their trade as scouts.

On board we rise at 5.30, breakfast 7 to 8, then drill which continues nearly all day. Rifle shooting forms part of the drill. The Colonel is ever on the watch to see each man's powers and encourage all in their efforts.

Feb. 27. We have reached our destination, and will soon be on land again. Farewell, and respects to all old friends.

J. C. SINNETT."