

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH.

The Halifax Branch of this Association met on Sunday evening last, after Vespers—the Rt Rev. Dr. Walsh in the Chair, assisted by Very Rev. Mr. Conolly, and Rev. Mr. Hannan. The proceedings were very satisfactory. About £44 were received, including subscriptions from the Bishop and Vicar General. After the Collectors had handed in the various sums which they had received since October last, a distribution of Annals, Books and Pictures took place. The Bishop took a brief review of the valuable labors and meritorious exertions of the Halifax Branch of this Great Catholic Institute, since its foundation here in January, 1843, and after some remarks on the present state and prospects of Religion in Europe, His Lordship closed the Meeting with the usual prayer. The following is a list of the Subscribers, and Collections:—

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Includes Mrs. Eliza Burke (£2 0 7), Miss Maria Barber (0 7 8), Johanna Butler (0 11 3), Mary Barton (0 4 0), M. Cragg (0 8 0), Coehran (0 11 4), E. Condon (0 10 0), M. Connor (1 2 6), Very Rev. Mr. Conolly (annual subsc.) (1 0 0), Mrs. Wm. Dillon (0 10 0), Mrs. Hanly (donation) (0 2 1), Miss Desfrenas (0 15 0), Downey (0 12 9), M. J. Davison (0 15 0), Ellen Delany (0 2 6), Foley (0 6 10), Kate Foley (1 11 6), Bridget Finn (0 6 0), E. Gerson (0 9 4), M. Gilroy (donation) (0 1 5), Holden (0 10 2), Margaret Hogan (0 5 4), Margaret Kelly (0 16 5), Mrs. Loneragan (4 0 0), Mrs. Landrigan (0 12 8), Miss Ellen Lunn (0 11 3), Loughnan (0 10 0), Master W. Lanigan (0 16 0), Miss McSweeney (8 5 0), M. Mooney, junr (0 11 0), Margaret McAuliffe (0 12 6), Margaret Murphy (0 13 0), Mary Molloy (0 5 0), Ellen Maher (0 14 0), Ellen O'Mara (donation) (0 3 1), Mr. Thomas Murphy (0 3 5), Miss O'Dell (1 15 0), O'Neill (0 4 4), M. A. Porcell (0 10 2), Bridget Power (0 5 7), Emma Pitts (0 7 7), Mr. James Payne (0 8 9), Master Michael Power (0 10 0), W. Quin (0 3 4), Matthew Ryan (0 2 0), Mrs. Eleanor Shea (0 9 0), Miss Sarah A. Shea (0 5 5), Mr. Wall (3 0 0), Rt. Rev. Dr. Walsh (Quarterly subsc.) (1 5 0), Miss Bridget Walsh (0 8 8), Mr. Balcom, Salmon River, East Shore (0 12 6), Collected by do. (1 7 6), By one of the Military (0 2 3). DARTMOUTH. Miss Mary Skerry (0 5 0), Miss Rose Farrell (0 7 6).

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH.

Collected by Mr. Buckley, in Ward No. 3—£6 0s 5d. Particulars next week.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

An Adverser of the Cross has written to inform us that "a notorious Odd Fish, the oldest of the Fenny Tribe," who is well known for his brawling propensities, has been lately in the habit of abusing "the Gentleman of the Cross," and "threatening to complain of us to the Bishop and Clergy!" Mrs. Cogswell, it seems, is a special favorite of his, and he is sorely vexed at "so ungallant manner in which we have lately treated that respectable old lady. Why did she provoke us? Why did she say that we adored the Pope as a God—that we hated the Scriptures—and that our Religion was nothing but pure money? The time has gone by when Catholics

could be thrown in the gutter and trampled upon by the iron heel of every heartless bigot. We give no invocation to the Colonial Church Society, and why did they wantonly assail us? We say not this in reference to any half-drunken soliloquies of the miserable man alluded to by our Correspondent, but for the benefit of those who ought to know better, and who are so exquisitely sensitive when Protestant insolence has to be confronted and put to shame. Such degraded things are only fit for the mines of Siberia or the lash of the Southern slaveholder. Our "Adverser" could not be serious when he requested us to copy nearly a column of comment on so execrable and insignificant a subject as his favorite Odd Fish. We will clip the fins of this scaly animal in one sentence. Go to, miserable old sinner; prepare for eternity, which cannot be far off; try to cheat the Devil now, for it is full time to make the attempt; Be sober, and treat your poor wife and family with common humanity, lest we may complain of you to the Bishop and Clergy, whose names you have so impudently taken in vain.

From the Tablet.

REASONS FOR SUBMITTING TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

By R. K. Sconce, B.A., late Minister of St. Andrew's Parish, Sydney.

"Magna est veritas et pravelet." Here is a voice from the Antipodes, calling upon men to recognize their true Mother. One of the Protestant Ministers who have gone out to Australia in the service of the English Establishment has abandoned his position at the call of duty; and as such an event is, unhappily, rare in that country, has also given to the world the means of knowing why he has changed. He has done it, moreover, in a peculiarly calm, modest, and straightforward manner. His adversaries can find no fault with him, except on the ground that he has quitted their ranks.

This pamphlet is valuable for a full collection of the texts in the New Testament in which the authority and power of St. Peter are shown—These passages, thus put together, will be useful for Protestants, and the common way of explaining each separately, becomes more startling when the whole cumulative evidence states the controversialist fully in the face.

Mr. Sconce had informed his Bishop of his doubts, who, while, they did not amount to conviction, encouraged him to continue his ministrations under him. Yet, when the final step was taken, the Bishop expressed surprise, and the decision was considered sudden:—

"Sudden, however, it was not, in any other sense than as the overflowing of a cup is sudden when the last drop is added. It was the natural and legitimate termination of a long course of steady progress. At the very outset of the movement, doctrines which had been universally esteemed Roman, and which still are so esteemed by the majority of Anglicans, were recognized as truths of the Gospel; and thus much of the supposed corruption which had kept us aloof from our 'sister' church of Rome, as we learned to call her, ceased to exist in our eyes. The study of Catholic theology, and the use of Catholic devotions, 'adapted to the English Church,' became natural to those who were led to love the whole household of faith, and to yearn for a restoration of Christian unity."

The adaptation of Catholic books is not without danger, it seems, and Mr. Sconce is evidence for it. When the system of adaptation had been in practice a few years, a respected Anglican Minister was asked by a friend if these "adapted" books were of any value. "Value," said he, "most certain"; do you not see that Dr. Pusey is compelled to adapt them to the use of the English Church?"

Here is another instance of the plain and practical manner in which Mr. Sconce deals with his subject:—

"There is a Church in the world teaching in every nation under heaven one and the same thing, claiming their allegiance as the church founded by our Lord, called by all sects the Catholic Church, and governed by the Bishop of Rome, who is admitted to be historically the successor of him to whom Christ said 'Feed my sheep.' The only other Church, claiming precedence, as a Church, is the Church of England. She does not teach one and the same thing, for everybody in Sydney knows that at Christ Church and St. Andrew's one doctrine was taught, at St. James's another, at St. Philip's a third; she is not called the Catholic Church,

though her members profess their belief in such a Church every time they say the Apostle's creed; she is not in communion with him or whose predecessor the Church was founded, and she is historically known to have broken off from the rest of Christendom mainly at the instigation of a Profligate king."

DISGUISE OF THE POPE.

The romantic fiction of the correspondent of the English press, is founded on the mere fact that the Pope escaped in the simple dress of a clergyman. The Bavarian ambassador had for several days been attended by a clergyman in his visits, which throw the soldiers and domestics off their guard. The appearance of a servant in livery coming out of the Pope's apartments, would, on the contrary, have astonished every one, it being customary for servants to take their place in the hall, and await the return of their masters from audience. This we are assured, on the authority of a respected clergyman recently arrived from Rome, is the simple fact. The Bavarian ambassador, with the Pope thus disguised, proceeded to Gaeta by land. Rumor ascribed Civita Vecchia as the destination, a carriage from the French legation having gone in that direction.

The "Banner of the Cross" is shocked at the Pope's flight, and supposed disguise. Has the Editor ever read of an Apostle let down from the walls of a city in a basket? Was there any want of a martyr's courage, or of a sense of official dignity in St. Paul.—Catholic Herald.

A HUMILIATING ADMISSION.—The Protestant Bishop of Oxford, Dr. Wilberforce, in a speech delivered at the late Anniversary of the Church Missionary Society, made a very true, but very humiliating admission in regard to the former condition of Anglicanism. Speaking of the founders of that Missionary Society, he remarked as follows:—

"They lived at the close of a period when the Church was so apathetic, that not only had she done nothing towards the great work of evangelizing the Heathen; but, as my predecessor has told you, allowed her influence at home to wither and decay; her hand, leaving our own increasing population to grow up in Heathenism, and only showed her semi-vitality, or rather her anti-vitality, by casting out from her bosom that great and good man—that saint of God—John Wesley, whom he had raised up, let us never forget, within her own communion, to do his own work in his own way, and who clung to her till he found that he must make the choice of not laboring for God, or laboring without her communion. It was at the close of such a period as this, when all was darkness around them, that God put these thoughts into the hearts of these men."

PROGRESS OF RELIGION IN AUSTRALIA.—The following is from a letter, dated Sydney, July 12th 1848, addressed by the Archbishop of Sydney to an English Catholic: "Thanks be to God, we all arrived safe after a most pleasant though rather a long voyage. My time has been greatly taken up since by most consoling duties. We have had three Retreats, one of fifteen days for the people, another for the community, a third for our novices. We are all proceeding with great fervor in consequence. I commence to-day the fourth, for the Sisters of Charity; this will be followed by another for the missionaries, and then, I trust, we shall be renovated in the holiness of our vocation. We have, thanks to God, a vast increase of converts; out of 700 confirmed, nearly one-half were neophytes in the faith; amongst these, two Anglican ministers of great piety, ability and learning, Messrs. Mackison and Sconce; and a third, whom Dr. Selwyn brought out as a student, but who is now an inmate of our monastery. I fear his health will not permit him to proceed. I have ordained one, one of them a native, the first Australian who has attained the dignity of the Priesthood. I have many in this way. Five made their religious profession on the 11th. My community—the Benedictines—has now attained a respectable size; we number nearly forty. The Divine Office is publicly recited each day in the metropolitan church."

A Roman Correspondent of the Freeman's Journal writes as follows to that journal:—An agent has been sent to London from Rome to report on the present state of Government. I could not find his name. A second, by the name Canu-

i, has gone to join the first. Canuti is a lawyer. I suspect the first agent is some person already residing in London, and Canuti has gone with instructions. Ciernacchio is as busy as ever still. He is not much spoken of, but he gathers the mobs, and pays them wherever their services are required. The last row he went to Ponte Mollo (about a mile outside the gates), where five or six hundred men were working—dispersed them from their work, and brought them to march through the Corso, without over-letting them know what they were about. If you wish to see his bust, you can call on Lord Minto, who got the effigy of this worthy taken in marble last year. The man who shot poor Palma has died—some say he died penitent, others say not. But it is certain that he died very suddenly of a great trembling, which brought on a general paralysis. The assassin of De Rossi has been assassinated. He wished, for too much money, so some of his associates made him drunk, and sent him to the other world in that state. The head of the Ministry, Mamiani, has resigned, and is in a most dangerous condition. He has got an attack in the spine.—He had one hundred and twenty leeches to him yesterday. If things go on this way, a little longer, there will be no need of a foreign intervention—God will do it all Himself."

A SIGNIFICANT FACT.—An Italian from London, has been at Bideford the past week vending models of the Virgin Mary and the Saints, which, it is said, have commanded a ready sale among the tractarian party in the Church. We hear that the models are of exquisite beauty, and fetch a guinea apiece.—North Devon Journal.

We see that some of the societies established for the publication of class theology are on their last legs. The Sportswoode, instituted for the purpose of reproducing the writings of the Scotch Episcopal Divines, has been summoned to discuss the question of its own dissolution; and the Wadrow an older society, which issued works connected with Presbyterian literature, is likely, it is said, to follow.—Bath Journal.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN EGYPT.—Alexandria, Dec. 21.—Last week the European residents of Alexandria had the satisfaction of hearing the tones of a full sized bell belonging to a church just built by the Jesuits in this town.—This is the first bell that has been heard to ring in the Ottoman empire, and the Christians owe this concession entirely to Mehemet Ali's liberal policy. The Jesuits began their church long after the English had commenced theirs, and the latter, from want of funds, has remained in its present half finished state for the last two years.—Times' Correspondent.

DIOCESE OF RICHMOND—WHEELING.—On Sunday, 26th November, the very beautiful Catholic Church, lately erected in Wheeling, Va., was dedicated to Almighty God, under the invocation of St. James, Ap. by Right Rev. Richard Vincent Whelan, D.D., Bishop of Richmond, assisted by the Right Rev. Bishops of Cincinnati and Pittsburg, Very Rev. Thomas Heyden, of Bedford, Penn., and Rev. Mr. Lawrence, of Wheeling.

The Pontifical Mass was sung by the Bishop of the Diocese, Rev. Messrs. Heyden and Lawrence being Deacon and Arch-Deacon. The dedication sermon was preached by the Bishop of Cincinnati, and an eloquent and argumentative discourse on the characteristics of the true Church of Christ was delivered in the evening, after Vespers, by Very Rev. Mr. Heyden.

A room to the right of the altar, is appropriated to the Visitation Sisters, who occupy spacious houses and lot adjoining the Church. This room is separated from the sanctuary by an iron gate, such as is seen in chapels of that community elsewhere. The enlightened citizens of Wheeling have already proved how highly they appreciate the services which these accomplished Ladies are so capable of conferring on Society, and we were informed that the Academy, though recently opened, already numbers about seventy pupils. Thus does Religion take Education by the hand and associate her in the blessings she bestows on the world, and the gratitude she inspires.—Cath. Tel.

CLEVELAND.—There were fifteen priests and several seminarians at the Retreat preached recently in Cleveland by Rt. Rev. Dr. Whelan. The Retreat was followed by a Synod. The Sunday following, Bishop Rappo held an ordination, at which two of the Seminarians received the clerical tonsure, and Rev. Messrs. Peter Kroush, James Monaghan and Aug. Berghies were ordained priests.—B.