EIGHT

REUNION

ORIGIN OF RECENT MALINES CONVERSATIONS IS TOLD BY EARLY ADVOCATE

By Rev. J. Van der Heyden (Louvain Corresp dent, N. C. W. C.)

Those who attended the recent Study Week for the Reunion of Churches at Brussels heard from the venerable Abbe Portal and from his intimates—who completed what his modesty caused him to withhold -the interesting actual story of the conversations of Catholic and Anglican theologians, the fifth of which will be held soon in the arch-iepiscopal residence of Cardinal Moreior tinued. Mercier.

It is now revealed that the story of the Conversations began thirty years before the first of them, held in 1931, was planned.

Father Portal, who is now an old man, though physically and men-tally strong and possessed of all the warm-heated enthusiasm of youth, was in 1889 professor of theology in the Seminary of Cahors, France. He was taken seriously ill that year and his Superiors sent him to recu and his Superiors sent him to recu-perate to the Isle of Madeira.

MEETS ENGLISH ENTHUSIAST

He there met Lord Halifax, who was sojourning on the isle nursing his sick son. The priest and the English lord became fast friends, with the result that both desired to tighten that friendship by the practice of the same religious faith. Under the impulse of the desire, animated by a charitable spirit of emulation and of mutual regard, they have since zealously vied each other for the reunion of Chris-

tian churches. 28900 3 In 1898 the Abbe, to start the ball rolling and to establish a point of contact, wrote a booklet on the validity of the Anglican Orders. His conclusion was that their yslidity was very doubtful, at best. His countryman, Mgr. Duchene, became interested, took up the question in the wake of Father Portal, and reached the conclusion that they were wslid. The publics that they were valid. The publica-tion of this great historian's views ness on the matter created a furore, with the result that the Abbe Portal was summoned to Rome to confer with the Holy Father. He frankly suggested to His Holiness to call a mixed conference of repreto call a mixed conference of representatives of the Anglican and of the Catholic Church to probe the whole question to the bottom together.

That course, however, was not to the taste of the English Catholics. Nor were they favorable to a direct appeal of the Pope to the Arch-bishops of York and Canterbury, another of Father Portal's suggestions. The Holy See took a similar view, and it was voiced in Pope Leo's encyclical "Ad Anglos," pub-lished in 1895. There followed the Holy Father's letter, "Apostolicae Curae," pronouncing the Anglican Orders invalid.

It was not what the Abbe Portal,

one brother, Mrs. F. McManamen, Miss B. Culliton and Mike Culliton of Melancthon, Mrs. M. McAuliffe and Miss M. Culliton of Durham. decided to frame an appeal for the union of all Christian churches. That appeal, which contained propositions for mixed conferences, and Lord Halifax's visit to Cardinal Relatives attending from a distance include Mrs. Jno. Culliton, Mrs. Annie Culliton, Mr. and Mrs. J. McManamen, Mrs. Gaudet and Miss Mercier were the origin of the Malines Conversations, held succesmonth of May of the present year. The Abbe Portal after having waited thirty years for the realiza-

sively in 1921, 1923, 1924, and in the month of May of the present year. The Abbe Portal after having waited thirty years for the realiza-tion of his dream, now feels that he has not waited in vain. Under Cardinal Mercier's vigilant and perspicacious eye, there is no danger for Catholic orthodoxy. The Holy Father, who knows all about them, approves the Conversations and wills that they should be con-timued. McManamen, Mrs. Gaudet and Miss Letitia, Mr. Dan and D. J. Kenny, of Toronto; Mrs. McAuliffe and Miss M. Culliton of Durham; Mr. and Mrs. Jim McLaughlin of Mid-land; Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Clarke of Barrie. The pall-bearers were of Barrie. The pall-bearers were and wills that they should be con-timeral Tuesday morning to show their respect for one who was so

To an interviewer the Abbe remarked: "The personality of your great Cardinal rendered them pos-sible. You cannot imagine the ascendancy he exercises over those who take part in the conversations. "Cod knows the extern L fael to the provide the p

goodness. "It is providential, too, that Mechlin is situated in Belgium. Belgium is a small country. nobody can accuse you of nursing imperial-istic designs. The great evil of nationalism is practically unknown

witness a ceremony that marks an epoch in the history of China Mis-sion in Canada. It will be the occa-sion of the Departure Ceremony for the pioneer band of missionaries from St. Francis Xavier Seminary, Scarboro Bluffa Oct "The union of churches, you see," he added, "is a Catholic undertak-ing and nothing but that. The first thing to do is to convert to that work our Catholic brethren." Scarboro Bluffs, Ont.

OBITUARY

SISTER M. ST. JOSEPH

In the death of Sister M. St. which occurred at St. Mary's Hospital, Kitchener, on Wednesday, November 25th, the Community of the Sisters of St. Joseph lost one of the most lovable of its youngest members. Until a few months ago the deceased was on the staff of their deceased was on the staff of their Hamilton Hospital, and was remarkable for her affable, courteous manner and unfailing gentle-

Early in September. ance of its founder and Father she was transferred to the Sister's Hospital, Kitchener, where she continued her

by the illness which resulted in her death. The heartfelt sympathy of Besides the two priests who will accompany him to look after the many friends is extended to Mr. district recently assigned by Propa-and Mrs. Francis Kelly, her ganda to the seminary five priests bereaved parents, and to her gor-rowing brothers and sisters who reside in St. Patrick's Parish, this city. Sister Mary Visitatio of St. Joseph's Novitiate is also a member of the family of the late Sister St. Joseph. The fun-eral services will be held in the Chanel of St. Mary's Hospital Chapel of St. Mary's Hospital, Kitchener, on Friday morning at nine o'clock, after which the remains will be brought to Hamil-ton for interment in Holy Sepulcher Cemetery. R. I. P. ing numbers as the years go by. The work of St. Francis Xavier Seminary is one that will commend itself to every Catholic who has at heart the extension of the Kingdom of God upon earth.

MRS. MARY C. GADEN

MRS. JAS. M'LAUGHLIN

On Nov. 22nd there closed a long,

It was not what the Abbe Portal, Monsigner Duchene and others had expected. But Rome had spokeo, and they bowed submissively to the verdict. CONTINUED TO TALK REUNION The Abbe kept up his friendly Monsigner Duchene and others had expected. But Rome had spokeo, and they bowed submissively to the verdict. CONTINUED TO TALK REUNION The Abbe kept up his friendly The Abbe kept up his friendly Monsigner Duchene and others had the entry of another saint in the passing of Mrs. Mary Cormack Gaden, who died at the Mother House of the Grey Nunnery, Mon-treal, Nov. 17, fortified with the non-Catholic, her whole life was the entry of another saint in the FLOWER FLOWER The Sanctuary of the Little Flower was begun last May. People of every nationality have come for-ward with their offering to help the erection of the shrine. The shrine The archives of Heaven record

One was a child of three years who was cured of a suppurating ear; and the other, a little boy who had infantile paralysis. The Sanctuary is 153 x 55. The basement is com-pleted and was blessed on Sept. 80.

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Author of "The Candlestick Makers" and "The Gates of Olivet"

E settings for this new novel by Mrs. Borden, which deals with an unfortunate marriage but a final happy outcome for both the chief justice and his young wife.

As in her previous books, Mrs

Just seven years ago Rev. J. M. Fraser returned from China where he had laboured for fifteen years in active missionary work. It was his intertine to fund in Constitution intention to found in Canada an institution where young men would be trained for missionary life in China. He was told that the time missionary country with missionary problems enough of her own. That was seven years ago. Today a magnificent seminary stands as a monument to the zeal and persever-

Fraser is returning to his beloved China, leaving others to "carry good work until incapacitated for it

SANCTUARY OF THE LITTLE

his soul rest in peace. their respect for one who was so soul rest in peace.

"God knows the esteem I feel for the Cardinal's powerful intellect; but it is eclipsed by his radiating "medeau"". May her soul rest in peace.

CANADIAN PRIESTS TO LEAVE sanctity.

FOR CHINA On the evening of Dec. 18th, St. Michael's Cathedral, Toronto, will

CONTINUED TO TALK REUNION The Abbe kept up his friendly relations with Lord Halifax and further contented himself with working at converting his own Catholic countrymen to the idea of the possible reunion of the churches. Lord Halifax, for his part, remained buoyant with hope and devoted himself more zealously than ever to the Association of Prayer for the Reunion of Churches that he had founded among his Anglican core-ligionists and that counted then 50,000 adherents. Contributed with the off anglican core-the content of the the control of the the content of the the control of the the content of the content of the content of the content of the the content of the the content of the content of the content of

At the conclusion of the World War, Father Portal invited his noble English friend to a tour among the ruins of his own land and of Belgium. The invitation was accepted and together they went over the scenes of the conflict. It was quite natural that they should feel impelled to include Mechlin in their tour and to pay their respects, as so many visitors their respects, as so many visitors of mark were doing, to Belgium's War Cardinal whom Marshal Foch had just called "the greatest figure of contemporaneous history." Give unto her, O Lord, a place of refreshment, light and peace.

BIRTH OF CONVERSATIONS

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