

THE CHURCH QUESTION IN SPAIN

The late changes in the Spanish ministry draw the attention of its friends and well-wishers to the peculiar position of the Catholic Church in that country.

At present the Conservative party in the Cortes numbers 129 members, under the leadership of Senor Maura. Belonging to one of the best Catholic families in the Island, of Majorca, he is absolute master of the situation in the Cortes, though not in power. This arises from the fact that his opponents are divided into many sections amongst themselves.

The Liberals are under the leadership of Senor Moret, the late Prime Minister, who has found it impossible to continue in power. His place has now been taken by General Dominguez, an old companion-in-arms of Marshal O'Donnell during the war of the early sixties in Morocco. Of the most advanced Radical proclivities, he intends to follow out in Spain the policy of the Waldeck-Rousseau cabinet in France. The first plank in his platform is the introduction of "Liberty of Conscience" for all. This claim has been put forward with greater vehemence by the Liberal press ever since the English marriage of the king. The second item is the subjection of the Church to the civil power.

Unfortunate occurrences at Leon and at Pamplona seem to have added fuel to the fire in this matter. In the former place a well known land owner died leaving express directions that he was to be buried in the civil cemetery without any religious ceremony. He had been anointed in an unconscious state during his last illness, but recovering his senses before his death, absolutely refused the ministrations of his parish priest. The executors, preparing to carry out the deceased's wishes, were met at the civil cemetery by the parish priest, who claimed the body. Unheeding his remonstrance, the executors buried the corpse. On the matter being referred to higher authority, an order was issued that the body was to be exhumed in five years' time and buried in the cemetery of the parish church. At present this case is one much debated in the press.

The other matter to which I have referred is the reform of the marriage law. At present no civil marriage is legal in Spain unless the contracting parties make a written declaration that they are not Catholics, or else that they are out of their church and do not intend to belong to it any more. The Liberals are up in arms against this "list of heretics" as they call it, introduced by the Minister Carrenas.

A third point regards the religious orders. Only three are recognized by the concordat with Rome made by the Conservative leader, Maura. Unfortunately, exemption from many of the ordinary fiscal duties of every citizen to the state, the claims of Mortmain, and a needless multiplication of small congregations, have tended to reproduce in Spain the anti-religious feeling so rampant in France.

These are the main points in which we shall soon see important developments. Unfortunately for the Catholic Church in Spain, whilst every provision exists for the boys' education of the upper and middle classes, the girls' education is very inferior and much behind the standard of other countries. The lower classes have but scanty provisions made for them. In many large towns also English and American sects are busy robbing the children of their faith in the excellent free schools which they provide for the children of the poor. In Barcelona alone over 500 children of Catholic parents are attending the Wesleyan schools. The clergy are content to stay in their sacristies occupied with the ceremonial of their services in church.

Clubs and other social works, which are so essential to keep in touch with our town population, are little known except in Barcelona. A few clergymen realize the danger, witness the bishop's vicar-general at Alicante who said to me: "Yes, I see trouble ahead; religious are already buying secular clothing in case of expulsion; unless we go to the people we shall soon find ourselves alone in our empty churches."—Correspondence Liverpool Catholic Times.

No one need fear cholera or any summer complaint if they have a bottle of Dr. J. D. Kellogg's Dysentery Cordial ready for use. It corrects all looseness of the bowels promptly and causes a healthy and natural action. This is a medicine adapted for the young and old, rich and poor, and is rapidly becoming the most popular medicine for cholera, dysentery, etc., in the market.

WHY GIRLS ARE PALE

They Need the Rich Red Blood
Dr. Williams' Pink Pills
Actually Make—

Three years ago Miss Ellen Roberts, who holds the position of saleslady in one of the leading stores in Halifax, N.S., was a pale, delicate looking young woman, who then lived at home with her parents at Amherst, N.S. She complained of general weakness and loss of appetite. Her blood was thin and watery and she grew thinner day by day until she looked almost like a shadow. Her cheeks were sunken, all trace of color had left her face, and her friends feared she was going into a decline. "I had no energy," says Miss Roberts, "and suffered so much from the headaches and dizziness and other symptoms of anaemia that I felt I did not care whether I lived or died. One day, however, when reading our local paper, I read a testimonial given by a young girl in favor of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and as her symptoms were almost identical with my own, I determined to try this medicine. Before I had used the second box I began to find the benefit, and I continued taking the pills until I had used seven or eight boxes, by which time I was fully restored to health." To-day Miss Roberts looks as though she had never been ill a day in her life, and she has no hesitation in saying she owes her present energy and health to Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

Bad blood is the cause of all common diseases like anaemia, headaches, paleness, general weakness, heart palpitation, neuralgia, indigestion, and the special ailments that only womenfolk know. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills cure these common ailments, because they make rich, red, health-giving blood, bracing the jangled nerves and giving strength to every organ in the body. Do not take any pills without the full name, "Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People," on the wrapper around each box. Sold by all medicine dealers or by mail at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50 from the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

His Last confession.

There is a beautiful and very interesting story told of the late Captain John Drum, of the Ninth United States Infantry. The writer of this had it from his friends. Captain Drum was one of the most famous soldiers in the army. He had grown gray in the service of his country; had fought throughout the civil war and in many Western campaigns, where, because of his stentorian commands when in action, he had earned from the Indians the name of Thunder Voice. When the Spanish war broke out John Drum was stationed as commandant of cadets at St. Francis Xavier's College, New York. Ordered to join his regiment, he made a general confession of his whole life, and then sailed for Cuba. When the troops were ordered to assault the Spanish lines at El Caney Captain Drum's company led; but at the captain's side, shoulder to shoulder, marched a Catholic priest, who thus, while actually going into action, heard the gallant officer's confession at his urgent request. It was Captain Drum's last confession, for in a moment, while cheering on his men, to the charge, he fell dead, sword in hand, one of the first as he was one of the noblest victims of a Spanish bullet. "I will die happy," were his last words to the chaplain; and let us hope that his gallant spirit found in heaven the reward of a long and noble life, whose chief delight, solace and inspiration was the Sacrament of Penance of the Catholic Church.

CHURCH MUSIC IN ROME

A very interesting feature of Church music in Rome is the steady, if slow, disappearance of artificial sopranos from the choirs. The Maestro Perosi assisted by the Maestro Rella has given two good hours of his hard day during the past years to training the boys, who are to become the nucleus of the great Sistine Choir of the near future—not altogether of the future, either, for they have sung several times already at great functions, and they will take a prominent part in the music of the Coronation Mass in St. Peter's on August 9.

Meanwhile an inexorable rule has been laid down that no new "artificial" sopranos are to be admitted into any of the Church choirs of Rome. The music in the churches has also vastly improved in quality,

though it is to be regretted that the Plain Chant has not yet taken up the prominent position to which the Holy Father declares it is entitled.

In only two of the churches has any attempt been made to introduce congregational singing during the Mass, at Santa Maria in Acquiro, and at the Anima, which by the way has now become the parochial church of the German residents in the Eternal City.

"LIKE KIPLING AND THE DICK-ENS."

(From the Bangkok Times.)
The proprietors of a Siamese newspaper have distributed handbills containing the following notice:
"The news of English we tell the latest. Writ in perfectly style and most earliest. Do a murder, git commit, we hear of and tell it. Do a mighty chief die, we publish it, and in borders of sombre. Staff has each one been collected, and write like the Kipling and the Dickens. We circle every town and extortionate not for advertisements. Buy it. Buy it. Tell each of you its greatness for good. Ready on Friday, Number first."

PIUS X ON KINDNESS TO ANIMALS

This week the Holy Father was graciously pleased to accept two books, "Les Saints et les Animaux," and "L'Eglise et la Pitié envers les Animaux." Of course, His Holiness did not have time to read them there and then, but on learning that they had been presented by the Naples Society for the Protection of Animals, and that they had been written to show that many of the great saints were conspicuous for their gentleness and kindness towards animals, and that the spirit of the Church, as revealed in many striking ways, has always shown itself strongly in the same sense, the Pope warmly approved of this object and sent a cordial blessing to the Marquise de Rambures, a devoted daughter of the Church, the authoress of "L'Eglise et la Pitié envers les Animaux." His Holiness also wrote an autograph blessing on his photograph for all who protect from abuse and cruelty the dumb servants given us by God. It is hardly necessary for us to say that the Naples Society for the Protection of Animals has been greatly rejoiced by the papal approval thus given to its practical work in preventing cruelty.

WHY THEY WERE CHAINED

(Robin Ruff, in Georgetown College Journal.)

Of many duties imposed upon me during a long residence at Georgetown College, under Father Healy's administration, one was that of escorting visitors through the college and pointing out to them the chief objects of interest in the institution. The variety of characters necessarily met with in the discharge of this duty prevented it from becoming monotonous. In one such tour occurred the little incident which forms the groundwork of this story. A group of lady visitors, non-Catholics, called one afternoon to visit the college. It required but a few moments to discover that one of the visitors had come to the college charged from her reading with many of the old calumnies regarding the Catholic Church, which, like the mythological hydra, seemed to thrive on slaying. In a glass case, where the venerable Father Curley, then librarian, kept his most precious manuscripts and his curiosities of bibliography, rested a large tome, bound in wood, to which were still attached a hump and a portion of a chain, originally used to secure it to some reading desk. This book caught the eye of the visitor in question, who asked an explanation. Jocosely this was given. "Of course, madam, you have read that Catholics chain the Bible to prevent people from reading it?" Her eyes flashed intelligently, and a gratified smile played over her countenance. After leaving the library, I escorted the group across the quadrangle, passing, of course, the old pump, from which hung the chained dipper. This same lady made a request for a drink of water. I promptly assented, adding, "I will fetch a glass for you." She quickly replied, "O, I can drink out of the dipper." "But," said I, "madam, do you not see that it is chained to prevent you from using it?" "Pardon me, sir, I do not quite understand." "Do you not remember the chained Bible? For similar reasons both Bible and dipper are chained. A drink from the dipper may lead you to revise your opinion in regard to chained Bibles." "Thank you, sir; I shall not forget."

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(2) If the father (or mother, if the father is deceased) of the homesteader resides upon a farm in the vicinity of the land entered for the requirements as to residence may be satisfied by such person residing with the father or mother.
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This is one of General Miles' stories: In the Confederate army Longstreet's corps was making a night march. About 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning when every one was tired and worn out, a Georgian regiment stopped. A Georgian soldier put his rifle up against the tents on the other side of where Longstreet was. "Well," he said, "this is pretty hard—to fight all day and march all night. But I suppose I can do it for my country—for the love of my country." He continued: "I can go hungry, I can fight; if need be I can die for my country, because I love my country. But when this war is over I'll be blown if I'll ever love another country."—Christian Register.

WHERE THEY SIGNED.

"Now, Tommy," said the teacher, addressing a small pupil, "can you tell me where the Declaration of Independence was signed?"
"Yes, ma'am," answered Tommy. "It was signed at the bottom."

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CHAPTER XXXV

"You needn't,"
"Flory don't want to do with that party. He's got eyes. I don't like him. He's a terrible fellow."

A burning flush rose to her hair.
"He's the gentleman that you were looking at. He's got eyes. I don't like him. He's a terrible fellow."

Ruth, the old man, He's got eyes. I don't like him. He's a terrible fellow."

starch and the color him. Another wash him like chalk. How the thirties, and I have to say or do in the n

"In what matter, Ruth, with recovered

"Oh! in this matter know what I don't

"Keep right on. Y

it, you know you broke in, mimicking

no matter to be d and your hints are

Will you walk up with me? It is nearly

surely find him at home. "Don't care. If I

you right to his face threat did not frighten

They found the priest reading in his study between the table and

"You haven't got furniture here, have you? squire, after a glance

which to furnish a young stiff lady's parlor—able, père, and protect that will wash the dishes over visiting, and

something, above all, line and warranted not Ruth's looking for justice, and we heard you sell cheap."

"He's not in now," "but you can see him

"Don't attend to said Ruth calmly. "H anything from Florian

"He will be here to baby. I received a note to that effect. He is learn what I know of

"Ah! said the squire be a good deal."

"I am so glad that stopped abruptly, "after now that he is v

"There is nothing to particularly," said the the faintest touch of the squire took for pre

maintained on the island investigate the cabin where lived, and partly to e

tiement after an ar paign. Sentiment largely into Florian's

"He's too much that," said the ad

"There's nothing in the put Flory down, unless just date on that boy.

The sharp ring of sounded at the moment

"This is he," said th vite you both to rem

what I am to tell ab called Scott. It is a

tory, and contains not may not know."

"If Florian does not cutting off Ruth's polit

he was eager to stay. fret, I say. Flory ha

secrets from me—us, I When Florian entered

saved any one the tro ing to his grave salute

once taking the positio of the meeting. Ruth

to note in silence the a few days had made

tician's face. It was usual, and the eyes se and weary. The eviden

Florian had not passed time at the island as t lieved, but in the hurri

ment of an animated the paleness and hollow

peared to a great degre "As you intend to retu

said Pere Rougouin by face, "I suppose you a