

RELIGIOUS NEWS ITEMS.

The Holy Father has sent to the Sultan a copy of the Apostolic letter on the Eastern Churches, beautifully bound.

Rev. Father Francis Moening, O. S. F., of Memphis, Tenn., who fell into a vat of boiling water last week, is dead. The entire city mourned his death.

Sister Maria Elena Bettini, who founded the Daughters of Divine Providence, died recently in Rome. With great success she presided over that community for some sixty years.

The old Catholics are still declining. A church of which they have held possession for the past twenty years at Messkirch, in Baden, was given up to the Catholics on New Year's Day.

It is said that several Anglican clergymen will accompany Cardinal Vaughan on his coming visit to Rome to prepare the way for the return of the Church of England to the Catholic faith.

In Holland the managers of railroads have decided that their Catholic employees should not be required to work on holidays. This is a practical way to recognize the rights of conscience.

Rev. Matthew Rausch, of Rome, father general and rector major of the Redemptorist Order, is on his way to this country. It is his intention to visit all the Redemptorist houses in this country and Canada.

The French police are in search of a band of men who have stolen no less than sixty of the statues from the facade of the Rouen Cathedral, some of which were situated at a considerable height from the ground.

Of the thirty-seven living members of the French Academy thirty-two are professed Catholics, including Meilbac and Halévy, who are of Jewish descent, three are Protestants (Say, Cherbuliez and Dr. Freycinet), and two are freethinkers, Dumas and Lacour.

Father Butler, the oldest priest of the diocese of Ogdensburg, died at the City Hospital, Ogdensburg, N.Y., last week. He was born in Ireland in 1828, and having studied at Malta and at Rome, was ordained in the Cathedral in Albany by Cardinal, then Bishop McCloskey, in 1858.

A Mr. Snell, one time private secretary to the Rt. Rev. Bishop Keane, and falsely said to have been a professor in the Catholic University of America, who apostatized some two years ago, was received back into the Church, in Chicago, by Archbishop Feehan on last Saturday.

Rev. Thomas A. Hughes, S. J., one of the most learned members of his order and a frequent contributor to Catholic literature, has been called to Rome to work at the examination of the archives of the Vatican library. Father Hughes was attached to the Missouri province of the Jesuits, in which he has held many high offices.

Rev. Dr. E. B. Kilroy, of Ontario, recently celebrated the fortieth anniversary of his ordination and turned the sixty-fourth year of his life. Forty years of active service in the priesthood is a record not frequently met with in Canada. Dr. Kilroy is one of Notre Dame University's oldest graduates.

The Catholic Church in Prussia is more than retaining its vitality. In 1872 there were in the Kingdom 914 conventual establishments, with 8,705 members; three years later, in consequence of the repressive legislation of the "May laws," over a third of the institutions were dissolved, but in 1893 we find 1,215 establishments, with 14,044 monks and nuns.

The midnight Christmas Mass at the English Passonist Church, in the Avenue Hoche, Paris, was marked by the rendering of a new Mass, composed by Mr. W. L. Howland, a young American. There was full orchestral accompaniment. The crib in this church was the last work of Brother Seraphin, the simple and charitable monk who lately passed away. On Christmas Day the Anglo-Parisian branch of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul gave dinner hampers and clothing to the English-speaking poor of the city.

In the conversation that he held with certain members of the Italian nobility the other day, the Pope made it plain that he is extremely desirous of seeing

better relations established between the Holy See and the Italian government, for the advantages of both the one and the other; and he also reaffirmed the policy that there can be no reconciliation effected except on the basis of allowing the church her full rights, and giving the Papacy the independence that is necessary to it for the proper exercise of its jurisdiction. The Holy Father added that he saw in the solicitude wherewith the well-minded officials regarded the situation proof that they, on their part, were also convinced of the necessity of the absolute autonomy of the head of the church.

A VISIT TO THE CLOISTERS.

LORD AND LADY ABERDEEN AT THE GOOD SHEPHERD.

Lord and Lady Aberdeen visited the Community of Our Lady of the Good Shepherd, at their house, on Sherbrooke street, on Thursday last.

Their Excellencies were received by the Mother Provincial St. Alphonse de Ligouri, and the Rev. Father Racicot, Superior of the institution, who conducted them through the building and visiting the various classes of different degrees all wearing ribbons or orders. Those of the Seven Doleurs were in brown with blue edging; of the Sacred Heart, in red; of the Blessed Virgin, blue, and the highest rank of all, the Purple Heart of Mary. The children covet these distinctions and they are of great value in stimulating them to do well. There is the Reform class, a Penitence class, then the Magdalen class, Industrial classes are for children who are either orphans who have bad parents or are deserted. Here they attend class in the morning and learn trades and how to work in the afternoon. Their Excellencies visited each of the class rooms in turn, speaking to the children in French and in each case asking for a holiday. In the infirmaries they talked to the inmates. In one ward a young nun lay dying, and her face, ghastly in its pallor, was illumined with the light of another world and her eyes seemed already to behold its mysteries. To human eyes it was almost an apotheosis.

In the Penitence class room the children sang very sweetly, and then three advanced to within about twelve feet of where their Excellencies sat. The middle girl was small and carried a bouquet which she held carefully. All three bowed low, and one said "Excellencies." And all three bowed again. Then the following address was delivered, first in French on one side and repeated in English on the other. All the time the middle little girl guarded the bouquet, and at each appropriate sentence all three bowed most solemnly. The French address went smoothly from beginning to end, but, alas! the English was more refractory, and the words would get tangled up, but it was wonderfully good considering the child did not know English. After the address there was another profound salutation, then the little maid bravely left her companions and bowing with much grace, presented a bouquet of roses and white hyacinths to Her Excellency, who kissed the pretty child and then took a rose out of her bouquet and gave it to the child to pin in His Excellency's buttonhole. She accomplished her task bravely, and then His Excellency saying he felt much more *comme il faut*, made a short address, speaking words of encouragement and good advice.

In this room were many quite old women who are what are termed "Consecrated." They have chosen to live perpetually within the walls of the only home they have ever known, rather than go out again to face the temptations of the world after their time was up in the reformatory.

One old woman went out on Friday last for the first time.

IN FIFTY YEARS.

She found many changes. Next week she is to be given a fete and her golden wedding will be celebrated.

The Magdalens have a religious Order of their own; they are always ruled by three Sisters. Some of them come from the Reformatory, some from the penitents class, and others from the School of Industry. Whilst others again who have led pure lives throw in their lot with the poor women as a form of self-abnegation, and all work together. The rules of their Order are very strict, and very much like the Carmelites, amongst the monks. They wear the brown habit, with

silver cross, black mantles for high festivals, black bandeau and veil, and white gamp. Postulants wear a black gown and cape. Their probation is for three or four months. The novices serve two years, and wear white. Her Excellency spoke at some length, saying how pleased she was with the work done for her in connection with Sir John Thompson's funeral; work not only beautiful but intelligent.

After many little speeches and individual greetings to the old and infirm, a visit was paid to the chapel, where Sister Mary of the Sacred Heart sang an Ave Maria by Crooke. She was assisted by Sister Mary de St. Justine and Sister Mary de St. Lea, a young novice. The voices blended well together and were very sweet. The chapel with the lay nuns, all in white, upstairs kneeling around the gallery, with here and there a choir sister marked by the black veil, and downstairs nuns kneeling, the Vice-Regal party grouped around the organ, all intent and devout-looking, the dim light penetrating the corners, formed a picture to carry away in one's mind. The organist was Sister Mary St. John of the Cross.

THE EARL OF ABERDEEN

OPENS A BAZAAR AT THE PROVIDENCE CONVENT.

On Tuesday afternoon the Governor-General and the Countess of Aberdeen opened the Bazaar at the Sisters of Providence Convent on St. Catherine street. Their Excellencies were received by the members of the institution and the clergy, among whom were Archbishop Fabre and his venerable mother, who is the only one of the foundresses of the asylum now living.

After speeches of congratulation had been made, a visit was made to the different "Salles des pauvres," first down to the old men's asylum, where there are thirty inmates, all looking clean and comfortable. Their Excellencies and Dr. Barclay chatted with them all, and then the old women's quarters upstairs were visited. There are some very old inmates; one old woman, 104 years old, very feeble but quite sensible to talk to; another said she was sixteen years old when the Americans came to take Canada. Another old lady wished Her Excellency "Many happy returns," which was a delicate but rather unexpected way of expressing her wish, apparently, to see Her Excellency soon and often. One old woman lying in bed, whose sands of life are nearly run, said in touching tones that she was now ready to die. Lady Aberdeen spoke in the kindest way to each one, and after visiting seven of these wards, the dispensary and dentistry departments, visited the dining-room, where a table was prettily decorated with white azuleas, primulas and hyacinths, and in addition to cakes, candies and ices some beautiful specimens of spun sugar; a hen and a brood of chickens in a nest was quite realistic, and a canoe made of cream, with paddles and anchor of barley sugar, and resting on a translucent bed of jelly, was sent as a gift to Her Excellency's table. The cook is quite an artist.

Her Excellency remained some little time talking to the Sisters and Lady Patronesses. After the Governor-General had left and when she said good-bye there was quite a crowd at the door and a cheer given as her carriage drove away.

The fair lasts two weeks and there is usually about \$1500 cleared. This year at its close Captain Chartrand will give what is known in French as a "Causerie," a lecture interspersed with good singing and instrumental music.

There were thirty old men in the house and one hundred and fifty old women. In the diocese of Montreal this Association of Dames des Charites have in their special charge 3000 little girls who are principally gratuitous pupils. They care for 651 orphans, 165 infirm old people, 558 inmates old but not infirm, 275 deaf mutes and 1077 imbeciles. This great work was begun by Madame Gamelin, the founder of the Society, a young widow of 27 years of age, who, in 1823, began an asylum for aged women, with one old woman of 102 years old. This small community was started in a house at the corner of St. Lawrence and St. Catharine streets. But the number of her proteges quickly grew until the institution swelled up into the grand and noble home of refuge that it is to-day.



For the Effects of La Grippe.

Chicago, March, 1893. One of our sisters suffered from weakness of the nerves in the head since she had la grippe four years ago. She didn't sleep more than half or one hour, and sometimes not at all at night; she had also difficulty to breathe so that she didn't expect to live; she tried different medicines for about a year without any relief, but after she took Pastor Koenig's Nerve Tonic her health was restored and she enjoys good sleep again. SISTER OF ST. CLARE. 33d and Laflin St.

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PUBLIC NOTICE.

NOTICE is hereby given that the "Alliance Nationale," a body politic and corporate, incorporated by virtue of the Provincial Statute of Quebec, 56 Victoria, chapter 80, will ask the Parliament of the Dominion of Canada, at its next session, for a charter incorporating the same as a Benevolent Society with power to give assistance to its sick members during their sickness and also to pay to their legal heirs, after death, a certain amount in money, and also for other purposes pertaining to the same.

Montreal, 18th December, 1894.
BEAUDIN, CARDINAL & LORANGER,
Attorneys of the Society "L'Alliance Nationale."