

came the universal prayer of the Christian world.

Saint Bonaventure, at the General Chapter of the Franciscans, held at Pisa in 1262, ordered his religious to encourage the faithful in honoring the mystery of the Incarnation, by saying the "Hail Mary" three times at the sound of the church bells towards evening. Hence the ringing of the *Angelus* bell, which became a general practice in the Franciscan Order. On the 13th October, 1318, Pope John XXII issued a Bull at Avignon by which he indulgenced this pious practice. But the Indulgences which are now attached to this devotion were not given until the 24th of September, 1724, when Pope Benedict XIII granted them by the Brief *Injuncta Nobis.—Ave Maria.*

The poor old dying Catholic Church, as our friends of *Zion's Herald* and the Methodist pulpits love to call her. This is how she dies: In the year 1559 a Diocesan Synod was held in Edinburgh, Scotland. On that occasion, after passing thirty-four canons, it was agreed that the bishops and clergy should meet in the following year to see that their enactments had been carried out. They never met again, however, for before the year was out the "Reformers" had put them under ban and outlawry. But on Tuesday, Dec. 13, 1881, that Diocesan Synod reassembled in Edinburgh, and the splendid ceremony was witnessed, says a Protestant paper of that city, "by a large and devout congregation." The poor old decrepid Church!—*The Pilot.*

The "Catholic Directory," for 1882, published by Messrs. Burns & Oates, of London, Eng., by the authority and under the sanction of the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster and the rest of the Bishops of his Church, shows some interesting and instructive facts relative to the progress of the Catholic religion in England. The archbishops and bishops in England and Wales are 14, not reckoning those of the Sees of Shrewsbury and Southwark, which are vacant. There are also in Scotland six other archbishops and bishops. The priests in England and Wales now number 2,036, serving 1,190 churches, chapels, and missionary stations; in Scotland there are 295 more, serving 286 chapels, etc., thus showing that both clergy and chapels have doubled in less than 25 years. In 1858 there was only 749 chapels in England and Wales, and 177 in Scotland, the total of the priests who served them being 1,179. The Catholic peers in the three kingdoms are 38; the baronets are 47. There are six Catholic members of Her Majesty's Privy Council, and the Catholic members of Parliament are 56, all representing Irish constituencies, except Mr. Jerningham, M. P. for Berwick-on-Tweed. The Sacred College of the Cardinals at Rome at this moment consists of 59 members, the vacant hats being 11; and no less than seven cardinals have died during the year 1881—viz., Regnier (Archbishop of Cambray), Kutschker (Archbishop of Vienna,) Gii (Archbishop of Saragossa,) and Cardinals Borromeo, Moretti, Caterini, and Giannelli. Of the existing College, 32 are Italians, nine Austrians or Germans, seven French, three Spanish, three English (viz., Newman, Manning and Howard,) one American (McCloskey,) one Belgian, and one Armenian. To the present volume is prefixed an interesting list of the Catholic prelates who have presided over their Church in England during the last three centuries as "Vicars Apostolic" down to the re-establishment of the hierarchy in 1850.

EDUCATIONAL NOTES.

A letter writer in an Irish paper makes some telling points in favor of the loyalty of Catholic Paris to Christian education: "The loyalty and devotion of Irish Catholics to their brother Catholics of France form a cherished chapter of our national history, and one over which we delight to linger. So, too, is the history of the countless deeds of chivalrous generosity by which France has repaid our love. Many and grievous were the tests by which that love of ours was tried—never more grievous than now, when France seems, through Gambetta and Paul Bert, to have laid the axe remorselessly at the very root of the Catholicity of her people by a general introduction of the secular education, and by the expulsion of all religious teaching from her schools. The religious orders who, in every department of France, had been entrusted with the instruction of her youth, have been banned and plundered, and many driven into exile, while the State ("L'Etat c'est moi," says Gambetta) has carefully provided for them a training from which a knowledge of God and of morality is laboriously ostracised. But Catholic France has proved herself equal to the crisis, and by a series of sacrifices like those to which our poor people freely submitted themselves has caused schools and colleges worthy of the days of the faith to spring up for the religious education of her children in every hamlet, town, and city. The results are cheering and full of hope. Statistics of the attendance of children at the proscribed religious schools and at the laicised—that is, the secularized—establishments are in course of publication; and in the present letter I gladly, and with thanks to God, ask the attention of your readers to a few extracts from the return made for the city of Lille and published on the 30th of last month. It may be found in the *Univers* of December 5th, 1881—

"The sum total of contributions from the Faithful for the erection of the Catholic schools at Lille amounts now to 1,200,000 franc; that of annual subscriptions to 120,000 francs.

"The number of boys' schools is 3,000. A still larger number of girls' schools have been established. The following returns show the relative attendance of pupils:—

PARISH OF ST. MARY MAGDELENE.	
Laicised Girls' School	15
Free (Religious) do	169
Laicised Infant do	6
Religious do do	236

PARISH OF ST. CATHERINE.	
Laicised Girls' Schools	15
Religious do do	210
Laicised Infant do	16
Religious do do	223

PARISH OF ST. NAVIDER.	
Laicised Girls' Schools	5
Religious do do	315

PARISH OF ST. MARTIN.	
Laicised Boys' Schools	15
Murist Brothers' Schools	339

PARISH OF NOTRE DAME.	
Laicised Boys' Schools	15
Brothers of St Gabriels' do	459

PARISH OF ST. ANDREW.	
Laicised Girls' Schools	9
Religious do do	200

Total of Boys and Infants in Laicised Schools	96
Total of Boys and Infants in Religious Schools	2,219

Thus glorious France maintains her proud claim to be the first Catholic nation of Christendom, and holds out the hope, even in "dark and dreary days," that her faith is firm and her future full of promise."

There is a vulgar opinion shared in by the critics of some would-be scientific papers that arithmetic and algebra are of Arab origin. This fallacy is probably based on the testimony of Montucla, the author of a history of mathematics, who gives one Mahommed Ben-Musha, who lived in the ninth century, credit which he never deserved. This Moslem philosopher wrote a book, it is true, but it was a compilation from other sources, not the unaided product of his own brain. He was a clever fellow, and as he was intimately acquainted with the astronomy and computations of the Hindus, and had the fear of no copyright law before him, there was ground for assumption that he pretended to know more