

FUTURE OF THE CHURCH.

Cardinal Gibbons on the Prospects of American Catholicity.

The Extraordinary Growth of Ritualism Evidences a Tendency Toward Catholic Doctrines—Many Conversations Being Made—Prejudices Against the Church Passing Away.

The following interview with his Eminence was accorded recently to a representative of the Baltimore Evening News and published in that paper:

GROWTH OF THE CHURCH.

It was of the growth of the Catholic Church in America that he first spoke, and he is hopeful and confident of her mission. "It is by the light of her past that we must read the future," he said. "You must remember that the Catholic Church is the oldest institution in this country. Here, as in the old world, with the passage of time, everything else has changed. Her organization, her principles, her doctrines, her rites, are precisely the same to-day as they were when Columbus first landed. The forms of government have altered, new nationalities with new customs and new ideas have come in, there are a hundred new religions that have been established, and others are constantly springing up daily; but the teachings, the procedure, the forms, the structure of the Catholic Church are identically what they were when the first Catholic priest raised the cross on American soil. We could have no more absolute evidence of truth, because truth is in this world the one thing that never changes, and, as it proceeds from God, never can change. Hither came our missionaries with the command that our Lord himself gave: 'Go ye and teach all nations.' Alone, or two or three together, they penetrated the unknown regions, facing all dangers and enduring all privations, until by degrees they left no part of the land unvisited. Silent testimony of their work is left in the names they gave to the rivers and streams, and even villages and towns. Not only did they lead heroic lives, but many of them paid the penalty of their intrepidity by dreadful suffering and death. No mission but that sacred one which was theirs could have inspired such courage."

"Now," said the Cardinal, "if we look at the humble beginning of the church in this country, and what she has passed through, and all the difficulties she has surmounted, the missionaries working single-handed—the struggles against the obstacles of nature, the hostility, first of the Indians and afterward of the unreasoning enemies to Catholicity—if we consider all this and how she has grown from so simple a beginning to be what she is at present—ten millions of Catholics to-day, where formerly there were so few—what may we not count upon, under the Providence of God, in the future? With our superior organization, and the kindlier view that is taken of us as we become better known and prejudice is dispelled, I think we have reason to entertain the brightest hopes."

"My hopes are also based on the fact that Americans are an order-loving, law-abiding people, eager to assimilate any element that contributes to the stability and perpetuity of civil virtues, and, on close study, the American people cannot fail to see that the Catholic Church, which upholds authority and law, apart from her divine mission, is the most conservative factor in sustaining and maintaining our political institutions."

His eminence was asked if the Catholic Congress and Parliament of Religions would not have a good effect in leading to a better knowledge of the Catholic Church.

"Undoubtedly," he said. "The Parliament of Religions was a convocation of the greatest importance, the degree of which was probably not realized by some."

"Was it not significant that Your Eminence should have been invited to lead the opening prayer and make the closing address?"

"There can be no other view. Here were assembled representatives of all the religions and most of the leading sects in the world. I, as the representative of the Catholic Church, was invited to make the opening invocation. Not only was this a high compliment, but it was a circumstance of the deepest significance,

since it was a virtual acknowledgment that the Catholic Church is the rightful and supreme exponent and teacher of Christian truth. And I may say that when I led the prayer, I followed the Catholic form, and stipulated that I should do so in advance. I could not have done otherwise, because there was a principle involved." The Cardinal spoke these words with great earnestness.

Presently the subject of the jubilee came up and the Cardinal said: "I should not have the celebration were it possible to avoid it, as such public demonstrations are not to my taste. A little quiet observance of the occasion would, perhaps, have been all; but the pressure brought to bear was very great, and then, when I learned that the Holy Father wished to recognize it, I could resist no longer. I was firm, however, in my determination not to receive the present of \$10,000 that was proposed. It was too much, and I knew that some in the goodness of their hearts would contribute who could not afford it, and thus the jubilee might afterward not be altogether so pleasant a memory as I should like it to be."

UNITY OF CHRISTIANS.

Something brought up the topic of a return to unity of all Christians. "There is a heartfelt desire for it, I am sure, among all good men," said the Cardinal. "You see evidences every day. The Parliament of Religions was one. But the essential principle of unity is a head, and there can be no union of Christians without a central authority. Our American system of government probably more nearly reaches the ideal of democracy than any other that ever was established; but you see that even we must have an executive, without whom there soon would be confusion. The successor of St. Peter is the head for members of the Christian faith, appointed by the Lord Himself."

His Eminence was asked if there were many conversions to the Catholic faith. "Great numbers," he said. "We keep a record, and there were, for instance, 756 last year in the diocese of Baltimore alone. There is no parade made over those who come in, because, in the first place, we recognize that it is the work of God, and that our priests are but the instruments, and then it is distasteful to most of those who enter the church to have the matter talked about. We therefore discourage any mention of particular converts. There are everywhere signs of a return to the old church, not only in the extraordinary growth of ritualism, but in the proceedings of sects formerly bitterly antagonistic to our institutions and practices. Thus, for instance, there has been lately established in the Methodist Church the Order of Deaconesses. What is this but a copy of our poor reviled sisterhoods? And not only have the Methodists now their sisterhoods, but the Presbyterians are also discussing the establishment of similar orders, and their formation is only a question of time. The general tendency is toward Catholicism—slowly, but steadily and unmistakably. The Low Church of to-day would have been regarded as High Church not many years ago, and the present High Church is as nearly Roman Catholic as imitation can make it. We should have many more conversions among Protestant ministers who would like to become priests but for one thing—the celibacy of our clergy. There are men longing to enter the fold of Christ; but they have wives and children to care for. In their hearts they are true Catholics."

Judge Dugas on Race Prejudices.

In passing sentence on a prisoner last week, Judge Dugas made some very strong remarks about the respect which the different races and religions should pay to one another. The prisoner had violently assaulted complainant in the case, and when interfered with threatened to "go for every French-Canadian in the place." His Honor said: "This is a mixed community, we are Englishmen and Frenchmen—Protestant and Catholic, and Frenchmen speaking of the English race should do so with the greatest respect, and Englishmen ought to do the same in speaking of the French. Unfortunately, among a certain class of people this is not done, and they cause enmity and strife where there should be peace. I do not speak only to you" (naming the prisoner), "but I wish the

public to know that I would be glad if these people could be reached and put down." The Judge's words were earnestly and forcibly delivered, showing a laudable desire for abolition of race and religious sectionalism.

SAINTS OF THE MONTH.

(By the Editor of the School and Home Magazine.)

St. WINIFRED, V. M., Nov. 3.—This Saint was born about the close of the seventh century, in North Wales, of very noble family, and her pious parents readily gave consent to have her consecrate herself to God, and she served God in a small convent built by her father near Holy-well. She afterwards became Abbess of a great monastery in another part of the kingdom. The son of one of the princes fell violently in love with her, and when he was spurned in his approaches, he brutally murdered her. A famous well is said to have sprung up at the place of her martyrdom. An old chronicler writes: "The stones of its basin were stained red as blood, and a fragrant moss grew on the sides under the stream." It is enclosed in an exquisite chapel built by Henry VII.

St. EMERIC, Nov. 4.—It may be an item of more than ordinary interest to know that it was this Saint whose name was given to America. He was son of the pious St. Stephen, King of Hungary, in the eleventh century. He became a very popular prince, and in the fifteenth century under the Italian form of Amerigo was conferred upon Vespucci who extended the knowledge of the discoveries of Columbus and gave his name to the continent, America.

St. CECILIA, V. M., Nov. 22, 230.—This glorious Saint is supposed to have lived in the third century. She was the daughter of a wealthy Roman who embraced the Christian religion. Cecilia especially excelled in music and was the inventor of the organ, which she consecrated to the service of God. At the age of sixteen, her parents wished her to marry Valerian, a young patrician of rare qualities of mind. Although she had made a vow of chastity, yet with implicit trust in God, Cecilia obeyed. Nor was her confidence misplaced, for Valerian was converted by the words of the youthful Saint. On returning to his home after baptism, Valerian found his bride kneeling in prayer, and standing by her side was an angel holding in his hand two beautiful crowns which he placed on the heads of Cecilia and Valerian, at the same time telling the latter that whatever he desired should be granted. The young man asked for the conversion of Tiburtius, a brother whom he dearly loved. God heard his prayer and Tiburtius was baptized. Shortly after, they were brought before the prefect, Almachius, who ordered them to sacrifice to the false gods. Their refusal won for them the crown of martyrdom. Almachius, desiring to gain possession of their vast wealth, caused Cecilia to be seized and brought before him. He threatened her with fearful tortures, but the holy martyr was immovable. Then Almachius commanded her to be cast into her bath filled with boiling water; still she was unharmed. As a last resort he sentenced her to be beheaded. The executioner performed his work badly, inflicting three wounds, but failing to sever the head from the body. The holy Virgin lingered three days; then having given instructions concerning her beloved poor, she passed to the arms of her Spouse to receive the crown she had so nobly won, and hear the consoling words, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Catholic Sailors' Concert.

Mr. P. J. Gordon occupied the chair at the Catholic Sailors' weekly concert last Thursday evening. Those who contributed to the evening's entertainment were: Messrs. Walter Jack, J. Milloy, H. Dion, M. Kavanagh, J. Reid, H. Bradley, Geo. Smith, W. Ryan, H. E. Carpenter, W. Traynor, H. Walker, Geo. E. Parker, W. Dowd and W. F. Finn, whilst Mr. Ed. Brennan accompanied on the piano.

A bald-headed man fainted the other day and was very indignant when he was coming to at hearing a cockney exclaim: "Give him hair! give him hair."

Foggs—Hullo, old fellow, I hear you are to marry Miss Williamson.
Trotter—So did I. I'm going up now to ask her if the report is true.

RELIGIOUS NEWS.

It is thought that Jean d'Aro will be canonized within a year.

Rev. D. S. O'Begley, formerly of Leadville, is now stationed at Breckinridge, Col.

St. Agatha's parish, Chicago, Ill., of which Father Bonfield is pastor, is to have a new church.

Bishop Lemmens, of Vancouver, is in Rome, and has had a special audience with the Holy Father.

Bishop Meershaert has secured four priests in Belgium for missionary work in the Indian Territory.

St. Mary's Church, Avoca, Pa., damaged in a recent storm, is to be repaired, enlarged and improved.

Archbishop Riordan dedicated the new Franciscan Church of St. Elizabeth, Fruitvale, Cal., on Sunday week.

Bishop Gabriels, of Ogdensburg, N.Y., sailed for Europe on Saturday on his first visit ad limina to the Holy See.

The negro priest, Father Augustus Tolton, is building a \$35,000 church for the Catholic colored inhabitants of Chicago.

Rev. Edward F. Somers has fully recovered from a severe illness, and is now stationed at the Church of the Holy Rosary, New York.

Rev. Henry A. Adams, the well-known Episcopalian minister who recently became a Catholic, called upon Cardinal Gibbons last week.

Archbishop Williams will bless the new Home for Working Girls at 89 Union Park street, Boston, Mass., November 29, instead of October 26, as was announced.

On Nov. 26, St. Cecelia's Church, Brooklyn, will be dedicated by His Excellency Mgr. Sactli. The Monsignor will pontificate and Bishop McDonnell will occupy a throne on the Epistle side of the altar.

The Sisters of St. Francis, who, a few years since removed from the diocese of Louisville, Ky., to Dubuque, Iowa, have purchased property in Clinton, Iowa, where they will erect the mother house and novitiate.

One hundred and thirty-nine students are enrolled in St. Thomas' Seminary, St. Paul, this year. They are divided among the various departments as follows: Theological, 85; philosophical, 24; classical, 80.

A church for German Catholics is to be erected in Folsom street, between Precita avenue and Army street, San Francisco, by the Franciscan Fathers. The new structure will be named in honor of St. Anthony.

A committee has been formed in Rome for the purpose of providing a gold medal to be presented to Leo XIII, on behalf of the workmen. On this medal His Holiness is to be represented in the act of writing his encyclical on the labor question.

The final works of the Church of St. Joachim are being pushed forward with great activity in order that, with the aid of benevolent Catholics, they may be completed and solemnly inaugurated at the close of the Jubilee year of Leo XIII.

Very Rev. Father Schoch, O.M.E., Prefect-Apostolic in the Transvaal, sailed from Southampton recently in the Tartar, accompanied by nine Sisters of the Holy Family, destined for various missions in the Transvaal, Cape Colony, and the Free State.

The Congregation of the Propaganda has received from Chang si terrible details as to the effects of the famine which prevails in that region. Half of the Christian population, numbering over 2,000 without counting the catechumens, have died of hunger or have been sold into slavery.

Mrs. Lucy Stone Blackwell, the well known woman suffragist, died at Dorchester, Mass., Oct. 18, aged seventy-five years.

Cumso—Wait a minute, Fangle. I want to step into the dressmaker's and pay my wife's bill.

Fangle—Why don't you give her the money and let her go and pay it?

Cumso—She'd order another dress.

The end of it all—He: I would propose to—to you if I knew what to say. She: You wouldn't if you knew what I'd say.