

The True Witness

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE
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NOTE WELL.—Matter intended for publication should reach us not later than 5 o'clock Wednesday afternoon.
CORRESPONDENCE and items of local Catholic interest solicited.

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 1907.

HOLY WEEK.

The Universal Church is this week, the Silent week, reverently contemplating the commemoration of the magnificent climax of the great tragedy on Calvary, and extends an invitation to all of her children to halt on their busy way and place a tribute of grateful affection at the feet of the crucified Saviour. Centuries have come and gone; kingdoms have risen and crumbled into dust; men—philosophers, savants, they called themselves—have tried with all the ingenuity of their pigmy minds to tear into shreds the fundamental principles of the old religion, to take away from us, if possible, our priceless inheritance; yet notwithstanding the many onslaughts against her battlements, the Church of God continues to flourish, strengthened by the life-giving blood which flowed from Calvary down the ages, washing away our transgressions, bedewing hardened hearts and making fertile unto a bountiful harvest.

NO COMPROMISE.

The cable is almost silent about the French situation. Things are in statu quo.
As far as can be gathered, says the London Tablet, it would seem that all is over between the government and the episcopate in the matter of negotiations on the leases for the use of the churches. All that could be done has been done by the bishops; they went to the very furthest limits of conciliation and concession; and the sincerity of the government can be estimated from the fact that when an agreement seemed imminent, fresh demands, known to be impossible, were made. It is the old story: first, present the Church with her own death-warrant for signature, and then when she refuses to sign, round and blame her intran-

signance and mediaevalism for refusing to commit suicide.

Meanwhile in many, nay, most parts of the country, the mayors have shown a readiness to come to terms with the cures, but, so far as one can see, this readiness and goodwill is wasted. But though the Church is thus reduced to a position of deplorable insecurity, she has at least escaped present sufferings. The Republique Francaise and the Soleil both agree that the bishops have done their utmost to effect a settlement and that they could not do otherwise than refuse the last demands of the government.

The Journal des Debats, however, still refuses to believe that the negotiations are absolutely at an end. It thinks that the initiative taken by the bishops is too precious in the cause of peace, and believes that the negotiations will eventually be resumed, and that peace will be the result. If that hope is to be realized, the government will have to show itself more reasonable.

The Rome correspondent of The Gaulois sent the following significant telegram, which is given for what it is worth: "The Pope has decided to refuse henceforth all participation by the faithful in France in the contribution of Peter's Pence, considering that in existing circumstances it is necessary for French Catholics to keep their resources for the assistance of the clergy in the painful situation which doubtless waits them in the future."

France has had to eat humble pie for its brutal seizure of the archives of the papal nunciature at Paris. The London Tablet's Rome correspondent says:

"The Emperor of Austria, supported by the Emperor of Germany especially, and by other great powers, has asked for the restitution to their rightful owners of all the papers stolen from the nunciature; that some of these have already been delivered up to the representative of Austria; that the others also will be returned in spite of the truculent statements of Clemenceau."

A despatch from Rome says that the general feeling at the Vatican just now is that, notwithstanding the anti-clerical attitude of the French ministry, the Church in France will be able to get along. The French government is pledged to keep the churches open and as it can not utilize them without some cooperation on the part of the Church, it is deemed absolutely certain that some kind of modus vivendi will be reached, at least for a time. It is known that many of the French mayors have already signed contracts with the parish priests in their towns, and a recent declaration from M. Briand says that such contracts will be considered valid by the government, even if the conditions laid down have not been inserted.

As to keeping the churches in repair, which in the case of large cathedrals would involve a large yearly expense, M. Briand and the French ministry have already receded somewhat from their previous pretensions. It has now been arranged to establish a central fund out of the property of the churches and religious congregations which, according to recent French laws, were to be turned over to benevolent institutions, and out of this central fund M. Briand expects to supply the money needed every year for the material maintenance of the churches.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The marvellous progress of the Catholic Church in Australasia was touched upon by Cardinal Moran in a recent address at Kensington, New South Wales. There are many men living to-day, he said, 86 or 87 years of age—Australia is a wonderful country for old men—who could bring their memory back to the time when there was not a single priest in the whole of Australian territory. To-day, however, the servants of the Church are everywhere—in New Zealand, New Guinea, and all the islands of the Pacific, as well as in the Island Continent itself. "There were," said Cardinal Moran, "thirty-six bishops carrying on the work of religion at the bidding of the Divine Master. There were fully

1800 churches erected for Divine worship. There were 1400 priests engaged in the mission of the Redemption, and with them were associated more than 700 Brothers teaching and fully 6000 devoted nuns, of whom Australia and Australasia were justly proud for the spirit of sacrifice in which they were carrying on the work of Christianity. And the great majority of these are Irish or the sons and daughters of Irish parents.

In the Catholic Directory for Britain for 1907 figures are supplied which prove that the Church in that country during the past year has steadily advanced. The total number of churches and chapels at present in England and Wales is 1703, as compared with 1640 a year ago. The number of priests has grown from 3414 to 3484. In Scotland the number of priests has increased from 525 to 540, and the churches, chapels and stations remain as before, viz., 373. Of the 4024 priests in Britain, 2636 belong to the diocesan clergy and 1388 are regulars, many of them being French exiles.

The estimated Catholic population of the United Kingdom of Britain and Ireland is from five millions and a half to five and three-quarters. Including British America—Canada—(with a Catholic population of about 2,650,000), Africa, Australia, India and all other possessions, the total Catholic population of the British Empire is set down as probably about ten millions and a half.

The Irish Nationalist members are lying low at Westminster. This is what Campbell-Bannerman desires, but it is like holding a wolf by the ears—equally dangerous to hold on or let go. In the meantime the Nationalists intend to conduct a vigorous campaign on Irish soil, with innumerable political meetings and processions. Ulster Protestants, too, are preparing for a strenuous fight against Home Rule. Pastorate protests are coming thick and fast from Ulster against any serious proposals to hand them over to the mercies of an Irish Parliament.

The Prime Minister must sooner or later introduce the Home Rule bill and then will come a scattering of his forces because the moderate Liberals in his party believe that an attempt to realize Home Rule leads up to the towering unscalable wall of impossibility.

Friends of Ireland are pleased to learn that immense beds of coal and black-band ironstone have been found in the Ballycastle district of North Antrim, besides great deposits of fireclay suited to the manufacture of brick. It is estimated that there are 55,000,000 tons of coal and 150,000,000 tons of iron ore, all of good quality. These minerals can be made the basis of large industries that will diffuse wealth among the Irish people. "The old country," says the Engineering and Mining Journal, "has waited for prosperity a long time. We hope that at last good times are really going to come through the development of a great mining industry."

In the course of a splendid eulogy on Count Creighton, the great philanthropist, William Jennings Bryan said:

"John A. Creighton was a Christian, and that is the secret of all else there was in him. I care not for your theories of theology, for your ideas of science; one thing you cannot answer, and that is a Christian life. In the heart of John A. Creighton was the wholesome fear of God, which is the beginning of wisdom. Who will say how many in the life beyond the grave will thank Count Creighton for the good he did while on earth. There are many here who must say the night is darker because his light has gone out, and the world is not so warm because his heart is cold in death."

What many experts consider a genuine Raphael cartoon has been discovered at Radicea, a remote town in Calabria. The subject is the "Triumph of Constantine," and, as there is a cartoon with this title

attributed to Raphael in the Paris Louvre, the question of the latter's authenticity is raised. The newly found cartoon hangs in the house of a Radicea resident, Signor Tasconi. It is a curious fact that a Raphael cartoon on the same subject was stolen from the royal palace at Naples by a servant in 1800.

A "high noon Mass" has been introduced at the Church of St. Francis of Assisi, in New York city. Probably not another church in the country has a mass at this hour of the day regularly for any length of time, but in Europe such worship is not infrequent. The mid-day mass has proved very successful. Not scores but hundreds of people of both sexes and all classes avail themselves of the opportunity of hearing mass during lunch hour and are flocking to the church.

The Pope's new private physician, Dr. Giuseppe Petacci, who has succeeded the late Dr. Laponi, is one of the most eminent doctors in Rome and the favorite practitioner in Vatican circles. He is described by an old friend as "a man of inspiring presence, and of the finest manners, giving one the impression of possessing a singularly sweet disposition."

The Rev. Henry Grey Graham, formerly a Church of Scotland minister at Avondale, Strathaven, who some years ago joined the Catholic Church and went to Rome to study for the priesthood, has been ordained priest at the Scots College, Rome.

Struggling Infant Mission

IN THE DIOCESE OF NORTHAMPTON, FAKENHAM, NORFOLK ENGLAND.
Where is Mass said and benediction given at present? IN A GARRET, the use of which I get for a rent of ONE SHILLING per week.
Average weekly Collection... 3s 6d.
No endowment whatever, except HOPE. Not a great kind of endowment, you will say, good reader. Ah, well! Who knows? Great things have, as a rule, very small beginnings. There was the stable of Bethlehem, and God's hand is not shortened, I HAVE hope. I have GREAT hope that this latest Mission, opened by the Bishop of Northampton, will, in due course, become a great mission.

Best outside help is, evidently, necessary. Will it be forthcoming? I have noticed how willingly the CLIENTS of ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA readily come to the assistance of poor, struggling Priests. May I not hope that they will, too, cast a sympathetic and pitying eye upon me in my struggle to establish an outpost of the Catholic Faith in this so far as the Catholic Faith is concerned—barren region? May I not hope, good reader, that you, in your zeal for the progress of that Faith, will extend a helping hand to me? I try to you with all earnestness to come to my assistance. You may not be able to do much; but you CAN DO LITTLE. Do that little which is your power, for God's sake, and with the other "littles" that are done I shall be able to establish this new Mission firmly. DON'T TURN A DEAF EAR TO MY URGENT APPEAL. "May God bless and prosper your endeavors in establishing a Mission at Fakenham. ARTHUR, Bishop of Northampton." Address—Father H. W. Gray, Hampton Road, Fakenham, Norfolk, England.

P.S.—I will gratefully and promptly acknowledge the smallest donation, and send with my acknowledgment a beautiful picture of the Sacred Heart. This new Mission will be dedicated to St. Anthony of Padua.

THOUSANDS OF MEN WANTED.
Almost six thousand miles of railway are at present under contract in the prairie country, between the great lakes and the Rocky Mountains, a substantial portion being already under construction and nearing completion. The amount under contract for the various companies is as follows: Canadian Northern, 1600 miles; Canadian Pacific, 1300 miles; Great Northern, 1000 miles. Thousands of men are at present employed, and thousands more will be required to adequately handle the work of construction.

EASTER WITH THE POETS.

Hail, day of days! in peals of praise Throughout all ages owned, When Christ our God hell's empire trod And high o'er heaven was throned. —Bishop Fortunatus.

Ye heavens, how sang they in your courts, How sang the angelic choir that day, When from His tomb the imprisoned God Like the strong sunrise broke away. —F. W. Faber.

Jesus lives, to Him the Throne Over all the world is given, May we go where He is gone, Rest and reign with Him in Heaven! Alleluia! —C. F. Gillert.

The fasts are done; the Aves said; The moon has filled her horn, And in the solemn night I watch Before the Eastern morn. So pure, so still the starry Heaven, So hushed the brooding air I could hear the sweep of an angel's wings If one should earthward fare. —E. D. Proctor.

Ring, snow-white bells, your purest praise To glorify this Easter day, And let your risen Savior's joy Your voiceless fragrant breath employ. Fill every valley with perfume And lighten Death's appalling gloom: Teach ye our troubled hearts the way To trust our Saviour every day. —W. J. Taylor.

PROF. COREY'S NEW OPERA.

Cal. H. Corey and his pupils gave his opera "Nona" at Stanley Hall last Friday, March 22nd, in which the leading roles were sustained by Mr. M. G. Shaw, lyric tenor soloist, from London, Eng., and Miss Helena Taft, of Montreal, mezzo contralto. There was a very large and appreciative audience present, who seemed to thoroughly enjoy the entertainment, which was given with full orchestra. Mr. Corey has been working on his opera for nearly three years, and has succeeded in giving to the world a pretty and haunting composition, which seems to have escaped the notice of Montreal critics. We would be inclined to place Mr. Corey's work in the first rank, seeing he is the only individual out of Montreal musicians who has successfully composed words and music, and orchestrated same and conducted it to the entire satisfaction of a Montreal audience.

A Havana Holy Week.

Down on the Plaza an immense crowd was gathered. It was nearly dark, but in the clear twilight we could see, hung aloft, the absurd figure or effigy of Judas. There was no attempt to follow the costume of Iscariot's own time. His effigy was attired in a very ragged postilion costume, with a pair of very long cavalry boots. A straw hat and gay necktie finished the attire. Imagine one of the Apostles in cavalry boots and spurs, with a straw hat! Slowly the uncouth figure was lifted to the top of the scaffold, while the crowd jeered and cursed the traitor.

"Burn him! Fire him!" shouted the crowd. Torches were brought out, but none of them could reach the figure. At last, a soldier on horseback rode under the scaffold. He carried a long pole with a lighted candle at the end. "Bravo! Bravo, caballero!" sang out the excited crowd. The smoking candle touched poor Judas, and then such an explosion! The whole effigy was a mass of flames. The gunpowder and the fire-crackers were exploding in all directions. Pieces of burning cotton fell over the crowd who yelled, cheered, and sang until the effigy burned out.

The next morning, Holy Thursday, we were out early to see the grand procession of the Blessed Sacrament, as it wound its way around the city. Those who have only seen this solemn service in non-Catholic countries can form no real idea of its grandeur in a Catholic city. Every official, every religious and social organization, joined in the ranks of devout followers of the Hidden God. The streets were thronged. Windows and galleries, and the flat roofs of the houses, which are promenade gardens in Havana, were filled. Children gayly dressed, ladies with their graceful black mantles over their heads, looked from the verandas down into the crowded streets. We caught the soft strains of the

The Catholic Student's Manual.

Great care has been devoted to the preparation of this manual. It will be found admirably suited to the wants of Catholic Young Men, for whom it is specially intended. The chief aim of the compiler has been to provide authorized devotions; clear, concise and accurate instructions on the doctrine and practices of our Holy Religion. Competent judges declare that in these respects, this Manual is unequalled. It contains over 700 pages and forms a volume of very convenient size. Price 75c. Postage, 5c extra. Published by D. & J. SADLER & CO., 13 Notre Dame St. West MONTREAL.

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military band, subdued to solemn music. Gleaming-tapers sprang up. Every man and boy lifted his hat and sank upon one knee. The ladies drew their veils closer and devoutly knelt. I was awed by the solemn silence, the great hush broken only by the beautiful notes of the band. How I wish I could bring to your mind the beauty of that pageant as it glows in my memory to-day, the vision that delighted my childish eyes and heart! Soldiers, civilians, religious orders, all in handsome regalia, marched past in rank upon rank. Near the Blessed Sacrament, were hundreds of white clad children, strung flowers of great beauty and fragrance. We knelt until the procession had passed far out of sight. The scent of tropical flowers, the spice of incense, the echo of exquisite music, the vision of worshipping faces, lingered far after, even as, in my mind, that Holy Week in Havana. Singers, sweet, solemn, bright and fragrant.—Catholic World.

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PRIESTS AND PARISHIONERS.

Archbishop Moeller, of Cincinnati, is one who believes in the good old-fashioned custom of parochial visitation. He says: "I wish to emphasize the importance of parochial visits in cementing relations between the clergy and the laity. If a fuller understanding had been reached between the priesthood of France and the people of their congregations I am confident the present trouble which is rocking the French Church could have been avoided, at least in part. "One means of reaching such an understanding is by regular parish calls, so that the families of the congregation and the parish priests may become acquainted. It is a rule of the Church that these calls shall be made once in two years, but I think they ought to be made once a year, at least. "During the present year I propose to forward this movement. I think a congregation of 600 to 700 families should have three priests, and those congregations that have more families should have more priests in proportion to their size. If the visiting is done as it should be, the priests will all be busy. The work of the Church is made much more effective through perfect cooperation."

Butterfly Suspenders. A Gentleman's Brand. See only as usual. The parish of Grand River has just been rejoiced by a man that will ever remain as one of the most beautiful in its history. John Baker, senior, former U.S. Army and one of the most prominent men of Gaspe County, has his happiness to abjure the error of his ways, and to become a member of the Anglican sect, and to be so before his death, by the Sacrament of the Catholic Church. In the last days of January, venerable old man had a grippe, and this, joined to the infirmities of old age, made him understand the grievousness of his state. On the 5th of February, feeling worse, he expressed to his wife and to his son, Mr. Baker, the desire to see Father Ouellet, pastor of the parish, and to declare openly that he wished to become a Roman Catholic. The next day, which was the closing of the Forty Hours devotion in the parish, the pastor called at the residence of Mr. John Baker, not expecting yet the happiness that awaited him. "Oh! Monsieur le Curé!" cried the venerable old man on his entrance. "It is fifteen days I wished to see you." The pastor was doubtless easy for the gentleman, for on the evening following day he was ready to give baptism, which was given without delay, owing to the singular character of the illness. "Nothing more touching," the privileged witnesses of the ceremony than to see his beautiful head as it bended, docile and under the effusions of the baptismal water." Then followed the solemn formula of which he was with all his heart, and he could not have been more sincere with an imitator's accent. "I believe all that the Holy Church teaches and believes," he said, and he received Extreme Unction, which filled him with joy. The morning the impressive ceremony of the first Communion took place, happy neophyte looked as if he were a child, and his fervor touched the hearts that followed the sacrament, which followed the sacrament. Before leaving him Rev. Ouellet wished to know if he was converted, he was really happy. "Converted," he answered, "is so that it is beyond expression." He had received an ivory crucifix, and did not cease to kiss it with sports of devotion. While wearing his beads, he seemed filled with joy, and with a childlike joy in reciting prayers with those who surrounded him. Every priest repeated a pious prayer, he would in turn repeat with touching eagerness, and continual requests of "pray, again!" well revealed that his heart was overflowing with joy and gratitude. Visits from relatives and friends of the separated church did not weaken his faith, and served the contrary, to prove how enormous his great act had been, that it remained the result of a small and profound conviction. At noon, about three hours after the departure of Reverend Ouellet, who was succeeding in his appeal, the good old man received Holy Communion. His appeal could be communicated by telegraph, his beautiful flight, his heavenly flight, his noble of beatitude rested on a noble face. The funeral was very imposing. Rev. Ouellet, pastor of the parish, read the Requiem Mass, and by Rev. J. St. Laurent, of Newport, as Canon, was

THE SOVEREIGN

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Abjuration and Death

John J. Baker, Senior, River Gaspe. The parish of Grand River has just been rejoiced by a man that will ever remain as one of the most beautiful in its history. John Baker, senior, former U.S. Army and one of the most prominent men of Gaspe County, has his happiness to abjure the error of his ways, and to become a member of the Anglican sect, and to be so before his death, by the Sacrament of the Catholic Church.

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