

RELIGIOUS NEWS ITEMS.

There are now twenty-two Catholic daily papers in Italy.

Father Zahm, now of Notre Dame, Ind., is to be added to the faculty of the Catholic University.

The Rev. Wentworth Powell, nephew of the Protestant Bishop Dr. Basil Jones of Washington, has joined the Catholic Church.

According to the last census there were \$485,000,000 worth of church property in the United States, and the Catholics own one-fourth.

Rev. Charles Aiken, of the Archdiocese of Boston, and Rev. W. J. Kerby, of the Archdiocese of Dubuque, have been chosen as associate professors at the Catholic University of America.

In the leper hospital at Gotemba, Japan, Catholic priests and nuns take care of one hundred victims of the hideous disease, besides attending many more as out-patients for whom they have no accommodation.

Archbishop Walsh, of Dublin, Ireland, has contributed within a few weeks \$1,000 to the local St. Vincent de Paul Society for the relief of the distress occasioned by the phenomenal cold weather. He gave lately \$5,000 to the Sacred Heart Home for poor children at Drumcondra.

The Association of the Holy Ghost, which has been enriched with eight plenary and two partial indulgences by the Holy Father, devotes itself to the special object of diminishing, if possible, the vast numbers of suicides, of which it is estimated that there are throughout the entire world at least twelve hundred every day.

The Bishop of Sodor and Man has declared in a speech at an Exeter Hall caucus that if the Nonconformists were to vote for the disestablishment of the Church they would help to restore Catholicism to power. That would be a capital consummation, and we hope, though we hardly think, it would come to pass. Our advice to the Nonconformists, therefore, is to support disestablishment which is an enormity and an injustice.

Church and State will not be separated for some time yet in France if a recent vote in the Chamber of Deputies can be taken as an indication of popular feeling in the matter. A motion to separate them was voted down by a majority of 100 in a total vote of 510, and on the question of suppressing the appropriations for the ministry of public worship the adverse vote was even more pronounced, 379 to 111. Yet there are many who think that separation of Church and State would benefit France materially and confer greater freedom than it now enjoys upon the Church in that Republic.

SAINTS OF THE MONTH.

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS, March 7, 1226-1274.—This illustrious Doctor of the Christian Church was born at Aquino, in Italy, in 1226. His parents belonged to the nobility and formed most ambitious plans for the young Thomas, but God who designed otherwise, blessed him with a vocation to religion; at nineteen years of age he was invested with the habit of St. Dominic, at Naples, where he was pursuing his studies. As often happens, his family was much displeased, and did everything to change his purpose. His brothers were willing to have him do anything but enter religion, which was the only thing which God demanded. They laid in wait for him, and as he was journeying from Naples to Paris, they seized him and held him captive for two years in one of their castles. His mother implored him to give up his religious ideas and his brothers threatened him with all sorts of punishment, but all to no purpose. Filled with the very spirit of the devil, they attempted to corrupt his morals, but God protected him and punished the wicked women who were sent to him. Escaping from his prison, Thomas went to Cologne and then to Paris, where for many years he taught philosophy and theology. At Cologne, his teacher was the Blessed Albert the Great, who was recognized as one of the greatest living teachers. His pupil was destined to attain to greater

fame than his master and to become the great teacher of the Christian Church. The world has recognized in him one of the greatest intellects ever known, whose writings have added lustre to the Christian doctrines. On his way to the General Council at Lyons in 1274, to which he was called by Pope Gregory X., he died at Fossa Nuova. The Church honors him with the title of Angelic Doctor, as if to show us that his knowledge was more divine than human. He is called the Doctor of the Blessed Sacrament because to him was assigned the duty of writing the Office and Hymns for Corpus Christi, which commemorates the great gift of the body and blood of Jesus Christ, in the Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist. It is related that he wrote these beautiful things in the presence of the Crucifix and when he had finished, a voice, as from the Cross, said to him: "Thou hast written well of me, Thomas. What will I give thee in return?" His answer was: "Nothing but thyself, O Lord." St. Thomas is the patron of philosophy, and of all study. The society of "Angelic Warfare" is established in his honor, and young men are blessed who wear the Cord of St. Thomas in honor of holy purity. It is said that when in his youth he resisted the temptation to impurity he was girded with a cord, by an angel, in token of the purity which he was never to lose. St. Thomas is the patron of our Holy Father Leo XIII., who has been unceasing in making the schools of the Church adopt the teachings of the Angelic Doctor as the great means of combatting the intellectual errors of the day. St. Thomas was known in school as the "Dumb Ox," but no man since has ever spoken so divinely as the Doctor of the Schools.—*School and Home Magazine.*

A GREAT PRELATE GONE.

DEATH OF THE RIGHT REV. MONSIGNOR GILBERT, V.G.

The London Universe contains the following account of the death of the famous Vicar-General of Westminster.

With sincere regret we announce the death of the Right Rev. Monsignor Gilbert, which sad event took place on Monday night at the presbytery attached to St. Mary's Church Moorfields. Mgr. Gilbert, though in rather indifferent health for several weeks, continued to discharge his sacred duties up to Sunday, when he celebrated Mass. On Monday he was attacked with acute bronchitis and incipient pneumonia, and died at 10 p.m., on that day, after having been fortified with the last rites of holy Church. The end was calm and peaceful and edifying as befitted the termination of a long life devoted to the service of God and to the assistance of the poor and outcast.

Monsignor Gilbert was of Irish extraction, his parents being natives of Wexford. He was born in London in 1828, and was educated at St. Edmund's College, Ware. Here he was ordained priest in 1853, and appointed to St. Mary's, Moorfields. When Dr. Whitty, Vicar-General and Missionary Rector of this church, entered the Society of Jesus in 1858, Father Gilbert was appointed rector of St. Mary's, and soon after Vicar-General of the diocese of Westminster, when also the distinction of doctor of divinity was conferred on him.

Monsignor Gilbert has been Vicar-General of the archdiocese under Cardinals Wiseman, Manning and Vaughan, and his was one of the three names submitted to His Holiness on the death of Cardinal Manning for the vacant archbishopric. Monsignor Gilbert had under his charge from 300 to 400 priests in his diocese, a great number of convents, and all other religious institutions.

Years ago, and long before philanthropic efforts now prominently proclaimed were even conceived (says a correspondent of a contemporary), Monsignor Gilbert recognized the necessity of systematically succouring the poor and the homeless. He set to work with characteristic energy, and in a few years succeeded in establishing the Providence Night Refuge for homeless men and women and children, which has been acknowledged by not too friendly critics to be one of the most effective centres of charitable works in the East-End of London.

Monsignor Gilbert also founded a Convent of Mercy and several schools in his parish. He was the author of several works on religious subjects, among which may be mentioned "Lectures and Sermons," "The Love of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament," which has been translated into almost every European language;

"Preparations for Confession and Communion," and "The Stations of the Cross."

As Vicar-General, Monsignor Gilbert practically controlled the internal administration of the archdiocese, and in the discharge of the duties of that important office he not only merited and received the confidence of the three distinguished Cardinals under whom he served, but won the esteem and affection of all the priests by whom, to use the words of a well-known Irish priest, he was "simply beloved." As a capable and prudent Vicar-General he was unrivalled, and the immense strides which the faith has made in Westminster during the past generation may to a certain extent be attributed to his zealous efforts. His sympathetic nature, his kindness and his courtesy commended him to all. To the poor and friendless especially he was ever a director and adviser, and acts of charity and self-negation on their behalf were part of his daily life. Monsignor Gilbert never forgot that he was an Irishman, and throughout his life was a firm supporter of the Home Rule movement.

IMMIGRANT ORPHANS.

The Salford Society has informed the Montreal Branch of a party of immigrant orphans for next April, most of them young and for adoption. These children come nearly all from Catholic Homes, where they were kept for a while. Send your application, as soon as possible, to the C. P. & R. Soc., 11 St. Thomas street, Montreal.

By adopting a little one, you save that child from the danger of losing the precious treasure of faith. Some may adopt a child for the love of themselves, for their own interest alone, make a speculation of the child, and make it work above a child's capacity, almost like a little slave; some for the love of the child, and may not altogether feel satisfied. But, if you adopt one for the love of God, God immediately becomes your debtor, on account of the little one you took in His Name, and He will reward you. Then you will make it a good child. You will make use of patience and encouragement, correct its faults with affection and dexterity; you will take an interest in it, and the child will take an interest in you. You will gain its heart. Among others, a parish priest of St. Maurice, C. T., who has many of them in his parish, stated that, after these children get over the trouble to get used to their new home and country, they do very well. This is even easier for smaller children.

All applications must be recommended by the Parish Priest.

ROMAN NEWS ITEMS.

The library of the Vatican was commenced 1417 years ago. It contains 40,000 manuscripts, among which are some by Pliny, St. Thomas, St. Charles Borromeo, and many Hebrew, Syrian, Arabian and Armenian Bibles.

Advices from Rome state that an arrangement has been decided upon between England, France and the College of the Propaganda relative to an indemnity to be given the White Fathers for the massacre of members of their flock at Uganda. The missionaries are to receive \$50,000.

It is remarked that King Humbert at his speeches in opening the Italian Parliament never invoked the benediction of God, which the German Emperor never omits to do at inaugurating the sessions of the Reichstag. Yet the latter is a Protestant sovereign and the Italian King is a Catholic, and in the first article of the statute recognizes the Catholic religion.

A great many people are trying to guess what excuse the ice companies will make for raising the price during the coming summer. Some think they will say that the ice crop this winter was badly nipped by the frost, while others incline to the opinion that they will plead the necessity of putting up the price because the plentiful supply of new ice will make their old supply valueless.—*New York paper.*

Patrick Donohue, the founder and publisher of the Boston Pilot, will celebrate his 81st birthday on St. Patrick's Day.

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THE BATTLE OF MARENGO.

THRILLING RECITAL OF A MOMENTOUS CONFLICT.

A writer in McClure's thus describes how Napoleon saved the day at Marengo: "The hour of victory sounded. Faithful to Bonaparte, she came at last to hover over our heads and to act as our guide. The divisions of Monnier and Desaix came in sight. . . . As soon as the first battalion of Desaix's division reached the height, it was formed into a close column. The consul, the general-in-chief, the generals, the officers of the staff, ran through the ranks, and everywhere inspired that confidence which gives birth to great successes. This operation lasted an hour, terrible to pass, for the Austrian artillery was thundering upon us, and each volley carried away whole ranks. Bullets and shells destroyed men and horses. They received death without moving from their places, and the ranks closed over the bodies of their comrades. This deadly artillery even reached the cavalry, which was drawn up behind us, as well as a large number of footmen of different corps who, encouraged by Desaix's division, which they had seen passing, had hastened back to the field of honor. Everything is arranged. The battalions burn with impatience. The drummer, his eye fixed upon the baton of his major, awaits the signal. The trumpeter, his arm raised, is ready to sound. The signal is given; the terrible quickstep is heard; the regiments all move together.

French impetuosity, like a torrent, carries everything before it. In the twinkle of an eye the defile is crossed. The enemy is overwhelmed on all sides. Dying, living, wounded, and dead are trampled under foot. Each leader as he reaches the opposite side of the defile and prepares to enter the plain, arranges his division in battle array. Then it was that our line presented a formidable front. As fast as the artillery arrived it was arranged, and vomited death on the frightened enemy. They recoil. Their immense cavalry charges with fury, but musketry, grape shot, bayonets, stop them short. One of their caissons explodes; the terror is redoubled.

The disorder which begins is hidden by thick clouds of smoke. The cries of the victor increase the terror; at last they are overwhelmed. They fall back; they fly. Then the French cavalry threw itself into the plain, and by its boldness concealed its small numbers. It marches on the enemy without fear of being broken. At the right is Desaix at the head of his intrepid soldiers. Like a thunderbolt he seems to precede the lightning. Everything gives way before him. He crosses the ditches, the hedges; overwhelms, tramples, crushes everything in his way. The rough ground is crossed with the same speed. The soldiers clamber headlong over the ditches, conquer every difficulty and even dispute with their chiefs the glory of passing first.

On the left, General Victor, with the same speed, takes possession of Marengo, and flies towards the Bormida, in spite of the efforts of a superior enemy whose artillery and cavalry disturb his right flank. The centre, with less force and cavalry under the order of General Murat, advances majestically into the plain. Murat attacks the centre of the enemy, follows up his movements, holds in check an enormous body of cavalry. The intrepid Desaix, by an oblique and quick motion, turns to right on San Stephano, and cuts off entirely the left Austrian wing. At the same moment General Kellermann, with 800 horses gathered up from several regiments, compels 6,000 Hungarian grenadiers to lay down their arms. Oh, grief! It is in the very moment of his triumph, after having saved his army and perhaps his country, that the friend and the model of all brave men, Desaix, is mortally wounded. He has only time to say to young Lebrun, "Go, tell the first consul that the only regret I have is not to have done enough for posterity." With these words he expired. The first consul, on learning this misfortune, cried out, "Why may not I weep?"

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