

NOTES ON FOREIGN
CATHOLIC NEWS.

Very Rev. J. H. Brammer, vicar general of the Diocese of Fort Wayne, Ind., whose death was recently announced, was one of the most popular men in that State. Father Brammer was born in Hanover, Germany, in October, 1839. He was reared in the Lutheran religion. He came to America in 1854 and settled in St. Louis, working there at his trade, which was that of a carpenter. While studying the tenets of Catholicity he attended a series of lectures given by some Jesuit Fathers. On the 18th of September, 1859, he was received into the Church. He longed to impart to others what he himself had learned, and, accordingly, a year after he began his collegiate studies at St. Vincent's College in Pennsylvania. Here and at Michael's, Pittsburgh, he completed the classical course, and he then entered Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Cincinnati, to study philosophy and theology. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Luers, May 11, 1868. He came to be recognized as one of the leading churchmen in the West, and the Fort Wayne Diocese shows many fruits of his zeal. On the death of Bishop Toebe, of Covington, Ky., he was pressed to accept the mitre but declined. He stated that he deemed himself unworthy of the honor, and he sided, preferred to labor among the people he had learned to love.

Pope Leo XIII., although he recently celebrated his eighty-eighth birthday, is still vigorous despite the rheumatism from which he suffers. He studies or reads till far into the night and rises about six o'clock in the morning. He is our 253rd Pope. Of the total 253 Popes, fifteen have been Frenchmen, thirteen have been Greeks, eight have been Syrians, six have claimed Germany for their birthplace, five hailed from Spain, two were from Africa, two from Savoy, which was also the number sent by Sweden, Dalmatia, Holland, Portugal and Crete. England has furnished one Pope only. Italy heads the list with a total of 191, all since 1523 having been selected from among Italian Cardinals. Only nine of the 253 Pontiffs lived over twenty years after their elevation to the Chair of Peter. Pius IX., the last Pope, who died during the early part of 1878, reigned longer than any of his predecessors, his pontifical life extending over a period of thirty-one years.

The Catholic children of Europe—and why may not those of Canada and the United States join them—by their prayers and alms procure baptism yearly for between 400,000 and 500,000 heathen children and help to clothe, feed and educate about 100,000 orphaned little boys and girls. With more money for the work the Sisters who carry it on could do four or five times as much. The alms referred to here are those got from the monthly half pence and sous or cents of the young members of the 'Association of the Holy Childhood.' I would rejoice to see all Catholic children become members of the noble society, said Leo XIII.

The first batch of Premonstratensian Canons has embarked from Antwerp, Belgium, for the Congo mission, which has been confided to the Order by his Holiness Leo XIII. The party included Mgr. Decker, formerly Master of Novices at the monastery of Tongerlo Westerlo, and recently promoted to the dignity of Abbot, the Rev. Chanoines Van Hooft and Fauly, two lay Brothers, and two young Congolese who return to their native country after having received a Christian education at the Institute of Gyseghem.

The annual general conference of the Catholic Truth Society will be held on the 30th and 31st of August and 1st of September at Nottingham, England. The proceedings will be opened with an address by the Cardinal. The papers will be: 'The Just Principles of Rent,' by the Bishop of Nottingham; 'Church Music,' by Canon Connolly; 'Our Hymns,' by Mr. Britten; 'Christian Democracy,' by D. M. Aidan Gasquet and Mr. C. S. Davis; 'The Future of Workhouse Children,' by Rev. Edward St. John and Mrs. Parr.

A Mass in honour of St. Aidan, patron of the Irish diocese of Ferns, has been composed by Mr. William Gratton Flood, a Wexford gentleman, and is already declared a notable success. It is stated that copies of the work have been ordered by several Irish prelates. The combination, 'Gratton Flood,' in the author's name recalls a brilliant era in Irish history. We presume there is in his blood a strain of both those gifted patriots, upon which he is to be congratulated.

A Passion Play is to be produced at Horitz, near Budweis, in Bohemia, up to September 18th. Horitz is no more difficult of access than Oberammergau, and although its play has not so old associations as that of the Bavarian village, it is scarcely less interesting, while the surrounding country is every way as beautiful as that of Oberammergau. Accommodation at Horitz also is at least as good as that of its older rival.

The Rev. Reginald Walsh, O.P., has been appointed to the additional Chair of Scriptural Studies newly established in Maynooth College, Ireland. The Rev. Father Walsh, O.P., has been appointed one of the Spiritual Fathers, in succession to the Rev. Father Ward, C.M., who, owing to the state of his health, was unable to continue in the discharge of the arduous duties of the office.

The National Catholic Total Abstinence Union of America will hold its annual convention at Boston August 10, 11 and 12, 1898. The welcome extended to the bishops, priests and delegates by the Archbishop of Boston has received the hearty co-operation of his clergy

and people. At a meeting of the Boston pastory, it was unanimously voted to invite the visiting prelates and priests to the hospitality of their homes.

The Archbishop of New York has constituted St. Mary's Church into an irremovable rectory, and Dr. Burtell has been made the first irremovable rector. In an archdiocese of the importance of New York, this is indeed a high honor.

The Catholic Knights of Columbus of Brooklyn have purchased and sent to the army and navy chaplains 10,000 copies of vest-pocket prayer books for the Catholic soldiers and sailors.

The Chapter of the English Dominicans held at the Priory of St. Dominic at Haverstock Hill, London, has resulted in the re-election of the Very Rev. Father John Proctor, O.P., as Provincial for the ensuing four years.

The Right Rev. Bishop Gaughran has sailed from Southampton for his South African diocese. Previous to his departure he had been the guest of the Fathers at Tower Hill, London.

Dr. Lapponi, the Pope's physician, states that the alarmist reports appearing in a Rome newspaper in reference to the Pope's health are absolutely imaginary. His Holiness has completely recovered from the slight rheumatism he felt recently.

The prize of ten thousand francs which the Holy Father promised last year to award for the best picture of the Holy Family presented at the Turin Exhibition has brought forth an unexpectedly keen and brilliant competition.

In a paper read the other day before the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland Mr. Robertson described a silver chalice made in the year 1000. It is known as the 'Archer chalice,' because it was given by Walter FitzRichard Archer, for the good of his soul, to the Chapel of the Blessed Virgin in the Monastery of St. Francis at Kilkenny.

THE BIBLE.

Cardinal Gibbons Recommends Diligent Study of It.

Speaking at the graduation exercises at the Catholic University, Washington, Cardinal Gibbons said:—

'Among the many advantages you enjoy in this young but flourishing institution of learning I may mention this one in particular, that you are taught by your able and discriminating professor what books you are to study, what authors you are to consult in your ecclesiastical or civil career. And I regard the selection of books a decided element of success. Your progress in life will largely depend on the spiritual and intellectual weapons you will use, just as Admiral Dewey's great victory at Manila was due not only to the acknowledged bravery of his men, but also to the superior armament of his ships over that of the Spanish fleet.

'While I must disclaim the ability which would enable me to recommend to you the authors you should study, there is one book which I commend to you first and last and at all times, and that book is the Holy Scripture. The Word of God is justly styled by St. Ambrose the *liber sacerdotalis*, or priest's book by excellence. You might be familiar with the whole range of ancient and modern literature, and yet if you were but imperfectly acquainted with the sacred volume, your sermons would be dry and cold and lamentably defective. On the other hand, if you are well versed in the Sacred Scriptures though a comparative stranger to human science, you will preach with a force and grace and unction that will not fail to make a salutary impression upon your hearers and produce abundant fruit in their souls.

But I would recommend the Holy Scriptures not only to you, reverend gentlemen, but also to those of you who are destined to the practice of the law or of any civil calling. Judge Robinson will agree with me that an argument from the Gospels will not fail to make a deep impression on a judge and jury in our country, for the common law in England, from which ours is largely derived, is interwoven with evangelical maxims. The most illustrious statesmen of England and America have been conspicuous for their familiarity with the sacred text. The Earl of Chatham, Lord Brougham, Patrick Henry and Daniel Webster abound in passages from the word of God. In the memorable speech delivered in the Supreme Court in '44, in the Girard will case, Daniel Webster quotes from the Scripture twelve or thirteen times. One of his finest perorations is nothing else than a paraphrase of the one hundred and thirty-eighth Psalm.

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CLAN-NA-GAEL.

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At the recent Gaelic festival held in the Rotunda, Dublin, the immense hall was filled in every part. Every Irish-speaking county was represented; the Gaels in London and Glasgow sent embassies, while the Irish in Paris, Boston, New York and Chicago sent greetings to the common festival. In the enforced absence of Lord Castletown, Dr. Douglas Hyde took the chair, and after declaring the Oireachtas open, referred to the great intellectual work that was being accomplished throughout the country by the movement it represented.

A delegation from the 'Mod' of Scotland, consisting of Colin MacPharlin and Roderick MacLeod, was then played to the platform by the Highland pipes and was received with tremendous applause. Mr. MacPharlin, speaking in Gaelic, said there was relationship and brotherhood and love between the Gaels of Scotland and of Ireland, and he was proud to be the bearer of a message from his countrymen to Ireland, and with evident pleasure rendered thanks for the great ovation given to the delegation, while he proceeded to read the address from the Mod to the Oireachtas. The speech and address were perfectly intelligible to the Irish speakers in the hall, and both were received with cries of 'Cead faillte romhat,' 'Ta faillte romhat' and cheers from every side.

The secretary then read greetings, in Gaelic, from societies in all parts of Great Britain and Ireland, and also from the 'Innle-Gaelic Society, New York; the Gaelic League, Chicago; the Philo-Gaelic Society, Boston, and from Rev. Father O'Grady, Phoenix, Arizona, U.S.

Dr. Hyde next recited his Oireachtas ode, the melodic beauty and impassioned delivery of which charmed even those ignorant of Irish.

A band of Irish harps, conducted by Mr. Owen Lloyd, then played a selection consisting of 'The Gull,' 'Sir Fergus Burke,' 'Banks of the Shannon,' 'Carolan's Receipt,' and an Irish jig. Mr. Lloyd himself contributed two harp solo selections. One of the Scottish Gaels, Miss Emily MacDonald, sang the Highland songs, 'Fear a' Bheata' and 'Hiora's na h-òra eile,' to the accompaniment of her Highland clairsach.

The songs of Roderick MacLeod, 'Hò ro mo nighéan donn Broidheach' and 'Oran na Caillich,' brought down the house. Miss Harriet Rose Byrne sang 'Pearla an Brollaigh Bain' and 'Abhran an Eirraigh.' Miss Agnes Treacy rendered 'An Fhuiseog.' Miss Norma Burthwick, the winner of the Irish singing competition, sang 'Caillin Deas Cuide na mBo.' The prize reciter John O'Leary, of Clondrohid, County Cork, delivered in effective style the 'Address of Brian Bóimhe to the Irish Soldiers at Clontarf,' a piece written specially by Father O'Leary, P.P., Castle Lyons. The choir of boys and girls from St. Gabriel's school and from the Presentation Convent, George's Hill, Dublin, gave very good renderings of 'Go Maith a' na Gaedheil Sian' and 'Ban Chnuc Eireann O.' The Irish address by Father O'Railey of Loughlin, County Mayo, on 'The Means to Rouse the Gaels from Their Slumber,' was most effective.

IRISH ORATORY.

By M. Declan Carey, B.M., in Donahoe's for July

Irish oratory, like Irish nationality, has with some a very circumscribed meaning. They understand by it a kind of eloquence, all figures and fancy, with no argument—the play of 'Hamlet' with the part of Hamlet left out. Nothing can be further from the truth. Irishmen are naturally gifted with rich stores of fancy, but at the same time are not wanting in the reasoning faculty. The oratory of Burke and Grattan, of Parnell and O'Connell, certainly does not lack argument. It has, however, so many characteristics which distinguish it from the oratory of any other country.

It is not exaggerated and bombastic like the French, nor is it so practical and common sense as that of the English school, nor yet is it a fine art like ancient oratory, but it is something different from them all, yet retaining some of the features of each. In close reasoning, Irish oratory excels that of the ancients. It is a mistake to imagine that the Grecian orations are long chains of ratiocination. They are to the point and full of invective. They appeal to the strongest passions and predilections; to the sober judgment they are never addressed. In persuasive eloquence the Irish are unequalled amongst moderns. The fecundity of imagination and temperament of the Celtic character are peculiarly adapted to sway the feelings of men. There is running through Irish oratory a tinge of pathos like unto that melancholy strain which pervades the national music. It is very marked in Carran and Grattan, but may be traced in O'Connell, Sheridan, and even Burke.

A very curious sign of the times is the campaign that has been carried on in France with increasing ardour of late years against classical studies in the state colleges and lycées. 'More modern languages, more physics, less Greek and Latin' is a cry that long since lost the interest of novelty. The educational system, which is under the direction of the University of France, has been a good deal modified under this pressure of public opinion. The degree bachelier-ès-lettres may now be obtained for substituting modern languages for Greek and Latin, but the reform is by no means general or thorough enough to satisfy such uncompromising adversaries of the educational views which have so long prevailed in connection with the liberal professors, as M. Jules Lemaitre. Strange to say that the men who have made themselves prominent in disparaging the usefulness of Greek and Latin as a course of intellectual training have been themselves remarkable for their classical scholarship. M. Lemaitre is

no exception for he passed through the Ecole Normale. In a recent discourse at the Sorbonne he nevertheless declared that it was a joke to say that Greek and Latin were necessary to a doctor, a chemist, a judge, or an advocate. In order to understand the terminology of their science all that doctors needed was a vocabulary of two or three hundred Latin and Greek words. To a lawyer the indispensable lexicon was even less voluminous. With regard to works on Roman law he said that there existed very good and sufficient translations of these.

EXCOMMUNICATED.

Punishment of a Polish Priest,
Formerly of Chicago.

The Archbishops and Bishops of the various dioceses of the United States have received from Rome copies of a decree of major excommunication directed against R. V. Anthony Kozlowski, a Polish priest formerly affiliated with the Archdiocese of Chicago. The document bears the signature of His Eminence Cardinal Ledochowski, prefect of the Sacred Congregation de Propaganda Fide, and states that the decree is issued by command of His Holiness the Pope, given in an audience held on April 26. The explanation given for the Holy Father's action is that Kozlowski has, with contumacy, rebelled against lawful authority, and, moreover, boasts in a printed letter, which he calls pastoral, that he is the Bishop of the independent Catholic Diocese of Chicago, and in which he declares he received the episcopal consecration from certain heretical bishops in Switzerland.

Commenting upon this sad event, the Catholic Standard, of Philadelphia, says editorially:

It is painful to know that the Holy Father has been compelled, by the unbending contumacy of the Rev. Anthony Kozlowski, to pronounce against him the extreme ban of the Church. The unhappy priest now lies under the shadow of the Greater Excommunication. He is cut off from the body and the soul of the Church, and unless he crave pardon and renounce solemnly his evil ways, he must die as one accursed of God.

In the peculiar circumstances of this country, no other course was open to the sovereign authority of our Church, if Catholic unity was to be preserved. The idea of separate nationality in Church discipline is incompatible with the general law and the general interest. No more instructive object lesson could be furnished than this effective condemnation of an attempt to set up an *imperium in imperio* within the American Catholic Church.

Some professional defamers of our Church endeavor to make capital against it by pointing to the process of excommunication as a thing peculiar to it—a species of ecclesiastical despotism exercised only by Rome. These are the babes and suckling doves of history and extant happening. It is a little more than a month since the Protestant Bishop of Lichfield, in England, solemnly excommunicated, 'by bell, book and candle,' a minister who had miscondemned himself and refused to submit to authority. Geneva was the place where this *ultima ratio* was most effectively appealed to in the interests of 'good government,' as Servetus found to his cost. Those who know anything of the early history of Scotch Presbyterianism will easily recall how well John Knox profited by his apprenticeship to Calvin in the carrying out of the ecclesiastical ban. The 'Commination Service' in the Anglican Church was a sort of general excommunication or Anathema.

It may be supposed by some ignorant persons that excommunication is a matter which only carries spiritual deprivation. No greater mistake was ever made. The Catholic Church never went beyond the form of excommunication, but in the Church of England, which is a branch of the State, excommunication is punishable by deprivation of civil rights, loss of vote and disenfranchisement to serve on a jury; in extreme cases to fine and imprisonment. All the legal penalties attaching to the contumacy were recently particularized in the Westminster Gazette, and the test would prove eye-opening to those who are accustomed to think of excommunication being the obsolete privilege of 'Popish tyranny.'

The man who lives beyond his means to keep up appearances, or who professes to be able to do what he cannot do, or who pretends to know what he does not know, or who aspires a virtue which he possesses not, works very hard for very poor returns. He simply has the satisfaction of having deceived a few superficial people for a longer or shorter time, and having obtained from them certain considerations that they would never have bestowed with open eyes. Perhaps his family has been tolerated in fashionable circles, or he has forced himself into some office of trust and responsibility which he has not the ability to fill, or

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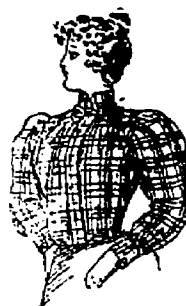
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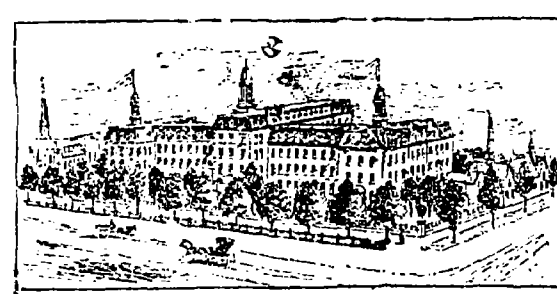
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DAILY PRAYERS.

Most Catholics say their daily prayers regularly. If, at confession, the priest asks, 'Do you say your prayers?' they answer, 'Yes, father,' without any qualm or afterthought. But if the question were, 'Do you pray?' how many would say yes with the same cheerful confidence? Recall the passage in the much-used little catechism that you used to know so well years ago, which says what it is to pray: 'The lifting up of the soul to God, and the rest of it, and then think whether or not you pray, though you say your prayers with absolute regularity.'

By the death of Dr. Thomas Fitzpatrick, which took place recently in Dublin, the medical profession in Ire-

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land has lost its senior representative. Deceased was born in Trim ninety-two years ago, and went to Dublin at the early age of fourteen. Throughout life he was a devout and earnest Catholic. Despite the difficulties which the Catholics had to endure in the early part of the century, he fought his way to the front rank of his profession, and died respected by all without distinction of class or creed. The chief mourners at his funeral were Mr. Denis Fitzpatrick, late Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab, and now member of the Indian Council in London, and the Very Rev. Mgr. Fitzpatrick, parish priest of Rathgar.

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