

SLANDERS REFUTED.

(Continued from page 5)

the unscrupulous tactics of European papers when there is question of Catholic interests—tactics, we are sorry to say, frequently adopted by not a few editors on this side of the Atlantic.

I.C.T.S. Superstition (!) in Italy. The anti-clerical press of entire Europe published the following incident:

"In the small village, Coriano (Central Italy), a mad dog had bitten fourteen persons. The doctor of the village sent the head of the animal to the bacteriological institute of the University of Bologna, which found the usual indications of hydrophobia. At the instigation of the pastor, the village authorities decreed to grant those who had been bitten the sum of 1,000 lire, and to send them not to Bologna to be treated according to the Pasteur system, but to Cucullo, a place of pilgrimage, where they should be cured through St. Dominic. The pilgrims, however, returned even more sick and one even died."

This report is an infamous calumny about the pastor and the Catholic authorities of Coriano. The pastor had nothing whatever to do with the affair. The authorities granted the victims 1,000 lire to go to Bologna for treatment. But the victims (they were eight not fourteen in number) of their own accord, without the knowledge of the pastor or the authorities, went not to Bologna, but to Cucullo, as their ancestors used to do in similar circumstances. All of them, without exception, returned perfectly cured, while some years ago a boy died who had been bitten by a mad dog and had been treated in proper time by the Pasteur Institute of Bologna.

(The episcopal See of Rimini, to which Coriano belongs, sent me a declaration of the pastor, of the authorities and some local newspapers in which those who had been cured personally narrated all details.)

False Statistics.

"Le Jour" of January 23 pictures the French Bretagne, in which at present 20,000 fishermen are in great distress, as "darkest France" claiming that it furnishes for the "Grande Republique" the largest number of spiritual congregations and of persons who can't read or write, of drunkards and criminals.

A statistical comparison between two provinces of a country can only be just if, aside from various other conditions, the comparative size of the provinces is considered. It is wrong, then, to say: In this or that country there is the greatest number of drunkards, criminals, etc., but one ought to say: In proportion to its size, such or such a country has the largest number of drunkards, etc. Taking this into consideration we may conclude:

1. That Bretagne does not contain the largest number of congregations, for there are comparatively as many in the Auvergne, in Rhone, Soire, etc. The largest number is in the department Auvergne.

2. Such as can't read or write are as numerous in the South and Southeastern France as in the Bretagne. Even in Paris there are about 30,000 children that go to no school, or do not begin to go until they are fifteen years of age.

3. The largest percentage of drunkards is found in Normandie, especially in the Department Seine inferieure; Bretagne ranks third.

4. The brooding place for crime is Paris and its suburbs, where there is little religion. The Protestant journal "Le Temps" had to acknowledge that in the good Catholic sections of France there are the best morals and the least crimes. Among such thoroughly Catholic sections of the country the "Temps" justly mentions first Bretagne, then Auvergne, Bearn, Biscave.

An Anti-Celibacy Canard. During the past few months a few of the leading anti-clerical papers of every country in Europe have been endeavoring to create the impression that there exists a strong, widely developed movement among the Catholic clergy, particularly of Italy, against clerical celibacy. Thus the Berlin daily ("Berlin Tageblatt") in a recent

issue gives the following despatch: "Rome.—In Apulia there has developed among the clergy a vigorous propaganda against clerical celibacy. The Bishop of Molfetta communicated with the Vatican on the subject and has suspended a number of priests from the sacred ministry."

In answer to inquiries, I have received from the Bishop of Molfetta, Mgr. Pascola Picone, the following:

1. It is absolutely untrue that there has arisen in this diocese even the slightest movement of the clergy against celibacy. 2. The Bishop of Molfetta has never communicated with the Vatican upon this subject. 3. By reason of some disciplinary offenses a few priests were recently suspended a divinis.

Can you, readers, by any stretch of imagination, conceive how the above named canard could have come into existence?

Clerical News

The 8th anniversary of the consecration of Mgr. Langevin was celebrated on Thursday of this week. As many as possible of the priests of the diocese were present. Mass was sung at 10 o'clock by His Grace. The sermon was preached by Rev. Fr. Lietard, C.S.S.R. As the full particulars of the celebration could not be obtained when the Review went to press a more extended account will be given next week.

Rev. Dr. Trudel of the Palace is ill at St. Boniface Hospital.

Mr. A. Bellavance, Eccl., is dangerously ill at St. Rochs.

Brother Boisrame, O.M.I., is at St. Boniface Hospital.

Rev. Father Proulx, S.J., will preach a mission at St. Jean Baptiste next week.

On St. Patrick's day the Rev. Father Albert Kulawy, O.M.I., of the Church of the Holy Ghost, left by the Canadian Northern railway for Duluth, Milwaukee, Chicago, La Salle and other places in the State of Illinois, where he will spend several months in missionary work amongst the Polish Catholics. While visiting the Polish settlements of Manitoba in February, Father Albert Kulawy brought the following reports: From Pleasant Home and Gimli, 16 marriages, 32 baptisms and about 350 confessions; from Dauphin, Sifton and Ethelbert, 19 marriages, 24 baptisms and over 400 confessions.

Rev. Father Van Heertum, of Regina, came in by the new Moosejaw local last Monday.

Two Benedictine Fathers went to Prince Albert last week to see about the 900 homesteads secured by them in the Saskatchewan.

Rev. Father Drummond arrived in Regina last Saturday, preached on Sunday at the High Mass and went on to Calgary on Monday. He was the guest of Lieut.-Gov. Forget.

The Hon. and Right Rev. Algon Charles Stanley, who has been appointed Bishop Auxiliary of Westminster, is to be consecrated in the Church of San Gregorio al Celio, Rome.

The Right Rev. Mgr. Gargan, President of Maynooth, whose condition was lately so serious, has rallied and is reported to be progressing favorably.

The latest English papers report that the Bishop of Salford is still very dangerously ill with little hope of recovery.

Cardinal Ferrata has been appointed Protector of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, and Cardinals Azliardi and Martinelli, members of the Congregation of Rites.

New Consultors have been appointed to the Congregation of Propaganda in the persons of Padre Rodriguez, General of the Hermits of Augustin; Padre De Luca, S.J., Professor of Canon Law in the Gregorian University, and the Very Rev. Canon Evaristo Lucidi.

The "Annee Dominicaine" states that Father Etourneau having come to the end of his term as preacher at Notre Dame, Paris, the Cardinal-Archbishop has appointed as his successor another Breton Dominican, Father Janvier, who is forty-two years of age.

THE DANGER POINT IN THE IRISH LAND QUESTION.

By John J. O'Shea in Donahoe's for March.

Are there any breakers ahead in the new situation thus unexpectedly developed? He would be an optimist overbold, indeed, who could shut his eyes to the truth. What has been accomplished amounts to little more than a mutual confession that a state of war is bad on both sides, and that an amicable understanding on the terms of change is desirable for both parties, as well as for the country at large. The crux will come when the terms of capitulation are presented for discussion. It is understood that the element of compulsion is to be excluded, and the aim of the Government confined to lending assistance to both parties when they desire agreement—to carry out the terms of the bargain made. Naturally the landlords will endeavor to secure the highest figure that capitalized annual value will bring; and quite as naturally the tenant-purchaser will seek to keep down his annual instalments to the margin where repayment will not mean starvation or ruin. Fortunately, the basis for a reasonable settlement of the terms of agreement is practicable, by means of the returns kept in the Land courts. The recorded results of judgments under Mr. Gladstone's law—which provided for a periodical revision of rents to match the fluctuations in market values of produce, and the rates fixed by the decisions rendered under this arrangement, all over the country—will afford a reliable guide for a mutual understanding. The danger point arises when the conflicting interests of both parties bring pressure to bear in opposite directions, when the proposals of the Government are brought forward. These may induce such a spirit of stubbornness and impracticability as may impel the Ministry to throw up the whole measure and abandon the respective contestants to their own resources.

A prominent bishop of the Episcopal church tells the following story:

He was at a dinner given to several of the clergy by a society woman. Opposite to the bishop sat another clergyman, a shy, retiring old gentleman, whom a perverse fate had seated next to a young society girl; she, accustomed to the light chit-chat of her set, was rather at a loss for a subject of common interest.

A silence had fallen—one of those sudden lulls which will come in the midst of the most entertaining dinners, and are the despair of the hostess. The young girl cast about frantically for a subject with which to start the conversational ball rolling again. A dish of fruit before her gave her her cue, and, into the silence, in a voice made rather high by nervousness, she flung the question:

"Dr. C—, do you like bananas?"

A puzzled look, mingled with some dismay, crossed the old gentleman's face.

"Pardon me, my dear young lady, but I am a little hard of hearing. What did you say?"

Overcome with embarrassment, the girl repeated her question in a louder voice, in a fascinated silence which none seemed able to break.

"Do you like bananas?"

But again the clergyman begged for leniency, and besought her to repeat the words; so a third time the thoroughly confused girl went over the inane remark, this time fairly shouting it in her desperation.

The gentle diffident old man, in embarrassment equal to hers, at last answered:

"I thought I must have misunderstood you, my dear, but since you ask me, I must confess that I am very conservative, and I still cling to the old fashioned night-shirt."

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