

session of Faith in a clearly distinct voice, and in so powerfully an impressive manner, as that it failed not to draw pious tears from the eyes of the auditory, and many a fervent prayer was silently offered up to the Throne of Mercy invoking further blessings upon her. The Holy Communion was then administered to her in the usual manner, after which another short but most feeling exhortation was delivered by the Rev. Mr. Lecuona, and then she, with the other two ladies, retired to their seats.

DUDLEY.

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR BLESSED LADY AND ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY.—On Ascension Day the Rev. Father Gaudentius, of the Holy Order of the Passionists, so well known for his pious labours in giving missions in different places, favoured Dudley with his exertions. The Spiritual Retreat or Mission was of ten days' duration. Each day the Rev. Father commenced at half-past six o'clock in the morning with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and a meditation on the Passion of our Blessed Redeemer; at three o'clock, p. m., instructions on the Commandments, the duties and obligations of our holy religion; and at half-past seven in the evening he again addressed the people with a sermon on various subjects most suitable to encourage the strayed sheep, and the conversion of those who were in error. He told them that it was as impossible that there could be two religions as that there could be two Gods, showing the inconsistency of there being different religions in Heaven, and proving the Catholic religion to be the only true Church of Christ, and exhorted those who by their neglect had estranged themselves from God, whilst they had an opportunity; and happy and abundant are the fruits attending his holy exertions, great and lasting the gratitude the congregations feel towards him who, under God, has been the means of effecting so great a change. On Whit Sunday the Retreat was concluded in the usual manner—General Communion at the eight o'clock Mass; Sermon, and renewal of Baptismal Vows after the eleven o'clock Mass; and evening service at half-past six—Sermon, the Papal Blessing, and Solemn Benediction, which was also given on Monday and Tuesday evenings.

WARDOUR CASTLE.

The eighteenth anniversary of the establishment of the Wardour Catholic Sick Club was celebrated at Wardour Castle on Monday last. The loveliness of the weather, the beauty of the park and grounds, and the kindness and zeal of the noble owner alike contributed to render the festival the happiest spent since the establishment of the society. In numbers there has been a considera-

ble increase since last year, and the funds were never so "healthy" as they now are. In the morning the members walked in procession from the club-room to the chapel, headed by a magnificent new banner presented by Major Stapleton. The banner is made of purple silk of the best texture and quality. On one side of it are emblazoned the arms of the Arundel family with quarterings of those of the Stourtons, and on the other is the consoling and appropriate text, "Bear ye each others burthens, and thus fulfil the law of Christ." After Mass the banner was borne to the altar and solemnly blessed. An appropriate discourse was then delivered by the Rev. Mr. Lawrenson, and afterwards the members returned in procession to the club-room, where an excellent dinner was provided for them. The Right Hon. Lord Arundel presided, and he was supported by the Rev. Mr. Lawrenson, the Rev. Mr. Wassal, of Boxham, Major Stapleton, Mr. Lambord, of Salisbury, and others. After dinner, glees were sung under the direction of Mr. Richardson, the organist, and in the afternoon the club proceeded to the lawn in front of the castle, where country dances were commenced, and continued until evening; twilight announced the hour of departure. It was most gratifying to witness the truly Catholic spirit of the entire proceedings, beginning with the Most Holy Christian Sacrifice, followed by a repast, at which rich and poor met on terms of equality, and terminating with amusements in which the bounds of moderation and prudence were carefully observed.—*Correspondent of Tablet.*

POPE PIUS IX.

The prompt election of the Sovereign Pontiff has defeated many an intrigue, and deceived many expectations; diplomacy even had not time to interfere. Yesterday, in the Chamber of Deputies, M. Martin du Nord stated that the choice of the Sacred College was, or would have been, that of the Ministry—a fact the more honourable to our Government, as it is evident from the manner in which the election took place, that our Ministers were, on this occasion, in perfect accord, not only with the Cardinals, but with the Holy Spirit.—*Univers.*

SHORT VACANCIES.—Everything announces that God is about to give to his Church a striking evidence of his mercy by the prompt and unexpected election of Pope Pius IX. His career was not passed among the Roman Prelacy, properly so called, composed as it is of laymen and priests, a circle within which diplomacy may introduce her intrigues. While still young he learned to know the exorbitant pretensions of modern politicians' systematic hostility to the liberty of the Church. His resistance to this spirit caused his exclusion from