MR. BELLOC'S ANSWER PLAIN WORDS TO THE GLOOMY AND VITUPERATIVE DEAN

INGE To the Evening Standard of December 20 Mr. Hilaire Belloc contributed an Open Letter to the Dean of St. Paul's in answer to his latest attack on the Catholic Church in that journal. We give here the greater part of the article:

You have often attacked (and defamed) the Catholic Church in these pages. In that effort you have introduced, among others, own less significant name. I pro-

pose to answer you.

The task is the easier because your animosity leads you to declara-tion, and, unlike too many of your kind, you are sometimes led by exasperation to be sincere.

Your indictment against the Faith is in these articles: that it is foreign, that it is defined, disciplined, and one, that it is false-or (as you have written)—"an impos-ture." The first is puerile, the last momentous. I will take them in

England after the chaos of the sixth century. You know also—as your readers do not—that all about us, pillar and arch and verse. law and reasoning, are from that Mediterranean antiquity which the Faith barely saved, and having saved nourished into Christendom.

not till three hundred years ago that the main of England doubted. It is not two hundred since the last body of English loval to the East on the same? I think not! body of English loyal to the Faith were crushed out. A hide us offi-cial persecution, violent beyond ex-ample and carried out in the interest of men newly enriched by the plunder of sacred things, took three lifetimes before it succeeded.

I find a contradiction in you here. An Englishman (you say) cannot be English unless he have in him some Manichean poison of the puritans. So Chaucer, Alfred, Bede are not But next I hear that this religion is a product of Englishry, so those thousand years were Eng-lish after all—but took their thousand years to bear the perfect fruit which blossomed suddenly three hundred years ago. When Shakespeare wrote England was manifestly Catholic; when Milton no longer. Yet you would abandon Shakespeare with regret! First you define an Englishman by his religion—no true Englishman is of Shakespeare's mood, only of Milton's; then you turn round and say "No religion that is not English.'

IS CERTITUDE UNENGLISH

The English groping for the light shall no longer be English for you if they attain it. They shall only be English in your eyes on the condition of groping still. Certitude and the light upon eternal things are a bar to your granting a certificate of English essence.

What is more, the answer to the most universal (and most important) of questions must be local, and truth must be provincial or ignored. Was ever such nonsense!

I have called it puerile—and so it is: a schoolboy's folly, to which all things not familiar seem ridiculous. And how can truth have local

MISTAKES UNITY FOR SERVITUDE

second objection is r. We of the Faith are not notes (as do you) that we stand together, having one regiment. There is none of us but can assure reason reach a plenitude of freetell you that we of the Faith may

doubtfully admit some sceptics for our equals, but certainly no others. He You see that we are within walls. So we are. But they are the walls of a city. It is the secure City of God. You resent our unity.
In truth it is not the constitution

you abhor, but the thing itself— little though you know that thing; just as men hate some strange country though they know not a word of its language.

THE MAIN ISSUE

escapes you the character of the Catholic Church. You judge it by indications dead and valueless, you have not—for all your detestation of it—experienced its life, not known it for what it is.

You want impressed me most—it was the Creenwich Village Theatre on Christmas night. Das war schon!"

"Oh yes, we have seen much," said Guido Mayr (Judas,) "we have

For what is the Catholic Church? It is that which replies, co-ordinates, establishes. It is that within which is right order; outside, the puerilities and the despairs. It is of your great wizard Edison. To the possession of perspective in the survey of the world. It is reality. Here is promise and foundation.

WHAT WE ARE

The Faith is foreign. Certainly it has been alienated by force and fraud from the English—but since how long? You know that it made England, and in particular remade England out of barbarism as no other province of our civilization.

Those of us who boast so stable an endowment make no claim thereby to personal peace; we are not saved thereby alone. But we receive support and have Communion. The Mother of God is ours also. Our dead are with us. Even other province of our civilization thereby alone are not saved thereby alone are of so glorious a company that we receive support and have Communion. The Mother of God is ours also. Our dead are with us. Even in these our earthly miseries we in these our earthly miseries we have always the distant something. hear always the distant something You are a man cultured and of an eternal music and smell a acquainted with the sources. You native air. There is a standard set in New know well enough that England for us whereto our whole selves Tablet.

in our own country.
You may say, "All this is rhetoric." You would be wrong, for it is rather vision, recognition, and testimony. But take it for rhetoric. Have you any such? Be it

One thing in this world is different from all other. It has a personality and a force. It is recognized, and (when recognized) most violently loved or hated. It is the Catholic Church. Within that household the human spirit is at home. Outside it, is the Night.—The Universe.

PASSION PLAYERS COMPLETE VISIT

LEFT WITH KIND THOUGHTS FOR NEW YORK PEOPLE

Tuesday night the Oberammergau village at the Grand Central Palace vanished with the old year. The little painted houses were knocked down; the wood carvings and pottery were laid in their cases; the lights were put out. But for years the thousands who have flocked to the Grand Central Palace, crowding about the men from Oberammergau will remember those artisan-actors. And for their part the players say that the experiences of this great country will be unforgettable.
"The dear American people," a

gentle smile played about the lips of Anton Lang—Christus—as he ingered over the words Sunday, "I can never express my gratitude to them. From my heart I thank the New Yorkers for their cooperation and generosity. As for this great city, it is bewildering. The giant buildings, the ceaseless coming and going, the magnificent scale on which things are done, all are so overpowering that I can scarcely express an opinion of them. But none of this bigness impresses me as does the bigness of the American

people's heart."
Andreas Lang, sr., (Saint Peter,) veteran of all the players, arose from his work bench and stepped out of his house. The shaggy gray hair and beard, the blue coat enveluniversal, but segregated. The oping his sturdy figure helped the world is not convinced (not you) and illusion that it was indeed the Saint upon whom the Church was founded

who was speaking: You mistake that unity for mere servitude and that bond for a chain. can people. Tell them that we Oberammergauers came here with you that only in the Faith does the an unfaltering faith in God. We came in our darkest hour to dom, nor any of us that has help and we have found it. He has searched into ideas but will further helped us in our undertaking. We can no longer be doubting Thomases for He is in our midst, and even as He bade Thomas lay his hand upon His wound, so He has proven the reality of His presence to us. We sought our Lord and have found Him here in a foreign land. His love has guided us here among these fine American people at whose hands we have met with naught but kindness. We thank you, all our friends, those of you who have been so generous, those who have grasped our hands with such warmth, those

who have helped us.
"And now a word for your city Wherein also resides your chief, and only grave, indeed your one grievance: that what the Catholic buildings seem higher to me than faith lays down, that you do not my beloved Bavarian Alps; only here it is easier to get on top, over You have written, "The Catholic Church is an Imposture," thereby provoking all the past of Europe and challenging Ignatius of Antioch The Catholics and challenging Ignatius of Antioch The Catholics and challenging Ignatius of Antioch The Catholics and what He commanded and promote there I must use my own feet. In and words by prominent Catholics and what He commanded and promote is destined to take its place amongst two Marianist Brothers rushed to provoking all the past of Europe and challenging Ignatius of Antioch There I must use my own feet. In St. Joseph's College nearby consolidation of my life in the light the rescue, but with only their of eternity. I enjoy their counsel their rescue, but with only their when my will is vacillating. I have the runs of their flux of the runs of th

and Augustine of Hippo no less than the least of our fellowship today.

I forbear to pin you to a strict explanation, whether that "imposture" be the Incarnation, the Eucharist, or any other of our structural mysteries.

Your office forbids you to reply, or to tell us whether at heart you do not agree with the half-instructdo not agree with the half-instructed millions around you who make no doubt that religion is of man: a figment.

I will content myself by concluding with this: that there wholly agreement you in the character of the cheese was a second of the cheese who will be considered in the character of the cheese was a second of the principles of they are based on the pri

been to the top of the Woolworth Building, we have been aboard the me your America is like Fairyland. I felt it as I watched the buildings looming out of the midst when the Reliance steamed up the harbor. Those of us who boast so stable seemed to me that magic hands had fashioned the buildings that raised

its freedom, its ideals, its friends The total receipts from their stay in New York was \$65,000.—Brooklyn

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT OF A BLIND GRADUATE

Washington, D. C .- An unusual story of achievement and sacrifice by a young blind woman graduate of Trinity College has come to light the Faith presided over all her being for a thousand years. It was not till three hundred years ago that the main of England doubt. \$6,000 by the enterprise, she opened an establishment in Brookland. She plans to increase her funds to \$12,000 to establish a scholarship in perpetuity which will pay every expense of one blind student throughout the college course. With Miss Moore are living her mother and

The young woman, who has been preparing herself for a master of arts degree in psychology, does not believe in segregation of the blind, holding that a blind person who is otherwise normal has the same chance for advancement intellectually as others more fortunate and should be dealt with accordingly She says that she learned just as readily as other girls through the use of embossed text and note

STATUE OF SAINT JOAN OF ARC AS SOUVENIR

The French Minister of Commerce, M. Dior, with three other Ministers and two prelates, Mgr. Landrieux and Mgr. Baudrillart, presented Senator Beaubien, organizer of the exhibition with a statue of Joan of Arc. The presentation was made in the name of the Gov-ernment, as a souvenir. At the feet of the statue were the sword and the helmet. The hands of the Virgin of Lorraine were joined and stretched toward Heaven.

When thanking the French Minister, Senator Beaubien emphasized these two features of the attitude of Saint Joan of Arc, declaring that he wished to see in them the symbol of the present situation: prayer and peace after combat. "For France," he said, "we join our prayers with those of Joan of

FAMOUS CAROL SUNG ON FEAST

London, Jan. 3.-Into nearly two million homes in Great Britain the fine Christmas carol "On the Road to Bethlehem," written by the late Mgr. Benson found its way during the week before Christmas. With special music for the carol broadcast throughout the entire country by the Daily Mail, which

has a daily circulation of close on two millions. This is the most far-reaching piece of Catholic publicity ever achieved in the space of a single day in Great Britain, and the Daily Mail asserts that by reason of its beauty and charm, this carol (music

A NOTABLE CONVERT

LEADER OF "LOS VON ROM MOVEMENT TELLS HOW THE MATTER CAME ABOUT

By Dr. Frederick Funder

Vienna.-When in 1897 the "Los von Rom" (Away from Rome) movement broke out in Austria, inspired by political agents and financed with subsidies from Germany, there appeared, among the numerous Protestant ministers who poured into Austria, the Rev. John Albani, D. D. He came from Saxony and boasted of being a descendant of the ancient Italian noble family to which Pope Clement IV. and several Cardinals belonged. Dr. Albani was a passionate representative of the Protestant cause, and the Catholic journalists of Austria clashed with him repeatedly. He caused considerable mischief by his proceduring activities among the proselytizing activities among the liberal citizens of several towns who had long before alienated from the Catholic Church. On several occasions, parrying the "Los von Rom" movement, I crossed swords with this active and eloquent man.

FAILURE OF MOVEMENT

"Los von Rom" movement failed pitably in Austria. Some Protestant churches, built then and empty now, and a few thousand "New Protestants" who have nothing in common with their adopted religion except the mere name, are all that remain. Among those who have recognized that movement as a mistake, strangely enough, is its one-time fiery promulgator, the former Protestant minister, Albani. He who had been a passionist adversary of Rome has now become an adherent of Rome, a faithful and zealous son of the Catholic Church.

Dr. Albani has written a history of his conversion. After having been sorely disappointed during his activity in Austria because of the purely worldly character of the demagogic propaganda for Protest-antism, he returned to his native Saxony to continue his pastoral work. But the impressions gathered in Catholic Austria gave him no rest. Thereafter, he occupied himself thoroughly with Catholic doctrine. He made a zealous study of the writing of St. Ignatius of Loyola, whose spiritual exercises he made the subject of a book.

HOW HIS CONVERSION CAME ABOUT "The outbreak of the War," he

writes, "caused me to make a still more earnest examination of the condition of affairs and a thorough selfexamination. How self-reliant the Catholic priests seemed at their Mass, in comparison with the Protestant soldiers depending on the sermon and measuring, according to it, the value of their ecclesiastical community. Also in the sphere of war superstitions and their suppression, the Catholic Church showed to advantage.

"When I gave the Lord's Supper from morning to night to an entire infantry reignent shortly before the offered by members of the French Verdun, I was forced to look into Government at the closing of the Canadian exhibition in Paris to the and but few cheerful ones. I must Canadian Mission which came to confess that there were not two out France to conduct this display, was of two thousand men who had a the occasion of a manifestation which illustrated the spirit of faith of the envoys of the Dominthat, if God showed me the way, would not restrain myself from going beyond the limits of my Church, if need be, in order to acknowledge the Divine Revelation without restriction.

Dr. Albani then tells how, returning from the War, he recognized more and more, through earnest studies, the dogmatic foundation of the Papal apostolate. It was difficult for him for a long time, he says, to detach himself entirely from the Protestant train of thought. The faithful Catholic, he affecting to hear him tell of the happiness which he experienced when his struggles were finally over and his conversion to the Catholic Church had been accomplished.

CONSOLATION OF HIS FIRST

'The very first confession afforded me the greatest benediction," he to make laws and admi writes. "It was a help for me such tice.—Washington Post. writes. "It was a help for me such as nobody had ever given me before. Thus from the very beginning Confession has not been for me a duty but a high privilege. In days of threatening external distress, I had, by Sir Richard Terry of Westminster Unexpectedly and undeservedly, the Cathedral, this Catholic carol was good fortune to become intimately acquainted with things to which my dogmatic thinking had not previously extended. I mean communion with the Blessed Virgin and the Saints. It is all the same to me what my former fellow-believers may say—they may laugh at me. I found wonderful help, absolute help from the Saints in hours of distress. Since that time respectful

RELIGION ALONE CAN SAVE THE WORLD

BISHOP SHAHAN GIVES HIS VIEWS TO THE PRESS

The failure of force, diplomacy and politics to restore the world to normal conditions of peace and prosperity is traceable to the materialistic theories of education which for more than a century have dominated the Western world. During this period its writers and publicists, its political and social agents, have ousted from every place of vantage or influence the older, more spiritual and more humane theories of education. They have drawn to their side the public funds, and through them have obtained the prestige of suc cess. They have been as a rule hostile to all religious training of the young, and they are responsible, in last resort, for the conditions which, both before and since the Great War, have so grievously weakened the moral order as created by Christian faith and dis-

cipline. What better evidence could be asked of the failure of this materialism in the higher phases of edution than the alarming collapse of public morality now so patent to all? The statistics of divorce and suicide, of juvenile crime and personal violence; the growing contempt for law and its twin contempt of human life, are undeniable.

SPIRITUAL THINGS SUBMERGED

Letters, art, music and the drama once a noble pedagogy of the people, have become commercial-ized, and their once rich service to Christian civilization has greatly

Impurity, obscenity, moral corruption in many forms, with their consequent cynicism and pessimism, forerunners always of decadence, and destructive of all creative joy-ous energy, come daily more boldly

to the front and defy criticism.

There is a remedy for these unhappy conditions. It is the religious training of the youth of the nation, undertaken with a wholehearted conviction that the Christian life is the best asset of every individual, and that a great society based on the Gospel, letter and spirit, is more powerful for good than the learning of a thousand centuries. The Christian family with its code of rights and duties, consecrated by immemorial usage, offers the first elements of such religious and encouraged in its exercise. When parents can no longer meet their obligations in this respect, they should be free to confide their children to teachers of their own choice, with the understanding that religious and secular training shall hand in hand; that while child acquires regularly all that is necessary for the intelligent exercise of the duties and rights of tizenship, it shall also learn what God and the soul mean for the fol-lower of the Gospel, what are the Christian views of man's nature and destiny, of human life and its proper uses, of the hereafter.

KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL

Such religious training, enhanced by the example of the teacher, would plant normally in the young and docile mind the true knowledge of good and evil, right and wrong virtue and vice, sin and its penalteachings, to recognize his duty to join the Catholic Church. It is affecting to hear him tell of Men and women in whom the moral sense had been properly developed from childhood would freely recog-nize their responsibilities as citizens. They would take an active interest in public affairs. And they would see to it that only those are placed in public office who are morally fit make laws and administer jus-

CHILDREN PRAY BENEATH RUINS OF CONVENT HOME

Bombay, Jan. 8.—A most touching incident is recorded by the Bombay Examiner apropos of the terrible earthquake in Yokohama. The beautiful institution of the Sisters of St. Maur was utterly deand death claimed many victims from Sisters and children.

Twelve Sisters were caught be-neath the ruins of their house.

their aid when my strength is growing weak. Thus my life has become
a rich and ever richer gathering of
the harvest."

The aid when my strength is growrubbish little could be effected.
However they did save two Sisters
and one child. The other Sisters
were there as in a tomb, talking to The former "Los von Rom" enthusiast finishes the story of his conversion with the confession: "I believe in the Holy Catholic and Arcsets of the conflagration, stirred by the wind, came has been erected into a Prefecture-any further attempt to deliver the unhappy victims. The fire reached the ruins, and from beneath them Apostolic Church; that is the real reason and the aim of my return to Rome."

nearer and nearer and prevented any further attempt to deliver the unhappy victims. The fire reached were heard the innocent voices of the little ones, reciting with fervor the Act of Contrition. Those who heard them will never forget the sentiments evoked by the solemn prayer of those who were going so

soon to God.

"And now," says the writer, "all that awful destruction must be repaired, lest the work of God

news of the telegram sent by the Holy Father. The announcement was received with profound attention, followed by enthusiastic ap-

Father Gemelli recorded especially how the Catholic Athanaeum is an advatage to the State and what the influence of youth formed in such a school is when they take their place in the ranks of the world's workers.

tion. The first year the pupils numbered 104, of whom 41 students and 12 auditors were of the faculty of social science, and 26 students and 25 auditors of the faculty of philosophy. During the second year there were 117 students. Eighteen were in the first course and 32 in the second and 28 more auditors in the faculty of phil-

osophy.

At the beginning of the third year there were 283 students with corresponding increases in the

various courses Father Gemelli closed his interesting report in alluding to the touching benevolence of His Holiness, Pope Pius XI. toward the Catholic University of Milan.

The poet Giullo Salvadori, Professor in the power families of letters.

fessor in the new faculty of letters, read the inaugural address which had as its theme: "The pedagogical value of literary culture.'

COMMANDER OF LEGION OF HONOR

Paris, Dec. 7.—In the presence of the entire garrison of Montauban, the entire garrison of Montauban, the prefect municipal officers, the third year, came from a family General, commander of the post, placed the ribbon of commander of were Catholic nuns. Thirteen of the Legion of Honor around the nineteen are still living, and neck of Abbe Rollin. This ceremony Sister Rosalie was the first of the ribbon of commander is generally reserved for high ranking army officers) were it not known that the first of the six nuns to die. One of the boys of the family died while he was studying for the priesthood officers) were it not known that Abbe Rollin is a former field officer, of the regular army, and that he fought through the War in the artillery with the rank of colonel, resigning later to enter the priesthood. He was ordained last year.
Following the presentation of the decoration, the troops filed past the new commander in accordance with the accustomed ceremonial for such

THE THREE BEST BOOKS

A pious old man, who lived in a poor, solitary cottage, had such a store of knowledge and understanding that he was able to give good advice and salutary instruction to every one who applied to him.

A learned man who visited him

was astonished at the wisdom of his conversation, and said to "Where have you acquired this wisdom? I see in your cottage no collection of books from which you could have drawn so much good

and beautiful learning."
"And, yet," replied the old man,
"I have the three best books in existence, and I read them daily. These books are the Works of God above me and around me: science within me, and the Holy

opened before us; they proclaim to us the omnipotence, wisdom and faith is making progress in Egypt:

CATHOLIC NOTES

According to the last Commonvealth Census, there are 1.172.672 Catholics in Australia, an increase of 175,868 since 1911.

By an Apostolic Letter, Iceland Apostolic of Denmark

New York has more Jews than any other city in the world. The number given is 1,648,012, or 29.88 per cent. of the city's population and roughly one-tenth of the estimated number of Jews in the world.

Milan, Jan. 3.—With the participation of the higher religious, civil and military authorities of Milan and a group of distinguished persons who crowded the great hall of the Catholic University of Milan the third academic year was solemnly inaugurated.

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The Rector, Rev. Father Gemelication of the telegroup of the church in Greece. The Gregorian calendar, following correspondence with officials of the church in Greece. The Gregorian calendar was adopted by the civil authorities of Russia several months ago.

Nice, Jan. 3.—Mgr. Louis Ricard named by His Holiness, Pone Only 10 and 10 and 10 are the catholic University of Milan the third academic year was solemnly inaugurated.

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Nice, Jan. 3.—Mgr. Louis Ricard named by His Holiness, Pone On the Catholic University of Milan the third academic year was solemnly inaugurated. Amette had previously studied.

Rome.—Florentine citizens are collecting money for a monument to Christ in the public square in atone-ment for blasphemy The sponsor of this novel idea is the United of this novel idea is the United Catholic League, a powerful Cath-olic organization. An appeal is being sent out asking everyone who The new academic year finds an making a contribution and pledging increase in the scholastic populamonument is intended as a reminder

that swearing is prohibited. Excavations conducted under the direction of the archeologist, Dr. Fuchs, have brought to light the foundations of a Carolingian Cathedral of Paderborn. It is believed that the building is one of those erected by Charlemagne at the time of the dioceses of Munster, Osnabruck and Paderborn were estab-lished for the Saxons who had just

been converted to Christianity. Out of gratitude for the protection accorded during the War to the valley of Massevaux, the notables of that district in Alsace have erected on a neighboring mountain a monumental statue of the Blessed Virgin holding the Infant Jesus. The statue is 12 meters high and is the work of the great French sculptor Antoine Bourdelle. It was the most important work exhibited at the Salon des Beaux Arts in Paris last year.

Sister Rosalie de St. Martin, a Little Sister of the Poor at the J. K. Mullen home for the aged, Denver, of nineteen children, six of whom

In no city of the United States has the growth of the Church in late years been more phenom-enal than in Boston. Almost within the memory of living man a hidden church was known to the Bostonians as the "Irish chapel." And when that church had a schoolroom added to it, and the inscription "I. H. S." was carved over its door, Boston decided that these letters meant "Irish High School." Out of the "Irish High School." Out of the original diocese founded in 1810, some four or five new dioceses have been carved, and yet the Archdioboasts today some eight hundred priests.

Mass has been celebrated for the first time on the peak of one of the highest mountains in the Pyrenees, the Pic du Midi, at an altitude of 22,877 meters. The orientation table placed there by the Touring Club of France was used as an altar. The Divine Sacrifice was celebrated by Abbe Soule, chaplain of the Catholic Youth of the Upper Pyrenees who had with him a number of young men from the neighboring town of Bagneres. Abbe Soule, who is an experienced alpinist, said it was the fifty-third time he had climed the Pic du Midi.

Returning from a journey to the Scripture.

"The Works of God, the heavens and earth, are like a great book of the Catholic Institute of Paris "My conscience tells me what I must do, and what I must avoid.
"But the Holy Seriety of the control of the cont must do, and what I must avoid.
"But the Holy Scripture, the Book of all Books, informs us how God manifests Himself to man from Curred. The St. Vincent de Paul the creation of the world; how the conferences are numerous and Son of God, our Lord, and Saviour active. Finally, the Mohammedans Jesus Christ, came into this world; educated in our schools appear to and what He commanded and prombe striving to understand Chris-