

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

CONVERTS TO THE CHURCH.

*The Opinion of an English Minister—
Long List of Prominent Persons.*

Father Luke Rivington in the course of a recent sermon, is reported to have said, says the *Liverpool Times*, that a prominent dignitary of the Established Church assured him in conversation that it was really remarkable to find what a change of attitude in regard to the Catholic Church had taken place in the minds of a large number of hitherto steadfast Anglicans within the past two or three years. This altered position was, the dignitary added, a favorable one, as far as Rome was concerned, and his opinion was that it would sooner or later eventuate in numerous secessions. It certainly seems that this prognostication is already being fulfilled, if the following list of recent converts to Catholicism is to be taken as a test. It will be seen, too, that it embraces people not only from the Church of England, but from other sects. Mr. James Montgomery, M.A., (a leading Irish Presbyterian), The Castle Garvachy: Mrs. Bell, granddaughter of the famous Zachary Macaulay: Mr. W. Craig, J. P., and ex-M. P. for North Staffordshire (a highly respected Methodist): Mr. Alfred Austin, of the War Office: Mr. Charles and Mr. Ethelbert Stuart-Mills, sons of Captain Stuart-Mills: Mr. Charles Maule, and Mr. Edward Hunter Hale, sons of well-known Anglican clergymen: Miss Baldwin, eldest daughter of an influential Baptist family in Birmingham: Colonel William Monok Hall, formerly of the 74th Highlanders: Mr. Herbert Snelgrove: Mr. Robert Cunningham Williams, eldest son of General Williams: Miss Cecilia Fosbery, eldest daughter of Colonel Vincent Fosbery, V. C.; Mr. Henry Algernon Fulke Greville, of the 18th Hussars: Captain H. F. Loynes Montgomery, of the Bengal Staff Corps: Mr. John Rees, private secretary to Lord Wenlock, Governor of Madras: Miss Mary E. Warden, of Little Walton Lodge; Mr. G. Keyte, of Brookhurst: Mr. Herbert Measures, of Woodlands, Streatham: Miss Stafford, daughter of a wealthy Dublin merchant; Miss

Bessie Hatton, who is now so successfully appearing in her father's adaptation of "Prince and Pauper," at the Vaudeville: Miss Blanche Lancaster Clarke, only daughter of Mr. George T. Clarke, the Donlaise millionaire, and who was married last week to Mr. Clarence Forestier Walker, son of Sir George Walker, Bart, and grandson of the first Lord Tredegar: a daughter and grandson of Charles Dickens: the Rev. F. Besant, M. A., of Whitechapel Parish Church, a near relative of Mrs. Besant, the Theosophist; the Rev. John B. Camm, M.A., a Dorsetshire rector, who has thus followed in the footsteps of his son, the Rev. R. P. Camm (of the Ritualistic Church of St. Agnes, Kennington) who became a Benedictine Monk last year; and the Rev. Charles Edward Gaudy, M.A., of St. James the Lees, Plymouth, making the fifth clergyman from that church who has become a Catholic.

The progress of the Church in India is remarkable and gratifying. A veteran missionary in Madura, writing to a friend, gives an account of the visitation of the Bishop to Pudupatti. The visitation lasted thirty days, and was a great event. Mgr. Barthe was attended by a band of native musicians, and his progress was almost triumphal, the pagans swelling the crowd in large numbers. In this one district, the Bishop confirmed 2,081 persons and gave Holy Communion to more than 3,000. A large number of new catechumens were received: and seventy-one, already instructed, were baptized.

Looking out upon "the present chaos of American Protestantism," the Rev. John Vaughan Lewis says that "our 'Churches' no longer insist on their distinctive tenets: our 'clergy' are wandering about in search of a creed; our 'laity' are reaping unto themselves teachers having itching ears. 'Republican or Cossack, is not the question. Religion in these United States must be *something*, or Roman Catholic, within the next fifty years."

Mr. Lewis goes on to say very frankly: "I am not one to be alarmed, out of reason, at the present prospects of Romanism in this country. With such a prelate as Cardinal Gibbons at the fore I would rather commend my country to the Roman obedience, in matters of *faith*, than see its