

Our Weekly Sermon.

PHILADELPHIA

Father William, O.F.M.

For the past few years it has been a growing habit amongst English Protestants to visit Catholic churches before the holiday times. The why and wherefore of it...

Taking the text from the Gospel of the day, I tell you that unless your justice abound more than that of the Scribes and Pharisees you shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Our Lord wished to impress upon His hearers and upon us that Christian righteousness was far deeper than that of the Old Law, that the New Law was a development of the prophetic conception of holiness, and that religion did not consist in ordinances, actions, and activities...

THE SISTERS OF MERCY.

The Institute of Our Blessed Lady of Mercy, which so well deserves of the whole English-speaking world, was one of the providential outcomes of that enlightening and religiously active which was ushered in by the relaxation of the Penal Code and the movement toward Catholic emancipation that began in Ireland over a century and a quarter ago.

Its founders were Miss Catharine McAuley, who was born in Dublin county in 1797. When she was a young girl of her young life she inherited a fortune of £80,000, £600 a year in perpetuity and a valuable estate.

As their numbers grew, pious ladies began to pay daily visits to assist in the work of the Institute—to tend the poor women and instruct the orphans. Some of the most devoted of these were the most ardent helpers found in convents.

In 1830 Miss McAuley and two of her companions began their novitiate with the Presentation Nuns. On December 12 of the following year (1831) they were solemnly professed. The foundation of their order dates from that day.

their rule "confirms," as the biographer of the foundress states, "the silence, recollection and prayer of the Carmelites with the active zeal of the Sisters of Charity."

THE FOUNDRESS PILLS. The foundress of the new Institute passed away to her reward on November 11, 1841. But she had lived to see her good work carried rapidly in all the world. In 1830, two years before her death, it had passed into England. It was introduced into Newfoundland in 1842, into the United States in the following year, into Australia in 1849, into New Zealand in 1860, and into South America in 1856.

GERMAN EMPEROR. The Philadelphia Times, a secular, non-religious paper, announces in a despatch from Paris that the German Emperor has sent an urgent request to the Archbishop of Paris to visit him before going to Rome.

THE AMERICAN POLICE. The American police, devoted a large part of his speech in Paris to a sledgehammer attack on this theory of "divine right," stoutly affirming that "Almighty God, from whom all authority in human affairs is derived, has given it to the one or the few, but has communicated it to the people themselves."

WANTED TO BE EMPLOYED. Three years ago the Emperor worked might and main through the Plenipotentiary Minister accredited to the Holy See and through the Archbishop of Cologne, sent there for the special purpose, to obtain a license for Germany to the official protectorate of all German Catholic missions and missionaries in China.

By a special convention, however, between the Holy See and France the protectorate of the Holy See in China was already entrusted to the latter country. The Kaiser could obtain no formal setting aside of this convention, but took the matter into his own hands, and on the plea of avenging the death of the German missionaries at German origin seized the district of Shantung. It is this seizure which is regarded as leading up to the present disastrous outbreak in the Celestial Empire.

Furthermore this recognition would be useful in the future as a right of interference in China. The Chinese Government has made a deal with the Holy See regarding an important privilege to all representatives of the latter in China, and on the other hand Germany is one of the European countries that seek to have a free hand in dealing with China without formally declaring war on that country.

Regarding the other point on which the Emperor desires the intermediation of Archbishop Ireland with the Pope, the spread of socialism in Germany, the Emperor's late ambassador in London, the famous encyclical Novus Ordo Romani which Leo XIII. issued some years ago on the social question was published soon after a visit by the Kaiser to His Holiness and for that document the German monarch had claimed a certain degree of nationality.

It was freely admitted at the time that the encyclical had a marked and useful influence among German Catholics. An announcement also was made that it was to be first of a long series of Pontifical letters on the social question.

The Most Puritan Pill. The pill is the most popular of all forms of medicine, and of pills the most popular are Parmelee's Vegetable Pills, because they do what it is asserted they can do, and are not put forward as "fictitious pills" to be swallowed. They are compact and portable, they are easily taken, they do not nauseate nor grip, and they give relief in the most stubborn cases.

AMERICAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS.

From Hoffman's Catholic Directory for the current year 1900 a reliable source from which general statistics of the Catholic Church in the United States may be obtained—we find there are: 10 Catholic universities, 109 seminaries, 178 colleges for boys, 682 academies for girls, 251 orphan asylums wherein are cared for and educated 26,460 orphans, 9,811 parochial schools, in which are being educated 800,000 pupils.

Summarizing the statistics for the United States. There are nearly one million receiving a distinctly Catholic parochial school education. The schools are to be found throughout the entire length and breadth of the land, in many cases they are absolutely free as to books and tuition; in others there is a nominal charge for books only, and in others again, a charge for books and tuition. The teachers are generally men or women of religious orders, who, dominated by the conviction that God calls them to that special work, consecrate their property, talent and lives to the education of youth, with no thought of any future turning therefrom, save as declining age or loss of health shall remove them from the field of active labor.

The Royal Irish Guards. Nearly every detail is completed with respect to the formation of Her Majesty's regiment of Irish Guards. The battalion exists at present only on paper, but the conviction that God calls them to that special work, consecrate their property, talent and lives to the education of youth, with no thought of any future turning therefrom, save as declining age or loss of health shall remove them from the field of active labor.

Societies Intridicted. Bishop Pink, of the diocese of Leavenworth, Kan., has created a sensation in the Catholic world by his decision to place the ban on the Modern Woodmen and Maccobes secret societies, and forbidding all Catholics joining these secret orders. Holy Pink believes that practical and faithful Catholics are not allowed to join these societies, and are not allowed to remain in them after becoming members. On this account he holds that belonging to these orders tends to injure the Church.

Swiss Progress. A correspondent on an English exchange writes as follows:—I think it may interest many of your readers to know that the so-called "Old Catholic movement" in Switzerland is now very rapidly dying out, largely owing to the increasing hostility of the Swiss authorities to Catholics in communion with the See of Peter have shown since that movement was unhappily inaugurated. Beautiful new Catholic churches have been erected to take the place of those of the Old Catholics, and the latter, as a result, are being driven to the Old Catholicism which the schism started in Berne, Geneva, and certain large towns. Needless to say this movement never made the slightest impression on the vast bulk of the faithful clergy and laity of Switzerland, and this is true of all Catholic churches are found in the Protestant towns. True, there is one in this ancient Catholic city of Lucerne, from which I write, but it is apparently looked up all the week, while on Sundays it is devoted principally to the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States, and is very poorly attended. By-the-by the Protestant love of sectarianism is curiously exemplified at Interlaken, which is in a Protestant district, and where the Old Catholic church is now divided up into different portions used by the Church of England, Presbyterians, Lutherans, and Catholics respectively, enough to make the good old motto of "let us turn in their graves and deplore Luther's" "Reformation" more than over.

The cathedral of Salamanca has been seriously injured by fire. The Conquero and whetting of persons troubled with chronic asthma is excessively harassing to themselves and annoying to others. Dr. THOMAS' ELECTRIC OIL cures all this entirely, safely and speedily, and is a benign remedy for lameness, sores, injuries, piles, kidney and spinal troubles.

Last month the University of Craw-cow—whose most distinguished graduate was Copernicus—celebrated the fifth centenary of its existence as a Catholic university. One of the features of the celebration was an address by the great Polish novelist, Sienkiewicz, who presented the university with a gift of 80,000 crowns.—Ave Maria.

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