

OUR ORDER IN TURKEY

An interesting letter by a non-Catholic, written from the U. S. Consulate in Bagdad, has been lately sent to this country. Since it contains something of interest to lovers of Carmel we give a few extracts :—

"The faithful carriers of the cross into Mesopotamia and adjacent regions have severe trials to undergo and dangers to brave. Untold discomforts they have had, and still have, to endure, in order to escape massacre at the hands of fanatical mobs ; they have repeatedly been obliged to flee the country in disguise, and not a few of them have fallen victims to the plague, cholera, and other pestilential diseases ; yet they have struggled on incessantly, overcoming one obstacle after another, until their labors have borne fruit, for the church is now firmly established : Catholic schools are flourishing. More than two hundred indigent sick (Mohammedans, Jews and Christians) are being treated daily, free, at the dispensary of the Carmelite Fathers ; the old and infirm, as well as orphans, are being cared for in special institutions, and monks and nuns may now walk the streets of Bagdad with perfect security at all hours."

"The pioneer missionaries to enter these regions were the Carmelites, who established themselves at Isphah in 1604 ; and in 1623 they came to Bassorah, where the mission was afterwards kept up uninterruptedly, notwithstanding persecutions, pestilence and other perils, until 1840, when the last missionary residing there, Father Alfonse, left for Bagdad. In 1881, however, the church at Bassorah was rebuilt by the Rev. Father Marie Joseph, Prefect of the Carmelite Mission at Bagdad."

"The Carmelites settled here permanently in 1721. The first bishop residing here was Emmanuel Baillet, a physician, who, having treated the Wali Achme Pasha, obtained permission from him to build a little chapel in 1731."

"Before the advent of the Franciscan and the Carmelites, the only Christian churches in Bagdad were the Orthodox Armenian and the Nestorian ; the latter exists no longer here. During the present century, however, the Eastern churches have multiplied, and besides the old Armenian, which remains schismatic, we have the New

Armenian, Chaldean and Syrian Churches, all avowing allegiance to the Holy Father in Rome. There are at present between four and five thousand Catholics here, of whom only some two or three hundred belong to the Latin Church, which, however, is gaining great influence through her schools, where a thousand youths are receiving an excellent, both intellectual and moral, education."

"In the school, of which Father Polycarp is director, there are at present about three hundred boys. These are taught the ordinary school branches, besides Arabic and French, Turkish and English being optional. One of the former pupils in this school, Father Augustin, is now a Dominican priest and secretary to his Grace, Monseigneur Henry Altmayer, Archbishop of Bagdad, and Delegate Apostolic to Mesopotamia, Armenia and Khurdistan. Other ex-pupils are preparing for the priesthood in France, one of them having finished his studies and received orders as a Carmelite monk. Father Anastasius is now on his way to Bagdad to rejoin his former teachers. He is to be a teacher of Arabic in the schools."

THOUGH the divinely ordained means of bringing truth to the minds of men is the ministry of oral teaching, yet the press is another way, vouchsafed in these latter centuries by Providence, not less universal and scarcely less potent. It has perhaps this advantage over the pulpit, that the journalist addresses a wider audience than the priest, and through the printed word reaches thousands who seldom or never come within sound of the spoken word. Moreover the press speaks a language always accommodated to the mind of the day ; subject matter and place do not impose on it the restraints that hedge in the pulpit ; yet the preacher, too, with all respect for the divine truth he handles, may speak to the living century so as to be understood.—*Mgr. Satolli.*

IN the blessed Virgin Mary the slave finds his ransom, the infirm his health, the afflicted his consolation, and the sinner his pardon—ST. GERMANUS.