



Cardial New Year Greetings to our Readers

Note and Comment

I should be a proud and happy woman if I could with this New Year's greeting to my readers and friends all over this broad, blessed land of ours, send conviction that this daily living is the one and only right rule for each of us to follow.

New York will probably soon be the home of the painting of "Christ Risen," by Rubens, which was discovered in a Belgian convent by Henry Roche, and was greatly admired when it was shown last winter at the exhibition of old masters at Burlington House.

The Holy Father, Pope Pius X., set a splendid example to the temporal rulers of Christendom when he subscribed \$200,000 to the relief fund for the sufferers from the terrible Sicilian disaster of Monday last.

The new official journal to be issued from the Vatican, the "Acta Apostolicae Sedis," will begin its bi-monthly publication this month.

The Grand Duchess Elizabeth has caused a profound sensation by entering a Moscow convent. This sister of the Czaritsa and niece of King Edward, accustomed from childhood to the luxuries and the splendors of the courts of Europe, will live hereafter in a cell no bigger than the average stateroom on an ordinary Atlantic liner.

One of the most flourishing universities in the world is the Catholic University of Leuven. It has 2144 students, 138 of whom are students of theology; 25 of them are from the United States.

In the Trappist Monastery at Gethsemane, Ky., the sub-master of novices is Rev. Albert Biddle, who is a great-great-grandson of Rt. Rev. William White, the first Bishop of the diocese of Pennsylvania of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States, and second Bishop of that denomination. Twelve years ago Father Alberic became a convert and joined the Trappist Order.

Charles A. Korbly, who defeated Mr. Overstreet for Congress in Indianapolis, Ind., is the first Catholic elected to Congress from the Hoosier capital. He is only thirty-five years of age, was educated at St. Joseph's College, and has practiced law since 1900. He is a student of political and economic subjects, and his writings on these subjects have been quoted extensively by the leading papers during the campaign. He is a member of the Indiana State Historical Society, the Commercial Club and the Knights of Columbus.

The Philadelphia Council of the Knights of Columbus furnished the usual Thanksgiving dinner to the children in the Catholic orphanage of that city. This old-fashioned dinner has now become a permanent institution of the knights, and this year about 2500 little ones were taken care of. The Knights of Columbus Musical Company also furnished an entertainment at each of the institutions.

James P. Farrell, Irish Nationalist member of Parliament for North Longford, who has been advocating the boycott of certain individuals in his "Longford Leader," refused to give sureties for his future good behavior, and on Dec. 22 was sentenced in the King's Bench Division to six months in jail.

William F. Taaffe, who was long connected with various technical papers, died on Dec. 15 at his home in Castleton Corners, Staten Island. Mr. Taaffe was born in County Galway, Ireland, in 1836. His father was Dr. Patrick Kelly Taaffe, a well known physician, who attended to the boy's education himself. Mr. Taaffe emigrated to America in 1867 and started in writing for insurance papers. At one time also he was connected with the old "Star." At one time he was sanitary superintendent of the New York public schools, and later was connected with the Board of Health. Of late years he had lived in retirement. One of his sons is Dr. Thomas G. Gaffney, who is on the faculty of the College of the City of York; the Rev. James A. Taaffe, S.J., is another.

Mr. Grattan Flood contributes to The Irish Ecclesiastical Record some "historical notes" on a hymn which was only a short time ago heard in all our churches—the "Adeste Fideles." Catholic Londoners, may recall with pride that the hymn of Christmas first became popular with our countrymen, says the London Tablet, by its use at the Portuguese Chapel, before and during the days of Vincent Novello as organist. But Ireland possesses the earliest existing transcript of the melody, made about 1745; and this is at Clongowes Wood College. It certainly seems strange that the melody, if not of earlier date than the time of Handel, as is now maintained, should be without any historical clue as to the composer. Mr. Grattan-Flood says that "we can dismiss with scant courtesy any romances that make for an earlier origin." Yet, apart from historical evidence, there are traditions of both a Spanish and an Italian origin for the beloved melody, and an age several centuries old. We may add that the version of the "Adestes Fideles" in use in Protestant churches came from the pen of Canon Oakeley, then an Anglican clergyman, afterwards a Catholic priest. And the date of that introduction is ascertainable enough: it was in 1842.

A cable despatch last week announces that the Gaelic League of Ireland has just won a great victory. The Gaelic language is to be a compulsory subject in the Irish University which has been established by act of Parliament. The British Government did not intend that Gaelic should be given such a boom by the new university, and some of the pets of the Government on the Board of Governors made a strong effort to block the introduction of Gaelic as a compulsory subject. The attempt, however, made such a stir throughout Ireland that the Board of Governors at a meeting in Dublin on Monday last, decided to yield the point by a vote of two to one.

The following statement, forwarded to the American Government by Vice-Consul A. D. Platt, was made by the chief secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, in the House of Commons October 29, 1909, and shows the number of purchase agreements lodged and the amount of loans applied for in respect of estates sold by landlords direct to tenants under the act of 1903:

Table with columns: Half year ending, Number of agreements lodged, Amount of loans applied. Rows include dates from April 30, 1904 to 1908, and a total for 166,898 agreements worth \$288,742,305.

Terrible Earthquake in Italy. Pope Pius X. Makes Large Donation and Cares for the Wounded.—Collection in City Churches next Sunday.

All Christendom was startled last week by the awful catclysm which overwhelmed the provinces of Sicily and Calabria in Southern Italy, destroying thirty-five cities, towns and villages, including the city of Messina, Reggio, and others. Three distinct earthquake shocks shook the country for three hundred miles around, and though the whole dread manifestation lasted only half a minute, two hundred thousand lives were lost and hundreds of millions worth of property destroyed.

The whole world has been moved to pity by the terrible disaster, and aid is pouring in from all sides to the stricken provinces. Messina has become a pile of ruins, and the proposed to bombard what remained of the city to prevent the destruction of the survivors and of the people still alive in the surrounding country by a plague.

His Holiness, Pope Pius X., was among the first to come to the aid of the afflicted. Besides a large money contribution made possible through the gifts of the faithful during his recent jubilee celebration, Mayor Nathan, of Rome, the Jewish chief magistrate, whose election was effected by the anti-clericals as a blow at the Pope, willingly took into the Vatican fifteen hundred wounded and sick people brought to Rome by the Italian warships from the scene of the disaster. The city of Rome was embarrassed to know what to do with this aggregation of injured, but the Pope provided a refuge for them. Besides, His Holiness spared enough time from his multiple occupations to visit the distressed and follow every report from the scene of the catastrophe with grief and dismay. He was dissuaded from setting out at once for Sicily, in spite of all precedent, only by the imperative ban of his physician. He inaugurated an international relief fund for an immediate donation of a million lire, or \$200,000, a princely gift considering the Papal resources and sent word to the surviving bishops in the devastated province to spare neither money nor effort in administering to the bereft and destitute. The crippled Church in Sicily and Calabria is doing magnificent service. According to the despatches, the priests are everywhere, all night and all day, searching the debris for the living, harboring and clothing the fugitives, acting as physicians, almoners and soldiers as well as spiritual comforters.

Cardinal Franca-Nava di Bontie, Archbishop of Catania, has employed all the money in his possession to provide bread for the fugitives who have sought that city. Msgr. Mohabito, the Bishop of Mileto, who distinguished himself in the earthquake of 1905, is doing excellent work again. He rushed into places where the ruin was the greatest and brought aid and encouragement to all. Amid the terror and horror, moreover, there have been wonderful instances of faith and courage. The voice of prayer, says one survivor, was heard above the voice of lamentation, even in the dark instant of death and despair. In some places, such as Santa Severina, Cotrone and Prizzo, the people risked their own chance of safety by taking time to rush into the churches to rescue the sacred vessels and statues. Many priests perished in an effort to save the Blessed Sacrament.

Canadians, and especially Canadian Catholics, manifest full sympathy with the survivors. Montreal counts among her population at the present time hundreds of people whose homes are in the stricken provinces and many among these have lost some of their loved ones. There has been as yet no means of securing definite details, but the gatherings of Italians in the various employment offices of the city where they are to be found scanning the latest news of the daily papers which is then translated to them by their compatriots who have learned English show the deep care which weighs down upon them as a result of the catastrophe which has overwhelmed their old homes. Mr. Sbarretti, the Apostolic delegate to Canada, was among the first to voice the sympathy of the Canadian people through a cablegram to the Pope. This was sent on Saturday last and a reply has been received from the Papal Secretary of State. A requiem service for the repose of the souls of the victims of the disaster was held in the Basilica at Ottawa on Saturday, Jan. 2nd. The Mass was sung by Father Porcunus, the chaplain of the Italian colony in the Capital, with two Canadian Fathers as deacon and sub-deacon. His Excellency Most Rev. Donatus Sbarretti, Apostolic Delegate to Canada, presided at the conclusion of the Mass gave the Ad-

solution. Besides Mgr. Sbarretti and His Grace the Archbishop of Ottawa, there were present at the service His Excellency Earl Grey, Governor-General of Canada, and Lady Grey, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and others. The Italian residents of the Capital were practically all present. Before the Absolution His Excellency the Apostolic Delegate addressed the congregation in English and Italian. After the service the following cablegrams were exchanged with Rome: Ottawa, Jan. 2, 1909. His Eminence Cardinal Merry del Val, Rome: Canadians without distinction profoundly moved by the terrible catastrophe that has befallen Italy. Today a requiem service was held for the victims at which were present the Governor-General, and the Prime Minister of Canada. In the name of the Catholics and in my own name I express the most lively sorrow and sympathy to the Holy Father. (Signed) MGR. SBARRETTI. In reply His Excellency received the following gracious message from His Eminence the Cardinal Secretary of State: Mr. Sbarretti, Apostolic Delegate, Ottawa, Canada: The Holy Father, much gratified by the ardent feeling of Christian charity with which the good Catholics of Canada share the sorrow of their distant brethren afflicted by such an appalling disaster. Implying on all the Divine Mercy he blesses each one in the Lord. (Signed) CARDINAL MERRY DEL VAL. His Grace Archbishop Bruschi, who is at present in France, wished that the archdiocese of Montreal should take part in the work of relieving the afflicted, and in consequence of his cabled suggestion—the following letter was read in all the Catholic churches throughout the archdiocese at all the masses on the feast of the Epiphany: Very Dear Brethren, You have learned through the newspapers the terrible catastrophe which has befallen Sicily and Calabria in Italy. We cannot remain indifferent in view of such a calamity. Our duty is to come at once to the aid of the survivors of the disaster. Our beloved Pontiff Pius X. has given us the example by sending the victims a very generous contribution. The diocese of Montreal must once more manifest its great charity. So, to meet the desire expressed by His Grace the Archbishop in a cablegram addressed to us, we order that on Sunday, January 10th, a collection be taken up in all the churches and chapels of the diocese. The proceeds of these collections must be sent to the Archbishop's Palace on the Monday following. We will hasten to send them to the Holy Father. You may depend upon it that God will reward you a hundred fold for what you will give these unfortunate. The present letter shall be read during the announcements in all the chapels on Sunday next or on the Feast of the Epiphany. ZOTIQUÉ, Bishop of Poigla, Vicar-General, Administrator. Measures are already being contemplated to rebuild the stricken city of Messina and the other cities and towns affected by the earthquake and tidal wave. A commission has been appointed to study plans. It is altogether likely that the measures adopted in the sections of Japan where earthquakes are prevalent, will be studied with a view to their adoption in Southern Italy. Besides his gifts in money and care of the wounded, it is announced that His Holiness Pius X. will provide and care for the education of a thousand children who have been made orphans through the calamity.

War to be Waged Against Tuberculosis. Gov. J. Franklin Fort, of New Jersey, told a large audience at the American Museum of Natural History, where his State day was being observed in connection with the tuberculosis exhibit to study the conditions, with the view of going back home and waging the best battle he knew how against the disease. Another speaker was the Right Rev. James A. McFaul, Bishop of Trenton, New Jersey. Bishop McFaul expressed his gratification that the fight against tuberculosis had at last become concrete, referring to the act that only recently Archbishop Ryan of Philadelphia had instructed that the educational crusade against the "White Plague" be carried on in all the elementary schools and institutions of higher learning under his direction. "The effect," said he, "will be to enlist the services of 16,000 clergymen in 13,000 parishes in the United States and the education of 1,250,000 Catholic school children in this respect. The general effect will be that 17,000 Catholics in the United States will be enabled to lend their help in preventing the spread of the terrible scourge of consumption."

Deep Sentiment of Pius X. One has heard of the Pope's old watch, which he will not change for another because it was a present from his mother, but he has another still more precious present from her: recalling those distant days when he was parish priest of Salzano, says Rome. It is a little pocket edition of the "Imitation of Christ," which is his inseparable companion—a little volume, old and worn, and bearing many marks of long service. His private secretary, Mgr. Bressan, observing it open one day on the Pope's desk, and making some remark about the poor binding, Pius X. said with a smile: "The 'Imitation,' like 'The Little Flowers of St. Augustine,' and the 'Confessions of St. Augustine,' seems to me out of place in a rich binding; humble and modest books like them look better in Irish Cath. and Scotland Yard. While the fame of Scotland Yard is spread all over the world, it will be a revelation to most Canadians to hear that the leading men of that wonderful organization are Irish Catholics. The following item from The Tablet reveals this: The several recent additions to the number of subjects of King Edward in possession of Papal honors includes the name of Mr. William Melville, M.V.O., late of Scotland Yard, who now aids the Order of St. Sylvester (more correctly written Silvester) to the decorations already conferred on him by the sovereigns of Europe. Mr. Melville is a native of County Kerry, and entered the Metropolitan Police thirty years ago. Five years back he retired from the post of Chief of the Special Service Police and Superintendent; his activities having inspired the remark that "the Anarchist to Superintendent Melville is not worth knowing." He was frequently in attendance on Queen Victoria abroad, and on foreign royalties visiting this country, accompanying, also, King Edward on his Continental travels, including his visit to Rome in 1903. All who are interested in the honorable connexion with the police force of Irish Catholics, will be pleased to note also that to Mr. Patrick Quinn, M.V.O., is entrusted the same safeguarding of our own royalties and of foreign royal guests of England. Mr. Quinn as head of the Criminal Investigation Department, has been styled "the brain of Scotland Yard."

Recump'n of Web of St. Patrick's, Rome. The Church of St. Patrick—which had to be abandoned some years ago owing to a series of financial disasters—is destined to be reared in the Italian thirteenth century style. It is to have three principal altars—one to St. Patrick the apostle of Ireland; a second to the Sacred Heart to which Ireland is dedicated, and the third to the Mother of God. The interior will be so disposed as to afford scope for painting a comprehensive history of Ireland's attachment to the Holy See since Patrick first preached the Gospel on her shores. This subject will be divided into two sections, the first showing Ireland in communion with Rome before the penal times, the second portraying her steadfastness to the faith under persecution at the hands of the "sister island," and her final triumph by planting the old faith not only in every corner of her own limits, but in the most remote parts of the world. All this will be virtually a picture history of the Irish nation, so that men of every nation visiting Rome may readily learn of her joys. The work of completing the church has been entrusted to the well-known architect, Signor Aristide Leonori, Knight of the Sword and Cape to His Holiness, who, under Leo XIII., earned a high reputation for the restoration of the basilica of St. John Lateran. Cavaliere Leonori is as distinguished in America, Australia, Canada and Ireland as he is in Rome. At present he is erecting a Cathedral in Cairo, and in Canada he has several works of importance on hand. On hearing of the recommencement of St. Patrick's Church, Pius X. expressed pleasure, and graciously sent his blessing to the work.

Blessed Margaret Mary. News of the probable canonization of Blessed Margaret Mary Alacoque is of world-wide interest, for it was largely through her that devotion to the Sacred Heart has become so popular a feature in the every-day life of millions of Catholics. It was to her that our Divine Lord made the promises which would reward those who practised the devotion to His Divine Heart. On Tuesday, November 17th, the Sacred Congregation of Rites convened at Rome for the purpose of discussing her miracles. This favored member of the Visitation Order has already been beatified and that she will before long be advanced to the ranks of those who stand amongst God's accredited Saints, seems most probable. Two miracles were under consideration. It must be proved that these were in every sense what the Church demands in this connection, before they can stand in any way as matter upon which the canonization may be advanced.