The CATHOLIC CHRONICLE ...

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ROME

THE ROMAN CATACOMBS.

The Roman Catacombs have been recently described in an anti-Catholic paper, published in Rome, as fit objects for the State to look after, and take over into its possession is the way the comedy begins. The Italian State has an avaricious longing to possess these sacred Christian cemeteries, and to turn them into a show-place, and to make money out of there. The anti-Catholic paper referred to, asserted that the Commission of Sacred Archaeology has not means sufficient for the carrying on of excavations, and that the tax of admission to the Catacombs of St. Callixtus is applied to other uses than that of the Catacombs. The simplest individual who reads this sees what the game is that is suggested.

Monsignor Pietro Corostarosa, Secretary of the Commission of Sacred Archaeology, has replied to the dishonest and untruthful insinuations of the anti-Catholic organ. He tells of the work achieved by this Commission since its establishment fifty years ago, when it was founded by the late Pius IX. Under his direction, and at his cost, this Commission executed grand works of excavation and restoration in the Catacombs, regard less, it may be said, of the cost of the works, provided they were necessary. In 1870, when the Italians entered Rome, they dethroned the Pope, took away from his revenues, and heedless then of the Catacombs, they took possession of religious houses and sole out what and properties, was given for religious purposes. The destruction of religious property, accomplished by the agents of the Italian Government in Rome and the Roman Province, can never, in all probability, be adequately described.

There was a cessation in the more extensive work of the Commission. Yet, it was shortly after the Italian invasion that De Rossi, assisted by the generosity of the late Monsignor Xavier de Merode, brought to light the Church of St Domitilla, buite in the second floor of the Catacomb of St. Petronilla This was one of the most remarkable discoveries of the century. Since then the Commission of Sacred Archaeology has continued the work of excavation, and the findings -inscriptions, fragments of inscriptions, pieces of carved marble, and indeed of every sort of material that could throw light, historically or archaeologically, on the place-were arranged with the greatest care on walls of the Church of St. Domitilla.

The "Bulletin of Christian Arcuacology," written by De Rossi, was continued in spite of the unrestricted means of the Commission. That "Bulletiuii is continued even to-day by his scholars and followers. And the fourth volume of "Roma Sotteran ca," the continuation of De Rossi's grand work, will be issued from the Press in another year.
To tell all the discoveries made, and

the labors acmeved in the Catacombs within the years that have elapsed since the invasion of Rome, would occupy volumes rather than a few lines in a letter. No one can realize the condition of a newly opened wing in an ancient Catacomb. have to be examined with the utmost care, and in many cases strengthened supports of brick, lest they tumble down and bury for ever the visitors who may flock into them. Several of these Catacombs are regularly visited once a month on some special saint's day, and then they are illuminated and masses are celebrated in them at the expense of the Collegium Cultorum Martvium-a society established for the veneration of the martyrs in the Roman Catacombs Think of such sacred places in the hands of the Italian Government, and the probable speciation that would ensue. Even the tombs would not be sacred then. It is sincerely to be hoped that this idea of taking possession of them Ly the Italian Government may be given up, and that this final refuge of persecuted Christianity may be left in Christian hards The recent visit of Pope Leo XIII

to the Vatican Cardens and his in viting to lunch his doctors. Lappont and Mazzoni, have been much talked of since. It is so rare for a Pope to invite any one to eat in the same room with him, that when it does occur it is mentioned in a Latin inscription on a marble slab, placed in some conspicuous situation. Of course Leo XIII. did not sit at table with his guests. He occupied a seat in the embrasure of a window in the Tower of Leo IV in the Vatican Gardens, and there, with a curtain drawn before him, he ate his simple meal Besides the two doctors, his nophew, Count Camillo Pecci, Guard; Monsignor Bisicti, the new Master of the Chamber, and a few

lunched here on this occasion. fact establishes the condition of the Pope's health. In the morning he paid a visit to the vineyard, which he has had planted in the Gardens, inquiring minutely or its condition from the gardener the other parts of the Gardens, and was particularly interested in the progress of the plants and vegetables It is two years ago since he visited these gardens and since he passed the 'day in the Tower of Leo IV. The committees that are thready preparing to celebrate the Jubilee of his Pontificate which falls next year, may take heart at seeing the Pontiff so well as this visit shows him to be.

IRELAND

DEATH OF CANON M'NEECE, MAGHERAFELT.

When the death of the highly rever d parish priest of Margherafelt, the Very Rev. Canon Henry M'Neece, was received in Armach it caused the sincerest and deepest possible regret. He had labored zealously in the Cathedrel Parish for many years as curate and Adminstrator and during that time he became greatly endeared to the parishioners. The deceased priest had been in falling health for a considerable time past, and his death was consequently not unexpected. He had gone to Bath some time ago to try and recruit himself, but feeling the end was approaching he returned to the parochial house, Magherafelt, about a month ago, and here in passed peacefully away

FRANCE

It is rather remarkable in connec tion with the passing of Prince Von Hohenlohe that he practically receivd his death summons in Paris, a place with which he was so closely identified for may years during his long career. The great German Catholic nobleman succeeded as Ambassador here Count Harry Arnim, who had gone against Prince Von marck on many questions, and who, notably, would have preferred to see a monarchial restoration in France after the war of 1870-71. Prince Von Echenlohe came to Paris in 1874, and he had a very difficult time Embassy had to be strictly guarded, and the Ambassador had to be carefully protected by detectives every time that he walked out, for he was often fond of strolling up and down the boulevards like a mere mortal of the ordinary kind. He was also most punctilious attendant at debates in the Chamber from 1874 to 1885, when he left Paris. It was seldom, in fact, that the German Ambassador was missed out of the diplomatic boxes in the Palais Bourbon or the Senate when any important question was on. The Ambassador was as attentive to Parliamentary business as if he had to send in verbatim reports on the proceedings in the Chambers to Bismarck, just as the German correspondents, or some of them, had to their newspapers. It is doubtful if the deceased Prince was popular among the strict Catholics of the Faubourg St. Germain. They remembered that although he was sufficiently "practiquant," he opposed Pio Nono on the Immaculate Conception dogma with Dr. Von. Dollinger, of Munich, and other Liberal German Cathol cs of the time. The Bavarian Ultramontanes did not forgive him for that, and they attacked both the Prince and his brother the Cardinal, also a Liberal, so that the former had to give p his post as Premier of Ba-

The fact that the Prince fell ill at Paris shows the dangers attending aged persons when travelling. The Prince was ever restless, and instead of remaining quietly on his property in Germany he came to Paris, and three days after died at Ragatz. in Switzerland, where he had hoped to pass the summer. The deceased by his marraige with Princess Maria Von Sayn-Wittgenstein, had two sons and two daughters. The Local-Amzeiger of Berlin states that the Prince has left reminiscences which are ready for publication. These embrace many important events which happened during the last century, and their appearance will be no doubt eagerly awaited by politicians, if not the gen eral reading public. The Prince's ex-periences as a Catholic Laberal magnate in Bavaria, and later on as Ambassador to the newly-founded French Republic, ought to be interesting read-

All Catholics will be deeply touched by the Pope's letter to the Orders and Congregations now persecuted in France, and especially by that part of it wherein he says that he did his best to avert persecution but his efforts were unavailing. The Sovereign Pontiff had indeed shown unflagging energy in enheavoring to bring the Chruch in France in harmony with the Republic. In doing so he harrowothers, amounting to eight altogether, ed the feelings of many of the lead- and for the whole American Church,

ing French Catholics, most of whom, however, bowed their heads in sub-mission to the Pope. Now all the efforts of His Holiness have proved futile, and the Republic, with its motto of "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity," has again been guilty of political incoherence. The anti-Clerical Republicans have not only belied their own mottoes, but they are guilty of the unstatesmanlike action of sending capital out of the country. It is estimoted that about 20 million francs will go over to Belgium from France owing to the Association Law. The French Redemptorists have bought the Hotel des Cascades in l'etite Suisse. Belgium, near the French frontier, and propose to make is a house of their Congregation. The French priests of the Order of Mercy have bought the Chateau of Ciply, near Mons, and the Eudists from Paris have given about \$5,000 for an establishment at Gyseghem. This has naturally aroused the ite

of the anti-Clerical Belgian papers The succring Independence Belge says hat clerical Rome is no longer on the banks of the Tiber, but in Belgium. The Patriote retorts that the people are utterly foolish who refuse to see that Belgium can profit in many ways owing to the influx of French Religious. Meanwhile many of the Orders put under the ban in France intend to apply for authorization to remain. At the present moment, however, it is absolutely impossible to extract any information from the Religious them selves. They refuse to break silence any words said may be used against them by their virulent ene-mies in Press and Parliament.

UNITED STATES

A RELIC OF MARQUETTE.

Frankfort, Mich., July 8 .- Much interest has been occasioned by the findof a golden crucifix by a workman at the new hotel. The crucifix, which is 11 inches in length by 5 in width, is mounted on a base 2 inches square, is heavily plated with gold and believed by some persons to have been the property of Father Marquette, said to have been buried 225 years ago, "four streams south of Little Traverse Bay, otherwise Betsie River, which forms the harbor here.

The crucifix is now in the possession of Charles Hoertz, who says he shall send it to the Kent County Historical Collection at Grand Rapids. This find is regarded as corroborative of the claim that a skull and some bones uncarthed here some time ago were those of Father Marquette.

The bones of Fatner Marquette were thought to have been unearthed at Point St. Ignace on the Straits of Mackinac in September, 1877. David Murray, who owned e farm in the neighborhood, came in his clearing operations upon traces of a cellar believed to have been the foundations of the old chapel founded by Father Marquette at Point St Ignace and where a band of converted Hurons had borne Father Marquette's body in 1677.

Telegraphic despatches at the time announced that in the presence of the Catholic Bishop of the Upper Peninsula some bones were disinterred which were found wrapped n a birch bark coffin. The belief was expressed that Father Marquette's bones had really been found.

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY HON-OXED.

My Dear Sir-I take pleasure in transmitting to you a copy in Latin and English of the autograph letter of His Holiness recently sent to me by His Eminence Cardinal Gibbons

THOMAS J. CONATY, Rector. LEO XIII., POPE.

To Our Beloved Son, James Gibbons, Cardinal Priest of the Holy Roman Church, Titular of St. Mary's Beyoud the Tiber.

Our Beloved Son. tolic Blessing.

The great interest with which from the very beginning of Our Pontificate, We have regarded the Church in United States of America caused Us. among other things, to urge the speedy founding of a great university at Washington, and once founded to strengthen it with Our authority and every evidence of good will For the needs of this age have been especially dear to Our own heart, namely, that the young men who are the future hope of the clergy should be most thoroughly imbued, first, indeed, with virtue, but at the same time with divine and human learning We have learned from time to time concerning the Washington University has shown Us that Our confidence has not been misplaced; and now the report which you have just made to Us testifies that it is taking on a still more gratifying growth, both through the generosity of Catholics and through the skill and influence of its teachers. One thing still remains to be desired, and that is that this noble institution should increase in the number of its students, and this is to be effected by the interest and zeal of the Bishops If, perhaps, by senoing students to Washington, they seem for the time to be depriving themselves of useful workers in their diocese, they will, in the end, reap a far greater gain both for themselves

since the clergy shall be educated under one and the same teaching, and animated by one and the same spirit

Hoping for the accomplishment of these good things, with the same desire with which you are strving for the good and honor of your churches, We most lovingly impart to you, Our beloved Son, to the Rector, the pro-fessors and the students of the Washington University the Apostolic Blessing, as a pledge of Our love.

Given at Rome, from St. Peter's, on the thirteenth day of June, 1901, in the twenty-fourth year of Our Ponti-

POPE RAISES MONSIGNOR CONA-TY TO BE A BISHOP.

Plattsburg. N. Y., July 17 -It is reported that Mgr. Thomas J. Conaty, rector of the Catholic University at Washington, D. C., tho is delivering a course of lectures before the Catholic Summer School, at Cliff Haven, this week, on "Christian Edu cation," has been highly honored, and that he has received a cablegram from Cardinal Gibbons announcing that the Pope has elevated the Monsignor to a bishopric.

WAS IT A MIRACLE?

St. Louis, Mo, June 11 .- Acting under orders from Rome, Archbishop Kain has appointed a court of priests to investigate the alleged miraculous cure of Sister Catherine Burke, of the Sacred Heart, from a malignant can cer with which she was afflicted. Details of the case have already appeared in The Catholic Standard and Times. The investigation is sccret and the conclusions will be sent to Rome, where the seal will be broken. At the Vatican all the evidence will be reviewed and pronouncement made upon the evidence as to whether it is a miracle, and if so, as to what order of miracle it is. Upon the result of this inquiry depends much that will tend toward the beatification of Madame Barrat, founder of the Order of the Sacred Heart,

Sizter Catherine Burke is 36 years old and is a native of St. Louis She joined the order when 17 years old Two years ago, when stationed at Omaha, Neb., she became afflicted with a stomach trouble. An Omaha physician said she had a cancerous tumor and he finally gave her up. The last sacraments of the Church were administered to her. The Sisters decided to make a novena to Mme. Barrat, foundress of the Order of the Sacred Heart. They prayed for nine days and a garment that had been worn by Mmc. Barrat was placed on Sister Catherine. On the morning of the ninth day, it is stated, Sister Catherine got out of bed entirely ared, dressed herself and reported to the mother superior for duty. She is now said to be in perfect health.

MARRIAGE FRAUD ON A CATH-OLIC.

New York, July 16 .- Justice Maddox, of the Supreme Court in Brooklyn, annulled yesterday the marriage between Josephine Millang Breuer, of Bay Side, I. I, and Charles Brever, of Great Neck, L. I., on the ground that the woman's consent to the marriage contract had been secured through fraud. The plaintiff was allowed to resume her maiden name. The case is interesting because of the ground on which the marriage was annulled, and, according to Justice Maddox, the case is without precedent in the jurisprudence of this State.

Both Breuer and Miss Millang are, or were, Catholics: The Catholic Church does not recognize divorce for any cause.. Breuer, who had been previously married, but had divorced his wife, in order to secure Miss Millang's consent to marry him told her their marriage he confessed that his first wife was alive. Immediately upon learning that she had been deceived Miss Millang left the man and never afterward lived with him. Several months afterward she retained Lawyer Emanuel Friend to institute proceedings for the annullment of the marriage, on the ground that she had been led into it through fraud.

Breuer is a man of considerable wealth and lives the life of a country gentleman at Great Neck. He was first married several years ago, and some time later secured a divorce from his first wife, who is said to be living in Arlington, N. J About two years ago he began paying court to Miss Millang, the daughter of a wholesale florist, who died several years ago, leaving a considerable estate. She learned in time that her suitor had divorced his wife. When he proposed marriage she told him that being a Catholic she could not marry him while his first wife was alive. Breuer thereupon said that his first wife had died two or three years before. Miss Millang believed Breuer's statements and a marriage ceremony was performed on June 25, 1900, in the City Hall by Alderman Rottman After the eremony the couple took a carriage and drove to the Long Island ferry at the foot of East Thirty-fourth street

Miss Millang supposed, she says, that they were going to find a priest

on Long Island and be married again according to the law of the Church. On the way to the ferry the bride asked her husband to what priest they were going and he then said that it would be impossible for him to be married by a priest. She asked why it would be impossible, and he said that if they had a religious marriage he would have to tell the priest that he had disorced his first wife and then lie to him, because a priest would not marry a divorced man with his first wife living. The bride asked for explanations, and Breuer then confessed that his first wife was alive. When the carriage reached the ferry the bride left it, telling her husband that she would never live with him, and went home to her mother. A family council was called in a few days, and it was then decided to seek an annilment of the marriage.

ANGLO-SAXON BIRTHRATE.

(San Francisco Call) In the New Rawland States it has

long been noted that the old families of so-called "native Americans," that is to sav, the people of British descent-have actually ceased to multiply, and in some New England locali ues the death rate among them is higher than the birth rate. The recent census in England shows that the birth rate there in 1899 was but 29.3 per thousand inhabitants as compared with 35.6 in 1878. Australian reports show a decrease in the birth rate there. Thus it appears that in old England and in New England, in the climate of Canada and in the climate of Australia, and under all the varying conditions of those widely separated countries, the Anglo-Saxon birth rate has begun to fall below the standards of the past.

From these figures philosophers draw the conclusion that the British race has passed the period of its highest fertility and has started on the decline It may be the facts cited can be explained upon some other hypothesis than that of a diminished tility, but if so it is curious that the diminution should by se occurred so generally in all parts of the world where British races have settled and colonized. We have, then, the facts that (outside of the South) the birth rate of the British race and their descendants, when unmixed with other races, has declined in all parts of the world, and it would seem, therefore, that the theory of a loss of fertility is not an unreasonable one

It would be a curious thing if the Anglo-Saxon race, which has met the new century with proud expectation of dominating the world before the century closes, should suddenly cease to multiply in proportion to other races and lose its prestige among the peoples of the earth. It is to be noted there is no diminution of the birth rate among the Italians of the Ger mans. The rapid increase of the Italian race of recent years has been, in fact, one of the marvels of Europe In spite of the heavy immigration that has carried millions of Italians into every progressive country in Europe and to all parts of North and South America the population of Italy has in twenty years advanced from 21,-000,000 to 35,000,000. There has been of late much talk of "decadent" races, and now the statistical experts are intimating that the mighty Anglo-Saxon muy have to be included among them.

NEW ENGLAND'S DECAY.

Ottawa, Ont., July 10 .- A remarkably outspoken let er on the lack of children in New England families is printed here from the Hon. David Mills, Minister of Justice Writing

to a friend Mr. Mills says:
"The New England people are upon the soil, but not of it. They obviously dislike farming as much as their women do having children, and were it not for the foreigners who have taken up their residence among them, there would be neither children born nor fields cultivated.

"If left to themselves, the existence of a descendaat of the Pilgrim Fathers would be as rare as the great auk, and the race is sure to share the fate of the dodo

"This must be a very serious problem for the United States statesmen. Stop the foreign unmigration and the United States would not merease in population, and after a time their numbers would begin to diminish There is obviously something wrong with a people who, under conditions so favorable, have such small fami-

"The United States woman does not realize her duties to God and her country, and thinks more of her own pleasure than she does of the responsibilities which the Creator has imposed upon her."

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