

The CATHOLIC CHRONICLE...

DEVOTED TO... FOREIGN NEWS

ENGLAND GOING TO ROME.

Dr. Bourne, Bishop of Southwark, London last week, on a visit to the Pope, with the object of presenting to him a report of the progress of Catholicism in his diocese.

LORD ROSEBERY'S MATRIMONIAL PLANS.

It is a curious thing how gossiping people will assume that Lord Rosebery is a marrying man, and are constantly arranging some preposterous engagement or the other for him.

the United States of America, the Government does not interfere with religions, so that Roman Catholicism is becoming the Church of those States.

Protestantism is aristocratic and distant. The Catholic Missionary bends without trouble or effort to the level of the lowliest.

UNITED STATES 18,853,951 CATHOLICS.

According to advance sheets of the official Catholic directory for the year 1903 there is a total Catholic population of 11,289,710 in the United States.

Table with 2 columns: Country, Catholic Population. Includes United States, Philippines, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, Porto Rico.

The Cardinal, in addition to all his other labors, finds time to write books, and some of his works have had an extraordinary circulation.

Seven talents are not so good an endowment as tact. The Cardinal possesses this quality in a supreme degree, and it has often been remarked of him that in his speeches on public occasions he may always be counted upon to say precisely the right thing.

Table with 2 columns: Clergy/Institutions, Number. Includes Cardinals, Archbishops, Bishops, Secular clergy, Clergy or religious orders, Churches, Universities, Seminaries, Students in seminaries, Colleges, Academies, Parish schools, Children in schools, Orphan asylums, Orphans, Charitable institutions.

New York is the largest diocese, with an estimated Catholic population of 1,200,000. Chicago comes next with a round million, but it has the largest number of churches—301.

Regarding the accuracy of the statistics therein, Mr. Dietrich, of the H. M. Wiltz Company, Milwaukee, the compiler, says:

"The figures given therein are official. They are obtained in each instance from the Bishop of the diocese. If in any instance they are incorrect the fault lies with the diocesan officials. After the original figures sent by the latter are set up, a proof is sent to the Bishop and comes back with his O.K., or correction. We go to the head sources for the information and the question of accuracy rests with them."

SOCIAL DEMOCRACY.

Rev. Thomas E. Sherman, S. J., son of Gen. William T. Sherman, well known as "Old Tecumseh," lectured last week at the Cathedral Lyceum, Pittsburg, on Social Democracy.

That the condition of the laborer of to-day should be improved, and

that the present economic system is out of gear, was admitted, but that in Social Democracy lies the remedy he denied.

The Social Democrats, he said, would have the state supply everything to everybody, and he would like to see what would happen in this condition of affairs.

As to whether a Catholic or American could be a Social Democrat, he was of the opinion that he could not. Social Democracy would make the state absolute, would make us exist for the State, whereas both the Catholic and American believe the state to exist for the individual.

CARDINAL GIBBONS' TACT.

From a very readable sketch of the daily life, and the characteristics of Cardinal Gibbons, in last Sunday's New York Sun, we quote the following:

The Cardinal has had a large experience with newspaper men, and understands what is news and the value of it perfectly—also when he keeps news and when to let it go out.

Necessarily from his position, he must be careful in his speech. Great interests are confided in his discretion, and his public utterances are closely scanned, analyzed and commented upon.

The little room on the right, at the top of the stairs, facing Charles street, is the Cardinal's study, in which he frequently receives visitors. It is very simply furnished.

"Let me tell you a little story about this. Twenty-five years ago, when the cardinals went home after electing Leo as Pope, the youngest and strongest physically among them told his friends at Bologna, 'We have elected a splendid Pope, but I am afraid I'll have to make another visit to Rome soon to elect his successor, for Cardinal Pecci looks very delicate.' Well," Laponi continued, "this morning I saw His Holiness in perfect health, but grieving for the death of Cardinal Pecci, the very man who made this prophecy at Bologna. Another thing that deceives people is that the Holy Father often looks worn out and exhausted. So he does, but so would most men who go through his daily work, but, on the whole, the Pope enjoys extraordinary health and vitality for a man of his years."

"Has the Pope ever been seriously ill?" asked the American correspondent. "Yes, twice," Dr. Laponi answered. "Once, when he was Archbishop of Perugia, and again when Dr. Mazzoni operated on him. In itself this operation is not dangerous, but when your patient is nearly ninety years old it is hard to predict the results. However, twenty-four hours after the operation the Pope was as well and as bright as ever. The wound healed with marvelous quickness."

"I have now served as private physician to the Pope for fourteen years, and during all that time he has given me little anxiety. His Holiness has caught colds from time to time, but they have never been serious. He also has suffered, as most who live in Rome do suffer, from the changes of the weather, but he is a good patient, very good, indeed."

"Now, doctor, knowing that the Pope is strong, will you tell the American people how you manage to keep him up?" asked the correspondent. "Keep him up!" Laponi exclaimed. "I don't need to keep him up. I will tell you in one word what I do for the Holy Father. I look after the temperature of the air he breathes. It is my constant care to keep him in temperature from 108 to 120 degrees centigrade. This is not always easy, especially when the Pope has to preside over functions in different parts of the Vatican or St. Peter's. With the temperature of St. Peter's it is impossible to do anything. Fortunately, however, it never varies, but it is different with the halls of the Vatican, and I have to be very careful there."

It is true religion that we need, and more of it. In our professed belief we have a God enthroned, but in our daily life we have a God dethroned. In our heart of hearts we do not have confidence in Him, but act as though there were no God at all. If we could climb to that high spiritual level, so far above our heads and well lighted out of sight, on which Christ lived, we should be healthier in body, more vigorous in soul to meet the inevitable, more cheerful, happier, less restless and immeasurably nobler.

The Pope's Physician Interviewed

"Pope Has Stopped Growing Old"—Leo's Physician Tells a Reporter the Secrets of the Pontiff's Methods to Secure Long Life.

(From The New York American.) Rome, Jan. 24.—There has been such a strange recrudescence during the week of the reports of the Pope's health being precarious that the American correspondent visited Dr. Laponi, the Pope's private physician, and asked for the facts in the case.

The correspondent asked Dr. Laponi to tell all about the Pope's health, his inner life, his daily regime, and, above all, the secret of the secret of his wonderful longevity.

"First, I want to know," said the correspondent, "if there is any truth in the recent reports about the Pope's great physical weakness?"

"The same amount of truth as is usual," Dr. Laponi replied, "which is none at all. The Holy Father is stupendously well (stupendamente bene). He has not been better for the last ten years. He has got through the winter wonderfully. He astonishes even myself, who know his great powers of resistance. He is now preparing for the great function of March 3, which closes his year of Jubilee."

NEVER FAINTED IN HIS LIFE.

"There is no truth, then, in current stories about his fainting fits?" the correspondent asked.

"They are the idlest fables," Dr. Laponi replied. "The Pope never fainted in his life, at least, so far as I know. I know for certain he did not faint when Dr. Mazzoni put him under the knife several years ago, and that was an occasion when a fainting fit might have been expected, but he did not even administer an anaesthetic. People who see the Pope for the first time are sometimes deceived by his pallor, which gives him an appearance of weakness. He always has been pale and apparently fragile."

"Let me tell you a little story about this. Twenty-five years ago, when the cardinals went home after electing Leo as Pope, the youngest and strongest physically among them told his friends at Bologna, 'We have elected a splendid Pope, but I am afraid I'll have to make another visit to Rome soon to elect his successor, for Cardinal Pecci looks very delicate.' Well," Laponi continued, "this morning I saw His Holiness in perfect health, but grieving for the death of Cardinal Pecci, the very man who made this prophecy at Bologna. Another thing that deceives people is that the Holy Father often looks worn out and exhausted. So he does, but so would most men who go through his daily work, but, on the whole, the Pope enjoys extraordinary health and vitality for a man of his years."

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"Does the Pope use any special diet, tonic or medicine?" the American correspondent asked. "He never takes a tonic," Dr. Laponi replied. "That is to say, a mere tonic, and he never uses medicine except when he has a cold. As for diet he eats sparingly, for no man of his age requires much food. The Pope's diet consists almost exclusively of broth, generally chicken broth, with bread steeped in it. He is very moderate in the use of wine; two small glasses of Bordeaux daily suffice him. You see, he practices the maxims about frugality which he inculcated in his famous poem a few years ago."

"Does the Pope sleep well?" was asked. "Excellent," Dr. Laponi said, "and this is one of the causes of his continued good health. His Holiness retires, after a good day's work, about 11 nightly, and rises refreshed the next morning about half-past 6 or 7. He does not sleep all that time, but always sleeps four or five hours each night. He does not need more than that, nor do I mean to say that his mind is resting during the hours of the night when not asleep. Very often it is, during these hours, when the rest of the Vatican is wrapped in sleep that the Holy Father is at work composing his poems."

REGULARITY OF LIFE.

"Will you say to what you attribute the Pope's longevity?" the correspondent asked. "To the regularity of his life," Dr. Laponi answered, "he is as balanced in his habits as in his words, and always has been so. The Peccis are a long-lived family, but, excepting the Pope, none of them has got into the nineties. The Holy Father inherited a magnificent constitution, and strengthened it still further in his youth by plenty of athletic exercise. You may sum up everything by saying that I attribute his longevity and good health to the regular life he has always led."

"Does he take exercise in the open air now?" it was asked. "From the beginning of November until the middle of June," Dr. Laponi answered, "he never puts foot outside the Vatican, but during the summer months he spends a few hours two or three times a week in the Vatican gardens, and at intervals treats himself to a half holiday there."

"You have been quoted as saying that the Pope may easily live to attain a hundred. Are you still of that opinion?" the correspondent asked. "Yes," Dr. Laponi answered. "Just as strongly as ever. Indeed, I have no intention of limiting Pope Leo to a hundred years. If he goes on as well as he has done during the past eight years he may live to attain any age. Indeed, His Holiness is not getting any older."

"And you authorize me to publish all this?" the correspondent asked. "Fully; every word of it is truth. Do not have my warrant for it," answered Dr. Laponi, bringing the interview to a close.

TROUBLE AHEAD IN ROME.

The authorities of the Vatican are greatly disturbed over a series of events that have happened in different parts of Italy during the past few weeks.

They began in the Church of Santa Maria Degli Angeli by a man pulling out during Mass an anti-clerical newspaper containing cartoons against the clergy and studying it in evident enjoyment.

Yesterday a mob attempted to make a demonstration in St. Peter's while Cardinal Rampolla was officiating. The evening before a mob of anti-clerical students appeared in the Vatican Basilica with copies of anti-clerical cartoons, which they loudly began to read. He does not sleep all that time, the high altar. The sacrilegious who interfered would have been mauled by the students except for the intervention of the police. Yesterday's demonstration was ostensibly meant as a protest by the friends of the students against the action of the police, but the prelates of the Vatican are reported to believe there is something more behind the business. They are convinced it is the first step in a plan of the Italian Government to declare St. Peter's is henceforth to be regarded as Italian territory. According to the law of guarantees the Vatican and St. Peter's are extra-territorial, and the Pope is as much monarch there as he ever was, and no agent of the Government has the right to exercise his authority within the holy precincts unless called in by ecclesiastical authority.

It is now feared at the Vatican that the most radical section of the present Government is endeavoring to create a number of incidents of the sort mentioned in order to render the intervention of the Italian police more frequent and more necessary in order that the extra-territoriality of the

Sore Throat! Don't delay; serious bronchial trouble or diphtheria may develop. The only safe way is to apply Painkiller a remedy you can depend upon. Wrap the throat with a cloth wet in it before retiring, and it will be well in the morning. There is only one Painkiller, "PERRY DAVIS."

Vatican and St. Peter's may ipso facto cease to exist. It is regarded as ominous that the movement should have been inaugurated a month before the closing ceremony of the Pontifical Jubilee, which will be attended by the Pope and 40 Cardinals.

MONSIGNOR O'CONNELL.

The American correspondent has seen Mgr. O'Connell, the newly-appointed rector of the Catholic University at Washington, and Cardinal Satolli, with whom, as Prefect of the Congregation of Studies, the appointment rested. Cardinal Satolli not only consented to the plea of Cardinal Gibbons in favor of Mgr. O'Connell, but honored Mgr. O'Connell by presenting him with a beautifully decorated parchment as a document of appointment.

Mgr. O'Connell, who has been seven years studying in Rome, informs the American correspondent that while he is rector at Washington he intends to visit Rome every summer in order to keep in touch with the spirit of ecclesiastical education here.

OFFERED HIS LIFE FOR HIS BROTHER IN RELIGION.

A touching incident is connected with the death at the Hotel Dieu, Quebec, of Rev. Nicholas Burton, O. M. I., aged 70 years.

This venerable religious came from France to this country in the early fifties. After teaching for a short time in the College of Ottawa, now the University of Ottawa, he was sent to Canguawaga, Province of Quebec, to labor among the Iroquois Indians of that mission. He remained for over thirty years, emulating among that tribe the zeal shown centuries ago, to its fierce ancestors, by the Jesuit missionaries. Although busy with the duties of his ministry he found time to devote to literary pursuits. He wrote a grammar of the Iroquois language, several volumes of instruction on religious subjects, and a comprehensive history of the Iroquois natives at that mission.

Early in December last Rev. Father Guertin, O. M. I., a young member of the Montreal community, fell sick and was taken to a hospital in that city. An operation was deemed necessary in his case, and fears were entertained by the physicians lest he might not survive it. This news was conveyed to Father Burton, who at once exclaimed: "My God, preserve the life of this young religious who can yet be useful to the Church. If it is necessary, take my life, in return for his recovery. But, before removing me from this world, allow me to celebrate the golden jubilee of my ordination to the priesthood." The sacrifice was acceptable to God. The venerable priest celebrated his jubilee on the 18th of December. That same evening he felt unwell, and was taken to the hospital. On Christmas Eve, as the last sacraments were being administered to him, a despatch was received from Montreal, announcing that having safely passed through the operation the young priest had gone back to his community. A few minutes later Father Burton expired.

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