

## RELIGIOUS NEWS ITEMS.

Converts are coming into the Catholic Church steadily in all parts of the United States.

The Emperor of Germany has contributed 30,000 marks to the new Catholic Church in Berlin.

Sister Angelina, known in the world as Miss Fannie Carroll, died Tuesday night, November 26th, at the Convent of the Visitation, Clinton avenue, Brooklyn.

The Count de Chacon, first secretary of the Spanish Embassy at the Vatican, has given the salary of his office for this year to the Little Sisters of the Poor in Rome.

The order of the Mayor of St. Denis, France, prohibiting priests from going to the cemetery with funerals, has been reversed by a decision of the Council of State.

Rev. Brothers Justin, provincial of the New York province of Christian Brothers, and Paulian, provincial of St. Louis province, on their return from France, where they were attending a general chapter of the order, were given a public reception by the students of Manhattan College.

Arrangements for the annual sessions of the Western Catholic Summer School were completed at a meeting of the executive committee held at Columbus Club last week. The school will be in session during the months of July and August of next year, and the meetings will be held at Madison, Wis.

In view of the probability that the crown of Wurtemberg will pass to the Catholic branch of the reigning family through the failure of male issue, the Protestants decided to submit to the Diet a bill providing for the transfer, in that event, of the religious prerogatives of the crown to an ecclesiastical commission.

Prince Hohenlohe is the first Catholic to be not only Chancellor of Germany but Premier of Prussia. Leo XIII. has openly expressed his pleasure in the most marked and effective way by sending his private secretary, Mgr. Angeli, to Cardinal Hohenlohe to convey his congratulations for the high position just assumed by his brother.

The authorities at Rome are daily expecting the arrival of the American ship bearing the Vatican exhibits, which the Holy Father loaned to the Columbian exposition. It is said that the commander of the vessel will deliver to the Pope an autograph letter from President Cleveland, and will be received at the Vatican with such honors as are reserved for the reception of extraordinary ambassadors from the great powers.

## THE REV. THOMAS HEFFERNAN

WILL CELEBRATE HIS FIRST MASS.

The Rev. Thomas Heffernan, of St. Mary's parish, will be ordained on Saturday next, 22nd, and on Sunday will celebrate his first Mass. The indulgences granted to those who receive Holy Communion and pray for the intention of the Pope, and afterward attend the first Mass of a newly ordained priest, are very great, viz.: The celebrant gains a plenary indulgence: all relations to the third degree, inclusive, that is the children of first cousins, are entitled to the same privilege. A partial indulgence of seven years and seven quarantines for all faithful who assist at the Mass after fulfilling the necessary conditions.

## "THE FLIGHT."

There is a magazine, "The Flight," which comes to us from Baltimore. It is published in aid of the Community of "Mission Helpers" and has for object the carrying on of the noble work done by these nuns for the colored children of that city. These devoted ladies usually go about in the morning begging their daily bread from door to door. In the afternoon they teach the girls industrial work, visit the poor in their homes and the sick in the hospitals. On Sunday they teach Sunday-school, visit prisons, and urgent cases in the homes of the poor. It is wonderful with what great patience these poor people suffer the countless privations that Providence

imposes upon them. Many of them stirred into gratitude by the kindness show them turn to God and to the Faith for consolation. This is truly a noble, a Catholic work, and would bespeak a well-earned encouragement for the organ of those devoted "Mission Helpers." The soul of the negro is precious in God's eyes, and "The Flight" should be encouraged by every means.

## SANTA CLAUS.

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## RHYME AND ROUNDELAY.

We have just received a neat, tastefully designed little book of poems, entitled "Rhyme and Roundelay," published by W. Drysdale & Co., of Montreal, and written by the clever and promising young Canadian litterateur, Mr. Hugh Cochrane. The volume is tiny and elegant. There are sixteen small poems, each occupying a page to itself, and ornamented and set off with well-printed and cutely pencilled illustrations. It is a little casket of sixteen brilliant gems. Mr. Cochrane well describes his own mind in a few line upon "The Post."

"His mind is one of sympathy and pain,  
Of memories and mirth, of grief and hope;  
A mind where many moods may reign;  
Where with each passion divers passions  
cope.  
His thoughts are glad, but turn with holy  
awe,  
Sad as that round of sprites that Dante  
saw."

In this little volume are truly poetic expressions of most varied sentiments—and all of them are sweet and touching, be they gay or sad.

Mr. Hugh Cochrane is a sweet singer of delicate notes; we trust that he will not be satisfied with warbling his lively rhymes and roundelays, he has a gift that, if he so desire, may bring forth mightier melodies—perchance a monumental poem.

## HE EXCHANGES HIS CROSS WITH THE POPE.

An interesting incident is reported to have recently taken place in Rome. Bishop Emard, of Valleyfield, who is now in the Italian Capital, on being received by the Pope presented a number of objects which he wished to be blessed by His Holiness. Among these was a bishop's pectoral cross of exquisite design. The Pope examined it attentively and expressed his admiration for the artistic piece of work. Seeing this, the Canadian bishop ventured the remark that, since His Holiness admired the cross, he would feel most happy and honored in offering it to him. Leo XIII. replied that he would accept on one condition only, and that was that Mgr. Emard should himself accept his own pectoral cross in exchange. As may be imagined, the bargain was soon concluded and when the Bishop of Valleyfield returns his diocesans can admire the pectoral cross that once adorned the breast of Leo XIII.

## ELOCUTIONARY COMPETITION.

We notice that on Friday evening last, in Ottawa, a most instructive entertainment was given in the College of Music and Oratory. It consisted of an Elocutionary Competition. It seems to us that this is one of the most interesting, instructive and useful forms that an entertainment could possibly assume. Amongst others, whose success was marked, might be mentioned a bright young lad of six years—Master Anson Howard—who delivered in a real masterly manner Everett's composition, "The Infant Orator." The young exemplification of the piece, for he is truly an infant orator, is the only son of Mr. J. P. Howard, of the Post Office Department. We would like to see similar entertainments given in our schools in Montreal.

## PERSONAL.

## A NEW BANK PRESIDENT.

We learn from Printer's Ink that Mr. F. W. Ayer, the head of the Philadelphia Advertising Agency, has been elected President of the Merchant's National Bank of Philadelphia. We can congratulate Mr. Ayer, as well as the financial establishment which has the good luck of having him for President. There is no doubt that he will make a grand success of the business, judging from his past achievements in the institution with which he has been so prominently connected.

A BRAVE GIRL.—"Do you think your sister likes me, Tommy?" "Yes; she stood up for you at dinner." "Stood up for me. Was anybody saying anything against me?" "No; nothing much. Father said he thought you were rather a donkey, but Sis g.t up and said you weren't, and told father he ought to know better than judge a man by his looks."