

affect the Bishops (McDonnell and Smith), inasmuch as all the monies allowed the Vicariate by the Association has been employed in paying the expenses of students in several colleges in Ireland and France, the passage of missionaries, and such vestments and Church plate as have been strictly necessary. This Mr. Choiselat Gallien, of Paris, treasurer of the Association, who kindly acted gratuitously as agent for the Bishops can certify.

It is well known throughout the Vicariate that the Bishops were always penniless, for the wants of the mission were so great and so pressing that they deprived themselves of everything they possessed to assist in supplying them: a few facts will elucidate this. They found on their arrival in the Vicariate but twelve priests, most of whom were infirm, merely able to say Mass. There are now fifty-two priests: there was not then a good Catholic school in the whole Vicariate; there is now a convent, with eighteen professed religious ladies, who instruct a great number of pupils in their first-rate boarding school, their day school, and poor school. There are, besides the college, numerous other good Catholic schools. The Bishops found but fourteen churches and chapels in the Vicariate, most of which were in a dilapidated state; there are now forty commodious churches and nineteen suitable chapels, either lately erected or substantially repaired. Several islands and other localities in the Vicariate would have been deprived altogether of the ministry of Catholic Clergymen, were it not for the charitable aid afforded them by the Bishops. If further proof be required of their disinterestedness, it will be found in the fact that the pious, the amiable, the enlightened, and the universally beloved Right Rev. Dr. McDonnell died considerably in debt, contracted *not on his own account*, but on that of *religion and Christian benevolence*; and that his successor and friend, the Right Rev. Dr. Smith, has declined accepting assistance from any quarter to liquidate the amount. He has merely asked and obtained a few months' indulgence from the creditors to enable him to pay the sum in question.

Arrangements have been made for the establishing of six new missions in the Vicariate, and there are six clergymen engaged for the purpose in Europe, but who, unfortunately, cannot now come out for want of the necessary funds to pay their passage. It is earnestly hoped here, and devoutly desired, that the Association for the Propagation of the Faith, on being convinced (which it will, no doubt, soon be) of the utter falsehood of the statements forwarded to it, will again extend its timely and charitable aid to this afflicted, but consolatory mission.

The progress of our holy religion, in a spiritual point of view, is still more gratifying. Great numbers are continually abandoning a life of sin to

embrace one of penance and reconciliation with the Almighty. About five thousand persons, well instructed in the principles of the faith, have been confirmed this year in a portion of the Vicariate; numerous first communions are made everywhere in it after six or more months' careful preparation, under pious men and women, who assist the clergy in their instruction. Last Sunday about two hundred persons made their first communion in the Cathedral, their white dresses, their edifying demeanor, and the abundant tears that streamed from their eyes, on receiving the holy Eucharist, made a deep impression on the vast congregation there assembled, and clearly proved how admirably they had been prepared, and to what good account they had turned their six days' Spiritual Retreat. A short, but eloquent discourse was delivered before and after Communion, given to them by the Bishop, at seven o'clock Mass. An impressive sermon was preached before Confirmation, which his lordship administered after High Mass. About a thousand persons went to Communion on the same auspicious day. Much praise is justly due to the Rev. Abbe Bertue, and the other clergymen of the parish, for their successful exertions on this interesting occasion.

Marriage amongst the negroes was formerly almost unknown. It is now, thank God, quite frequent amongst them; indeed, such is their own feelings on the subject, that in processions, or other *rendezvous*, the places of honour and distinction are invariably given to married people, who otherwise, from their means and position in the community, could not pretend to them. In fact, there is scarcely a mission to be found in any clime where the clergy are more respected, where there is less acrimony existing amongst Christians of various religious denominations, or where pious and zealous missionary labours are crowned with such ample success.

Blessed be God, peace and harmony amongst the Catholic clergy and laity are co-extensive with the Vicariate—the prospects of religion are bright, if but a sufficient number of faithful labourers can be secured for the harvest, which is ripe, and very abundant. Let us pray to the Lord of the Vineyard to choose them, and send them to a portion of it, and the most sanguine expectations of the friends of true religion will be realized.

Should the above be deemed worthy of a corner in your truly Catholic and widely-circulated paper, by inserting it you will greatly oblige,

Sir, your very obedient humble servant,

A CORRESPONDENT.

Trinidad, Dec. 10, 1844.

(From the Bengal Catholic Herald.)

CATHOLICITY IN INDIA.

SEPT. 8.—A Pontifical High Mass was sung by