

RELIGIOUS NEWS ITEMS.

Forty missionaries of the Order of Dom Bosco have left the sanctuary of Maria Ausiliatrice at Turin for foreign missions.

Miss Helen de Barlet, daughter of M. de Barlet, premier of the Belgian Cabinet, has taken the habit as a Sister of the Sacred Heart.

M. Louis Le Cardennal, a young French poet, 25 years, whose brilliant versification was attracting attention, is studying for the priesthood in Rome.

The attempt to maintain a Masonic lodge at Lourdes has resulted in ignominious failure after seven years' perseverance on the part of its founders.

The spectacle of a Catholic priest addressing a body of Protestant students in a university conducted under Baptist auspices was witnessed recently in Chicago.

Rev. Morgan M. Sheehy, who is widely known as one of the founders of the Catholic Summer School, has been transferred from the pastorate of St. Mary's Church, Pittsburg, Pa., to the pastorate of St. John's Church. The transfer is a promotion.

Mgr. McMahon, of the Catholic University, who was lately raised to the dignity of a Monsignor, has presented \$1,000 to Mgr. Satolli to help bear the expenses of the future cardinalate which will eventually be conferred on the Apostolic Delegate.

The late Sister Emeliana, Superioress of St. Mary's Hospital, Brooklyn, will be succeeded in that office by Sister Mary Stephan, who for some time has been head of the schools of the Sisters of Charity at Yonkers. She is a woman of marked executive ability.

At Holywell in Wales the miraculous well of St. Winefride has attracted such crowds of pilgrims that the authorities have given notice to Father Beauclerk, to whom it is left, that they will terminate his lease in May, in order to obtain better terms for the town.

China has a Catholic population of upwards of 550,000 Catholics and 900 priests. With regard to the numbers of Catholics it must be noted that if catechumens, or those under instruction, were included in the total, the number would be very largely increased.

An Italian priest, the Abbe Cerebotami, has invented what is called a pantelegrafo, by means of which, it is said, one can write one's own telegraphic messages with a pen, directly communicating with distant places. The Abbe has invented other devices in the same line.

Bishop Mesmer, of Green Bay, who has always taken an active interest in the Catholic Summer School movement, and who is one of the leading promoters of the western schools, proposes that a uniform course of studies and lectures be used hereafter at the eastern and western schools.

Archbishop Elder of Cincinnati has inaugurated the beautiful custom of the ringing of the De Profundis bell in his diocese. In European countries this has always been done, the De Profundis being rung about an hour after the Angelus. During the ringing of the bell Catholics repeat the De Profundis and pray for their deceased friends and the souls in Purgatory.

In the article which he has contributed to the Forum on the condition of religion in Fall River, Rev. W. B. Hale, the Middleboro minister, in speaking of three divines whose names are household words in every Fall River tenement, says that one of those names is that of "a big-hearted schoolfellow of Cardinal Gibbons and Archbishop Corrigan, himself working in the humbler station of a parish priest." This is a reference to Rev. Christopher Hughes, the rector of St. Mary's Church, Fall River, who was a fellow-student with Cardinal Gibbons at St. Charles' College, Ellicott City, Md., and who studied theology with Archbishop Corrigan at the American College in Rome. Dr. Hale's description of the rector of St. Mary's will be indorsed as correct by everyone who has had the pleasure of forming Father Hughes' acquaintance.

tacking Turks. The carnage was so great that a pestilence has broken out, caused by the stench of the dead bodies. The Turks admit that about 2,000 Armenians perished in the recent massacres. Foreign papers containing accounts of the butchery are confiscated at the border by the Turkish Government.

MGR. SATOLLI ON SCHOOLS.

HIS FIRST CONTRIBUTION TO AMERICAN PERIODICAL LITERATURE.

NEW YORK, November 28.—In an article on the Catholic school system in the December number of the North American Review, published to-day, Mgr. Satolli makes his first contribution to American periodical literature.

Mgr. Satolli devotes his article to a review of the foundation of Catholic schools in Rome by private funds independent of the Italian school system, after the government had succeeded in eliminating Catholic influence from the educational institutions. He says that in number the Catholic schools exceed the government and municipal schools combined.

In regard to the qualifications of teachers, the text-books and programmes and the method of teaching, the Catholic schools endeavor to adjust themselves as far as possible to the requirements of the State. The religious corporations stopped at no expense or sacrifice to provide for their own school's a select body of teachers, who, being furnished with the proper diplomas, would gain by their ability, zeal and conduct the confidence of the public. And the Pontifical commission provides for the other schools through normal colleges where Catholic men and women were prepared for their careers as teachers. Special text books, however, had to be written for the Catholic schools, but in compiling the curriculums, the endeavor was made to bring them as far as possible into harmony with those in use in the public schools, both as regards the division of classes and the courses of study.

"In endeavoring to conform the Catholic programme," says Monsignor Satolli, "with that of the government the fact was not lost sight of that, although the State may theoretically and in the abstract be described as the representative of the people, it is practically and in concrete dominated by a party and favors the system of education which is advocated by the party in power rather than that which is best adapted to the needs of the people. Even in connection with the method of teaching—in which the Catholic schools differ greatly from the public schools—the Pontifical commission was at pains to conform to the requirements of the State.

"The number of pupils in the elementary Catholic schools exceeds that in the municipal schools, and if the number in the Catholic high schools is a trifle smaller than that in the corresponding State schools, this is because it is much easier for the young men who attend the State schools to obtain diplomas, as the examiners for diplomas are the teachers in the State schools. In spite of the humiliation and opposition to which Catholics are subjected, the parents have not lost confidence in the Catholic schools, and the results are more than satisfactory.

"Taking into account the contributions made for the purpose of Catholic education in Rome from all quarters, the expenses from primary Catholic education in Rome would reach a total of at least one and a quarter million lire yearly. This amount comes from direct donation of the Holy Father, from the estates of the Holy See, from donations of certain corporations, churches, congregations and individuals and from the fees of certain institutions."

Monsignor Satolli emphasizes the claim that the Catholic schools in Rome are more patriotic, more Italian in spirit and in methods than the secular schools, since it has been their special aim to deviate as little as possible from the national traditions which so harmoniously combine faith and science and to furnish the boys and girls of the new generation with that grade of culture which is best adapted to their social position.

"How would the aspect of the eastern world be changed if a negro should drop a platter of turkey?" Answer—"Greece and all the Turks would be overthrown, China would be broken in fragments, and Africa annihilated."

USE SURPRISE SOAP ON WASH DAY; AND EVERY DAY.

SAINTS OF THE MONTH.

By the Editor of the Catholic School and Home Magazine.

ST. EULALIA, V.M., Dec. 10.—Among the many Christians who refused to deny the faith of Jesus Christ during the terrible persecution of the cruel Emperor Diocletian, was a Spanish maiden named Eulalia, who, with a courage of a lion, went into the very presence of the tyrant and reproached him for attempting to induce them to sacrifice to idols. Eulalia was born in a place called Merida, in Spain, and, while yet a child, she preached the gospel of Jesus Christ. She was but twelve years of age when she went into the house of Dacianus, who was a judge, and told him of his cruelty and wickedness, and reminded him of the punishments of God. The governor was angered beyond control at the sight of this little girl upbraiding him with his idolatry, and commanded that she be seized and taught the folly of her actions. He thought that she could be changed by praise and flattery, and he had everything done which might influence her and win her from the religion of the Christians. All was useless, for she had been taught by good parents that there was but one God, and that his service was the only means of saving her soul; she spurned all their gifts, and refused every invitation to give up her religion. Then the governor resorted to threats and violence, thinking that punishment would terrify her and force her to yield to his wishes. The sight of the tortures placed before her was of no avail. They offered the salt and frankincense of the sacrifice, and told her that if she would but touch them with the tip of her finger, she would be saved from the horrible punishments. The young Saint deliberately overthrew the idol and stamped upon the gifts of sacrifice, and thus defied the tyrant. In a moment of rage, two executioners were ordered to put iron hooks in her sides and tear her to pieces. Her tender flesh was so torn that the bones were laid bare, but still she prayed to Jesus Christ. Then lighted torches were applied to her breasts, and her only words were hymns of thanksgiving for the God whom she served. The fire mounted to her head, and her pure soul was freed from suffering, and she gave up her life for the faith. How she valued that divine gift which came to her in holy baptism! It was more precious than anything in the world, and she refused to exchange it for the passing show of a life without God. Strength and courage beyond her years came to her to make her able to bear any suffering which cruel men might inflict upon her youthful body. What a beautiful example she gave to our young girls, telling them how they should defend their Christian virtue even at the sacrifice of life in order to please God, who is alone worthy of honor and sacrifice! She was happy in being allowed to suffer for the name of Jesus and she is honored now as one of the Saints of God.

ST. LUCY, V.M., Dec. 14.—This is one of the most popular of the virgin saints of the Church. She was of a noble family of Syracuse, in Sicily, and consecrated her life to God, almost in her infancy. Her mother was not aware of her vow and was anxious for her to marry, but all was in vain. Suffering for many years, the mother was advised by her daughter to make a pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Agatha, in Catania, where many miracles were performed; and mother and child started on their journey. Reaching the Saint's tomb, they spent the night in prayer until

they became so wearied and overcome by fatigue that both fell asleep. St. Agatha appeared to Lucy, called her sister, and told her of her mother's recovery and her own death as a martyr. God rewarded their faith and the mother was cured. Lucy then told her of the vow and the vision, and all thought of marriage was dismissed, and the virgin child was allowed to give all her wealth to the poor. The young man who had sought her hand in marriage was a pagan, and when he heard the decision he became enraged and proceeded at once to denounce the young girl as a Christian. The Governor ordered her to be brought before him and commanded her to sacrifice to the gods. When she refused, he had her subjected to all sorts of indignities. But everything failed to move her and she was finally condemned to be burned, but her prayers preserved her from harm. It was then that a servant of the Governor plunged a dagger into her throat and her pure soul went forth to God. The Christians buried her upon the very spot of her martyrdom and afterward built there a church which bears her name. She is the patron of the blind, owing to the loss of her own eyes, and she has always been a great favorite of Christian artists and poets. She is very popular among the Italians, and the boatmen sing invocations to her as their patron. They love to call on Santa Lucia as one ever near to all their petitions. She was martyred Dec. 13 in the year 304, the very same year that the loved St. Agnes gave her life for Christ. Her name is one of the four in the Canon of the Mass and in the Litany of the Saints. Let those who suffer in their sight remember Lucy on her feast day and pray to her for the gift of good sight.

THE CHILDREN'S ENEMY.

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