

us a sign of the storm that is brewing, when it says: "A few years ago, with the exception of Germany, no European country felt called upon to give any great attention to the development of an organization and the spread of ideas which had not yet sensibly affected either the prospects or the policy of its Government. Now, however, * * * * * the policies of Cabinets are modified, consciously or unconsciously, in deference to those radical ideas whose extreme advocates have adopted as their symbol the red flag." Naturally, less space is devoted to Asia and Africa than to the other continents; still, it contains all that a well informed man should know about these countries. The thirty-five pages which are devoted to the two Americas are replete with useful information on every country from Bolivia to Newfoundland. *Current History* may be read with profit by all classes, but busy men and students who have time to read only a few magazines should make it a special point to have it on their list.

The Catholic Family Annual, New York: The Catholic Publication Society Co. One of the most complete publications of its kind that has come under our notice this year is the 25th number of the *Catholic Family Annual*. To say that its general make-up is all that could be desired is unnecessary, for the Catholic Publication Society does nothing by halves. As to the contents, there is not a single article that may not be read with profit and interest by all, from the simple laborer to the theologian. Among the writers who contribute are Brother Azarias, well known in American literary circles; Rev. John Talbot Smith, who says something before unsaid about Cardinal Manning and Bishop Wadhams; Wm. J. Onahan, identified with everything Catholic and American, who gives a short essay on the "Columbian Year;" Francis T. Turey, who writes an account of a missionary tour in Michigan, and also of the beginning of the Trappist Colony in Nova Scotia. Besides these, that well known scholar, Dr. Brown, who has done so much to give a higher tone to Catholic literature in the States, contributes something interesting on Rev. Father Preston. Wm. Seton has an essay on the first French consul in

New York after the revolution, and makes his subject more interesting than might be expected from the title. The story of the "Maid of Orleans" has never been anywhere put in better shape than by Dr. Madden in this annual. John Gilmary Shea is made the subject of prose and verse at the hands of Richard Clark and Maurice Francis Egan, while justice is done to that ideal Catholic layman, Daniel Dougherty, by Chas. Gillespie. Even putting aside this vast amount of reading matter. The *Annual* is most valuable as a book of reference.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The sessional examinations in the university, collegiate and commercial courses will begin on December 19th. Vacation commences on December 23rd and lasts until January 7th. It is earnestly desired that all should return at the appointed time; that is, all those who intend to work. Those who have not this intention should save time and money by taking an extended vacation.

The *Catholic Record*, commenting on Archbishop Cleary's proposal to found a Catholic college at Kingston, remarks that Catholics are unfairly dealt with in regard to Catholic high schools, since the Ontario government provides for no financial aid for such institutions. And, no doubt, this is true; but, before throwing the whole blame on the government, let us first found a good Catholic high school, and, having equipped it with regularly qualified teachers and all other requisites, it seems to us that the chances of obtaining the government grant may be very good. Many other rights whose concession at one time seemed far less probable have been recognized in the past.

If any of our students would learn of Mexico and its people, and would, at the same time, read a first-class novel written in elegant English and abounding in descriptive passages whose beauty is seldom surpassed, they should read "The Land of the Sun," written by Christian Reid, and now being published in the *Catholic World*.