WAS NEWMAN IN THE RIGHT?

In the current issue of the American Catholic Quarterly Review, J. R. Adams questions the correctness of the view expressed by Cardinal Newman in his "idea of a University" that a strictly "English Catholic literature" is impossible. In that incomparable volume, composed of lectures delivered by him in the Dublin University, the great Car-

dinal says: 'One undertaking, however, there is, which not merely does not, and need not, but unhappily cannot, come into the reasonable contemplation of any set of persons, whether members of a university or not, who are desirous of Catholicizing the English language; .

and that is simply the creation of an English Catholic literature, for its classics have been given to England, and have been recognized as such long since," and "English literature will ever have been Protestant."

Against this view, Mr. Adams con Catholic literature is possible, but also that it is actually in existence. And he tells us what he means by an English Catholie literature in the

following words: "It is a literature written in English, inspired by Catholic spirit, and composed chiefly by Catholic authors. Its marks are a univer sality far greater than that possible to the non-Catholic, for the vast ethical, spiritual world lies open to it, a beauty that is chaste and true, and a rich, inexbaustible heritage. Some work of non-Catholics that is 'inspired by Catholic themes' and 'permeated by a Catholic spirit' may be included also, as well as the immense Catholic legacy in all English literature, with the same caution, however, that leads us to exclude the works of Catholics when these writings are distinctly opposed to the Catholic spirit."

In order to prove his contention that such a literature exists. Mr. Adams closely inspects the founts of English literature and follows the through the succeeding centuries. olic literary achievement may g Every student of English literature ually grow so bright as to dim knows, of course, that the first the mooas eries and the monks were Saxon tougue was gradually moulding into shape and when it began to Union and Times. speak in cultivated tones it scon gave us the literary work of Caedmon, Aldhelm, Cynewnif, Venerable Beds and Alfred the Great. After the Norman invasion, when Norman became the language of the courts and schools, "gradually the Saxon absorbed new words, new ideas, and new culture from the invaders that resulted in an outburst of literature in every way seperior to that of the preceding period. gaining ground in England and Those are significant admissions Much of this work, too, is in Latin, especially the contemporary history, essertion that in "the Latin coun-Romanist so fervid as Dr. Herten. of literature in every way superior

however, any more than did the Catholic Church, when England was list of recent French converts, laboring is to be found in the pres. Many people surmised that Dr. "Catholic literature did not die, dragged into Pretestantism. It suffered a staggering blow, for soon Catholics were compalled to cheese between faith and education. Those who chose the former were forced into an ignorance of letters, being into an ignorance of letters, being so oppressed by the panal laws that to it. To cite Mgr. Benson again, by law the personal habits of private overly prevented their chasining an "when a Professor of Grack in one cit zens is a source of perpetual poverty prevented their obtaining an education abread; those who chose education abread; those who close the latter 'were too busy in getting up the arguments in favor of the new religious texts they had adopted to think of cultivating poetry or philosophy or history, or the dignified elequence that becomes a classic.' Moreover, England had

But through it all the Cathelie intelligence.

1.

"The names are thers-Chaucer, Shakespeare, Dryden, Pope, Newman, by denied by sectarian, apostate, and Thompson, De Vers, Patmore, with infidel in every country, none the scores of lesser lights. If these are less are they true, none the less is not Catholic writers, if their works the Pepe the appointed shepherd of are not Catholic in spirit and inspiration, if these names do not form the great bones of the skeleton of Head of the Church with which English literature—but they are and Christ pledged Himself to be even they do—what further testimony do until the consummation of the world. we need? Unquestionably there is an English Catholic literature, a rich legacy of it behind us; a brilliant future before. No doubt falling away from her; she may, in many who know conditions in this Cardinal Newman had his reasons his opinion, be dying in Italy or for thinking no more English classics Spain, and dead in France, though possible, but just why any one living in England and America, should believe that God will never What then? She is always being create another literary genius is born, always dying, always being rather a hard mystery to accept. We baried, and her tomb perpetually is should not dream of putting such a being scaled, now by Julian, then by limit on scientists or inventors; then Arius, by Luther or Henry VIII., by why on writers? If Cardinal New-Voltaire or the Modernists; and she man could break his own dictum is always rising again triumphant; with his classic volumes, why may not another do likewise?"

for her it is Bathlehem, Calvary, and Easter Day over and over sgain.

lectures in the Dublin University, and yet he did not hesitate to declare that "English literature will ever have been Protestant." He, as clearly as Mr. Adams, discerned the greater world of truth and spiritual beauty which lies open to the Catholic. He knew, as Canon Sheehan the highest inspiration of the fine question of what may be as of what the Crucified. has been. The long centuries of persecution in England during which the few remaining Catholics were not permitted to arink of the "Plerian spring," extinguished the light of Catholic literature in the land, as they well nigh extinguished the brighter flame of the Faith. The course of their widening waters are hopeful signs, indeed, that Cath-through the succeeding centuries. may bring no one can tell. There glosy that we cannot now claim. flowering of literature in Eagland But a genius, like the fool, is not was in the Latin tongue, for that born every day. Newman may have been too passimistic when he and of the edecated. Literature in those distant days same forth frem will over have been Protestant," but we fear, on the other hand, that Mr. its authors. But even then the Adams is too optimistic. His wish

CATHOLICISM GAINING GROUND

(By "M. C. L.") in Catholic Herald

but Norman romanticism and the tries . . . Romanism is sest be English tongue finally triumphed in English tongue finally triumphed in Geoffrey of Monmouth's Arthurian legends, and reached its climax in Geoffrey Chaucer, the 'father of English literature.' Hence the founder and foundations of English literature are Catholic; in fact until Cranmer and Tyndale became satellites of Henry VIII. all English literature was Catholic, with the exception of an occasional heretical work like those of Wyelif, whose priests. As to the parrot-ory of the councils of the country and deals with has written that such to that of Pasteur is surely a sufficient University, a Professor of Science in assonishment to Europeans, another, both middle-aged men, and "With us, however, every

"But through it all the Catholic literature of the English language preserved a lineal line. It is true that in name and to all appearance the Elizabethan era was Protestant, but it was so only in appearance and unlearned for Foch the but it was so only in appearance, not in spirit as yet. Consequently, the Mercier the Cardinal, casual laborer, duct are made legal requirements of with her sister, until two months the obscure and illiterate; for "Peter, tone of poetry remained intact, and the Shakespearean drama is permanently Catholic in its grandest and purest passages, no matter what you may believe of Shakespeare's religious affiliation. Many of the Catholic markyrs, More, Fisher, Campion, Southwell, for example, are treated with contempt. There Campion, Southwell, for example, sowed the seed of faith in poetry and sowed the seed of faith in poetry and fors what? The claims of the sent community public fors what? The claims of the best represent only a portion of it."

Founder of Christianity were treated with the second of the sent community public form. Founder of Christianity were treated with the second of the seco prose as well as in their blood.

"Gradually this began to bear fruit, and when the pendulum of laughed to scorn; He was called a Protectantism had swang to it."

Protectantism had swang to it.

Founder of Christianity were treated best represent only a portion of it."

Mr. Foedick then asserts that "with James, of Detroit, Mich.; Lawrence, an intelerance for authority and an Bridgeport, Conn.; Nicholas, Minnea-Professional when she pendulum of Professional States and Constitution and Swung to its extreme in Puritan fanaticism, a the less was He verily the Son first, but gradually acquiring momentum until today Catholics momentum until today Catholics was expected by the control of the first Pops declared momentum until today Catholics was expected by the control of the control of the Christian Brothers, and the control of the Christian Brothers, and the control of the Christian Brothers, and expected and the control of the Christian Brothers, and expected and the control of the Christian Brothers, and the control of the control of the christian Brothers, and the contr mementum until today Casmolos aim, in that magnificent act of faith and the bold many prominent places in the which was at ones rewarded with ing by law the lives and merals of ton street and was attended by a number of relatives and friends to

And though the claims of the Papacy

Practically all the facts and all the arguments which Mr. Adams adduces in His Church; He is still being to support his contention were known to Cardinal Newman when he was delivering his famous series of scourged and cracided; and ever in His Church He repeats the miracle of resurrection. 'The Life recorded in the Gospels is reproduced with fidality in the life of the Church." (Benson's "Christ in the Church.") In the sixteenth century she was declared to be " a religion impossible for the sducated," and "open Bible," later expressed it, that "we have the pools of Solomon." He knew that the Catholic religion has ever been of libraries, and plunder of monasteries, extinguished her. Yet she is arts. But he knew, too, that we still the Light of the world. She must look certain hideous facts in came to an end through the triumph the face and form our judgment of infidelity in France. Yet she is accordingly. It is not so much a still sanding forth apostles to preach hearts will have every right to claim

her tomb in Italy. Yet she is rising victorious in the new world. And even our Methodist critic comes near to admitting that she is rising again in England also. Others admit that there, in the land of "Great Eliza- and begging graces for them. beth," Pretestantism cannot hold its classics of our language, with a few glorieus exceptions, are the fruits of Protestant genius. What the future Horten, delivered at the annual meeting of the Protestant Evangelical Mission, as recorded in its Monthly Record for July-August, and quoted in Catholic Book Notes for December 1920, "The Roman Church-I have seen it in every part of this country and especially in Scotland—has got a grip of this country by its spiritual influence. . . . If you go to the Continent, there is no single part where you can say that the Protestant Church is so alive and so triumphant is father to his thought .- Catholic that it offers any prospect of ulti-

mately defeating the Roman Church. . . . Friends of my ewn have found in the Roman Caurch something that meets their spiritual wants, something that they have missed not only in the Church of England, but in the Protestant Free Churches. We are face to face with a decline of Protes-A Methodist writer, after admitting tant Churches. . . In England we are arrested, our numbers are declining, that there may be some truth in the our Sunday schools are declining, and statement that "Romanism is fast our attendance at church deslining.

work like those of Wyelif, whose authors displayed far more stubbornness and conceit than literary ersed for the educated, Mgr. Benson forceable laws." On this subject he mony as Savs:

including such named as Coprés, ence on our statute books of laws Brunetiers, Bourges, Huysmans, which, because they interfere with a customs widely practiced and widely indicate that today France shows "the convention of Catholic Convention of Catholic Convention of Catholic Catho "the conquering march of Catholi, ally unenforceable. The willingness cism," as brain after brain surrenders with which we undertake to regulate

"With us, however, every year adds

other influences by which moral ends | high esteem in which the late Mrs. are achieved. It cannot be made to McGinn was held. The pallbearers assume the whole burden of social were: Messrs. A. McQuillan, Sr., H. control. Permanent advance in Metcalfe, J. A. Grundy, R. Piggott, T. human society will not be brought about by night-sticks and patrol wagons, but by the cultivation, in neighborliness and sympathy, of a public opinion which will reflect its soundness in the law it enacts and

country must be in hearty accord. We have too many laws and tec little law. The attempt to substitute State regulation for the moral law must end in failure. It is in the home, the school, and particularly in raligious training of youth that the solution of our social problems must be found. Making crimes by law where there is no crime will result only in contempt for all law and all authority. It is to this that "blue laws" tend.—True Voice.

DEATH OF A RELIGIOUS

that one of the much beloved Religious of the Sacred Heart has been taken to her reward. Gentle, kindly Sister O'Connor is no mose. writer truly grieves as will all former pupils who knew and loved the departed.

Is is at such times that we look back, all of us, and our hearts are full of yearning that we might have given comfort in place of trials, con-solation rather than grief, but the dear, unassuming Sister who all ker life did naught but gladden our our love and gratitude and may we Methodist preachers are preparing hope that all former pupils of the er tomb in Italy. Yet she is rising Convent of the Sacred Heart will offer a prayer, a sincere petition to the Heart of Jesus that our leved one may ere this be close to Him, per haps still remembering her children M. A. B.

NOTED GERMAN LUTHERAN PASTOR BECOMES CATHOLIC

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Berlin, Jan. 10.—Dr. Albani, former pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the town of Bad Lausig, Saxony, who recently became a Cath. olic after two months' retirement in the Banedictina Monastery of St. Ottilie, near Munich, is now employed in a Catholic art dealer's establish-ment. His former Evangelical superiors have decided to grant a pension even in the face of h s "submission to Rome."

Those who have been watching Dr. Albani's efforts during the last two years to promote Christian unity in Germany, and his activities as a member of the High Church Association of Berlin, were not surprised at his entrance into the true fold, notwithstanding the sacrifices and diffi-culties that his conversion involved.

After working for several years in behalf of union among the Protest ant sects, Dr. Albani seemed to realize that all efforts in that direction would be of doubtful result so long as they remained separated from the life giving stream of the wonderful Catholic liturgy, and above all from the Hely Eucharist. Dr. Albani joined the High Church Association in 1919, and last March wrote for the Sachischen Kirchen blates an article on the "Concep

tion of the Church," in which appeared the statement that "the words of the Apostle Pater (Matt. 16) convince me that the existence of the Apostolic succession must be worked out in a satisfactory manner, so as to "A final disadvantage under which convince even the Protestants."

OBITUARY

MRS, MARY MCGINN

classic.' Moreover, England had already begon her expansion in the new world, and soon commercialism absorbed men, and the dollar is a poor bedfellow for literature.

"But through it all the Catholic intelligence." Requestion of the converts indicated belong to a country hitherto held up as infinitely superior to the Latin countries in progress, learning, and converts in progress, learning, and converts in their nature do not admit of together they resided in Alpena, objective treatment and external description." oercion."

"It is to this temptation and to this years of her life were spent in what? The claims of the sent community public opinion, or at the city, her five brothers having preour citizens."

"The attempt to coerce men to the Church of Our Lady. The serv-Reglish literary world. Like their the promise: "Thou are Peter, and our citizens."

Holy Mother the Church they are enjoying a second spring, and who Church, and the gates of hell shall render unto Casar the things that chall say it is not a harbinger of a stop from a special against it. And I will are God's must always end in failure. Rev. Father Doyle, and at the grave fuller, wider, greater harvest than give to thee the keys of the kingdom. The law cannot take the place of the by Rev. Father Quirk. The spiritual of Heaven." (St. Matthew xvi. 15 19). kome, the school, the Church and efferings were many, showing the Ann Arbor Mich

R. Walsh and J. A. Stuart. R. I. P.

IN MEMORIAM

O'KEEFE.—In loving memory of George OKeefe, who died February 3, 1920. May his soul rest in peace.

DIED

DUNN .- At Mt. St. Louis, Ont., on Wednesday, January 5th, Mrg. Mary Teresa Dunn, wife of the late W. J Dunn. May her soul rest in peace. McKinnon. - At Malrose, St. Georges, P. E. I., on Jan. 18th, 1921, Mes. Angus McKinnon, aged eighty eight years. R. I. P.

Who is it that, when years are gone by, we remember with the purest gratitude and pleasure? Not the learned or clever. But those who have had the force of character to prefer the future to the present, the good of others to their own pleasure. - Dean Stanley.

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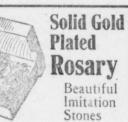
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