

CANONIZED POPES.

The following are some Popes who have been recognized as Saints or canonized by the Catholic Church. In January the feast occurs of St. Telephorus, St. Hyginus, St. Anicetus, St. Fabian, and St. Marcellus, who all governed the Holy See during the first three centuries before the conversion of Constantine the Great secured the peace of the Church.

In February the church celebrates the memory of Pope St. Gregory II (A. D. 731) and of Pope St. Gregory X (A. D. 1276). The former sent St. Boniface to convert the Germans, and condemned the image breakers of the East. The latter held the fourth General Council, that of Lyons, in 1274. St. Thomas Aquinas died on his way to the Council, and St. Bonaventure during its sitting.

In March we come across the names of St. Lucius, martyr A. D. 253, and of St. Sixtus III (A. D. 440); of St. Simplicius (A. D. 483); St. Gregory (A. D. 604); and St. Zachary (A. D. 752), who confirmed Pepin, the Mayor of the Palace as King of France, and ordered St. Boniface of Germany to crown him.

In April St. Sixtus I., St. Anicetus, St. Soter, St. Caius, martyrs of the early ages, are numbered, as so is St. Julius I. (A. D. 352), in whose Pontificate the Synod of Sardica (A. D. 344) was held; St. Anastasius (A. D. 401), and St. Celestine (A. D. 432), who confirmed the decrees of the Council of Ephesus, which defined the title "Mother of God" as belonging to the Blessed Virgin, and who sent St. Patrick to convert the Irish. The feast of St. Leo the Great (A. D. 461) in whose Pontificate the Council of Chalcedon was held, and who met and repulsed Attila from the gates of Rome, is also celebrated on April 11. St. Leo IX. (A. D. 1054) is another great Pope we meet with in April. In his Pontificate St. Peter Damian wrote his celebrated works on the clergy; Lanfranc taught at Bee; Hildebrand (afterwards Pope Gregory VII.) exerted great influence on Transubstantiation and excommunicated.

OLIVER GOLDSMITH'S VILLAGE.

"SWEET AUBURN" AS IT IS TO-DAY. The site of the "Deserted Village" is on the road from Athlone to Ballymahon, about six miles from the former town; and as crops of new "Auburns" are springing up around in all directions, it is only necessary to mention the poet's name in order to be set on the proper track to "Goldsmith's Auburn" as the Westmeath peasantry call it. At a little distance from the entrance to Lissay, and at the same side of the road, is the very pool alluded to by Goldsmith, and the noisy geese are now as ever gabbling over it.

The sad historian of the pensive plain. The fields near her cottage were, up to a recent period, covered with a deep embowering wood; but all this has been cut away, and now only the discolored stumps remain, as if to heighten the apparent desolation of the scene.

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THE POPE.

The Paris Univers relates the following curious anecdote of Pius IX., before his elevation to the chair of St. Peter:—

"A very singular confirmation of the popular feeling, then entertained in Italy (1846) that Cardinal Mastai Ferretti would be Pope, occurred at Fossombrone, a village between Imola and Rome, through which the Cardinal was passing on his way to the Eternal City on the occasion of the death of Gregory XVI. The sound of wheels rattling through the streets of that village caused its inhabitants to come to their doors and look at the passing carriage. It was soon whispered abroad that the occupant of the vehicle was the Cardinal Archbishop of Imola, and the people, who knew that the Pope was dead, began to say, 'Perhaps Mastai Ferretti will succeed him; assuredly he would make a good Pope; he is so charitable and pious.'"

"When, therefore, the people saw the dove alight at the feet of the popular Cardinal, they took it for a sign. They tried to frighten it away with a long rod, but although it moved off for a few minutes, it returned again, and the shouts of 'Long live the Pope that is to be,' redoubled. Thus was the election of Pius IX., predicted by the villagers of Fossombrone."

A GREAT ENGINEERING WORK.

One of the most remarkable works of modern times, the draining of Lake Fucino, has just been finished by Prince Alexander Torlonia, a citizen of Rome, says a Rome correspondent of the New York Post. The draining of Lake Fucino, which was the largest lake in Central and Southern Italy, covering an area of 37,050 acres, has been the dream of the Romans since the idea was first conceived by Julius Cæsar. The lake was situated in the province of Aquila, fifty three miles east of Rome and ninety-six miles north of Naples, and before its draining covered the greater part of a vast table land, one of the largest in the central part of the Apennines. This table land, 2,084 feet above the level of the sea is surrounded on all sides by spurs of the main chain of mountains, and it is separated from the adjacent valleys in such a manner that the waters

found no outlet to discharge themselves into the neighbouring rivers. The only means of discharging the lake was by evaporation into the air or absorption into the earth, and as often as the rain fell was larger than the amount of water thus subtracted the volume increased and overflowed the surrounding country. The proportions of the lake, thus depending on atmospheric changes, were exceedingly variable. Sometimes the water even filled the entire basin of 173,000 acres contained within the circle of mountains, and drove the poor inhabitants gradually away from their farms to the surrounding hills. When the water sank the people returned timorously to the lands; but scarcely did they begin to make them productive when a new rising of the lake drove them away. They lived in a state of continual anxiety, their fields being often for several years at a time covered by the advancing waters; and when at last they were able to take possession of them they incurred heavy expenditures in rendering the land fit for cultivation and were also exposed to malady from the swampy condition of the soil. This state of things was especially serious at Lake Fucino, because the people in the neighbouring mountains had no other plain than that of Fucino to which they could look for their supplies of cereals and other produce of the soil, the rest of the territory being nothing else than steep mountain sides, on which cultivation was almost impossible. It was a favourite project with Julius Cæsar to drain the land covered by Lake Fucino, as a productive tract of country so near Rome would have been very desirable to supply the city with grain. This was one of several magnificent projects, which his murder by Brutus defeated, designed to prevent the terrible famines that so often afflicted the great population of Rome. At the death of Cæsar the work was discontinued, and was never resumed by his successors until Claudius succeeded to the imperial dignity. The works which he caused to be executed are considered by Pliny the most extraordinary of that brilliant period. This attempt of Claudius to drain the lake, after an immense expense and employing 30,000 men during a period of eleven years, was only partly successful.

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WHAT THE PRESS SAYS.

McGee's ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY.—On what resources, by what degree of encouragement, Mr. Jas. McGee has undertaken to fill this great desideratum in our Catholic literature, we do not know; but assuredly, his undertaking is marked by such a power of energy, discernment, system, and above all, of good taste and artistic genius, that the Illustrated Weekly must need prove a success. Were Mr. McGee to fail, the failure will only be an additional proof to the charge of supineness, indifference and apathy, the seeming consequences of ignorance, a charge often brought against us by our enemies. The late article of December 23rd, in the Springfield Republican, should bring shame to the brow of every intelligent Catholic.

Were Mr. McGee's efforts properly appreciated, the circulation of his Illustrated Weekly should, within a twelve-month, amount to at least fifty thousand. This is no exaggeration. Stated only a few weeks ago, we have now before us the fourteenth number, exhibiting, in the whole, the choicest collection of representations, inferior to none in artistic beauty. Mr. McGee's serial will compare most advantageously with the London Illustrated News.

Oh, for decency sake, for the honor of the Catholic name, let us support Mr. McGee's enterprise. It will do honor to the Catholic community. The subscription (three dollars per annum) is so low, that surely two hundred thousand Catholics in the United States can afford to take it. Let every Catholic editor come forward and pay the well deserved meed of praise and of encouragement. If they see fault and shortcomings, and even shall, in a future, expose them candidly, let them bravely point to them, but in the spirit of kindness and brotherly encouragement. Let us, one and all, remember that the introduction of McGee's Illustrated Weekly may prove the means of eliminating from the Catholic domestic press those abominable periodicals of the New York Press, a most powerful engine in the Devil's hands, which hold to scorn all that is virtuous, all that is Catholic. Can parents, can priests be insensible to the great havoc made in the hearts of our boys and of our girls, by the immoral press of the day? Ah! what a responsibility priests and parents are incurring before the awful Tribunal of God! Here we have a glorious opportunity of crushing a great moral evil out of our homes. Let us not lose it; but, on the contrary, let us put our shoulders to the wheel, and endeavor to make as wide a place as possible, in our homes, in our parishes, in our missions, wherever we may have any influence, for McGee's Illustrated Weekly.—Cincinnati Catholic Telegraph.

McGee's ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY.—We rejoice to hear that this publication, devoted to Catholic Art, Literature, and Education, which was started in New York last December is succeeding very well, and already enjoys a good share of the patronage it so well deserves. It is a real pleasure to be able to make this statement, on account of the fears we entertained when the announcement of a new illustrated Catholic paper was made that it would soon languish for want of support. Fourteen numbers have now been issued, and the steadily increasing circulation is sufficiently large to cover the expenses of publication, great as they must be. A high standard of excellence was assumed in the first numbers, but the Editor assures us that he will make improvements in proportion as the number of subscribers increase. This publication is a valuable addition to Catholic periodical literature in the United States, and supplies a long-felt want. It is thoroughly Catholic (we mention this as a first excellence), and the contents are both varied and entertaining.—As to the illustrations, they are good—many of them very good—and the selection of subjects evinces rare good taste. The paper used is of a superior quality, and the printing could hardly be better. There is ample room for this new journal, and if well supported it will do much to counteract the vicious influence of the many infamous illustrated weeklies with which the country is flooded. The editor and proprietor is James A. McGee, Barclay Street, New York. Subscription price, \$3 per year.—Ave Maria.

McGee's ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY.—It is with great pleasure that we call the attention of our readers, at home and abroad, to this promising Catholic periodical, whose progress we have been watching with much interest, since its first appearance on the 25th of November, 1876. The result of our observation has been eminently satisfactory, and we begin now to hope that a long and prosperous career of usefulness awaits our excellent contemporary. The Illustrated Weekly supplies a want long felt by the Catholic community in this and other cities; its publisher seems willing to spare no cost to make it a success, and for the ability, zeal, and general fitness of the editor, for the onerous task he has undertaken, and which we feel convinced is to him truly a labor of love, we can honestly and sincerely vouch. That our friend who has already done good service as a frequent contributor to the classic pages of the Catholic World, has now extended his sphere of usefulness in this direction, is matter of congratulation to the Catholic public, and we earnestly hope that this effort to establish a really good Catholic journal, in the face of many and great difficulties, will meet with the encouragement it so eminently deserves. It is time that the vile and persistent calumniator of Catholics and their religion, Harper's Weekly, which has been wont to amuse and entertain its thousands of readers with the most disgusting caricatures of all that Catholics hold most sacred, should be taught the useful lesson that the Catholic millions of this country can provide some fitting illustrations of Catholic men and things. Let them be taught that Catholics are not so craven-spirited as they seem to take it for granted that they are, and that the day is gone by when they and their religion lay helpless victims at the mercy of its ribald caricaturists. In the last number of our Illustrated Weekly there is a very good portrait of the true Catholic hero, Don Carlos of Spain, with a sketch of his life and character. Every week there is in it a portrait of some personage deservedly known to fame.—New York Tablet.

McGee's ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY (New York).—This is a really beautifully got up journal. The plates are fully equal to either the London Illustrated News or the Graphic, and very much superior to any Transatlantic picture paper we have ever seen. From a literary point of view McGee's is decidedly the best that has ever reached us from the States. Irish stories are an especial feature and they are admirably told and usually of unflagging interest. The price is only six cents (three pence), and were the paper published in those countries at that figure it would be the cheapest of cheap.—The Celt (Waterford, Ireland).

IRISH-AMERICAN LITERATURE.—Our fellow-countrymen in America seem to be pushing ahead, if the speed of national newspaper literature is to be taken as a test. Our exchanges during the past few weeks have included several numbers of McGee's ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY a journal possessing peculiar interests for Irishmen from the fact that it is edited by a brother of the gifted but unfortunate D'Arcy McGee. Colonel James E. McGee has already made an honorable mark in Irish-American literature by his own contributions to it, and the taste and judgment he has already shown in his editorial management of the new weekly promise soon to lift it into the front rank of journalism. The illustrations are of a high artistic order and accompanying letterpress is equally meritorious. Amongst the contributors we notice the name of William Collins, whose gifted pen has given to Irish poetry much to enlarge and enrich it.—United Irishman (Liverpool).

McGee's ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY.—There has been started in New York an illustrated Catholic weekly, which in point of literary style and artistic excellence, affords great promise. Hitherto Harper's Weekly, which is animated by bitter anti-Catholic sentiments, has had almost a monopoly of this branch of journalism. We are glad, therefore, to see the appearance of its youthful rival, for which we do not hesitate to predict a brilliant success.—Cork Examiner.

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