

## Catholic News.

Bishop Burke of the Albany diocese has received through Rome an appointment by the Patriarch of Constantinople to the highest degree in the order of the Holy Sepulchre of which he was already a knight.

Rev. Michael Khoury, a Syrian priest, celebrated Mass in his native tongue in the Baltimore Cathedral recently. In Oriental countries the priests are privileged to use either Syrian or Greek in the church services.

A Catholic negro philanthropist, Thomy Lefon, who died about a year ago, is the first colored man of the South to have a monument erected to his memory by the state of which he was a citizen. The Legislature of Louisiana recently made an appropriation for this monument.

New Catholic schools, erected largely through the bounty of Sir Piers Mostyn, the Earl of Denhigh, and Mrs. Roskell of Stokryn, will be opened at Holywell, Wales, towards the end of July. The buildings can also be used as reception rooms for the numerous pilgrims who visit the shrine of St. Winefred.

The *Germania*, the organ of the Catholic Center party, advertises the important proposal that a German Catholic university should be founded at Berlin with state aid. According to this journal, the idea is being well taken up, even in official centers. The question will probably be discussed at the next German Catholic Congress to be held at Cologne.

The colored Catholic young men of Washington, D.C., are establishing a Catholic club. Such an organization is especially necessary in the National Capital, where, despite all that has been done with small resources and in the face of many obstacles for the primary education of the Catholic negroes, there is as yet no institute for their advanced education.

It is said that the generous liberation by the German Emperor of the two French officers condemned to years of imprisonment for espionage is due to the intercession of a German Jesuit, residing in exile at Paris, Father Nix. A letter conveying their thanks to the good priest for his magnanimous suggestion was written by the officers immediately on their return home.

The proposition with regard to the emigration of children to Canada which has been laid before the bishops by the South-west Catholic Rescue Society has, we understand, been favorably received by the various prelates, and the next step will probably be the sending of a commission in the early autumn to take measures for practically working out the scheme. The commission will consist of representatives, lay and clerical, of the various dioceses interested in the movement.

## Private Fortunes.

In this country to-day there is one American family whose private fortunes amount to \$274,000,000, or considerably more than one-half the valuation of the great State of Iowa. There are five citizens whose fortunes average \$60,000,000 each, 50 with \$10,000,000, 100 with \$5,000,000, 200 with \$3,000,000, and there are millionaires almost without number. Less than 2,000 persons own twice as much as all the money in the country, to say nothing of the many millions more that they control. Two thousand capitalists already own more than all the rest of our 65,000,000 of population.

With these figures on one side of them and a million idle men looking for work on the other, what has Congress been doing? It has been dicker-ing and trading over a mere question of taxation in the midst of a scramble of selfish men for the loaves and fishes.

So much for the great question of equitable distribution. Now let us look at the land question. Mr.

Vanderbilt "owns" 2,000,000 acres of land. Mr. Disston, of Pennsylvania, boasts of his 4,000,000 broad acres. The Schonley estate owns 2,000 acres within the cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny. The California millionaire, Murphy, owns an area of land bigger than the whole State of Massachusetts. Foreign noblemen, who owe no allegiance to this country, are permanently absented landlords, and spend all their money abroad, own 21,000,000 acres of land in this country, or more than the entire area of Ireland. Lord Scully, of Ireland, owns 90,000 acres of farming land in Illinois, which he rents out in small parcels to tenant farmers, and pockets his annual \$200,000 in rents to spend abroad.

Now, while one half the people of this country are landless, what has Congress ever done with the land question? Since 1861 it has given 181,000,000 acres of the people's land to railroads, of which the Illinois Central alone got a subsidy of 2,500,000 acres, a good part of which has been put into house lots, whereby to extort rent and profits from the landless and houseless—*Donahoe's Magazine*.

## Seminare des Missions Etrangères.

There is one most interesting place in Paris to visit, of which no guide book makes mention, the *Seminare des Missions Etrangères*, where 150 students of theology are at present preparing themselves for priesthood, to carry the light of the Gospel to pagan nations; and connected with them are 125 others studying philosophy elsewhere says a correspondent of the *New World*. These 275 young heroes are expecting one day to share the fate of hundreds of their predecessors, who have laid down their lives in testimony of the truths they taught. In a room of the college to which visitors are freely admitted a great collection of the instruments of torture by which they were martyred, with photographs of some of them, are preserved. More than one has thus suffered within the last twenty years. Here may be seen the cruel chains that one of them was led around the city laden with, to be pelted by the rabble before being slain. Here are the large bladed knives and swords that cut off some of the martyrs' heads and limbs; the spears, pinchers and other instruments of torture; the cords by which they were bound and strangled; their blood stained garments, etc., etc. A comfort-loving stay-at-home-and-take-care-of-yourself Christian can have only one sentiment contemplating such things, contempt for himself, and admiration for these noble heroes, which becomes reflected to the courageous young levites who are emulous in treading in their footsteps. This is intensified on learning that none of them are destined for a civilized or Christianized country; but exclusively for non-Christian lands.

## Anglican Liturgy and Cremation.

At the burial or rather the burning of Mr. Edmund Yates, the well-known writer, whose remains were recently cremated, a fresh and curious proof of English Protestantism to chop and change its liturgy to suit circumstances was given, and we read that "the service was amended to accord with the fact that cremation was going to take the place of an interment, impressive stress being laid upon the most solemn words, "We therefore commit this body to the flames, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust." To most people the phrase, pronounced over the dead, about "committing the body to the flames," will seem horribly ill chosen.—*Irish Catholic*.

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