

CATHOLIC NEWS.

Mgr. Schroeder, of the Catholic University, has acquired such a facility in the English language that he has preached in English in the University Chapel before the students and faculty. He speaks with fluency and ease Greek, Latin, German, French, Flemish, Spanish and Italian.

The supreme council of the Catholic Benevolent Legion of the United States and Canada met in annual session at Brooklyn, N. Y., last week. There are at present 402 councils in the United States and Canada, representing twenty-two different states and the Dominion. Reports showed the present national membership to be 35,700, an increase of nearly 10,000 since 1891. Financially the organization is on a sound foundation.

From the far off Southern Pacific, says the *Ave Maria*, there has come to us news of a flourishing mission of the Universal church. On the occasion of the golden jubilee of the establishment of Catholicity in the Friendly (or Tonga) Islands, Bishop Lamaze, Vicar Apostolic of Central Oceania, issued a circular letter in which he tells of the introduction and spread of the Gospel in those islands and the present status of the church over which he presides.

Cardinal Gibbons, if he lives until Aug. 16 next, will have the silver jubilee of his episcopal consecration to celebrate. At the time of his consecration the cardinal was only the vicar apostolic of North Carolina, and he probably had little idea then that he would one day be the foremost of American ecclesiastics and a member of the Sacred College. When the time comes for the keeping of his silver jubilee, the Catholics of Baltimore and his whole archdiocese will unquestionably honor him in a very marked manner.

The Catholics of Cincinnati on Apr. 1, gave a remarkable demonstration of the faith that is in them when they "prayed up the steps" on Mt. Adams. This peculiar custom has been in vogue here for about thirty years, and the Church of the Holy Cross, standing on the brow of the cliff on Mt. Adams, has become celebrated far and near for the miracles performed there. Fully 10,000 women prayed up the steps on that day. There are 267 of the steps in all, and about 35 landings. The pilgrims who visit the chapel must remain silent for three hours, not speaking a word.

Dr. Abbott, pastor of Plymouth church, Brooklyn, in a recent sermon very ably refuted the charge that Catholics are enemies of the republic by saying that "at Gettysburg, in the crucial moment of that critical battle, a regiment made up of Roman Catholics was ordered to a charge. There were five minutes before the charge was to be made, and in that five minutes the Roman Catholic chaplain offered one short prayer and gave absolution to the regiment. Then came the command, 'Charge!' and the whole Roman Catholic regiment rushed on to death. Who has shown more love for America than that Roman Catholic regiment?"

The Rev. James J. Dougherty, rector of the Mission of the Immaculate Virgin for Homeless Children, Great Jones street, New York, has received from Rome a beautiful silken flag with the arms of the Pecci family (Leo XIII.) in the centre to wave over the new church of St. Joachim and St. Ann at Mount Loretto, Staten Island, when completed. During his golden jubilee His Holiness one morning entered the audience chamber in the Vatican, attended by his private chamberlain, and specially blessed the flag. The Rev. P. J. Glynn, prior of St. Patrick's Convent, Rome, writes: "He then blessed the good Father Dougherty, his merciful work, and all who contribute towards it."

The Lamp, the oldest Catholic periodical of England, recently changed hands. Its new proprietor is Mr. George Cooke, formerly of Dublin, who gained his journalistic experience on the staffs of the *London Star* and *Liverpool Echo*. *The Lamp* was founded in June, 1849. It was then published by Thomas Earnshaw Bradley, of York, and printed by Richardson & Son, of Derby. It appeared with the appropriate epigraph from the Psalms, "Thy Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." The first volumes of *The Lamp* long out of print, and scarce, are a very interesting record of the struggle for social existence and recognition which Catholics of all grades had to wage during the transition epoch, when the famous (or infamous) Durham letter of Lord John Russell kindled the smouldering fires of religious bigotry, and the so-called "Papal aggression," supposed to be involved in the restoration of the Catholic hierarchy in England, was made the pretext of a No Popery agitation. Some of the best Catholic writers have from time to time enriched the pages of *The Lamp* with valuable contributions. It was in one of its early volumes that Cardinal Newman's "Lectures on the Present Position of English Catholics," which contained the scathing denunciation of the apostate Achilli, that led to the famous "libel" action against the eminent Oratorian, first appeared. It then combined the features of a weekly newspaper and magazine, and fought a good fight, almost single-handed, against long odds.

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