

IN AND ABOUT JERUSALEM.

NOTABLE CATHOLIC PROGRESS. Philadelphia Catholic Standard and Times. Beirut, November 16.

The season is drawing in when the thoughts of all Christians are centered upon the sacred scenes of Bethlehem when Christ the Saviour was born. With more than usual interest, then, will your readers be willing to hear something of the Bethlehem of to-day.

Some few weeks since the papers announced the passing away of the Rev. Anthony Belloni, whom Catholic pilgrims to the Grotto of the Nativity will remember as the zealous priest who for years past has looked after the little orphans in Bethlehem. In the year 1859, shortly after his ordination to the priesthood, he was appointed professor in the Seminary of Beitgatta. While thus engaged he was made the recipient of a considerable sum of money from the hands of the distinguished English Catholic Lord Bute, with which he was able to buy some property in Bethlehem.

Several large and beautiful schools were built in Bethlehem, one of which he erected a school for boys in which they were taught not only their religion and the ordinary branches, but also the practical work of farming. Father Belloni realized that there was another pressing necessity—some training school wherein the more capable scholars might receive such instructions which would fit them to undertake the work of instructing the children in the small towns. In 1870 he undertook the work of the secretory of our own people prevented them from giving to their children under Catholic auspices the educational advantages that American and English Protestants were able to offer. Nearby to the spring where tradition says St. Philip baptized the Ethiopian servant of Queen Candace, on a beautiful spot on the road from Jerusalem to Bethlehem, this good priest acquired another piece of land, and in one of those intervals when the Turkish authorities relaxed their severe vigilance he constructed a school in which were to be trained those pupils who showed more than usual aptitude for agricultural studies. None of your readers who have ever visited the Holy Land or who may do so in the future will forget the site of this school, Ozmaniz, situated on the crest of a hill from which the Crusaders of old, after many journeys and much warfare, caught their first glimpse of the Holy City. The inhabitants of this part of the country have nothing to depend upon but a few vines and fruit trees. Owning to neglect of ages consequent upon the misrule of the Ottoman, this fertile soil had taken upon itself the appearance of a desert, but the tears shed by these poor people at news of Don Belloni's death showed that they recognized that he it was these hills the children to give these hills the beauty and fruitfulness of the ancient days. His work here has not only brought food and comfort to the natives of this historic spot, but it has drawn large numbers of schismatics into the Church. Another monument of the zeal of the canon was the building of the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at a distance of only a few yards from the cave in which the Divine Infant was born. And into this church come several times during the day the little ones of the adjoining orphan asylum, which likewise owes its existence to this same holy servant of God and over which he presided for many years. Notwithstanding the toil and hard sacrifices with which his life was filled, we feel that some recompense was his even here below, for he died surrounded by his orphans within a stone's throw of the spot where "they wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and placed Him in a manger."

OUR CHIEF ESTABLISHMENTS.

The following resume of our chief Catholic establishments in and about Jerusalem may be of interest to your readers, showing as it does a remarkable progress during the last fifteen years. The Franciscan Fathers, who during the last decade of years have built several large churches in various places throughout Palestine, have now almost completed a building on the site known as "The Flagellation." This, of course, is in addition to the fine hospice known as the Casa Nuova, which during its brief existence has harbored thousands of pilgrims, many of them Grats.

The visit of the German Emperor resulted, as your readers know, in the presentation to German Catholics of an expensive little piece of land near the Kedron, familiarly called "La Dormition" of the Blessed Virgin. The German Dominicans now occupy a fine convent on this site and have made several additions to the famous sanctuary.

The French Dominicans are at present putting the finishing touches to a convent situated on one of the sacred hills to the east of Jerusalem, traditionally known as the "Mount of the Scandal."

The Catholic German Society of Cologne are building, just outside the Damascus Gate, a large hospice where pilgrims may find lodging and food and where orphan children of German parentage will find a home. A new wing is now being added to the Austrian hospice, which is conducted by the Sisters of St. Charles. During the first week of October the Christian Brothers opened a new school at Nazareth, and on one of the charming hills that overlook the scenes of Christ's childhood Don Bosco's Salesian Fathers are building a fine orphanage.

In Bethlehem the Sisters of Charity have about completed a hospital which is not only faultless from a medical standpoint, but which reveals a genuine artist in its architect.

The Religious of Marie Reparatrice now possess a fine convent, and their new church was dedicated last summer. Upon Mount Olivet the Benedictine Sisters have bought a small piece of ground which has been enclosed, and here amidst the sacred scenes of our Lord's agony they will sing His praises and implore that His Sacred Blood be not shed in vain.

Within ten minutes' walk from the

Dominican convent the Carmelites are found in their monastery, which of late has been considerably enlarged, and a few hundred yards to the north of these "White Fathers" have begun to build. The "Ladies of Zion" have just had the happiness to see their new sanctuary consecrated, and a few weeks since the Passionist Fathers celebrated the first Mass in their new convent at Bethany.

WHAT CHRISTMAS MEANS.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS DAY OF DAYS BRIEFLY TOLD.

Now, let us try to understand what Christmas Day means to us. Every Catholic child who knows his catechism will tell you that Christmas Day is the anniversary of the day on which Jesus Christ was born in the city of Bethlehem. And what is Jesus Christ? The same Catholic child will tell you that Jesus Christ is the Eternal Son of God, the Creator of the universe. The sun shines at His bidding, the stars in these courses move at His command. "He was in the world, and the world was made by Him. All things were made by Him, and without Him was made nothing." And now He becomes incarnate. He takes upon Him a human body and a human soul in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This union results not in confusion of nature, but in the distinction in nature, this union constitutes but one Personality—Jesus Christ, the God-Man. The acts and utterances, then, of this Personality are the acts and utterances of God.

All this, of course, is a profound mystery. But a mystery, whilst it is above reason, does not contradict reason. The world itself is full of mysteries. The world as it is, the Creator of the world, if it was His blessed will to make Himself visible, should appear to us in a manner agreeable to Himself? Is not God able to do what He wills? And, since He has the power, who dares say that He did not so will? But the reason of the Son of God coming into this world in the form of man is not unknown to us. He became incarnate in order to redeem us from all iniquity, to rebuke us a reproach to those whose hearts are immersed in riches. He comes in the spirit of obedience. His one aspiration is: "Father, not My will but Thine be done." His one desire is, to do His Father's business. The Eternal Father, looking down in His complacency from Heaven, cries to His beloved world of ours: "This is My beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased, Hear ye Him!"

COMMON SENSE AND THE BIBLE.

"The theory that the Bible is 'perfect' does not necessarily involve the conclusion that all parts of it are of equal value for all purposes," says the Watchman (Baptist) of this city. "We are to use common sense in this matter as well as in others." But because the Catholic Church uses the Bible as common sense, and does not insist on placing a Bible in the hands of every large and small, uneducated and uneducated, the more unintelligent of our non-Catholic friends think that she is tooth-and-nail opposed to the Bible under any circumstances. Of course this is ridiculous. The Church has a Bible common sense. She knows that a Bible in the hands of some people would be as dangerous, if used for certain purposes, as an ignited canon-cracker in the hands of a baby. There is nothing, except the teaching of the Church, to prevent people at the present day as in the days of the apostles from wrestling Scripture from its true meaning to their own moral and spiritual destruction. A goodly part of the Bible is no meat for babes. The Church, like the wise mother who has preserved this Book, discriminates between those who are fitted to read it with reverence in its entirety and those who read from mere curiosity, or to bolster up certain mischievous theories of their own. We are taken to note that Protestants are coming to recognize this common sense view.

Of course there is this essential difference between the Protestant and the Catholic reader of the Bible: For the former the Bible is the rule of faith, and this, too, as interpreted by himself, and this, too, as interpreted by the Bible. It is for this purpose Protestants read it. The Catholic reads it for edification, instruction, to confirm the faith he has learned elsewhere, to become acquainted with God's merciful dealings with men, to find a spur to good living and right thinking. Leo XIII. and other Popes exhort to this reading.

In a discussion of this subject it is also essential to remember that Catholics discriminate between the Catholic version of the Bible and Protestant versions.

"In The Name of God."

Francis Nugent in the Forum, of Salem, reminds us that a great deal of the history of the world is to be found in the memorable phrases of those who have made history. Then he gives a number of the striking sentences attributed to leaders in the world's affairs, on important occasions, and says: "No phrase, however great it can surpass the words of the Apostle of Temperance, 'Here goes in the name of God.' One of the most notable events recorded in the history of Ireland is the starting of the temperance movement in Cork by Fr. Mathew. Sixty-five years ago that great and holy priest, sighing over the intoxication of the people of his friend capital, and anxious to be their friend as well as their Father, concluded that there was but one hope for them, and that was the creation of a temperance crusade. Father Mathew took his pen in hand and uttered the memorable phrase, 'Here goes in the name of God.'"

NEWMAN'S RESERVE.

One of the most hopeful signs of Catholicism in this country is the enthusiasm felt by the generation which is now growing up for the writings of Cardinal Newman. His is a name to conjure by; his an authority to invoke. Though he published the bulk of his best work more than forty years ago, his sermons and essays are still found to be rich in quotable material. So true is this, indeed, that it would be hard to cite an actual controversy, among the few that save our wits from going utterly to rest in these days, on which his views would not be strangely pertinent, if not decisively to the point. If one were asked to cite, we will not say the most learned, but the most inspiring, English-speaking apologist of our time, he would, in seven cases out of ten, and perhaps, oftener, feel impelled to reply with the name of Newman. That is the fact that the great Oratorian never aspired to be an apologist at all. His services to the cause of orthodoxy were, as he himself modestly described them, occasional rather than deliberately systematic. His finest thoughts were thrown off in the way of sermons and lectures. He wrote no full treatise as a Catholic; for of course the Apologia, in spite of its intensely personal note and its austere literary grace, depicts but a fragment of the man, and is moreover a narrative in justification, and not an exposition. The Grammar of Assent, too, which might fairly be instanced as a bold attempt to map out new highways through the twilight land that lies between reason and faith, is a sketch after all, and not a finished study. And yet Newman remains the one master apologist for all English-speaking Catholics in this age, because he is a force rather than a voice. It is the spell of his temperament rather than the influence of his logic that holds the Anglo-Saxon world in list to-day.

American Catholics of this generation who lived somewhat beyond reach of the controversies which revealed Newman's power to his friends, are apt to be disturbed when they learn, as they do from time to time, that a giant of his capabilities was not always suffered to proffer his services under conditions that would have made them most valuable to the Church at large. He was misjudged, he was misdenoted, he was misnamed. Manning ever employed Mr. Talbot to instill doubt into the bosom of Pius IX. During the strained conditions of things that prevailed everywhere throughout the continent for a decade previous to the opening of the Vatican Council, Dr. Newman's instinct was to withdraw into retirement, and the instinct of his good friends and lovers and friends was to drag him out into the light and set him boldly before the world as the champion of a new cause which was viewed in many quarters with dismay, though the simplest of us can see now how wonderfully it betokened peace.

It was under the influence of such a stress that Dr. Newman wrote the series of letters published only recently in the Month in an article to which we called the attention of our readers recently. Father Coleridge was Dr. Newman's friend; he sympathized, too, with many of his ideas, particularly with those that bore upon the attitude of intelligent friendliness towards the uneducated Catholics towards the influential non-Catholic world in countries like Northern Germany and England. How little he succeeded in really interesting the Birmingham reviewer the letters now in print make patently clear. To put the matter plainly, Newman would have no active part in the venture. He would give part in the venture of an article or two; but little more. His reasons for holding thus negatively aloof are curiously of a nature that strange hauteur of intellect which those who are familiar with the "Sermons" will recognize as eminently characteristic of him in his more spiritual moods from youth to old age. The many are always perverse in their judgments; their standards are low; their criticism is false and loud;—that is how he seems to argue. "If your periodical," he writes to Father Coleridge, "is to pay, if it is to have influence, it must have readers who are they to be? Catholics are not a reading set—but if they do read it, what do you want to do with them? To be their organ? If so, against whom?" Catholics are not a reading set! That was Newman's judgment of us in the early thirties, observe. Can it be contended that those who would follow the present Editor of the Month too confidently affirm it read the reflections of the temporary editor of the Pilot. On the subject of criticism his forecast is, if possible, more pessimistic still; for he writes:

"Recollect, you are sure to have a strong muster of influential Catholics, whose one business it is, not to consider whether you have an aim, or what it is, or whether it is important, but to criticise what is done in and for itself, and that in the most effectual way they can."

And he adds further on: "It is impossible to write anything really effective without the risk of mistakes." There we appear to have a clue to what some would call the secret and half-proud spirit of irritation that seeks to quiver keenly beneath all that urbane untroubled wording. Did Newman resent the ecclesiastical machinery for censorship? He is not afraid to reveal his mind on the subject to his Jesuit friend. Censorship, he seems to imply, will prove a more effectual than the apathy of a non-ally subscribing, non-reading public. It is likely to do; for it is likely, he adds, "especially if formal and searching."

To issue in "compositions which have lost all their edge." Even on the larger questions of historical controversy, where Catholic scholars, it might be contended, would be compelled to paint the awkward fact in its original ugliness, leaving to apologists the prob-

lem of re-adjusting the disturbed views of the illiterate and only half-educated, the great thinker is not one whit more encouraging.

Nothing could be better than a Historical Review—but who would write it? Unless one doctored all one's facts it should be thought a bad Catholic. We have shifted our point of view very noticeably since those words were written. For, after all, it is a mere matter of policy, and not a question of principle, that is involved in querulous utterances of that sort. With writers like Pastor and Denife, Thurston, Pollen and Battifol we have made a departure from the supposed conservatism of forty years ago. Would the great Cardinal write so contemptuously if he were alive to-day? We very much doubt it. He himself hints somewhere that it is almost as dangerous to be in-expedient as it is to be unsound. Many things have altered in the schools since Leo XIII. first turned his attention to Catholic studies.

On the other hand nothing could be more reasonable in the present state of general culture among Catholics in America than to remark like this: "As secular power, rank and wealth are great means of promoting Catholicism, so especially in this democratic age is intellect. * * * A first-rate journal, then, of which the staple was science, art, literature, politics, etc., would be worth more to the Catholic cause than half a dozen noblemen, or even than a millionaire." Has it not been our tendency here to make more of wealth and social position than of the one thing which, in our nor social position can ever save us from deterioration? Is a cultivated man of brains worth more to the Church in the eyes of the well-to-do Catholic in America than half a dozen noblemen or a single millionaire? The figures and their opposed ratios, remember, are Newman's. Was it the prophet or the ironist in him that sickled o'er the juxta-position with so pale a cast of rebuke?

We regret that the limits at our disposal in these columns will not allow us to multiply our illustrations. The article is on file in the Public Library; and every open-hearted disciple who turns to it will grant that we have changed upon a group of sayings which reveal the great master in an interesting and most pertinent phase of mind.—Providence Visitor.

DANIEL O'CONNELL AND HIS RANK AS AN ORATOR.

In a brief summary of the history of Ireland, printed in the New York Evening Post, Mr. Goldwin Smith sums up his opinion of Daniel O'Connell in a few lines. Mr. Smith sees nothing good in the great Liberator. His ability is merely address and cunning; he is coarse, violent, always full of abuse and vituperation; even his eloquence is spoken of slightly and with prejudice. This shows how far prejudice and strong feeling may carry a man who wishes to be thought an accurate and dispassionate historian. Surely so drawn by Mr. Smith can never deceive any man of sense into believing O'Connell to be such a man as he describes him. Even amateurs in the study of human nature know that so unrelieved and unqualified a judgment never as he made the impression upon his people that O'Connell made upon his fellow-countrymen.

Though Goldwin Smith would have us believe that there was nothing good in Daniel O'Connell, Wendell Phillips, the great Abolitionist, praises the Liberator as a man and a patriot. Speaking of O'Connell as an orator, here is what Phillips said:

"Any reference to O'Connell that omitted his eloquence would be painting Wellington in the House of Lords without mention of Torres Vedras or Waterloo. "Broadly considered, his eloquence has never been equalled in modern times, certainly not in English speech. Do you think I am partial? I will venture John Randolph of Roanoke, the Virginian slaveholder, who hated an Irishman almost as much as he hated a Yankee, himself an orator of no mean level. Hearing O'Connell, he exclaimed: 'This is the man, these are the lips, the most eloquent that speak English in my day.' I think he was right. I remember the solemnity of Webster, the grace of Everett, the rhetoric of Choate; I know the eloquence that lay hid in the iron logic of Calhoun; I have melted beneath the magnanimity of Sergeant S. Prentiss of Mississippi, who wielded a power few men ever had. It has been my fortune to sit at the feet of the great speakers of the English tongue on the other side of the ocean. But I think all of them together never equalled O'Connell. Nature intended him for a Demosthenes. Never since him for one Greek has sent forth any one so lavishly gifted as a tribune of the people. In the first place, he had a magnificent presence, impressive in bearing, massive like that of Jupiter. . . . There was something majestic in his presence before he spoke; and he added to it what Webster had not, what Clay might have lent—grace. Lithe as a boy at seventy, every attitude a picture, every gesture a grace, he was still all of nature; nothing but nature seemed to speak all over him. Then he had a voice that covered the gamut. The majesty of his indignation, flung uttered in tones of superhuman power, made him able to 'indict' a nation, in spite of Burke's protest."

"I heard him once say: 'send my voice across the Atlantic, careering like the thunderstorm against the breezes, to tell the slaveholder of the Carolinas that God's thunderbolts are hot, and to remind the bondman that the dawn of his redemption is already breaking.' You seemed to hear the tones come echoing back to London from the Rocky Mountains. Then, with the slightest possible Irish brogue, he would tell a story, while all Exeter Hall shook with laughter. The next moment, tears in his voice like a Scotch

song, five thousand men wept. And all the while no effort. He seemed only breathing.

"As effortless as woodland rocks and violet up, and past, then blue." "We used to say of Webster, 'This is a great effort'; of Everett, 'It is a beautiful effort'; but you never used the word 'effort' in speaking of O'Connell. It provoked you that he would not make an effort. And this wonderful power, it was not a thunderstorm; he flanked you with his wit, he surprised you out of yourself; you were conquered before you knew it. His marvelous voice, its almost incredible power and sweetness, Balwer has well described:

"Once to my sight that giant form was given, Walked by wide air, and roofed by boundless heaven. Beneath his feet the human ocean lay, And waves of awe raised in his eyes away. Manhood no cliron could have sent its sound Avoast the centre of the hosts around; And as I thought, rose the source as well, As from some church to ver swings the silver bell. Aloft and clear, from airy tide to tide, I glided easy as a bird may glide. Before the voice of that vast audience sent, It played with each wild passion as it went; And as I heard the uproar, now the murmur still'd, And sobor laughter answered as it will'd."

Webster could awe a senate, Everett charm a college, and Choate cheat a jury; Clay could magnetize the million, and Corwin led them captive. O'Connell was Clay, Corwin, Choate, Everett and Webster in one. Before the courts logic; at the bar of the senate, unassailable and dignified; on the platform, grace, wit and pathos; before the masses, a whole man. Carlyle says: 'He is God's own anointed king, whose single word melts all wills into his.' This describes O'Connell. Emerson says: 'There is no true eloquence, unless there is a man behind the speech.' Daniel O'Connell was listened to, because all England and all Ireland knew that there was a man behind the speech—one who could be neither bought, bullied nor cheated. He held the masses firm, but while subjects in his hand."

Wendell Phillips, who heard Daniel O'Connell, says that he was an orator. Goldwin Smith, who never heard him, says that he was not.

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