

The Catholic Journal.

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AROUND THE GLOBE.

WHAT THE CHURCH IS DOING IN THIS AND OTHER CONTINENTS.

Many Items of General Interest That Will be Appreciated by Our Readers.

Archbishop Riordan, of San Francisco, is about to place the archdiocesan seminary in the charge of the Sulpicians, with Very Rev. Father Vuibert, hitherto of the Catholic University, at their head.

The priests at the Cathedral of Viterbo made the Pope a present last year of the very ciborium out of which he had received his first communion seventy-five years before. Now the Holy Father, in return, has sent to them a handsome and costly ciborium of gold and silver, engraved with the name of Leo XIII, and with an inscription setting forth the occasion for the gift.

Rev. Thomas H. Malone, editor of the "Colorado Catholic," has decided to make an exhaustive study of economic and social questions in this country and in Europe for the purpose of fitting himself for the self-imposed task of educating the masses and instructing them as to their rights and prerogatives.

A rumor is current in Washington that Archbishop Corrigan is about to found in or near New York city a Catholic female college to be conducted by the Ursuline nuns on the same lines that the Notre Dame congregation has proposed for the Trinity female college near the Catholic University in Washington.

Rev. John Gerard, S. J., has been appointed provincial of the English province of the society of Jesus, in place of the Very Rev. Father Scholes, S. J., whose term of office has expired. The new provincial was formerly prefect of studies at St. Francis Xavier's College, Liverpool, and afterwards occupied a similar post at Stonyhurst College. Latterly Father Gerard has been engaged in editing the "Month," in the current issue of which he has an interesting article in reply to Professor Gardiner, entitled "The Problem of the Gunpowder Plot."

The "Missionary," the organ of the Catholic Missionary Union, announces that two more missionaries have been added to the list already at work under the patronage of the union. These are Rev. Thomas McNamara, who is now occupied in the Diocese of Natchez, covering the State of Mississippi, and Rev. Dr. Pampeny, now engaged in the Diocese of Leavenworth, covering a large part of the State of Kansas. The placing of these missionaries was the practical outcome of the meeting of the directors of the Catholic missionary Union in June.

The famous sermon delivered by Father Ollivier at the time of the charity bazaar fire has led to his removal from the pulpit of the Cathedral of Notre Dame. Archbishop Richard at first opposed Father Ollivier's removal, but it is understood that a hint from Rome induced him to change his mind. He has now appointed the Dominican Father Etourneau to succeed Father Ollivier. Father Etourneau a strong and fluent preacher of Christian socialism. He has made a tour of America, during which he preached in New York.

Rev. George Deshon was elected Superior-General of the Paulists during the sessions of the General Chapter which closed recently. At the close of the last session the affecting ceremony of "Installation" took place. The newly elected superior was installed in office and at that ceremony received the members of the community one by one, each one as he stood before him kissing his hand in token of obedience and receiving from him the fraternal embrace in token of the bond of brotherhood existing in the community.

The Dominican Sisters of the Perpetual Rosary have established a convent in the old Gen. Hobart residence on Twelfth and State streets, Milwaukee. The community comprises Mother Prioress Mary of the Rosary and five Sisters. The mother prioress is a French woman, two of the sisters are Germans and the other three are Americans. They wear the white garb of the Dominicans. The Sisters give themselves up entirely to the perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament—day and night at least one Sister kneeling in adoration and reciting the rosary. They do not engage in teaching or works of charity.

FAMINE IN IRELAND.

RUINED CROPS—IMPENDING DESTITUTION AND FAMINE

The Outlook for Irish Farmers is One of Despairing Blackness.

According to reports from Ireland a panic is fast proclaiming itself throughout the "Green Isle" over the terrible prospect opened up by the apparently complete failure of the harvest.

Reports from 110 parish priests from counties Clare, Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Tipperary, Antrim, Cavan, Derry, Donegal, Down, Fermanagh, Monaghan and Tyrone, all tell the same piteous story of ruined crops, impending destitution and famine. Blight has everywhere wholly or mainly destroyed potatoes, while oats, which is the next most essential crop to the Irish farmer, have been battered down by incessant rains and practically destroyed.

Cries of warning to the government are rising in a crescendo scale from all parts of Ireland. They are not confined, as in former years of distress, to the congested districts on the western seaboard. From Mullingar, one of the most prosperous parts of the midlands, a correspondent telegraphs:

"The crops are now irretrievably destroyed. It will be impossible for the farmers to make anything of their cereals this year, as they are quickly rotting. In the churches prayers for fine weather were recited, and if a change does not come immediately the crops might as well be left to mature the ground."

From county Wexford, noted as one of the richest in the country, the tidings are: "The green crop may be described as a gigantic failure in county Wexford this year. The greater part of the potato crop is only fit for feeding cattle."

From Fermanagh, in Ulster, the correspondent telegraphs: "At a meeting held here to-night to ask for a reduction in rents, the parish priest presiding, declared that not since black 1847 has the prospect for farmers in this district been so bad. In several places the potatoes have been a failure. Hundreds of tons of hay have been ruined by the heavy rains and floods."

From Carlow, known as "the model county," a dispatch says: "There is before our farmers an outlook as disastrous as it is possible to conceive owing to the frightful weather. A great deal of the corn cut early remains in the stalks injured beyond recovery. In many districts the farmers have been unable to cut their crops, which present the saddest spectacle of being leveled to the earth by the persistent rains, while a mass of second growth and weeds has come up. The apprehensions concerning potatoes also have been dimly realized."

At a meeting of the board of guardians at Mitchellstown, county Cork, the chairman said: "The potato crop is generally a failure, while the other crops have been hopelessly injured by the unparalleled inclemency of the season. We are on the verge of a great agricultural crisis. The outlook in farming affairs is gloomy in the extreme, and to aggravate the condition of affairs caused by the failure of the potato crop, the prices of provisions are considerably increased, and before long people who are supposed to contribute to the poor rates will be in workhouses themselves."

The Irish government has adopted no measure yet to cope with the threatened famine.

Complaint is heard from the most distressed districts of the country that landlords are pressing for their rents to secure whatever little money the tenants may have in savings banks, knowing that nothing will be left before the winter is half through.

The weather shows no sign of improving. Rain continues and the temperature has fallen to an exceptionally low point for this time of year. The outlook for Ireland is one of despairing blackness.

It is reported already that the inhabitants of many places in Connaught are eating bread, which in ordinary times is regarded as a luxury, and is not used except when potatoes are unobtainable.

"Agricultural experts have information that the present harvest is the worst since 1879, which was the most distressing in this generation, and the sufferings of the poor in the next eight months threaten to almost equal the horror of the famine of 1846."

"All the boards of guardians are providing for a large increase of poverty, necessitating doubling the rates in some districts. But immediate steps must be taken by the government if the people are to be saved."

COLOSSAL HEAD OF CHRIST.

The Largest in the World Just Completed by the Famous James Tissot.

Early next month Paris will have the largest painting of Christ extant, the production of James Tissot. The picture is to be shown to the public in October, and those who have been fortunate enough to have obtained a preliminary view declare it to be a remarkable piece of work, both because of its enormous size and great power.

The painting is to find a permanent resting place in the famous chapel of the Dominicans in the Faubourg St. Honore. Christ is shown at half length, his arms outstretched as though calling upon humanity. The head is of majestic and mysterious beauty, and measures 6 feet 6 inches from the chin to the top of the forehead. The open arms stretch 16 yards from finger tips to finger tips. The little finger is as large as that of a full-grown man.

Experts who have seen the painting criticize it for the severity of the face and attitude, declaring that both are not true to nature and tradition. Father Serillange, the first critic of religious art in Paris, who acted as a mentor to the painter, on the other hand, asserts that the countenance is one of human intelligence, beautified by spiritual refinement.

The entire attitude of the figure and the execution of the work is one of symbolical mysticism. The lips of the Saviour are slightly parted, as though he were about to speak. The eyes are dark and severe, and have a questioning look. The severity is modified by a gentle smile.

The draperies are arranged in noble lines, and are in the historical three pieces. First is the tunic, reddish brown in color and seamless; then comes the Gaba, or immaculate white linen robe, and then the white mantle of the prophets, with one end thrown negligently over the shoulder.

The background is of azure blue, brightened by a seven-pronged spray of golden light beams. Behind the head is the triangle emblematic of the Trinity, with a white dove fluttering near. The nimbus completes a picture that but for its severity would be considered as one of the masterpieces of religious art.

NOTABLE CONVERTS.

Among the notable converts during recent months to Catholicism are: A daughter of Joaquin Miller, the "poet of the Sierras," who was baptized into the Catholic communion in Guelph, Ont., where she had been a student in a convent; the late Rev. John Trevor Still, vicar of the Anglican church in Kent, Essex, Eng., who was baptized on his deathbed by a Franciscan friar in July last; Miss Edith Howard Hodges of London, a member of the church of England, who was received into the Catholic church by Father Galway, S. J.; Canon Gregson, a clergyman of the church of England, at Brisbane, New Zealand; Mrs. Thomas Atkinson of Ryton, Eng., received by Canon Wrennall; Rev. St. Leger Wessall, curate of St. Saviour's church, who was received into the Catholic church, together with his wife and children, by Rev. Father Bampton, S. J., and whose renunciation of the faith of his fathers created a sensation in all England; Mrs. Gwilt Joily, wife of a well-known English artist; Lady Loder, mother of Gerald Loder, senior member of parliament for Brighton, Eng.; Rev. John N. L. Clarke, curate of St. John's church, Cape Colony, South Africa, and Mrs. Sarah Margaret Le Verrier at Swindon, England.

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WASHINGTON LETTER.

THE CATHOLIC SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS AT FRIEBURG.

Six Hundred Delegates Present—All Deliberations Inspired by a Broad Progressive Spirit.

[Special Correspondence of CATHOLIC JOURNAL]

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The Catholics of America have a right to feel proud of their position in the church today. Not because of their numbers or of the great advances the church has made, but because of the fact that they were the first to both present and respond to the call of the Holy Father, when he determined that the church meant democracy in the broadest sense of that term. The greatest members of the college of Cardinals and the leaders of the hierarchy as I have before stated, followed him in this, though there was opposition from those who did not understand the full significance and the broad beneficence of the movement inaugurated by the Pontiff, which was to carry the church back to its earlier teachings and doctrines and finally to unity the Christian World under one religious banner.

The Catholic Scientific Congress has just closed its sessions at Freiburg, Switzerland and the seat of the great new University. There was six hundred delegates present, men of great eminence in the scientific world, among them, Baron Von Harding, Tomio, Kurth, De Burs, Decussius, Lapporvui, Baufel, Ginnest, and from the United States, Mgr. O'Connell, Dr. Tahn, Dr. Pace and Dr. Graham.

Though there was opposition, the democratic idea imparted from America was preponderant and supreme. This marks a new epoch in the history of the church. The old conservatism has surrendered to the ideal democracy and progress. The great scientists of the church have accepted it.

In spite of the opposition of some of the able defenders of the old conservatism, notably that of the talented Vallouvi of Paris, the congress agreed to distinctly socialistic and democratic conclusions. All the deliberations of the congress were inspired by a broad progressive spirit and the result will be a change in the scientific methods of the seminaries.

Father Zahn, formerly professor at Notre Dame college, Indiana, whose book reconciling the claims of the scientists as to the creation with the bible, should be in the hands of every educated Catholic, made a warm report and was warmly congratulated on his work. It may be accepted as a fact hereafter that his thesis on evolution will be an integral part of Catholic Scientific study. Monsignor O'Connell read a remarkable paper on Americanism, not politics but Church Americanism, which accepted cheerfully and gladly the political conditions under which the church lives and thrives. And Mgr. O'Connell as the former rector of the American college at Rome, was most fully equipped for the work he did with such marked success.

There was a select banquet which 47 of the most distinguished scientists attended. Dr. Shaeppmann head of the church party in Holland, a most distinguished sociologist and historian offered a toast the Glorious American Episcopate and the great Archbishop of St. Paul, drawing a most fascinating picture of the general body and its work, and paying a most eloquent tribute to Mgr. Ireland. The toast was drunk and the speech received with great applause. Mgr. Python, head of the Freiburg government, cool, cautious, sagacious and conservative, was enthusiastically applauded when following Dr. Shaeppmann, he declared that America or rather Europe needed more Americanism.

The political results in Europe of the church's position, and there is no longer any reason for doubt on that question, may be very remarkable. As previously stated in these letters, the social democracy and the church in Belgium had caused the government to introduce many reforms for the alleviation of the condition of the working classes. Heretofore the church party in the German Reichstag has not affiliated with the social democrats, but has rather gone with the conservative. It need not excite surprise if in the near future the church parties and the socialists departs unite, and by unity control the action of that body. Such action is almost certain to follow the conclusions of the Freiburg congress. And thus the church in the United States may lead not only to the religion but the political regeneration of the old world.

THE UNIVERSITY.

PROMISING OUTLOOK FOR THE NEW YEAR.

Opening to Take Place Next Week—New Young Professors—The Catholic Chair—Requests—Archbishops' Meeting.

The Catholic University will reopen its doors to receive the divinity students on the 28th inst.; the students in philosophy, science, and letters on September 30, and those in law, political economy, and the social sciences on October 6. The class work in these several schools will be resumed on the morning of the next day. Heretofore it has been the usage to open the divinity college with a retreat for the students of the college, but the retreat even in this school will begin later in the year, and studies will be resumed on September 30, at 8:30 a. m. The outlook for students in all the schools of the University is very promising at present, says the Church News of Washington, D. C. Two-thirds of those who studied here last year will return to continue their studies, the other third going on the mission, into law offices or into other walks of life. The technical school is receiving a large equipment this summer, and will do more and better work during the coming year. The law school is strengthened by the permanent establishment of the Richard M. O'Brien chair of Roman law. Within two years this school has received endowments of \$150,000; for the law, \$50,000 for the Joseph Banigan chair of political economy, and \$50,000 for the Richard M. O'Brien chair of Roman law. Since the establishment of the last chair, Doctor Robinson, [formerly head of Yale Law School], the dean of the school, has reorganized his courses, and as may be seen from his latest announcement, this law school is one of the best, if not the best, of the highest law schools in the country today.

Mr. Robinson avers, and he is a man of large experience and high character, that no law students in our country have as many opportunities as the students of the Catholic University. Three new young professors will enter upon their careers as trained university teachers at the opening of the school. They will come to the university enriched with some experience on the mission and several years' training directly under the supervision of the University and in the best schools of Europe. Two of them are alumni of the institution. They are Rev. William J. Kerby, Ph. D., who has taken his degree with distinction in the University of Louvain School of Social Sciences. He will be associate professor of sociology. Rev. Charles F. Aiken, S. T. L., who will begin courses in Christian apologetics, is by his long study, experience with the agnostic world, and scholarly attainments well fitted to introduce the theological students to the higher courses of dogmatic theology. Rev. John S. Creagh, J. U. D., who has just finished his graduate courses in canon law at the Propaganda at Rome, is a young man of the highest promise, and will profess canon and Roman law. It is most probable that Rev. Richard Hanbury will not occupy the Catholic chair the coming year. At his own request he has been allowed to

remain in northern Europe until June, 1898, in order that he may meet the best Catholic scholars of the continent, visit the university libraries and prepare material for translation and publication from the ancient manuscripts, which will constitute a good share of his future work at the University. Father Hanbury, although an Irishman, is one of the brightest priests of the English hierarchy. He is an accomplished Irish scholar, thoroughly conversant with modern Irish, and a profound student of Old and Middle Irish. This Gaelic chair, endowed with \$50,000 for its perpetual maintenance, is the first and only one of its kind established in the United States. This splendid work for the old tongue of the Gael was accomplished through the patriotism and high-minded generosity of the Ancient Order of Hibernians of America, who presented it to the University through His Eminence Cardinal Gibbons in a formal and splendid ceremony on the occasion of the last meeting of the board of directors, October, 1904. Rev. Dr. Kerby belongs to the archdiocese of Dubuque, and Rev. Father Aiken and Dr. Creagh belong to the archdiocese of Boston. The chair of apologetics, into which Father Aiken enters has been vacant since the retirement of Dr. Poble, some four years ago, but the chair of canon law, formerly occupied by Dr. Parson, has been carried along with zeal and ability by Drs. Shahan and Bouquillon in addition to their regular courses.

Among the professors who have engaged quarters at the dormitory for the coming year are Dr. Griffin, chemistry; Dr. Shea, physics; Dr. Greene, botany; Dr. Shanahan, philosophy; Dr. Kerby, sociology, and Dr. Creagh, canon law. During the summer the University has received as a bequest, through the will of the late Father Doherty, of Honesdale, Pa., \$5,000 towards the chair of apologetics, and \$100 from the will and through the conversion of the late Mrs. Cowburn of Washington. Among the many contributions to the library during the year special mention should be made of the valuable volumes of Col. Joseph Sullivan, Washington, D. C., on "Bible Language," "Charles Irving, his youngest son," from Mrs. Linnie Sherman, Washington, D. C.; 106 different volumes, rare and valuable, from William Onahan, Esq., Chicago; volume IV, "Manners and Papers of the President," from Hon. Thomas E. Carter, U. S. A.; thirty-fourteen different dissertations from Columbian University, New York; fifty different bulletins of great value from the United States Department of Agriculture and of the Interior, and nine numbers of reviews from the French Government. These volumes are placed according to the matter in the department of general library to whose work they have special reference.

The annual meeting of the board of directors of the University will take place in Washington on Oct. 21, and the annual meeting of the board of reverend archbishops will be held on the next day, October 21st.

Chapel at Fort Hancock.

During the coming year a Catholic chapel will be erected at Fort Hancock, Sandy Hook, where the Government is erecting the largest fortification in the world, equipped with every modern and scientific appliance for defending the port of New York from attacks by sea. After the completion of the new fortress Governor's Island will be abandoned and the army headquarters in the East will be transferred to Fort Hancock, where the Government owns several thousand acres of ground on which sixty buildings are in process of construction. The largest guns which will be mounted on the fort have been ordered with the result that it is known the guns will carry a shell weighing 1,000 pounds to a distance of 18 miles.

The Government has retained G. Wilfred Plummer, civil engineer, to plan the entire arrangement of the chapel, including the elevations of the walls and the laying of the cables with contact points for the ships of commerce as well as the ships of the navy.

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