The Catholic Journal.

Vol. IX, No. 8. Rochester, N. Y., Saturday, November 20, 1897. $1.00 per Year, [illegible]

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.

The late Duchess of Teck took a great interest in charities, including those carried on by Catholic Sisters on behalf of the poor.

Cardinal Kremenz, the venerable Archbishop of Cologne, is seriously unwell.

When Liege Cathedral caught fire a few days ago, the flames were first perceived by the people of a circus in an adjoining open space, and were checked by the vigor and agility of the acrobats, who easily reached points inaccessible to ordinary men, until the fire brigade came.

Another pioneer priest of the diocese of Cleveland has gone to his reward—Rev. Louis Hoffer, of Louisville, Stark Co. He had been in ill-health for about one year, suffering from liver complaint and kindred diseases.

Among the new cases of yellow fever developed in New Orleans are those of Fathers Blenk and Dempsey, and Sister M. Anthony Fleck. Another religious to fall victim to the dred disease is Sister M. Francis Joyce, of the order of St. Joseph, and formerly of Cincinnati.

The daughter of the Marchioness of Hastings and Sir George Chetwynd (Miss Chetwynd), who was lately received into the church by Very Rev. Father Berdard Vaughan, S. J., is engaged to be married to Lord Uxbridge, whose income is set down at sums falling between £200,000 and £100,000 per annum.

The Boston Archdiocese is about to establish a school for deaf mutes. Mgr. Magennis has the matter in hand. It will be located in Jamaica Plain and it will be a day school, with provision, perhaps, made for the accommodation of a few boarders who live at a distance. The Jesuits in past days have had a class of deaf mutes under instruction at the Immaculate Conception, and it may be that they still continue that work.

The annual meeting of the alumni of St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, will be held at the institution on the afternoon of Tuesday, November 23d. In the morning the members of the association, as well as the other priests of the diocese, will atted Pontifical High Mass at the Cathedral, where they will renew their clerical promises.

A very interesting account is published of the recent occupations of His Holiness the Pope. Leo XIII, took advantage of a few days of fine weather to pay a visit to that portion of the Vatican gardens which he has converted into a vineyard and to assist at the vintage. The scene was most picturesque when the aged Pontiff in his spotless white robes descended from his carriage, accompanied by his private chaplain and couple of Swiss Guards. The simple peasants, although living within the precincts of the Papal possessions, were wonder struck at the white apparition. All of them had heard of course of the Holy Father, but few have seen him. They fell at once reverently on their knees, and, baring their heads, cried, "Bless us, Holy Father; bless us and the vintage."

An expiatory service took place in St. Sulpice, Paris, recently, with great solemnity. It is an annual celebration in expiation of two successive acts of sacrilege which were committed at St. Sulpice in the seventeenth century. One was on the night of the 28th of July, 1648, M. Olier, founder of the congregation of St. Sulpice, was cure of the parish at the time. The malefactors got possession of the ciborium in the chapel of the Blessed Virgin and scattered the sacred hosts in one of the confesssonals. An idea of the religious spirit of the time may be gathered from the fact that the parishioners of St. Sulpice were in commotion, that amusements were suspended, and that voluntary penances were embraced. One, the Baronne de Neuvillette, undertook to live on water and black bread for the rest of her life. One of the principal culpits was condemned to death by the Parliament of Paris after being forced to do public penance before the portal of St. Sulpice. The second act of sacrilege was on the 25th of October, 1665.

Hood's pills cure all liver ills. Mailed for 25c by C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.

A GLIMPSE OF THE CUBAN SITUATION.

By Rev. Charles Warren Currier.

For more than two years and a half a disastrous war has desolated one of the fairest islands of the globe, for two years and a half, the blood of its inhabitants has been poured out as water, and during all that time, a neighboring government, the great Republic of the United States, has looked on with apparent indifference, to safeguard the technicalities of international law.

In the beginning of the Cuban rebellion, during the government of Martinez Campos, and while the war was being conducted on the principles of justice and humanity, I remained neutral, for I loved Spain and its glorious past. With the advent of Valeriano Weyler, my position changed. I read the various newspaper reports, letters of correspondents and so forth, I sifted the evidence, and came to the conclusion that a barbarous and tyrannical government was drenching Cuban soil with innocent blood. Since then, in spite of my admiration of the personality of the Queen Regent, and, in spite of friendship, I have not concealed my opinions.

For some time, I had principally newspaper reports to rely upon, besides private conversations with interested persons. But my information to-day is more accurate and authentic, though the sources may not be revealed.

Weyler's career of blood is ended, blood that has been shed in vain, for the stamp of failure is upon his name. Even the Spaniards must acknowledge, if they are frank, that there has been a wanton and useless shedding of blood. In the HERALDO of Madrid of September 6, of the present year, an interview is given with Gen. Ochando, who had been head of the Estado Mayor of Weyler. The interview took place at Avila, whither the General had come to visit Sagasta. In the course of the interview, the General expressed the opinion, that the shooting of prisoners of war in the ditches of the Cubana fortress, even though they had been condemned by court martial, was little conducive to the peace of Cuba. He also regards as a grave error the wanton destruction of property, by which the island has been completely ruined. Among the prisoners here alluded to, there have been boys of sixteen, as well as almost decrepid octogenarians.

To describe the scenes enacted in the melancholy ditch of the Laureles, a friend tells me, would be to recall to memory the martyrdom of the early Christians in the Roman amphitheatre. It has happened that a father and his two sons were brought to the place of execution, and that before the eyes of the afflicted parent, the sons were riddled with Spanish balls, while he awaited his turn. Sometimes two brothers gave to each other the last fraternal embrace, before the fatal volley. In vain did broken hearted mothers and desolate wives, cast themselves at Weyler's feet to implore mercy for those dear to them. The "Modern Nero," as Weyler has been called, turned a deaf ear to their supplication.

I will ask the reader's permission to cite the words of a Catholic priest, one well acquainted with the condition of affairs in the unfortunate island, and who has seen Cuba in the throes of its agony.

He said to me these words: "I can assure you that in conformity with my mission as a priest, I am not a lover of war, and I detest the shedding of blood, especially after having wittnessed such horrors; but, now that so many innocent victims have been sacrificed, nothing remains to be done, but to follow the counsel of the Gospel, 'Shake the dust from one's feet,' and fight for the triumph of outraged justice. Poor Cuba, land on which God has heaped so many natural gifts! A great part of the misfortunes of this noble, generous, and hospitable people has proceeded from the fact that it could cherish neither hatred nor vengeance. It has seen its fields destroyed, its riches wasted, its virtues despised, its peaceful inhabitants perishing with hunger, and its daughters ill-treated and violated."

Many Catholics have instinctively taken the part of Spain, because Spain is a Catholic country, but they forget that it has been guilty of numberless acts which are a digrace to the Catholic name. The Cuban people as a body, is Catholic by tradition, and by conviction, through religion among the lower classes is mixed with some superstition and ignorance. But who is responsible for this, who has educated this lower stratum of the population? Of the more educated classes, some are practical Catholics, while among others a rationalistic spirit prevails; or they are indifferent. I believe there has been a marked change for the worse since the beginning of this century. It is true that the infidel spirit of the last century, together with the infidel literature, and secret societies, have contributed their share; but where were the watchman of Israel, placed on the tower, to guard the flock from the inroads of wolves? Alas! I am afraid, that many of them were asleep. It is true that Cuba has had some exemplary Priests and Bishops, and that among the latter, in the present century, Santiago de Cuba had a saint; but it is also true that the predominance of the state in the affairs of the church has had a most deleterious effect, while many of the clergy were instruments of a tyrannical, selfish, and hypocritical government. As a rule, Spain did not send its most edifying priests to Cuba.

The priest already cited, says:

"Religion in Cuba has frequently been imposed, not by example, not by christian meekness, not by the preaching of our holy faith, the spread of the doctrine of our divine master and the practice of the Gospel, the sublime law of love and charity, but by imposition and force, as well as the collecting of enormous rights and taxes for every religious act and the administration of the sacraments."

The Cuban Catholics have imposed upon themselves enormous sacrifices for the church and the support of the priesthood, but the results of their generosity have almost entirely passed into the hands of the government. The churches, cemeteries, hospitals, asylums, and so forth, were established by them without assistance from the government, which, on the contrary, has expelled from their home five hundred orphans, those of the Casa de Benificencia, to turn the edifice into a military hospital.

The Spaniards, to place themselves in a favorable light before the eyes of the Catholic world, have endeavored to show that the Cuban rebellion is animated by an anti-religious and anti-Catholic spirit.

I find the following reply to this assumption, a reply which indicates that the Spaniards in the present war in Cuba need not boast too loudly of their Catholicity.

Is it Catholic to turn the country parish churches into forts, factories, horse stables, prisons, and places of torture; to desecrate them in every way by the shedding of blood, shameful lust, the profanation of images and the sacred vessels?

In many churches no time was given to remove the sacred vessels, and, while the Blessed Sacrament was still in the tabernacle, the soldiers have entered, blaspheming and ridiculing sacred objects, turning the altars into dirty cupboards, and desecrating the baptismal font by making it a scullery.

Is it Catholic to apprehend unfortunate young country girls, imprison them in the sacristies and church sanctuaries as insurgents, and keep the unfortunate innocents incommunicades in order to violate them, and subject them to other infamies? Is it Catholic to kill women and children, and then, wearing scalpulars, go to the church on Sunday (at present, small houses of private persons), to hear Mass out of custom, in order to flirt and make love to women, thus making a pretense of worshipping God?

Is it Catholic to enter the houses at midnight, carry off a father or son out of hatred, suspicion, or some other cause?

Similar facts are daily and so numerous that to collect them would fill a volume. Yet they are practiced by Catholic Spain against irreligious Cuba. Such conduct is surely calculated to eradicate whatever Catholic faith there is in the Cuban breast. My statements rest on reliable authority.

No words can describe the agony of the people in the country. The unfortunate reconcentrados gathered together in the towns by the orders of the humane Weyler, are dying of hunger and unendurable suffering. In one small town of 2,000, the population soon rose to between 6,000 and 8,000, and of this number 3,000 perished within a year. An eye witness informs me that he has beheld scenes which belonged only among wild beasts. Weyler and his associates seem delighted with the prospect of the extermination of the Cuban people. "Wretches," they exclaim, "they have to die, and thus with the evil brood come to an end; they wanted war, and a few months more will see them extinct." Alas! The tiger has not changed his skin. Was not this the conduct of the first colonists of Cuba toward the unfortunate race which has disappeared,—the Indians—a conduct against which the immoral Bartolome de las Cassas raised his energetic protests? Is the justice of God here and has the blood of the Indian at last cried for vengence, now that the hand of Spain is raised against its own children, descendants of the the Cuban colonists?

Let Spain hide her head from the light of civilization, when she reflects on the conduct of many of whom she sent to curb the rebellion. A number of her uniformed sons, profiting by the misery and weakness of poor Cuban girls and young women, and by their own strength, have used the opportunity to satisfy their brutal lust.

Who is responsible for this state of affairs? Is it Weyler alone? But who appointed Weyler? The leader of the party that appointed him has himself fallen under the assassin's hand; but the Spanish government remains, and the Spanish government stands branded before posterity with the unpunished crimes againgst the Fifth Commandment that have been committed in the name and under the cover of law. Alas! that the amiable Maria Christina should be the regret of such a land; alas! for the honor of the Houses of Hapsburg and Bourbon!

What has the United Staes government done during these two years and a half? Besides running after filibusters for two long years and a half, it has been gathering information. Surely the administration at Washington must be gorged with information. Or does it, perhaps, intend to write a history of Cuba? When it is all over some one else may write a history, and some things may be written which will do small credit to certain distinguished gentlemen now alive; for the pen is mightier than the sword.

A NEW PEDRO CLUB.

The Ideal Pedro club, which has lately been organized, consists of the following members.

President—Charles A. Hudon.
Vice-President—Mrs. Louis H. LaFontaine.
Secretary—Mrs. A. E. Ferguson.
Treasurer—James A. Oliver.

Mrs. C. A. Hudon, Mrs. J. A. Oliver, Mr. A. E. Ferguson, Mr. Louis H. LaFontaine, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Mee, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. G. Oliver, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Richmond.

The meetings of the club take place on every alternate Wednesday evening. Their first party was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. H. LaFontaine, 165 Glenwood avenue, to whom is due the honors not alone for the success of the club on starting, but the entertainment and reception enjoyed by the guests. Prizes were won by Mrs. A. G. Richmond and Mr. Louis LaFontaine. Their next party was held at the home of Mr. and Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Oliver, and it was in all respects one equally preceding. Prizes were won by Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Hudon.

AN OFFER TO THE BOYS.

Father Finn's stories are among the best that have been published, and they have received the approval of the finest literary people of the country. The publishers now want to hear from the American Boy himself—he who figures so conspicuously in these books, and for whose special delectation they were written—what he thinks of Father Finn's latest book: "That Football Game."

To encourage the boy's in this labor of love they propose to give to the one whose criticism is selected by the editor of THE JOURNAL, as the best of those sent to this office, one the Spalding's best Intercollegiate J. No. 5, $5. Football, or if preferred by the boy a complete set of Father Finn's books.

All unsuccessful competitors for this prize, will receive free a portrait of Father Finn, and one of his short stories.

TRY OUR Lehigh Valley Coal.

Wise buyers buy good coal from Jacob S. Haight. Yard and office West avenue, city line. 'Phone, 94-A. Postoffice, Lincoln park.

WASHINGTON LETTER

A REMARKABLE DISCOVERY.

The Official Report of Pontius Pilate Said to be Discovered in the Vatican Library.

Special Correspondence of CATHOLIC JOURNAL.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A most remarkable discovery has been made in the Vatican library. Dr. D. W. Mahan, an English clergyman, one of the leading and most noted paleographers of the world has the honor of the discovery, the paper being said to be no less than the official report by Pontius Pilate to the Emperor Tiberius Cæsar, of the the crucifixion of Christ.

That such a report was made no one ever doubted. The events attending the ministry and death of the Savior were of such a character that the Roman governor of the province would naturally give an account of them.

Tortullian, writing about the middle of the Second century, says in his Apologia that such a document did exist and that the Apostle Peter induced the emperor to deposit it in the royal archives.

Other writers of this early period, notably Eusbius and Justin Martyr, also spoke of the existence of such a paper, while modern experts, like Tischondorf and others, believe such a document existed.

There is no library in the world which contains such a mass of old, and in many cases unknown documents, as the library of the Vatican. This find will doubtless lead to an exhaustive examination of all the library contains.

While the old Latin parchment has been translated and may be, what it purports, the original report of Pilate, this has not been verified, but the most searching critical examination is now being made by the distinguished scholar who made the discovery and others, and it will be an easy matter to determine the authenticity of the document, for such changes are constantly being made in living languages, and Latin was then a living language, that it would be very difficult after the lapse of a century or more to counterfeit the language and idioms of a previous era. And at this particular time the Latin language was being changed more rapidly than ever before or after by the continual additions to the empire of foreign conquered nations, many of whose people settled at Rome.

Mons. Martinelli, the Papal legate, says of this paper; "It is extremely interesting as bringing to light two facts hitherto unknown to history—first, the private interview that Pilate had with Christ; and second, that Pilate would have prevented the execution of Christ had he sufficient authority."

Cardinal Gibbons, the highest authority of the church in America, says. "Although the existence of a letter from Pontius Pilate to Tiberius Caesar has been a point of much controversy the discovery of any document which purports to be the original of such a letter should excite the keenest interest. To pronounce it genuine would require a long and exhaustic investigation. If it were found to be genuine it would be the most marvelous and extraordinary discovery of years and would be of the utmost importance to the Christian world."

We have to await these investigations as to whether the discovered paper is a forgery or not. If it is proven to be genuine it will prove to be of the greatest importance, as it would establish beyond all doubt the contentions of the Christian world must be admitted, however, there is a sentence in this report which casts doubt upon its authenticity, . . . where Pilate speaks of the possibility of the new religion taught by Jesus overturning the religion of Rome, he says he will have been the instrument of what Christians call Providence and destiny. . . . The followers of Jesus were not called Christians until long after the execution of Christ. Cardinal Gibbons, in a sermon delivered at the cathedral in Baltimore, on the text, "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's, said:

"The state is what we ourselves make it. It is our creation. The state is made up of units of citizens. The destiny of the state under God is in our hands. The citizen has a perfect right to criticise the official conduct of the public functionaries, to dispassionate judgment, before the public and official authority, serious [illegible]

purpose. It reminds those [illegible] are not the masters but the servants of their constituents."

This was a timely word of warning not only to the voters who [illegible] officials, that they should [illegible] wisely, but the officials, who [illegible] elected into office, seem to think that they are the masters and not the servants.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs has given out his annual report which contains some interesting [illegible] upon the Indian school question. It is well known that a fight has been in progress for some years on, what is known as "The Contract Schools," that is the schools established by the various churches, among the Indians and which were paid wholly or in part by the United States. The fight was made solely because the schools conducted by the Catholics received much the largest part of the appropriation, outnumbering those of the Protestant denominations. School houses have been built and [illegible] provided by the government, the cost of houses alone being nearly $[illegible], an expenditure resulting almost directly because of the war on the schools. The result is that all but one of the Protestant mission schools have closed, all the teachers appointed by the church being Protestants, many of the teachers being ex-soldiers, [illegible] the mission schools. An appropriation of $[illegible] was made by congress for the contract schools last year; of this, $[illegible] went to the Protestant schools, and the remainder, $[illegible] to the Catholic schools, all of which have maintained such [illegible]

Archbishop [illegible] Bernard of [illegible] and were given [illegible] the Pope [illegible] question [illegible]

[illegible]