

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.

In reference to the rumors that His Eminence Cardinal Vaughn would shortly be elevated to the peerage and that the Marquis of Salisbury had been approached by the Duke of Norfolk in order to bring about that result, a Manchester gentleman wrote to the Premier, who has replied that he had not heard of the report, which was absolutely without foundation.

The report is again current that Archbishop Corrigan is soon to be made a cardinal, and should he receive a red hat the bestowal will not be much of a surprise to American Catholics. He is at the head of our biggest diocese, and nobody questions his worthiness for cardinalial rank.

Under the presidency of His Eminence Cardinal Ledochowski, prefect of the Propaganda, a sitting of the Sacred Congregation of Rites was held the other day to consider the cause of beatification of the Venerable Sister Maria Crescentia Hoessin, of the Third Order of Franciscan nuns. The sitting was what is called the preparatory one, the Cardinals and consultants present being asked to deliver a decisive judgment as to the three miracles proposed for the beatification of the venerable servant of God.

News comes from Rome that arrangements have been made at the English College there for the reception of Anglican clergymen who have embraced the Catholic faith and who desire to study in order to become priests. Some of these being elderly men, it is, of course, impossible to expect them to conform to the rules which the young students of the college must obey, and therefore, with the sanction of the Pope, practically a separate establishment has been made for them.

It said that the Pope has ordered all the Raphael tapestries in the Vatican to be placed under glass, in order to preserve them. Cavaliere Gentili, however, who is an authority on the subject and head of the tapestry department at the Vatican, declares that those which have for some time past been covered in this way are being damaged rather than preserved. Other artists hold a contrary opinion, and the final decision with regard to these treasures will be awaited with no little anxiety throughout Europe. That some steps must be taken for preservation is a matter of urgency, but at the moment it does not seem clear, among so many conflicting opinions, how the best method will be discovered.

Mgr. Touchet, Bishop of Orleans, who recently went to Rome with the necessary documents for the opening of the cause of Joan of Arc, has returned to his diocese. The Sovereign Pontiff gave the Bishop a most touching and cordial welcome; he would not permit Mgr. Touchet to choose a Cardinal to whom to confide the interests of the cause of Joan of Arc. "Trust the Pope," said His Holiness. The process of Jeanne d'Arc has already passed its first stage, there are several stages, and it will be some years before the case is settled—perhaps five or six years.

After a long and wearisome series of legal proceedings the question of the bequests of the Marquise du Plessis-Belliere to His Holiness Pope Leo XIII. has been settled. The Marquise made the Pope her universal legatee, and her heirs contested the will on the ground that His Holiness could not inherit landed property in France. The Montdidier court upheld the validity of the will. The heirs carried the case to Amiens, where the Montdidier decision was reversed, and the affair was then to be submitted to the civil chamber of the court of Cassation. This will not now be necessary, as the heirs are ready to allow the Holy See the possession of the splendid residence on the Place de la Concorde formerly owned by the testatrix, and her fine chateau at Moreuil, with its artistic collections. The residence on the Place de la Concorde is to be eventually used by the Papal Nuncio in Paris.

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WASHINGTON LETTER.

IS THE WORLD BECOMING CATHOLIC?

Figures That Show The Church Is Progressing.

Special Correspondence of CATHOLIC JOURNAL.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The census of 1890 showed that with a population of 62,622,250 souls there were 20,612,806 communicants in all the various Christian churches. The Catholic Church then had of the total number of communicants 6,257,871. That was not quite thirty per cent. of the communicants and just ten per cent. of the population. The New York Independent, a great and progressive Protestant religious journal, takes every year a census of the communicants in all churches. Its figures for the past year have just been published. The total number is given at 25,919,027 and of these just one-third or 8,639,000 are Catholics. The population of the United States, according to the Treasury statistics, on Jan. 1st, 1898 was 73,725,000. This shows that the number of church communicants is much larger than in 1890. The percentage as to population being 35 3-10 per cent. as against less than thirty per cent.

The population according to these figures increased sixteen per cent. The communicants increased 20 1-2 per cent and the Catholic communicants increased 38 3-10 per cent. If we divide the increase between Catholic and Protestant communicants we find an increase of less than fifteen per cent for the Protestants and over thirty-eight per cent for the Catholics.

There is a great moral lesson in these figures. It is this, the world is becoming Catholic or Infidel. Intelligent men who study, find there is no middle ground between the teachings of the church and the despairing cry of the Agnostic, "I don't know." That wonderful book of Father Zahm's in which he exploded all the theories of the scientists and the miserable droolings of the Herbert Spencer school, has set the world to thinking and when an intelligent man thinks he accepts the Church.

But it is not in the United States alone that the church is progressing. As said before in these letters, Pope Leo XIII is one of the wisest successors of St. Peter. When elevated to the pontifical throne, he found himself a prisoner in a palace, without power, and the church, notwithstanding the fact that it was the church of God, drooping—falling away without spiritual as well as without temporal power. He sought the reasons for these conditions and found them. He found that the church, forgetting its God-given mission was catering to temporal powers, bending its holy head to Emperors and Kings and Princes.

Having found that trouble, the Pope applied the remedy. He showed in his encyclicals and in his private instructions to the Prelates, that the great Head of the Church, the Divine Master refused to bend the knee to power. He said "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's," but in the conclusion of the sentence he expressly excepted conscience and belief, for he said: "And unto God the things that are God's."

Turning to the New World, the Pope saw the great American Republic, a Democracy with a Republican form of government, where religion flourished because it had nothing to do with, and was not interfered with, by the government. The church flourished there as it did nowhere else, because the church was free and the government free.

Such was the church in the beginning when Peter was bishop of Rome and suffered martyrdom because he would not bow to temporal power and such has Leo the successor of Peter, decreed that it shall be today.

And the social church democracy is slowly but surely dominating Europe. Italy and Austria are controlled by it. Belgium, with its liberal, utilitarian King, accepts it. Germany with its "fluctuating Kaiser," recognizes its power. France is feeling the force of the movement as is Great Britain. Even in the old Iberian Peninsula, Spain and Portugal, under the lead of the great Cardinal of Valencia and Senor Copeda, are looking forward to an intelligent and cultured Republic. In France, the enemies of religion have organized themselves as the enemies of democracy.

And so in all Europe we see the fruitful radiation of the social and Republican ideas of the New World on

the old. It is one of the strangest and most interesting movements in history, that, under the lead of Leo XIII international Catholicism should have brought its ideals to the ideas of Americanism, and that the starry flag should become the banner under which the church of God will finally become the peaceful conqueror of the world.

FALLING OF THE STARS.

The Coming Shower of Meteoroids and Rain of Fire.

The astronomers look for the next great meteoric shower on the morning of November 15, 1899. They calculate that the earth will then pass again through the center of an immense swarm of meteoroids, as they are called, before combustion. These great "Leonide Star Showers," as they are called, occur at intervals of every 33 years and one day. The great shower of 1799 occurred on November 12; that of 1833 on November 14, and consequently a repetition of the next wonderful phenomena is expected on the morning of November 15, 1899.

In the meanwhile, however, as the aggregation of meteoroids is of immense length, one end of it will encounter the earth in 1898 and the other in 1900, making as Professor Lewis Smith, the distinguished astronomer of Rochester, N. Y., says considerable showers in those years also. Not only this, but it is stated on the same authority that many forerunners of the great shower may be expected to come within the earth's atmosphere on November 14, 1897, because many of the meteoroids are always considerably in advance of the main cluster. Professor Swift says "the thickness of the meteoroidal stream is 100,000 miles, and the duration of the shower is equal to the time of the diagonal passage of the earth through it, usually from midnight to dawn." He adds: "As there is a light shower of Leonoids every November, we know that there is a vast ring formed by the comet's tail, and that the immense shoal in one portion is the product of the exploded comet itself, and through which we pass once every 33 years and a day."

The meteoroids are dark bodies, and it is only when they pass into the earth's atmosphere that they are ignited by friction and become visible for a few seconds. The stream makes a revolution around the sun in about 33 1-4 years, and by consequence the earth passes through it in a new place every year. The length of the swarm is so enormous that although it moves at the rate of nearly 25 miles a second, yet it takes it two years to pass the earth, so that when its hinder part is still with us its advancing side will have reached the orbits of Jupiter and Saturn. Notwithstanding this extent, it is but a fraction of the entire orbit. Professor Swift says: "This great cluster will reach the earth's orbit about June 1, 1899, but the earth will not have arrived there then, but will be due nearly six months later, when our planet will plunge into the swarming mass, and for at least five years we shall experience a literal rain of fire."

The Cigarette in Diplomacy.

An attaché of one of the legations in Washington said the other day: "Diplomacy couldn't get along without the cigarette. For hundreds of years ambassadors used the snuff box as a discourager of impulsiveness and temper. You can't think of Talleyrand, for instance, without his precious snuff box. Recall the paintings and prints of the picturesque old fellow; he seemed to be always offering a pinch of snuff to some other smiling chap. When passions became strained, or things that ought not to be said were likely to be forced out by a sly remark of one's adversary, or an unexpected situation developed, the passing of snuff always gained time. The cigarette does the same business now. The cigar is too big and too heavy for many men, but the cigarette is dainty and harmless, and if it does anything, it steadies the nerve for the time. It is a graceful thing to offer; it affords a chance for a polite smile; it helps a fellow to get an impressive face; and most of all it makes him careful in speech. Why the world never will know how often even war has been averted by the cigarette. There is always a war of diplomats before the open war of actions, and that little roll of tobacco has again and again during the last ten years been a spell of peace among ambassadors when irritation had got the better of them and any moment might hear the irrevocable words which would precipitate war. All the sensitiveness of a whole nation is sometimes tingling in the person of its one ambassador during a critical interview, and I could tell you strange stories, were I at liberty, which I have gathered among the diplomatic corps of various capitals of how international anger has been soothed by the smoke of a cigarette."

Isaacstein (to door-keeper of poker room)—Is Jacky Isaacstein in dere?
Door-keeper—Yes.
Isaacstein—Is he ahead?
Door-keeper—Yes.
Isaacstein—Tell him to come home quick; his father is dying.

FROM KLONDYKE.

VERY REV. J. B. RENE, PREFECT APOSTOLIC OF ALASKA, IN THIS COUNTRY.

Wants to Establish a Monk's Colony There to Till the Soil.

Very Rev. J. B. Rene, of the Society of Jesus, has been visiting Baltimore, Washington and New York. From the metropolis he will sail for Europe, returning to Alaska during the early spring.

Father Rene is anxious to establish a monastery in the interior of Alaska.

The home of the Alaskan mission was established in Juneau city in 1866, since which time it has extended throughout the American territory, the principal missions being on the Yukon river. At Circle city Rev. William Judge, a Baltimorean, has charge. Since the prospectors have found gold, Father Judge has established a hospital, which has been very successful. Rev. Francis A. Barnum is located at Akularak, on the coast of Bering Sea, near the mouth of the Yukon. At Koyuk, on the Lower Yukon, and Nulato, on the Middle Yukon river, there are also missions, making a string from one end of the river to the other.

Dr. Rene left Juneau city in the latter part of last January, after having completed a trip over the territory investigating the work of the missionaries and the success of the gold prospectors. He said: "The American people have not conceived as yet the vastness of their possession, and will not do so until an effort has been made to cultivate the country, which can easily be done. The gold-seekers are experiencing many hardships, principally because all the food has to be imported at a high price. At Juneau and the missions along the Lower and Middle Yukon we have fertilized and tilled the ground on a small scale, and have no difficulty in raising a large quantity of vegetables. We also have some cattle and an abundant supply of fresh milk."

"These industries I am anxious to encourage, for the territory is, in my opinion, the richest gold region in the world. The best discoveries so far are on the Canadian side, but we have equally as good, if not superior places within our boundary. Last spring there were very few people in the villages, and on the 17th of July last there were 3,000 to every one that I had noticed earlier. With this vast increase the question as to how they will live is the puzzle. No company will invest money in cattle raising and farming, and the government says that it is too poor. Returns would be slow in coming, but they would eventually come. I am anxious to establish a monastery and demonstrate my theory. The monks are known for their wonderful work of cultivation, and should I succeed in my efforts, Alaska will be a greater country than any in the Arctic circle."

"It is true, we have very extreme weather. During our summers, which last four months, the heat frequently reaches 94 degrees, while in the winter months the thermometer often registers 80 degrees below zero. The cold weather makes little or no difference to the miners after they have been working under ground, which many do for several months."

"Before leaving Alaska I secured some figures from leading miners for the enlightenment of those who are inclined to believe the stories of wealth coming from that far-off country are myths. In the first place, it is generally understood that gold is picked up on the streets of Dawson. In the by-ways and out of the hedges. That is all nonsense. Dawson City is swamped with gold-seekers. When I was in Dawson City, a year ago, the population numbered about 3,000 persons. Now it will exceed 7,000, and if the increase keeps up at the present rate will soon reach 20,000 to 30,000. But there is room for all. Gold is not found in Dawson, nor near there. The creek in which the precious metal is found are miles from the centre of immigration. They are divided into claims of 500 feet length and an average of 40 feet width, from hill to hill on each side. The prospector first pays \$15 to the commissioner and then he is entitled to stake any of these claims left vacant, and there are thousands of them, notwithstanding reports that the country is overcrowded."

The mission of Hood's Sarsaparilla is to cure disease, and thousands of testimonials prove it fulfills its mission well.

ARE CONVERTED.

RECEIVED THE LIGHT OF THE TRUE FAITH.

Many Notable Persons Have Lately Entered The Church—Ministers Among Them.

Mr. D. E. Abbot, of the Abbot-Edwards Electro Co., and Frederick Long, of the Euclid Ice Co., were recently baptized Catholics by Rev. W. S. Kross, of the Cleveland diocesan band.

Father Clark, of the Paulist church in San Francisco, recently received into the church Richard Ralla; D. D. S., of that city.

Miss Beesie Livingston Webb, matron of the Meridian Hospital, Conn., was lately received into the church. Miss Webb is member of an old Montreal family, her father, William Beesie Webb, being a member of Parliament of Ottawa, and at the time of his death, in 1890, legislative councillor.

Another Montreal convert recently reported is Mr. J. A. Pouliot.

Mr. Clarence Whitaker, of Colorado, was baptized a Catholic a short time ago by the zealous Father Cushman, of that city.

During November, three eminent English converts, whose names were not published in the report, were baptized by Monsignor Harrington Moore at the Otorio di S. Giuseppe, Florence.

A very notable conversion, which was not published at the time of its occurrence in the beginning of this year, was that of Mr. Henry Augustus K. Boyer, formerly a Presbyterian minister in Chicago. Mr. Boyer is now at St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoody, preparing for the priesthood.

Another recruit from the Protestant ministry is the Rev. E. L. Buckley, of St. John's Protestant Episcopal church, Newport, R. I., who recently resigned his charge there and sailed for Europe to prepare for entrance into the church.

A very extraordinary conversion is that of a distinguished high caste Hindu, the father of Mr. A. S. Ghosh, a writer of some celebrity, who is at present engaged in writing the account of his father's conversion from Brahminism to Protestantism, and then to Catholicity.

The reception of an entire family into the church—a Dr. Grewer and his wife and their seven children—took place recently at Scranton, Pa. Among the most notable conversions in Great Britain of late have been those of the Hon. Albert E. Bingham, a son of the Earl of Lucan, and the Hon. Mrs. Albert Bingham; Mrs. Rowbotham, wife of Mr. Herbert W. Rowbotham, British South Africa Co., and Mr. Robert E. Dell, editor of the Surrey Mirror. Mr. Dell was a graduate of Oxford University, and was much esteemed as a lecturer of the Protestant defense Institute in England.

Nearer home is reported the conversion of Miss Marion Gurney, of New York, a graduate of Wellesley College, and for some time actively associated with the social settlement work in New York city.

The Hon. Mrs. Moore Smyth and the Viscountess Cantabury, sister of the Earl of Oxford, and daughter of the Hon. Frederick Walpole, M. P., has been received into the church.

An eminent physician of San Francisco, Dr. Luke Robinson, was baptized a Catholic during the latter part of October. It is told of him that all through his professional life he had shown the greatest respect and esteem for the Catholic faith, taking care that his Catholic patients should always have the consolations of their religion when there was danger of death, frequently sending his own carriage for the priest. His conversion was no unprepared thing, but the result of many years' observation and study of the Church's teachings.

Mrs. Clara Hope Thorne, daughter of the late Professor Thorne, of Wellington College, was baptized a Catholic on the feast of the Immaculate Conception at Swindon, England.

Miss Sybil Sanderson, the celebrated American singer, was received into the church recently in Paris.

Viscount Incombe, son of the Earl of Eldon, was baptized a Catholic recently at the Oratory in London by Father Gordon.

Mlle. Angona, a member of a well-known Jewish family at Leghorn, has been received into the church at Naples.

An Anglican Sister, head nurse of the Warwick Nursing Association in England, has been received into the church against much opposition from her former associates.—The Missionary.

THE ONE CHURCH.

CHRONOLOGY OF MISSIONS AND NOMINATIONS.

Compiled by Cardinal Gibbons.

The significant table compiled by Cardinal Gibbons, showing the ages, the founders and the place of origin of the principal churches of the world, is a striking proof that there is but one church, that which alone can boast of ancient origin, is the church of Christ. In each instance, with a single exception, the cardinal's authority is non-Catholic. His table is as follows:

Anabaptists. Place of origin, Germany. Founder, Nicholas Stork. Year, 1512. Authority quoted, Vincent L. Milner, "Religious Denominations."

Baptists. Place of origin, Rhode Island. Founder, Roger Williams. 1639. Authority quoted, "The Book of Religions," by John Maywood.

Free Will Baptists. Place of origin, New Hampshire. Founder, Benjamin Randall. 1780. Authority quoted, "The Book of Religions."

Free Communion Baptists. Place of origin, New York. Founder, Benjamin Coop, close of the eighteenth century. Authority quoted, Rev. A. D. Williams, in "History of All Denominations."

Seventh-day Baptists. Place of origin, United States. Founder, conference, 1835. Authority quoted, W. B. Gillett, in "History of All Denominations."

Campbellites, or Christians. Place of origin, Virginia. Founder, Alexander Campbell, 1810. Authority quoted, "Book of Religions."

Methodist Episcopal. Place of origin, England. Founder, John Wesley, 1739. Authority quoted, Rev. Nathan Bangs, in "History of All Denominations."

Reformed Methodist. Place of origin, Vermont. Branch of the Methodist Episcopal church, 1814. Authority quoted, Rev. Nathan Bangs, in "History of All Denominations."

Methodist Society. Place of origin, New York. Branch of the Methodist Episcopal church, 1830. Authority quoted, Rev. W. N. Schuchman, in "History of All Denominations."

Methodist Protestant. Place of origin, Baltimore. Branch of the Methodist Episcopal church, 1830. Authority quoted, James R. Williams, in "History of All Denominations."

True Wesleyan Methodist. Place of origin, New York. Founder, Daniel Galt, from Methodist denomination, 1843. Authority quoted, J. Thibault, in "History of All Denominations."

Presbyterian (Old School). Place of origin, Scotland. Founder, General Assembly, 1590. Authority quoted, John M. Kuhn, in "History of All Denominations."

Presbyterian (New School). Place of origin, Philadelphia. Founder, General Assembly, 1840. Authority quoted, Joel Parker, D. D., in "History of All Denominations."

Episcopalian. Place of origin, England. Founder, Henry VIII, 1534. Authority quoted, Henry and other English historians.

Lutheran. Place of origin, Germany. Founder, Martin Luther, 1517. Authority quoted, Schuchman, in "History of All Denominations."

Unitarian Congregationalist. Place of origin, Germany. Founder, Arius, about 1540. Authority quoted, Alvan Lennon, in "History of All Denominations."

Congregationalist. Place of origin, England. Founder, Edward Browne, 1554. Authority quoted, E. W. Andrews, in "History of All Denominations."

Quakers. Place of origin, England. Founder, George Fox, 1646. Authority quoted, English historians.

Quakers. Place of origin, America. Founder, William Penn, 1681. Authority quoted, American historians.

Catholic church. Place of origin, Jerusalem. Founder, Jesus Christ, 33. New Testament.

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Cardinal Gibbons.