

# Lusitanian Church, Catholic. Apostolic, Evangelical.

**I**N Portugal we have not only suffered from the restrictions and moral effects of the European War, but also the baneful and disturbing influences of revolution, lawlessness, and internal strife.

For the last nine years this country has been in an unsettled condition, first one and then another political party coming into power without having time to settle down and do any good, but engendering strife, hatred, and the spirit of reprisals one against the another.

When Portugal became involved in the war the idea of such a terrible conflict came at first as a shock to our minds; the cost of food and other necessary articles increased exceedingly; greater than in any other country: the attention of many became more and more taken up with their own affairs, some with their profiteering and others with the problem how to live or how to grind their own axe.

Economic troubles, misery and starvation among the poor, social difficulties, epidemics, unlighted streets and personal dangers caused by riots and stray bullets, and false imprisonments all served to hinder spiritual life.

On the other hand, while referring to these difficulties and their consequences we have cause greatly to thank God.

The festivities to celebrate the declaration of Peace were enthusiastic here, and rightly so, as our soldiers fought bravely in Africa and in France, and proved the truth of the well-known saying of Wellington that Portuguese peasants led by competent officers make the best and the most hardy soldiers. Unfortunately our military organisation, it is admitted, was defective.

It would not be surprising if the number of Church members, examinations successfully passed, and contributors to the Church had greatly diminished; but, on the contrary, all have increased during the war.

During the first half of the current year the number of registered contributing members of the congregations of S. Juan Evangelista and Salvador do Mundo attained 399, not including 12 communicants who are unable to contribute, besides 102 contributors to the School Fund, making a total of 501.

	\$ escudos.
The collections for the poor during the last half-year amounted to .....	356
Ditto Foreign Missions .....	218
Ditto the Parochial Fund .....	587
Ditto Schools .....	1,066
	2,227

which at a normal exchange of \$5 (escudos) to a £ would be £445 8s., given by a congregation consisting principally of the working class.

During the months of July and August, 1919, the collections and freewill offerings (not entered, of course, in the receipts of the first half-year)

...at the Lusitanian Church, generally a good congregation on Sunday evenings during the winter months, and often a crowded one at special lectures on week evenings, but the attendance at the Sunday afternoon services falls short of what it ought to be. During the last 36 years between 4,000 to 5,000 scholars have passed through the schools of this congregation, and over 2,000 successfully passed some public examination, many with honours.

Although comparatively very few of these are enrolled as Church members, yet the great majority are in full sympathy and favourably disposed to the Lusitanian Church.

On the 17th July last the minister of this church was invited to attend a session of the municipal council of the town of Gaia, and one of the councillors made a speech thanking the former for his efforts to promote the instruction of the people, to relieve the poor, and presented him with a cheque for 200 \$ escudos towards the Poor Fund, and 60 escudos towards the night class for illiterate adults. The parochial council of the parish of St. Marinha gave him 50 \$ escudos towards the schools, and the parochial council of Mafamude 20 \$ escudos towards the Poor Fund.

All the above figures and statistics which refer solely to the congregation of S. Juan Evangelista and Salvador do Mundo, Gaia, fall far short of what they should be, were there more self-denying consecration on our part, yet speak a story of faith, prayer, and confident trust in God for the future.

Progress on a large scale cannot be expected in a country like Portugal, so jealous of foreign "oversight and control," until we have a native-born Bishop with a truly catholic spirit.

Our great friend, Dr. W. E. Collins, late Bishop of Gibraltar, told us that in a poor, struggling Church it was far better that the clergy should be obliged partly to support themselves by some secular employment than that they should be dependent upon foreign support.

The neighbouring congregation of O Bom Pastor, centre of active Christian work with a long list of communicants, is now suffering a severe trial, into which we cannot now enter, but the priest-in-charge and his flock have our sympathy and prayers.

The self-support of the three congregations in the township of Gaia is a motive for thanksgiving and encouragement.

The congregation of Espirito Santo, Setubal, has also suffered from persecution, and its active minister was accused by political opponents of being a conspirator and was imprisoned for some months, but at his trial proved innocent and fully acquitted. This congregation is much in need of a decent and appropriate church edifice like the other congregations of the Lusitanian Church already possess. A subscription list has been opened, but materials being now so dear we are not yet able to commence building.

We know that good work has been done by our colleagues the priests in charge of the three con-

gregations in the Lusitanian Church, and we are sure that the work will be continued with the same energy and devotion as in the past.

A BANKING FUSION.—A provisional agreement has been entered into by the directors of the London City and Midland Bank and the directors of the Clydesdale Bank, Limited, for a fusion of the interests of the two banks, subject to the sanction of the Advisory Committee to the Government.

prospectus will be found in our advertisement column.

help forward a great social scheme. The full details of the proposed fusion of the two banks, and the reasons for the same, are given in the prospectus.

the temperature problem. Investors therefore should not be misled by the fact that each fresh issue of shares by this company represents a step towards solving the temperature problem.

taking to the notice of our readers, as we feel that each fresh issue of shares by this company represents a step towards solving the temperature problem.

active in attending to their duties and they need to be.

We are thankful to be on friendly terms with neighbouring clergy, especially since their liberties have been curtailed, and have even co-operated with them in the protection of rights and liberties of schools not supported by the State, and in the distribution of food to the indigent poor. They know that we make no attempt to proselytise among the members of their flock, although we cannot refuse to give comfort or Christian privileges to those who have left Rome, or are unable to accept the unlawful terms of communion imposed by that Church.

The Abbé of an adjoining parish, a D.D. and eminent preacher, remarked to us:—"We mutually respect each other, and we must each in our own sphere hold up the Cross of Jesus before the prevailing indifference and infidelity."

The lay Brother Superior of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament of the R.C. Church of Mafamude, invited all the members of our church choir, the school teachers and others, altogether 66 persons, to visit the grounds of his country residence near the sea-side on Sunday afternoon, August 17th, where he and his family welcomed us and gave us tea, and, after much hymn singing he remarked that he had seldom spent such a pleasant and profitable afternoon and hoped we would repeat our visit. His mother-in-law also gave us an offering of one pound sterling in memory of her departed husband. All the choir members were impressed by his kindness and affability.

While firmly maintaining the truly Catholic principles, formulæ and liturgy of the Lusitanian Church (approved of by the last Lambeth Conference as in accordance with Catholic standards, also highly eulogised by several Old Catholic Bishops), we desire to be always on friendly terms and in public thanksgiving services and other special occasions unite with Christians who hold essentially the same Creeds, but unfortunately reject the historic Episcopate, which we hold to be of Divine Institution and necessary for the well-being of the Church. We are also ready to co-operate in all efforts to promote the instruction, the morality, relief of distress, and to better the condition of our countrymen.

In contemplating the broken and bleeding state of our country, stricken in body and embittered in spirit, we wish to remember the well-known words of Livingstone, engraven in Westminster Abbey:—"May Heaven's rich blessing come down on every one who will help to heal the open sores of the world."

DIAGO CASSELS,  
Priest-in-Charge of the Church of S. Juan Evangelista, also of the Church of Salvador do Mundo.  
August 31st, 1919.

THE LUSITANIAN CHURCH.

The membership of the Lusitanian Church is continuing steadily to increase, and the Church at Gaia now possesses over four hundred registered adult members. They are on friendly terms with their Roman Catholic neighbours, both lay and clerical, and also with the Methodists, who have a church at Oporto. "Our object," writes the Rev. Diago Cassels, priest of Gaia, "is to preach the Gospel and teach Catholic doctrine to those who belong to us, but not to make proselytes from other Communions of Christians. But we cannot be admitted into full intercommunion with the local Anglican Communion or with any other branch of the Old Catholic Church until our Catholic organisation be completed by the consecration of a native-born Bishop with a truly Catholic spirit, and this is more needed than financial aid." Further particulars of the organisation of the Church will be found in our advertisement columns.

DISTRESS IN PORTUGAL.

SIR--The political, social, financial, and religious state of Portugal is distressing. The whole country has been thrown into chaos by revolution following revolution, and the inability of any Government to secure stability. The war has led to the enrichment of the few and the impoverishment of the many. The cost of living and all the necessities of life has undoubtedly increased more in Portugal than in any other of the allied countries.

The salaries of all Government officials and servants have been increased; many artisans now earn high wages, but poverty and misery abound, and many are starving, as a large number of factories are closed for want of coal and of primary articles. Official and private charity is incompetent to succour half of the indigent poor. Unfortunately, it is the fashion to profess atheistical ideas. Almost all the members of the Government set the example; the authorities and officials are generally professed infidels or materialists. The Church has been robbed of her property, deprived of her privileges by the Law of Separation from the State, not allowed to receive any legacies, nor to manage her own affairs, and although some of the impediments were relaxed during the Presidency of Sidonio Paes, she still suffers from disadvantages. On the other hand, the restrictions placed on the Church have certainly caused many of the Roman Catholic clergy to be more active, and in several instances, to our knowledge, have made them more tolerant and more friendly to other Communions.

An eminent Swedish philanthropist, professedly a freethinker, who has been visiting the reformatories, was greatly surprised and very sad when he was informed that in Portugal no kind of religious instruction is allowed in the reformatories or in any schools supported by the State!

DIAGO CASSELS.

Gaia, Portugal.