

ANOTHER FORWARD STEP IN THE CONVERSION OF ENGLAND.

By the REV. SYLVESTER PALMER, C.P.

TO many readers of *The Cross*, the village of Addingham, so charmingly situated in Wharfedale, Yorkshire, is nothing more than a name, if even as much. But the fact that Providence has selected it as the field of the first labours of the Passionists in the county of the broad acres, should be a sufficient reason to excite the interest of our readers, whilst we endeavour to give a brief description of the village and the work which is being done there for the propagation of Catholicism by the Passionist Fathers. Not inappropriately have the sons of St. Paul of the Cross undertaken this work enthusiastically. For it were but fitting that the county which took such a prominent part in the "Pilgrimage of Grace," in that heroic stand to preserve the old faith in 1536, should be helped towards the re-establishment of that faith by the followers of Paul of the Cross, whose long life of eighty-one years was characterised by continuous, persevering prayer for the return of England to the faith of her fathers.

Addingham can boast of a long and chequered history. One writer, dealing rather exhaustively with the village, **Addingham.** has gone back in his researches to pre-Roman days, and proves that even then Addingham was a place of some importance, even before the composition of the Domesday Book. The village has, not inappropriately, been called "Long Addingham," from its one long main street; and one historian assures us that Addingham's sons, in common with other places in the immediate district, enlisted enthusiastically beneath the standard of dauntless Clifford, prior to his march to Flodden Field.

"From Penigent to Pendle Hill,
From Linton to Long Addingham
And all that Craven coasts could tell,
They with the lusty Clifford came."

In the past Addingham played an important part in English industrial life, as its appearance indicates, and it is noteworthy that the second worsted mill in England was built in this village. The present population numbers about 2,000, of whom about 100 are Catholics, and the inhabitants are chiefly employed in the spinning and weaving industries carried on in the mills in and around the village. In May, 1826, Addingham was the scene of a great riot, consequent upon the opposition raised by the operatives against the introduction of power looms into the mills. Those who have read Charlotte Brontë's "Shirley" will have gained some information regarding these troublesome days.

Two miles to the south of the village, there exists the site of two Roman encampments, on the elevated piece of ground known as the "Cringles." Within the camp on the Addingham moor are a tumulus and a perennial spring.

Before the Conquest there were about 500 acres of land in the township of Addingham, but later on, owing to neglect and the disastrous effect of civil wars, this tract of land became a veritable waste. In the Domesday Survey it is described as "Terra Regis," or lands in the

At last, all the meetings over, they were back again after dinner sitting around a blazing fire, although the weather was warm, like a happy family. Frank was made to recount all his experiences, which he did with his usual candour and simplicity. He related many stories of the conversions of seemingly hardened sinners; then his eyes would burn with a new light and the colour deepen in his cheeks. Frankie Dempsey seemed wholly absorbed in his wonderful, new friend—his adopted uncle—and as the night went on his natural timidity and shyness left him and he climbed on to the willing knees of Fr. O'Rahilly, whom he now called "Uncle" with all the familiarity of a true nephew.

Thus the days went by in blissful happiness for all, but "all things have but a time," and once again the time of separation was close at hand. Nearer, nearer it drew, until the last day came; joy died in the mother's eyes, grief filled the father's heart; Frankie, with the usual unrestraint of a child, sobbed bitterly as he kissed his beloved "uncle" good-bye. For the second time, Fr. O'Rahilly embarked on his long voyage to Australia. In the old-fashioned house 'neath the hill loneliness once more stepped in. The parting for the two main occupants was sadder than the last, for they knew that the next time Frank and they would meet would be before the great White Throne in Heaven.

* * * *

It is some twenty years later. Far away in Australia a venerable, white-haired parish priest is sitting in his small parlour with his new curate talking over old times. The parish priest is Fr. Frank O'Rahilly. The curate, a tall, young man, fair complexioned, with an abundance of fair hair brushed back from his broad, white brow, is Fr. Frank Dempsey, the adopted nephew of Fr. O'Rahilly.

The King.

(Feast—October 30th).

They called Him "King!" and then they pressed the crown
Of jagged thorns upon His blameless Head;
There had been kings before, but none had bled
From crowns they wore; in silence He looked down.

They laughed at Him, and in His hands they placed
A reed for sceptre, hailing Him as "King—"
A King of what? A King of everything
That thinking men call *good*, and *sweet*, and *chaste*.

And as they danced, they sang a ribald song,
And some pulled hatefully his matted hair;
Until there was no semblance left for long,
Of *strength* or manliness a *man* should wear.

They tied a blind-fold over His eyes; ah me!
And struck Him from behind, and bade Him tell
The name of the offender, knowing well
That He was bound with cords; they could not see,

Though they were not blindfolded, how He cried,
With hidden eyes to shield them from their shame,
Who could have slain each blackguard—name by name—
And levelled all the city in its pride:

But now the blood-drops fell, like trickling rain—
He was a King in truth—*The King of Pain*.

J. CORSON MILLER.



THE RT. REV. DR. COWGILL,

LORD BISHOP OF LEEDS,

who invited the Passionist Fathers to Ilkley and Addingham.

(See Article on page 204).



"A YORKSHIRE OUTPOST."

The above is a photograph of the entrance to the "chapel-room" which has served as a place of worship for the Catholics of Addingham since 1893, and which will be replaced by the Church now being built by the Passionist Fathers of St. Paul's Retreat, Ilkley, Yorks.

(See Article on page 204).



NEW PASSIONIST CHURCH AT ADDINGHAM, YORKS.

The Bishop of Leeds blessing and laying the Foundation Stone.

(See Article on page 204).

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NEW PASSIONIST CHURCH AT ADDINGHAM, YORKS.
THE PROCESSION THROUGH THE VILLAGE.

(See Article on page 204).

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hands of the king, who took possession of Earl Edwin's (the Saxon) lands.

Long before the first historic mention of Addingham in the 9th century,

Centre of Religious Life.

when the Archbishop of York was banished to "Hattingham in valle quae vocatur Hwer-vedale" by the Danes (A.D. 870) the district had been one of the most important centres of religious life in the North. The Danish ravages put an end to the worship of God, over a large portion of Yorkshire, and many devout Christians found their way to this ancient stronghold of the Faith. The parish church of St. Peter, situated about a quarter of a mile from the village, is in the perpendicular style, with some traces of Norman architecture. It is believed to occupy the site of the old Pre-Reformation church.

Prior to the period of "the great apostacy," the Catholic faith flourished in and around Addingham, and doubtless received an ever-inspiring influence from the saintly lives of the Augustinian monks of Bolton Abbey. To-day the venerable ruins of this once far-famed monastic settlement, standing in the most picturesque spot of Wharfedale, two-and-a-half miles from Addingham, speak eloquently of the past glories of Catholicism in the district.

It is already well known how much Yorkshire suffered for the old faith, and the present Catholics of Addingham may feel justly proud of having given two martyrs to the long roll of English Catholics who suffered death in order to transmit to future generations that "pearl of great price," the Holy Catholic Faith. The memory of Blessed Richard Kirkman and the Ven. Richard Horner is fondly treasured to-day in Addingham, and may we not confidently declare, in the light of present happenings, that the blood of these heroic priests has not been shed in vain?

Blessed Richard Kirkman was born in Addingham, and at an early age decided to devote his life to the preservation

Addingham Martyrs. of the old faith among his distressed co-religionists. For this purpose he proceeded to the English College, Douay, in 1577, to study for the priesthood. He was ordained in the spring of 1579, and in the following August returned to labour on the English mission. For three years he worked as a true apostle in various parts of the North, until he was finally arrested and executed at York, on August 22nd, 1582. This saintly priest was beatified by Papal decree on the feast of St. Thomas of Canterbury, December 29th, 1886.

The Ven. Richard Horner, the second of these two heroic priests, was a native of Bolton Bridge, near Addingham. Like his predecessor, he, too, ardently longed to keep alive the ancient faith. He studied on the Continent, matriculating at Douay University in 1593, and was ordained there in 1595. In the same year he entered upon his missionary duties in England, but falling into the hands of his persecutors, was ultimately condemned to death. He suffered the death penalty with great courage and constancy at York on September 4th, 1598.

What may really be regarded as the revival of Catholicism in Addingham occurred in the year 1893, when the late

Catholic Revival. (1893-1922). Father Galli, parish priest of the Sacred Heart Church, Ilkley, secured a small white-washed room, just off the Main Street, for the monthly celebration of Holy Mass. Then it was that the great central sacrifice

The proceedings at Addingham opened with a picturesque procession from the small mission room, already referred to, to the site of the new church at Bolton Road. Amongst those participating were the Bishop, secular clergy, priests and students from St. Paul's Retreat, the parishioners and school children. Large numbers of Catholics from neighbouring parishes also joined the procession, which passed through lines of spectators.

Following the ceremonial of the laying of the stone and the blessing of the foundations by His Lordship, Very Rev. Fr. Alban, C.P., delivered an impressive and appropriate discourse, during which he said that the day was one of great joy and gladness for the Catholics of Addingham. For a few years they had looked forward to the house, the beginnings of which they blessed that day, a house worthy of the presence of God, and fitting for their members to worship Him. The Rev. Preacher went on to trace an analogy between the material building which was to be erected there and the spiritual church of which Christ was the corner stone, saying that upon Him and the teaching and preaching of the Apostles and Bishops—especially the Bishop of Rome—the Church was founded. Their faith, he continued, was built upon the foundations of the Apostles and Prophets, and the assurance and pledge of that was the presence that day, to bless and lay the foundation stone, of the Bishop, who had received his commission to teach and preach from the Bishop of Rome, the successor of St. Peter, on whom Christ built His Church.

After the sermon, a beautifully illuminated address of welcome was presented to the Bishop by Councillor McCarthy on behalf of the parishioners, wherein the hope was expressed that the parish might become "one of the most flourishing centres of Catholicity in the diocese."

In his reply, his Lordship remarked that it was the first address with which he had been presented, at such a ceremony, and expressed particular pleasure that it should be made at Addingham, for he himself was a Craven man. He then paid a graceful tribute to the work of the Passionist Fathers, in the course of which he reminded the large congregation present of the interest taken in the conversion of England by their saintly founder—Paul of the Cross—who prayed nearly all his life for this most praiseworthy object. Now, continued his Lordship, you have his children in your midst, not merely praying for the conversion of England, but working for it, and working very hard.

The day's proceedings terminated with the singing of the familiar hymn "Faith of our Fathers," by the Students' Choir from St. Paul's Retreat, and as the clear notes of this soul-stirring hymn rang out upon the still air of that August afternoon, one could not help thinking that they assumed an added significance on such a solemn occasion, and in a district of such sacred memories and hallowed associations.

May we, in conclusion, express the hope that the present generation of Addingham Catholics, will, by Christ-like lives, be instrumental in realising the sublime ideals of St. Paul of the Cross, of the Ven. Father Dominic and Father Ignatius Spencer, in bringing back the people of this country, once "the Dowry of Mary," to the full knowledge and worship of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, in His Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church?