

\$1.00 per Year - 30 per Year

GOVERN THE CHURCH

OVER 1,200 PRISONERS NOW CONSTI

TOTE THE HIERARCHY

The actual condition of the Catho-

In this tabulated list of dignitaries is shown the very notable increase in our prelates and bishops from what there was about a quarter of a century ago.

At the opening of the Vatican council nearly 800 bishops and archbishops and prelates were present. A list drawn up at that period showed that then the hierarchy of the Catholic church was composed of a total of 994, a number, that included patriarchs, archbishops and bishops resident and patriarchs, archbishops and bishops in residence.

The Gerarchia for 1898 gives the sum total of the dignitaries composing the Catholic hierarchy on December 16, 1897, as follows: 1,298 members. These are thus divided: Cardinals, 59, including two reserved in petto; patriarchs of both rites, 7; archbishops and bishops residents of the Latin rite, 802; the same of the Oriental rite, 54, and of Titular, 347; archbishops and bishops having titles no longer, 7; prelates of the Oriental rite, with the quality of bishops, 14; and prelates nullius diocesis, 8; total, 1,298.

The Pope is the head of all, and his titles and claims as Bishop of Rome, Vicar of Christ and "Successor of the Temporal Dominions of the Holy Roman church," are repeated at every former occasion.

The cardinals come next in dignity to the Pope.

During the period of nearly twenty years of his reign, Leo XIII. has seen 121 members of the Sacred College of Cardinals pass away, the latest being the Archbishop of Messina, in Sicily, Cardinal Giuseppe Guarini, who died in September last.

At the present time the college contains 61 members, who are thus class-

ified. Five still live who were created by the late Pope Pius IX, namely the dean of the college, Cardinal Luigi Oreglia di Santo Stefano; Cardinal Ledochowski, Parochi, Camerlano and Merial, this last being 92 years of age; and a cardinal for 40 years.

Of those created by Leo XIII the college has 64, besides two who were reserved in petto in the consistory of 22d June, 1898. These constitute 6 members, and in order to have the complete number of 70 the extra

ing nine vocations must be allied upon it. It is rare, indeed, that there is even a full college; nevertheless, specializations as to possible appointments to the nine vacant hats are rife. Curiosity is naturally awakened regarding the names of the two reserved in position and guides are freely ventured upon as to their individuality.

There is a concurrence of opinion among those associated with the Vatican as to pointing to Monsignor Francesco Della Voipe, as present majordomo of His Holiness, as one of those thus reserved. The office he holds leads to traditional prescription to the cardinalate. He is held in high esteem by the Pope, and his tact and ability have been made evident during war

years past. There are two considerations which are regarded as delaying his promotion—the unwillingness of Leo XIII. to have a neophyte in majordomo. He has become accustomed for several years past to the presence of Mgr. Della Volpe, and has, like many an aged man, a dislike to change.

Besides all this, every new cardinal created in curia, or for the world, is the Roman congregations of business to be carrying on of the business of the church has to be supported out of the pontifical funds. The amount required annually for each cardinal created in curia is from \$4,000 to \$5,000. This is now a serious consideration for Leo XIII., as the contributions of the faithful are not so abundant as they

The efforts made by the Pope to induce French Catholics to cast in their lot with the republic and not be clinging to the memories of a monarchy that has passed away, brought about a remarkable reduction in the contributions which the Catholics of that country so generously sent him in former years.

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