A SIGN OF THE TIMES

REMARKABLE LETTER TO THE POPE BY A NONGATHOLIC.

A Prominent Citizen of New York Complains to the Holy Father That the Protestant Church Is Drifting Into Infdelity.

The letter which follows, says the New York Sun, was written recently to the pope by a citizen of prominence who is not a member of the Roman Catholic church. For personal reasons he declines to allow his name to be published, although he says he firmly believes in every sentiment expressed in the letter.

To the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIII. Rome:

Most Reverend and Holy Father-I take the liberty of addressing you because I am much interested in the success and growth of the Roman Catholic church in the United States for the following reasons:

First.-That the Catholic church trains its young in a way to secure good morals, good citizenship, a respect for property rights and the rights of others.

Second.-Because of the firm faith of the Catholic church in God. Christ. the Holy Bible and a firm acceptance of the religion of the Saviour, without needs of this age have been especially which civilization must eventually disappear.

I believe it is almost necessary for the future of my country that the Catholic church should grow and be a strong power here. The Protestant church in the United States is fast drifting into infidelity. In many of the great theological seminaries of that church open disbelief in some parts of the Bible is taught. Thousands of ministers of the Protestant denomina tions are men who believe that certain parts and books of the Bible need not be accepted. Their position and work have bastened the growth of disbelief

in all religion. Because of my position before the public I feel that I may be forgiven by you for writing you this letter. Many thousands of the strongest men in the United States, made apprehensive by the spread of socialism, are turning their eyes toward the church of which you are the reverend head. The greatest banker in the world and one of the greatest men of our country told me very recently that he believed the Roman Catholic church was a necessity for the preservation of our society.

I have talked with a very large number of our ablest and best men who be-Heve as he does on that question, but there is a feeling among the masses of ing could be removed, I believe the next ten years would see a very large movement of our best people into your church. There are at least 12,000,000 Catholics in the United States. The church buildings and edifices are among the finest here. The attendance at church on Sunday is very great. Nearly as many men as women are at religious services. The Catholic schools taught last year 853,000 scholars at a cost of at least 40,000,000 francs. The other expenses of the Roman Catholic church here must have been at a very low estimate 60,000,000 francs more. making a total of 100,000,000 francs which the Roman Catholics of the Unit ed States paid for the support of their religion last year without any state ald whatever.

When our people see this so, t of devotion to faith and see Roman Catholic men in such large numbers attending church services on Sunday and then look about to see what Roman Catholics of the United States receive from the great head of the church in return, they think that Roman Catholics in the (United States are not encouraged in such a way as they should be by the authorities in Rome, and this leads to the conclusion that there is an antagonism between the authorities at Rome and the American spirit and nation. American people think that their country is a very great one and is destined to become one of the great factors in shaping the policies of the world.

Yours has been one of the most wonderful lives the world ever saw. During it greater changes have taken place than in the same number of years in any other age. You have seen Napo- so greatly that the holy church would leon dethroned and exiled, Bismarck and Victoria live and die. Down into the new century you have brought great purity, learning and love of God and humanity. If you could do some things before you shall be removed from this earth to the feet of the Saviour that would aid in adding millions 10%. to your church in this great, energetic and growing nation, you will do that which strengthens civilization and will help to bring into the true faith millions who are now in danger of being disbelievers in all religion.

With prayers for your continued health, I am, most respectfully and sincerely,

YOUR MOST RESPECTFUL SERVANT.

Father Daugherty Appointed. Rev. Jerome Daugherty, S. J., has been appointed president of the Georgetown university to succeed the Rev. John D. Whitney, whose term of office has expired. Father Daugherty is secretary of the provincial and stationed at St. Francis Xavier's college, New 'York city. Father Daugherty was for town university. He is one of the finest mathematicians in the Jesuit order and

Charity is a virtue of all times and all places. It is not so much an independent grace in itself as an energy

into one common principle.

has also won repute as an astronomer.

NIGHT PRAYER.

The day is ended. Ere I sink to sleep My weary spirit seeks repose in thise. Father, torgive my trespances and keep This little life of mine.

With loving kindness curtain thou say bed And cool in rest my hurning nilgrim feet. Thy pardon be the pillow for my head;.

At peace with all the world, dear Lord, and thee. No fears my soul's unwavering faith can shake; All's well whichever side the grave for me The morning light may break.

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY. His Holiness Well Pleased With the

Institution's Progress. -Cardinal Gibbons has received a letter from Pope Leo XIII, of which the following is a translation:

"To Our Beloved Son, James Gibbons, Cardinal Priest of the Holy Roman Catholic Church, Titular of St. Mary's Beyond the Tiber: "Our beloved son, health and apos-

"The great interest with which from the very beginning of our pontificate we have regarded the church in the United States of America caused us among other things to urge the speedy founding of a great university at Washington and once founded to strengthen it with our authority and every evidence of good will, for the

tolic blessing.

dear to our own heart-namely, that the young men who are the future hope. of the clergy should be most thoroughly imbued, first, indeed, with virtue, but at the same time with divine and human fearning also.

"What we have learned from time to time concerning the Washington university has shown us that our confidence has not been misplaced, and now the report which you have fust made to us testifies that it is taking on a still more gratifying growth, both through the generosity of Catholics and through the skill and influence of its teachers. One thing still remains to be desired. and that is that this noble institution should increase in the number of its students, and this is to be effected by the interest and zeal of the bishops. If perhaps by sending students to Washington they seem for the time to be depriving themselves of useful workers in their dioceses, they will in the end reap a far greater gain both for themselves and for the whole American church, since the clergy shall be educated under one and the same teaching and animated by one and the same spirit.

"Hoping for the accomplishment of these good things, with the same desire with which you are striving for the good and honor of your churches, we our people that the great authorities most lovingly impart to you, our beof the Roman Catholic church have loved son, to the rector, the professors feelings of antagonism against the and the students of the Washington United States of America. If this feel university the apostolic blessing as a pledge of our love.

"Given at Rome from St. Peter's on the thirteenth day of June, nineteen hundred and one, in the twenty-fourth year of our pontificate."

Importance of Trifles.

He who frames the worlds in a moment and creates generations by the breath of his mouth and melts and hardens and deluges and dries up the solid rocks in a day and makes bones to live, grow and die and buries them in the earth and changes them into stone apart from time and at his mere will most wondrously can be deal with the world of spirits, who are never subject to the accidents of matter. He can by one keen pang of agony punish the earthly soul or by one temptation justify it or by one vision glorify it. Adam feil in a moment, Abraham was justified upon seizing the knife, Moses lost Cansan for a word, David said, "I have sinned," and was forgiven; Solomon gained wisdom in a dream, Peter made one confession and received the keys, our Lord baffled satan in three instances, he redeemed us in the course of a day, he regenerates us by a form of words. We know not how fearfully and wonderfully our souls are made. To men in sleep, in drowning or in excitement moments are as years. They suddenly become other men, nature or grace dispensing with time.—Cardinal Newman.

The Open Door. Was there ever an offense so great that God could not forgive it? Was there ever an erring child that sinned not seek him out to forgive him? Into the dungeon, into the mansion of sorrow, into the hovels of the despised and neglected, the church's forgiveness enters and acts. It raises up the fallen and the dead souls of wandering men to light and forgiveness and

Prayer.

Prayer is the power of the Christian Without it the soul is like a boat with out a rudder and without sails, tossed by winds and storms. With it the soul rises up to heaven on two easy wings, Prayer is the flery chariot in which we ascend to heaven.

SHORT SERMONS.

If we are faithful to the duties of the present. God will provide for the fu-

The veil which covers the face of

futurity is woven by the hand of merev. Distress is a great schoolmaster. It

several years commissary of George- greatest of all attainments, the power to prav. In doing penance it is necessary to deprive one's self of as many lawful pleasures as we had the misfortune to

indulge in unlawful ones.

Some people's religion is just like goal. wooden leg. There is neither warmth nor life in it, and although it helps which gives the last and highest finish them to hobble along it never becomes to every other and resolves them all a part of them, but has to be strapped on every morning.

Jolly Jobbernowls Have a Shoe Race

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"I say, lei's have a abso ruce," said-quiệt Tui say day: "We've tried most everything eve know in shape of jolly play. I just have read about that game and think it suited well To please us all; so, pray, all down, and I its rules will tell. Each runner takes some kind of shorthin own if they will ded. Buf ours are painted on our feet; we cannot take them off. The shoes the racers fing shead as far as they can throw, Then run to eatch them as they fall—'tis thus shee ruces go,"



But they must have a shoe or two, or they no race could run And so they harried all about to ber or horrow shees. They got them, too, of every size and shape and many buen They got horseshees, snowshots and such. In Jobbertown, you know, The people's shoes are painted on-they're not for use, but show, And thus they never trouble have with corns or bunious bud Or fuss because their shoes "wom't fit," to drive the shoeman mad.



The umpire of the race was Ned-because he'd longed his shees. He said he thus could watch them all and still no footgent lose, The race a great success had been, but when the words "New throw!" Were shouted out by Umpire Ned. each racer got a blows Their joints were stiff-such exercise for them was never meant, Their shoes, you see, went every way but where they had been sent, instead of flying far along, each struck a neighboring head, And with such force some Jobbernowls were patched and put to bed.

Drive Ball,

A court about 30 by 20 feet is divided to form two courts, each a little wider than it is long and each occupied by a The elephant house adjoins that in team of players. A goal about 2 by 3 feet is marked at the rear end of each court, the object of each team being to get the ball into the opposite goal. Each team has a captain, who stands at the middle of the dividing line and is responsible for the discipline of his team; a guard, whose duty it is to keep the ball from the goal and who stands in the goal, and from 6 to 12 players, each assigned a certain spot, marked as his territory, and from which he cannot move more than two feet. At no time can the players do mass work. To start the game the ball is placed between the captains on the dividing line. At a signal from the umpire each captain hits the ball with his fist. The ball is then kept going back and forth. The little fellow, who has not been hit always with the fist. To put the ball into play at any time after it has a complete set of tools, and when he. been caught or otherwise stopped it may be bounced or thrown from one fested a remarkable talent for driving hand and then hit with the fist. Kicking the ball, holding it, throwing it his thumb, but sends them as straight but the guard, terrified at the rate we teaches many things, among them the with both bands or crossing the divid- home as any carpenter could. ing line are fouls and count one point for the opposite side. Each goal made ing driven over 5,000 nails in the last counts two for the side making it. five months. When a goal is made, the ball is again started from the center. If the ball hits the fence or wall back of the goal and bounds, into the goal, it counts a

> The game is played in three rounds of 15 minutes each, with a rest of five minutes between. The teams change weddin an most all the tolks sent on courts for successive rounds.

Had His Revenge.

A funny incident recently occurred at the Jardin des Plantes, in Paris, which the camels are located, and a young camel recently introduced had great attention lavished on him, to the neglect of a big elephant, which had hitherto had most of the public favor in that quarter. The elephant grew more jealous day after day, and matters came to a climax when, failing to attract the attention of a dainty little maiden who was caressing his young rival, the elephant filled his trunk with water and deluged the offending damsel from head to foot.

A Young Carpenter. The town of Elmer, N. J., has a carpenter 31/2 years old. His name is Rufus S. Richards, son of a contractor. wearing trousers but a few weeks, has was less than 3 years of age he maninails, and the best of it is he never hits. He has a unique record in this have

Suggestive of Spanishings,

Teacher-You don't look well today Ralphie. What is the matter? Did you ent too much cake at the party? Raich-No'm, Twern't no party My min an my pa had their wooden Mingles (of presents.)

L POET WITH A WAY OF HIS OWN

THE BARNE So shy and partie is thy week. So shrinking and so (two out) They known: well if they are a Thy chance of the is allocated.

- III THE LOURS Thee quiet beast within thy care.
 Thou couplive curiestly;
 But, an; within thy beart is rece.
 Revenge, and furically.
- IIL THE CAR.
- Calmir thou purrent mooning there;
 Don't hourisel mucht, of gratifude
 For thy good hame and kindly ours
 And health and a rength and fattinde?
 Emma A. Opper, in St. Micho, ac.

THE RUNAWAY.

"The most dangerous rus I sver made." said the old engineer. "was down the Blue Ridge, where the railway crosses the mountain at a grade of one in twenty-six. Throughout the long ascent un the ridge it winds about collision it should be in an the mountain sides in spiral curves, overtake the runsway. The let eften quite sharp, and actually in one eften quite sharp, and actually in one now scarcely touched the rails at place passes the same point three bounded forward under the free point. times at different elevations as it

works upward.

"Near the top is the famous mud of the ballow and we doubt some entting, which has so pussion all the task in helf suitant many if all the passion and the passion and the passion of the passion at the continuelly forced us by the product of the point which and the strate are each pide as the pass of the pass had the behalf the pass and the behalf the constantly required to keep the way lake a party his before a historial constantly required to keep the way lake a party historial description of the constant of the pass of the has for some time employed State convicts. I was at this time in charge of air. Minerville I had you be the bank engine, which another the ready is less uses the test of the train to alient has measured graded the instant we came and on the eventful day I had pushed Their for an interest the western up the morning mineral train as time! appeared as both engines plunger and going into a siding to allow the a closel hant that it piles in early passenger train to pass on its the measurest with early passenger train to pass on its way to Ashville. From this elevated "For a mouse, or two set situation: wide view is spened down visible. But for the rear of it the mountains, and already the smoke from the passenger train could be tean in the distance as it slowly ascended the spiral grades up the side of the line the valley. When a second the

main ridge. We emerged from the feet the feet the feet the feet the feet was saily its gang of men, was still on the main feet before me. If dark waste in line, and the convicts were busily say ger. Even now I described I sould gaged in throwing the soft mud upon the rear of the passenger train the wagons. The engineer had for below. Measuring the flatance some cause left his post for a few min-with my bye. I stopped back utes, when one of the coavicts, unob- straining every muscle for the served by the guards, stealthly with- our less across the interesting. drew the coupling pla behind the ten- caught much the rear of der. The Breman was near the cylin- hung for a moment, then ders, oiling the gearings. Seining his and make strangled to a chance, the convict maddenly sprang a fact that sould not be upon the engine from the appealte placed had not the en side, and before either of the guards same relative speed a realized what was happening, he had "Truly that was a resused what was happening, he had "Truly that was a pulled the threttle valve wide open. Not for my own life" In an instant the engine was moving many ethers; couldn't eff rapidly under full head of steem. Had the distinct has The fireman's shoot was the first in thousand have blanch. too late. Bung! Beng! went the rifles all around, but the bullets were too optardy for the desperate rogue. He ducked simbly down behind the tender, and the balls rattled harmlessly to a standatility against the sides of the engine.

plinst the sides of the engine. The round the se "Had they life or killed the reskiess the engine or fugitive the condition of affairs would a cortain to not have been improved, for the love- caught the rune way he motive was pulling away and ratiling. It was an easy man down the mountain side towards the approaching train. Evidently the con-minute more all the vict intended to jump off when at a moving quickly up safe distance, and secape during the was said, and to this confusion of the wreck. The heavy the pe balast train would naturally creat abrupt half was into the other than like a cannon ball. taln-side, or how

"The officials and guards stood star- all were to death that are a grant the recoding engine as "The body of the convi ing after the receding engine as though paralyzed. What, indeed, on the rectal several acould they do? Then the thought below, so mutilated that flashed to my mind; Could I give striped clothes, as see con chase with my own engine and catch the runaway? It was the only chambe to have the passenger train from the Morrors of a collision, and desperate as the chance looked, it must be taken

"Open the switch!" I shouted, as I throw the lever over "As my engine came up, one of the guards scrambled on beside me, and my fireman jumped on as we dished past. In a moment we were out on the train line, and gathering headway un-der full pressure of steam. But the ballant engine had the start, and was the heavier of the two engines, though mine had higher wheels. On this latter circumstance slone rested my chance of overtaking the balast engine and it seemed a doubtful chance at and it seemed a doubtful chance at from the follows in yourse bost. It is a reckless business to give wheels are made in our an engine full steam on a down grade. But all depended on the first few minutes, and I bade Henry, my fireman,

shovel in coal with all his might, "In half a minute we were going at pressure per on the thirty miles an hour, which rapidly advance on the tire a increased to fifty, then sixty. The and form a solid bank rocky crage and ledges beside the line tighter and bighter and big flew behind us in streaks, the trees be-low seemed blended into a contract patch of green as we burried toward: them. Instinctively I closed the throttle valve, for no engine could carry ricking down such a grade and live. It of and the which i Ahood was a sharp curve. We stay od round it like lightning, and then caught sight of the forward sugme. still a long way shoul But we were saming-I could see we were lessening the distance. Could we eventake it in time? The passenger train could hardly be more than three or four miles

. "Catching sight of us bearing down upon him, I saw the convict run out of forms a the tender and look about as if trying to see a smooth spot to jump on; but the engine had acquired such a terrific speed that he was evidently atraid to

"Point your rifle at him, and tell him to mop! I shouted to the guard were running, dropped his carbine on the cost heap, and was crouching and holding on with all his might, the most abject picture of lear lever and allp of a boy then but a pinckier lad never opened a fire door. Bidding arm THE PARTY OF THE pole the law Teauth (19 cm)

that o'les to be served could not see to at all and and roat of his own train to probably proved the keybor

for I knew how that That must be done leader smother must be done
and has lad be made a
determined that if they made a
collision it should be in an ear sure of Mean "We were now within thirty I

at they spen plene the name's about the same of the same the same the same that the sa from the Bill and were plung

· constant train, he sh

Which are placed to