

## THE COMBES DEFEAT

IT CANNOT BE REGARDED AS A HOPEFUL SIGN FOR FRANCE.

The Holy Cause of Religion Will Not Be the Gainer, as It Was the Man and Not His Vile Measures That Failed to Secure Support.

Slowly, surely, the pedestal of M. Combes' power has been undermined by his enemies and he himself cast ignominiously to the dust. Indeed, the man was impossible. Even in the camp of French anticlericalism the hatred of M. Combes for everything and every one connected with Christianity had begun to cause nausea among his followers. The least refined minds saw in the spectacle of an ex-seminarist persecuting religion something peculiarly loathsome. And when to this persecuting spirit was added a characteristic delight in the hateful work the persecutor gradually alienated from him all those who, while otherwise intolerant of religion, still preserved enough decency to wish to hide their hatred under forms of legal procedure. M. Combes' bitterness outstripped his discretion. From the day of his advent to power, when he strained the associations law passed by his predecessor, M. Waldeck Rousseau, to the day of his fall from office, when he arbitrarily announced in the Journal Official the closing of nearly 500 religious institutions, M. Combes never relaxed his fierce hostility toward the Church. Thousands of monks and nuns have been turned from their peaceful abodes of learning and charity; thousands of Catholic schools have been closed to all religious instruction; hundreds of priests have had their stipends stopped; nearly a dozen bishoprics are still widowed of their dioceses; the ambassador of the republic has been recalled from the Holy See; the papal nuncio in Paris has had his papers returned to him; the Church of France, in a word, has been scourged beyond endurance by the vile apostate whose earliest training was obtained at her knees.

Joined with all this was the disgust occasioned by the astounding revelations, at first absolutely incredible, of a spy system in the army carried on by agents of Freemasonry with the consent, openly admitted, of the ministry in office. Soldiers serving their country were delayed by their commander for the horrible crime of going to hear Mass or for the unspeakable wickedness of harboring sentiments of a religious nature, and on the strength of these delations their future careers were compromised at the ministry of war. Frenchmen, who love their army as few other people do, were deeply scandalized where their personal feelings were not outraged. It became patent to all observers that the ministry itself must go. A trial of strength offered when the president of the chamber of deputies, at the reopening of a new session, came up for settlement. M. Combes' candidate was beaten in the person of the late president, M. Brisson, M. Doumer, a dissident Republican and an open antagonist of the government, being elected. The opposition was delighted. Another effort, and the ministry fell. It was made in the debate on the government's policy. So narrow was the escape, though all the ministers took part in the voting, that M. Combes saw his only course was resignation. And not even his friends regretted his fall.

Strange! The very deputies who by their votes overthrew the man adopted by a huge majority the measures be brought forward. So the work will continue, though the worker is no longer at the task. The pilot has left the bridge; the ship goes on her course unchanged. Herlin lies the true significance of M. Combes' fall. The man, not the measures, failed to secure support. Impossible, therefore, to regard M. Combes' resignation as a hopeful sign for religion in France. Persecution will continue, though fiercer, but more crafty. The Church will be attacked all the same; only the disposition of the advancing forces will be changed. The civil and ecclesiastical powers will be parted; separation of Church and state will come. Indeed, as a shrewd French writer observed a decade ago, separation had come long since. For over a century the clergy have been an order apart, their laws being a matter of supreme indifference to the state.

What, then, it will be asked, makes them fear the abolition of the existing concordat? The fact that the concordat is the only plank between them and spoliation. The revolution robbed the Church of her property. Under the concordat she receives a modest support, some slight restitution for the confiscations of the past. That is now, if the abrogation be carried out into law, to be taken from her. She will be plundered and left stripped of every resource but such as springs from the charity of her children. It will be the culminating outrage of thirty years of ceaseless oppression, during which French Catholics have seen one religious liberty after another taken from them, and during which, we must add, they have uttered beautiful harangues and shed plentiful tears. But harangues and tears are not worth active work. Weeping willows are beautiful trees, but they bear no fruit. And the Church in France asks her children for the fruits of active work to save her from her foes.—London Catholic Times.

### Do It Today.

It is better to say one's morning prayers today than to resolve to become a saint next week. Today is here, and next week is nowhere. This day is mine. I know not if I shall have so much as one other. God has the past and the future. I will thank Him for the past, and I will beg Him for the future. As to the present, with God's help I will set to work and do my best.—Catholic Home Companion.

## FATHER ISAAC JOGUES.

First Priest Who Ever Visited New York to Be Sanctified.

Substantial progress is being made in the ecclesiastical procedure necessary for the canonization of Father Isaac Jogues, the Jesuit missionary who was killed by the Mohawk Indians at Auriesville, N. Y., in 1646. A court of investigation has been in session at Quebec since September, and its conclusions will be ready to be placed before the authorities in Rome early in the coming spring.

After that it is expected that it will take but a very short time to have the Pope's sanction to the placing of New York's first saint on the roll of the beatified.

It is also proposed to erect a beautiful memorial church to Father Jogues on the spot where he was killed. He was the first priest who ever visited Manhattan Island. The proposed church will be in Spanish mission style, with a seating capacity of 1,200. Its construction will be entirely of concrete, re-enforced with a new and novel mode of steel skeleton work, which will give lightness as well as great strength to the many arches of the building.

The dome surmounting the building probably will be the largest concrete dome in the country, but the method of construction will be of a character that will do away with the great weight usually necessary in such structures. The side walls are simply a series of arches, which will permit of a portion of the congregation assisting at divine service from outside the church in fine weather, when there are unusually large pilgrimages to Auriesville. On each side are two spacious exterior aisles in cloister style, affording shelter in stormy weather and giving additional strength and stiffness to the walls.

The interior of the chapel will be of a simple character. Resting on the concrete arches, which, as well as the walls, will be painted of pure white, will be a roof of Georgia pine stained a soft brown, making a combination of color that is restful to the eye. The roof will be protected with red brick tiles, under which the exterior walls, in a natural cement color, will present a most harmonious tint.

### The Veto in the Conclave.

The representative of Reuter's news agency at Vienna gives what purports to be a summary of a secret bull regarding the veto at the election of popes recently drawn up in Rome. According to this information, it is absolutely forbidden to all cardinals under penalty of being excluded from the conclave to be the bearer of a message of veto, and any cardinal who knows of the intention of the sovereigns of Austria and Spain or of the ruler of France

—the three countries that claim the right of veto—object to the election of a member of the Sacred College and communicates this intelligence to his colleagues in conclave will suffer the same penalty of exclusion. The bull, it is intimated, has not yet been transmitted to all the foreign cardinals and will be officially read only at the conclave which will meet for the election of the present Pope's successor. It will then be officially introduced into the constitution of the conclave. The foreign governments interested have not as yet received official news of the action of the Holy See, but they have had hints of what has been done from their diplomatic agents at the Vatican.

These gentlemen have, it appears, submitted to them certain proposals with a view to maintaining the right of veto, but it is difficult to see how the proposals can become effective. Despite resistance the veto will have to be abandoned.

### Catholics in Germany.

A Catholic priest who has been traveling in Germany writes of his experience there: "When traveling in Germany I noticed the large attendance even at week day Masses. You will often find a daily High Mass also, and every little child is in his or her place at front, and the parents are there kneeling behind. The prosperity of the Catholic parts of Germany is remarkable, and the province of Rhine-Hessen is the most prosperous in Europe. I have been across the grand duchy of Baden ten or twelve times, and I never remember seeing a barefooted child. I never saw a beggar or drunkard. There are no rich men, no millionaires, but there is comfort and prosperity—ordinary, reasonable prosperity. These are people who start the day with God's blessing."

### THE BAPTISM OF ST. PATRICK

[A miracle is said to have signalized the child's baptism. If so, it was a fitting opening for a miraculous life. The blind and aged priest failed to find water for the sacrament. Illuminated as to the future sanctity of the babe, the old man signed with the infant's hand a cross upon the ground. A spring of water at once burst up, in which the babe was baptized, and the blind eyes were washed and made to see. The wonder would indeed have been if God had not shown some such sign at the baptism of one who was to be the baptist of four in head of an entire race and whose life was to be one of almost unceasing miracle.—Rev. A. Ryan.]

"How can the babe baptized be  
Where font is none and water none?"  
Thus wept the nurse on bended knee  
And swayed the infant in the sun.

The blind priest took that infant's hand.  
With that small hand above the ground  
He signed the cross. At God's command  
A fountain rose with brimming bound.

In that pure wave from Adam's sin  
The blind priest cleansed the babe, with  
awe;

Then reverently he washed therein  
His old, unseeing face and saw.

He saw the earth, he saw the skies  
And that all wondrous child decreed  
A pagan nation to baptize.

And give the gentiles light indeed.

Thus Seckmull sang. Far off and nigh  
The clansmen shouted loud and long,  
While every mother tossed more high  
Her babe and, glorying, joined the song.  
—Aubrey de Vere.

## MINERAL SPRINGS CURE.

Curative Value and Action of the Water.

Dr. Burney Yeo in his book on "The Therapeutics of Mineral Springs" takes care to remind his readers that the remedial action of mineral waters is largely dependent on such associated conditions as changes in diet, climate, exercise, sobriety, and potus out that many mineral springs whose curative effects are in themselves insignificant have been raised into importance by the intelligent and skillful necessary methods attending their use.

The value and curative action of the quantity of water taken has an importance that is often overlooked. There is no doubt that most people use but little water as a beverage. To such persons the drinking of large quantities of this important solvent, apart from its mineral constituents, must have, as the author shows, most important physiological and therapeutic effects.

### The City of Cigars.

The little City of Tampa is one of the liveliest and most progressive towns of the South. With a population of about 30,000 it has a weekly cash payroll approaching \$200,000, which goes into the hands of a class that believes in a speedy disbursement of coin. There are 160 cigar factories, big and little, and there is scarcely a town in the United States that is not a buyer of the Tampa output.—Washington Post.

### Concrete Floors in Switzerland.

In Switzerland concrete floors are made with hollow beams, which are one part cement to four of coarse sand. They can support four times as much weight as wooden beams. They are fireproof, and easily placed. Being hollow, they protect against extremes of heat and cold, and may be warmed by passing hot air through them.

### Helping Consumptives.

In Germany, when a person breaks down with consumption, he is sent to the government sanatorium where he is kept until he recovers or dies. In the meantime his family receives a weekly pension from a fund to which the patient himself contributed when he was in good health. By this means the risk of spreading the disease is avoided.

### Meaning of "Creole."

Much confusion exists concerning the meaning of the word "Creole." Webster defines it as "one born of European parents in the American colonies of France or Spain or in the states which were once such colonies, especially a person of French or Spanish descent, who is a native inhabitant of Louisiana, or one of the states adjoining, bordering on the gulf of Mexico."

### Rubber Band Around Fish.

A dogfish, 20 inches long, was caught off Nantucket recently and there was an india rubber band about its body just forward of the fins. It had evidently been placed there when the fish was small, as it had cut in quite deep, although it did not appear to trouble the fish.

### Sea Serpent 200 Feet Long.

Olaus Magnus wrote in the middle ages of a sea serpent 200 feet long and 20 feet thick which haunted rocks and caves near the sea coast, the old writer adding, "and he puts up his head on high like a pillar and catcheth away men, and he devours them."

### PENCILINGS.

Women live longer than men because they have no one to talk them to death.

If you lend some men money they will be under everlasting obligations to you.

Many a stern man who swears at his office boy trembles when in the presence of his wife.

Occasionally a mother meets a woman who is almost good enough to become the wife of her son.

When the sexes have equal rights will men wear \$9.98 millinery creations and kiss each other on the streets?

Shortly after marrying for better or for worse both of the contracting parties can see where they got the worst of it.

### A Shadow Clock.

An ingeniously constructed shadow clock has just been invented by Prof. Hertz of Lynn, Mass. The essential feature of the invention consists of a lamp, which throws upon the ceiling an optical representation of a small watch.

### Named Through Carelessness.

The Los Islands, ceded by England to France, got their name through the carelessness of an engraver. The Portuguese charts described them as Los Botos, but the engraver who copied from them omitted the noun and only reproduced the article.

### Japan Launching Ceremony.

In Japan, instead of "christening" a vessel about to be launched, a large cage full of birds is hung over the prow. Directly the ship is afloat the birds are released, the idea being that the birds thus welcome the ship as she begins her life.

### A Giant Electric Crane.

A floating Electric crane is used for the loading and unloading of ships in the harbor of Kiel, Prussia. It can easily lift 50 tons at a time.

## FOUR THRONES OF RUSSIA.

Founded on the Ruins of former Civilization.

An opponent of Russia writes to a foreign newspaper: "There were at least four great Tartar thrones, each standing on the ruins of other civilizations. Those four were the thrones of Moscow, Constantinople, Delhi and Pekin. At Moscow the Tartar calls himself Christian, at Constantinople Mussulman and at Pekin Buddhist, but his spirit is always the same, and we know what it is. East and south west the Tartar roamed and the only country that flung him back into his native barbarism was Japan. This he goes on to argue that Russia is herself a yellow peril.

### Oxen Devoured by Sea Serpents.

Sea serpents date back to the days of Aristotle, who wrote: "The serpents of Libya are of enormous size. Navigators along the coast report having seen a great quantity of bones of oxen, which they believe without doubt to have been devoured by the serpents. These serpents pursued them (the seamen) when they left the shore and upset one of their tri-

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