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The Catholic Journal.

Published by
\$1.00 per Year
Premium Post Free

Twenty-seventh Year, No. 14.

Rochester, N. Y., Friday, December 31, 1915.

\$1.00 Per Year, 3c Per Copy

Pius X And The Roman Question.

Late Pontiff Adhered To Same Policy As Leo and Benedict.

The Independence of the Holy See.

Not the least of the important problems which Europe must endeavor to solve at the conclusion of the present conflict is the vital and imperative Roman Question: The matter of the independence of the Holy See can scarcely be evaded. Whether they will or not, the conference of the powers will almost certainly have to concern themselves with this unsettled problem, the proper solution of which will not only mean benefit for the Church but the welfare of Europe as well. A number of continental law experts, especially Filippo Crispolti in Italy, have shown of the late how untenable the break down of the law of guarantees has made the present situation.

The present pontiff, because of the many pressing necessities of the time, has wisely refrained from pushing forward this matter until the proper moment will arrive for its consideration. At the same time he has not departed one iota from the historic position of his predecessors. In fact, it is most interesting to note how harmoniously his views accord with those of the beloved Pius and how this policy in turn coincides with the unmistakable position of Leo XIII.

A recent interview in the Vienna Reichspost, the great Catholic paper of Austria, with one of the prominent Cardinals who had worked in the Roman Curia under the late Pontiff, gives us an interesting insight into the attitude of Pius X on the question. It shows us, too, in a surprising manner, how keenly the great church reformer understood the situation in Europe. As patriarch of Venice, the then Cardinal Saraceni, in the course of several festivities had occasion to come into contact with members of the Italian royal family, which fact, at the time of his elevation to the pontificate, gave rise to the rumor that the Pope would seek closer relations with the Quirinal. Time proved how absolutely mistaken this idea had been; for though Pius did not insist upon an immediate conclusion of the irritating situation, he did not fail to let it be known as to his views on the matter.

"Pius X", as his former assistant in the Curia tells the Reichspost, "was far from removed from minimizing the Roman Question in the midst of the religious labors of his pontificate. Much to the contrary, he concerned himself very intensely with the question of the complete independence of the Holy See. As if he had had a presentiment of the war troubles of the ensuing years, the pope ever greatly feared that the law of guarantees would in the decisive moment show itself inappropriate and worthless. At the same time, Pius X was well aware of the fact that the 'how' of the solution of the Roman Question was veiled in great darkness. The pope's hope of a solution did not rest on theoretical propositions nor on diplomatic deliberations or international contracts. Pius X declared that, in spite of the present uncertainty, the solution of the Roman Question would come automatically as a work of Divine Providence, in a way that would render insignificant all previous attempts at a solution."

Thus is revealed the singular foresight of the pope who was sneeringly declared to be the poorest of diplomats. It stands forth in striking contrast to the ruin and chaos which the great statesmen of Europe have brought upon themselves. That it forms the basis of the present papal policy is indeed encouraging. In his expressions on the situation last June, the Papal Secretary of State, Cardinal Gasparri, practically re-echoed the thoughts of Pius X. The Pope, he told us, "thinks first of the miseries of the peoples of Europe and then of himself." In his role of peacemaker, the Pope could not, in the

very beginning, outline a definite program in regard to the solution of the question, without unduly anticipating the course of events and the designs of Providence. Not at all has he thought of the indefinite postponement of the matter. In due time can we hope to see the papal attitude firmly announced, and we can also to some degree believe that that attitude will be the final one adopted by the powers of Europe.

Foreign Mission News

Special correspondence by
The Propagation of the Faith Society
318 Lexington Ave., New York City.

The Holy Father has appointed Mgr. Matthew Joseph Brodie, present Vicar General of Auckland, Bishop of Christ Church, New Zealand.

The Holy Father has appointed Rev. Soter Redondo, O. S. A., Prefect Apostolic of St. Leon of the Amazon, in northern Peru.

Mgr. Augustin C. S. Sbr., Vicar Apostolic of Oubangui, has just achieved the twenty-fifth year of his episcopate. Unhappily the occasion finds him in very poor health, but it is hoped the venerable prelate will be restored to an active apostolate. He came to Equatorial Africa in 1877 and has, therefore, been thirty-eight years in this difficult field.

Two Bishops of Canada's great Northwest have been made Archbishops by His Holiness. They are Most Rev. Oliver Elzear Mathieu, D. D., Bishop of the Diocese of Regina, and Most Rev. Arthur Bellevue, D. D., Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of St. Boniface, in Manitoba.

Fr. de Rouge's Mission.

Fr. E. de Rouge, S. J., has done much missionary work in the State of Washington, but he is ambitious to do more. The Indians of the Sound are quite abandoned as far as religious care is concerned, and as they number more than six thousand it will be seen that one or even two priests would be well occupied looking after them.

For over a year Fr. Rouge has at his own expense, traveled among them and made himself familiar with their needs. They require a church at some central place and nuns to open schools. When the Indians asked Fr. de Rouge to promise them a church and school, he said he could not do so unless friends came to his aid.

Noble Sentiments That Animate Modern Apostles.

A priest in China says: "Missionaries are the eternal mendicants of the Lord. They see so much to be done all around them, they know so well the sufferings endured by those who dwell in darkness that they endure almost torment in not being able to accomplish all that their hearts suggest. Therefore they beg and beg, trusting that their appeals will not fall on deaf ears. The apostles keep always before their eyes the stable at Bethlehem, so that poverty does not dismay them. If they can house the Lord in a decent manner they are willing to bear plenty of hardships themselves."

How a Poor, Sick Boy Helps The Good Cause.

In the big city of New York there is a small boy sick unto death, who, hidden away in a dreary tenement-house, does as much for the missions by his prayers as many another by his alms. The priest who recently went to visit him gives this picture of the patience and bravery with which he bears his sufferings:

"I asked the lad if he was happy. 'Why shouldn't I be?' he replied. 'Mother does the best she can for me. God gave us a mighty good world and then filled it with some mighty good friends. Hardly a day passes that one of them does not call. Some of the kids write me letters, and then I can lie here and see the sun and hear the trucks, and when my cough does not bother me too much I can sing, and then I hear the treble voice he sang 'A Little Bit of Heaven.' Before I left the brave lad concluded that God had truly blessed him with a glimpse of the land which will soon be a reality for him."

"He has a mite-box on the table beside him and the offerings from his friends for the missions, though not always in silver, are many and generous."

News From Ireland

Carlow.
Prior to his departure to take up his new duties on promotion as postmaster of Ballyhaunis, F. G. Porter, senior clerk, Bagnalstown, Postoffice, was presented by the postmaster, sub-postmaster and staff with a suite of furniture for his new home.

Hugh P. O'Donnell, son of T. H. O'Donnell, manager, National bank, Carlow, has been admitted a solicitor of the Supreme Court in Ireland. He served his apprenticeship with P. A. Brown, crown solicitor, Carlow, and intends practicing in Carlow.

Clare.
On the motion of Mr. Keane, seconded by Mr. Carmody, Michael Carey, of Caracalla, was elected a guardian for Kiltrush in place of J. J. Keating, resigned.

At the examinations for clerkships in the Civil Service, James T. Finucane, Kiltrush, obtained fifth place. His intermediate course at the Christian Brothers' schools was the only preparation he received.

Cork.
In Cork a quay laborer named Joseph Murphy, a native of Ballymore, lost his balance, owing to the gale in the recent big storm, at Penrose quay, fell into the river, and was drowned.

Dublin.
The Lord Mayor and corporation of Dublin have made arrangements for a loan of £22,400 at 5 per cent for the purpose of carrying out the housing scheme for the Ormond Market site. The scheme provides for the erection of over 150 houses.

James Hill Lonergan, who died at his residence, 24 St. Kevin's parade, Emorville avenue, S. C. road, recently was the son of J. Lonergan, ex-Mayor of Clonmel. He was for the past 18 years with Messrs. Kevans & Sons, accountants, Dublin.

Kerry.
John Ryan, manager for six years of the National bank at Cahirciveen, has been transferred, on promotion, to Clonakilty, Kildare.

Kildare.
Married.—Recently, at Kilmead R. C. church, by the Rev. Father Ryan, C. C. James Byrne, Ricketstown, County Carlow, to Nora, eldest daughter of Timothy Masterson, Tinniskill House, County Kildare.

Kilkenny.
Derry Guardians have elected Miss Lena Phelan, Ballyragget, County Kilkenny, a nurse in the Union hospital by 23 votes to 7 votes for Miss McCloskey.

Louth.
Died.—Recently, Mrs. Thomas Conway, Killee, Bennettsbridge, aged 86 years.

Louth.
The death has taken place at Rossmakea, Dundalk, of Thomas J. Byrne, J. P., auctioneer. Deceased was one of the ablest public men in County Louth.

The Dundalk Gaelic League branch has elected Rev. C. Hurson, C. C., as its president.

Tipperary.
Mrs. Austin Heffernan, of Ballylinard, was found drowned recently in a pond close to her residence.

Bishop Opposes Revelry On New Year's Eve.

Bishop Hickey's letter to the priests and congregations on the observance of New Year's eve is as follows:

In the exercise of the authority divinely commissioned to her, the Catholic Church has designated certain days of the year commemorating great religious truths as holy, and has legislated that her children regard and observe them accordingly.

The time is at hand when the church celebrates, with much solemnity and joy two of these feasts: Christmas, commemorating the birth of our Saviour, and its octave day, the circumcision of the Divine Child. The first of these observances falls in the last week of the calendar year; the other on the first day of the new year. There is, indeed, a grouping of great historic events and of joyous incentives within this privileged octave. The story of Bethlehem, which is one of hope and love, describes in thrilling accents the acceptance, by a divine Teacher, of privation and pain as against comforts and pleasure, to give us God's expression as the truest and best in seeking perfection here and happiness hereafter.

To celebrate the great days in satisfying natural appetites, or in seeking pleasures of the senses, is to act in contradiction to the event that is actually commemorated, and is unworthy of one who calls himself Christian. To spend any time, on any day, but especially on a day that is holy, because of its relation to God, in a manner that is unbecomingly Christian—manhood or womanhood, should be condemned by common consent of intelligent and self-respecting communities.

We speak thus strongly because the practice has obtained in late years, and has grown so extensively that, in our cities, men and women assemble for the close of the old year, and the birth of the new, and in that night, which should impress all with the passing and uncertainty of time, they give themselves up to forms of entertainment that have shocked and scandalized many and which, if extended, would be demoralizing to the youth of our day. There is no time or place in which our obligations of conscience, or of honor, cease to bind, and this truth must restrain and govern us, as against any prevailing or growing custom to the contrary.

Besides these strong and all-sufficient motives for right conduct, there comes to the mind of every thoughtful man and woman of our land the appealing reason of consideration for our fellow-man. It is safe to say that in few homes of the warring nations of Europe is there exemption from deep personal anxiety and grief, and that at this hour the thoughts and desires of these peoples are not for indulgence in pleasure, but for relief from the fearful scourge of war. Is it not becoming a people who have been free from these horrors of war to show, in their public acts, a due sympathy for those millions of the human family who see under present conditions only one long night of grief and suffering? Our sense of gratitude should make us more noble and more generous than to dance and sport while our brethren weep and sorrow in the ruins of their cities and homes.

Let us close the old year with a fervent prayer of gratitude to God for all the blessings of the past and let us enter upon the new year with hope and confidence in Him from Whom all blessings come. Let the first day of the year be sanctified by us and let our life be such that we may be blessed in all the days of the years and years that God will grant us.

You will, then, give this message of the Bishop to your people, and bid them prepare for the new year in a manner becoming their dignity as Christian men and women above all, charge them to abstain from the revelry of New Year's eve that has fast been forming a blot on our civilized and educated community

life. Let all the pastors in the cities of the diocese, and in the country missions where convenient, arrange for some short special service on New Year's eve, exhorting their people to join with them in prayers of thanksgiving, and petition, and especially that, speedily peace may come to the world. That the service may be conducted with due solemnity, permission is granted to give Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament on New Year's eve in all churches of the diocese where such services will be held. We request pastors to read this message to their congregations on the last Sunday of the year, and we most earnestly pray that God's blessings may come abundantly to priests and people in the new year and for many years.

Fluke O'Hara Coming In "Kilkenny."

Fluke O'Hara, the actor singer, will appear at the Lyceum Theatre, on January 6th, in "Kilkenny," a charming comedy by Augustus Pitou, Sr.

Speaking of conditions as they existed in Kilkenny—at the time of Fluke O'Hara's new play, The Kilkenny Moderator says: "The City of Kilkenny has never witnessed such an assemblage of fashionable society. The lodging houses are all nearly full and the carnival to which expectation has been anxiously looking for the last two months at length has opened with the greatest spirit. "Our city continues to be the center of attraction among the gay and fashionable for the fame of our plays has gone forth and the number of strangers to be discovered among our visitors is daily increasing. The performances of this the second season are now over, and never did the most brilliant audience that ever graced a theater behold a more extraordinary assemblage of varied talents—talents happily united, judiciously disposed and benevolently exerted."

Mr. O'Hara will sing the following songs: "That's What An Irishman Means", "Contrary Mary", "Ireland In Ireland", "Dear Mother Mine", and "When It's Moonlight In Mayo", specially written and composed for this play.

Sisters' College

New Building Near Catholic University Is Completed.

The new building of the Sisters' College, in the vicinity of the Catholic University, Washington, was ready for occupancy recently. It will furnish the student Sisters a large chapel, several classrooms, laboratories of chemistry, physics, biology and domestic science, also large library and reception rooms.

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The story of "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine," Eugene Walter's great play, which is the Broadway Quality Stock production for New Year's day and for all the week of January 3rd, with New Year's matinee and the regular Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday matinees, is familiar to millions of book readers who love the romantic works of that vigorous American writer of fiction, John Fox, Jr.

In this play Eugene Walter has taken the atmosphere of the Virginia Hills, as well as the characters of Mr. Fox's story, blending them together. The play opens with a scene in the Cumberland Hills, showing the trail in and around the Lonesome Pine, which is visible to all the Gap below.

John Hale will be in the hands of the Broadway Quality Stock leading man, John Warner. The part of June will be portrayed by Miss Justine Wayne and the other parts promise to be capably acted. No expense is being spared on the production and Cumberland Gap promises to be staged in all its detail.

January, Month of Holy Child.
Saturday, January 1, Feast of the Circumcision; holy day of obligation.
Sunday 2, Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus; Monday, 3, St. Genevieve; Tuesday, 4, St. Eugene; Thursday, 6, The Epiphany; Thursday, 13, St. Veronica; Friday, 14, St. Hilary; Monday, 17, St. Anthony the Abbot; Tuesday, 18, St. Peter's Chair; Wednesday, 19, Feast of the Holy Family; Friday, 21, St. Agnes; Sunday, 23, Espousals of Our Lady; Tuesday, 25, Conversion of St. Paul; Thursday, 27, St. John Chrysostom; Saturday, 28, St. Francis of Sales.

Beautiful Window.
An ornamental and costly window, eighteen feet wide and 28 feet in height has been given to Blessed Sacrament Church in Oxford Street by the men of the parish. The work of installing the window was begun Wednesday. It will be one of the largest and most beautiful works of its kind in Western New York.

The passion of the Saviour is the subject of the window design. The central figure is the window is a mammoth cross, and the figures are grouped about it. The color tone of the entire work is a rich purple. The designing and execution of the piece occupied a number of artists and workmen for nearly six months. The window is the work of the Pike Stained Glass Studio of East Avenue.

The Best Shorthand.
The L. L. Williams Rochester Commercial School teaches the Oggoodby-Pitmanic system of shorthand because it has made an army of superior stenographers. Those who learn it are uniformly successful. G. Kibby Mason who was mentioned recently as having the highest standing in the Civil Service Examination for Police Court Stenographer, is a recent pupil of this school who studied the Oggoodby system. It is used and recommended by the court reporters and all the best stenographers in Rochester. Gregg shorthand and the Commercial branches also, are thoroughly taught. Call at 27 Church St. or telephone Stone or Main 4263 for circular. Office hours: Holiday week from 10 A. M. to 5 P. M. for registration.

Mean Of Parish Give Beautiful Window.
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