

General Intelligence.

THE POPE'S PUBLIC AUDIENCES.

From the time that our beloved sovereign Lord Pius IX. was first elevated to the dignity of supreme pontiff, in order to place himself in impartial communication with all his subjects, and to know immediately the wants, the wrongs, and the claims of all, he desired, with the benignity of his nature, to make his sacred person accessible with every facility and freedom to every one desiring admission. He not only facilitated the usual means of presenting petitions by ordering his court that any one might approach him to deliver memorial, on whatever occasion it might be leaving his palace, and that at the post office and in the Quirinal Palace boxes should be placed for the reception of all petitions addressed to his holiness; but in his zeal for justice, desirous to restore the admirable practice of many other popes and secular sovereigns—that of public audience. This is now regularly held every fortnight at the apostolic palace on Thursdays, from nine to about two o'clock, and to avoid confusion from the number of applicants, with the following regulations:—Whoever desires admission has only to present a simple memorial to his holiness, the *Maestro di Camera*, with his name, cognomen, condition, and residence. That official chooses fifty among the first inscribed, and advertises them of the day when they may be admitted, assigned to each the number of precedents. They present themselves at the appointed hour in the antichamber of the hall of audience, habited in the best manner their condition allows, and each waits until the number annexed to his name is called. The audience chamber is an immense hall, simply but richly furnished. At one end, under a canopy, is a seat a little elevated; at one side, a table with writing apparatus; at the other end is the entrance guarded by a single individual of the guard of nobles, and at some distance four private chamberlains in their court dress. His holiness enters at nine, and takes his seat; then the *Maestro di Camera* calls four or five of those in anti-chamber, stations them on one side the entrance, and invites the first to approach the throne, accompanying him and suggesting the acts of homage to be performed. When arrived before his holiness, the supplicant kneels, kisses his foot, and then presents the petition. With unfeeling benevolence, the sovereign pontiff, having read his memorial, encourages him to answer to such questions and observations as he may make on its contents; finally he either signifies accordance and returns it with a rescript to the petitioner; or writing a comment upon it, directs it to one of the first magistrates, always taking care that impartiality should be shown by others to the individual, to whom he then imparts his paternal benediction, and dismisses him. This audience called public because granted to all, might, in regard to the form, be called private; for although the guard, the four chamberlains and other applicants are present, these being at the distance of at least 33 paces from the throne, can hear no word of what passes at the other extremity. What the paternal solitudes of the sovereign pontiff are for the upright and impartial administration of justice to his beloved people, we have now sufficient proof of, and may be sensible what devotion, veneration, and fidelity is called for by a clemency and benignity so great.—*Roman Advertiser*.

CATHOLIC CHURCH.

The following is the prayer against famine, as ordered by the Right Rev. Dr. Ryan, to be piously recited by the faithful, especially during the performance of the Jubilee:—

"Let us pray. Favourably look down upon thy people, we beseech Thee, O Lord; and in thy mercy turn from them the scourges of thine anger. Give ear, O Lord, we implore Thee, to our humble supplications, that thou wouldst mercifully avert from us the horrors of famine; and enlighten our hearts sincerely to acknowledge that all these evils proceed from thy just indignation, and can be removed only by thy mercy, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen."

The Waterford Freeman describes the poor labourers who have been dismissed from the works as patrolling the streets in a mass amounting to 2,000 peaceably soliciting bread from the various bakers, by whom they were most kindly supplied. Two women were crushed to death in the crowds seeking for relief at the poor house.

The Bengal Catholic Herald of the 6th February gives a very interesting account of an interview held on the 5th between the Archbishop of Edessa and several Catholic gentlemen of Calcutta and Lord Elphinstone.

We are told that at the funeral of the late Mr. Railton, which took place yesterday, the old Catholic custom of a dole to the poor—one hundred loaves—was observed. The bread was distributed after Mass.—*Tablet*.

On last Sunday, March the 21st, the Very Rev. Dr. Smyth, of Esker, preached for the Irish destitution, in the Catholic Church of the Holy Cross, Wellington-street, Leicester, Leicestershire, the collection after the sermon was £34, which sum, the Rev. Dr. Nickolds, pastor of the congregation, forwarded by the post of last Tuesday, to his Grace the most Rev. Dr. Murray, of Dublin, for the General Central Relief Committee for all Ireland.—*Correspondent of the Tablet*.

BIRTHS RECORDED.

AT ST. MARY'S.

- APRIL 16—Mrs. Fitzgibbon of a Son.
17—Mrs. Howley of a Son.
17—Mrs. O'Brien of a Daughter.
17—Mrs. Cadogan of a Daughter.
19—Mrs. Desmond of a Daughter.
20—Mrs. Keating of a Son.
20—Mrs. Sullivan of a Son.
22—Mrs. Boyle of a Son.

INTERMENTS.

AT THE CEMETERY OF THE HOLY CROSS

- APRIL 20—James, Son of James and Catharine Hardy aged 13 years, and 6 months.
20—Ann Brown, Wife of Thomas Brown, Native of Halifax, aged 24 years.
20—Henry McClinton, Private of the 69th Regt., Native of Ireland aged 34 years.
22—Peter Fawlas, Native of Ireland, aged 60 years.
23—Margaret Jane, infant Daughter of Patrick and Margaret Walsh, aged 7 weeks.

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