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MONTREAL, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1904.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

Opening of the Marian Con- gress in Rome for the Jubilee.

The Pope has, from the first days of his Pontificate, summed up the great object of his life as that of re-creating all things in Christ. And amongst the first of the means that he thought of to this end, as he says in the Brief that he addressed to the Cardinal Presidents of the Committee for the public celebration of the 50th anniversary of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, was devotion to the Mother of God. Such was the beginning of the Brief which he addressed to Cardinals Vincenzo Vannutelli, Mariano Rampolla, Domenico Ferrata and Giuseppe Calasanzio Vives y Tuto, Presidents of the Committee mentioned above. When the brief was read on Wednes- day morning, November 30th, the vast assembly — Cardinals, Arch- bishops, Bishops, priests and laity — stood up respectfully to listen to the words of the Pontiff.

The place of assembly was the spa- cious Church of the Twelve Apostles, in one of the most central parts of the city. The church presented an unusual appearance. On the right of the central nave, under the sha- dow of one of the great arches, a series of benches, rising one above the other until they culminated in a central bench, was built up, and was occupied by the Presidents and Vice- Presidents of the Congress. The seats, instead of facing the high altar in the apse of the church, fac- ed these benches. Behind the high altar a great white drape like that which hangs above a throne, came from the vaulted ceiling, and edged with dark purple velvet and cords of gold lace, formed a background to the altar. In the centre of this a colossal picture of the Immaculate Conception is placed, and around the head twelve double electric lights re- call the crown and stars seen around the head of the Woman seen by the Apostle of the Apocalypse. Benches near to the speakers were allotted to the members of the press, Italian and foreign. These were quite num- erous, and their presence here dis- played the widespread interest of the Catholic world at least, in ques- tions that concern religion. The pa- pers represented were the Osservatore Romano, the official organ of the Vatican; the Civiltà Cattolica, the very learned and important organ of the Jesuits published fortnightly at Rome, and thirteen Italian papers — nearly all Catholic, from other parts of the country. Besides these there was an Italian paper of New York represented here, another of Buenos Ayres, and the Unives, and La Croix of Paris; the XX Siècle, of Brussels; the Kolnische Volkszeitung of Co- logne; the powerful Germania, of Ber- lin; the Westfälischer Merkur, of Münster (Westphalia); the Vaterland, of Vienna; the Liberte, of Fribourg; the Freeman's Journal, of Dublin; the Sun, of Baltimore; the Catholic Herald, of India; the Tablet, of Lon- don; the Gazet van Antwerpen, of Antwerp; the New York American Journal; the Volksblatt, of Basle; the Luxemburger Wort, of Luxem- burg, etc., etc.

Cardinal Vincenzo Vannutelli pre- sided, and no less than twelve Car- dinals were present. Nowhere else but in Rome could such a gathering of Princes of the Church be seen. Be- sides the presiding Cardinal sat their Eminences Mariano Rampolla, Do- menico Ferrata and Giuseppe Calasanzio Vives y Tuto; and in the first bench on the floor beneath their Emi- nences Tripepi, Casali del Drago, No- cella, Taliani, Martinelli, Aduti, Ma- thieu and Gennari sat, a row of crimson arrayed members of the Se- nate of the Church. Behind them were the Archbishops, and Bishops, and the priests and members of vari- ous religious orders and congrega- tions, representing the beneficent in- fluence of the Church in the many ways of its charitable works. Then came the laity in great numbers. Amongst these were the representa- tives of the Governments accredited to the Holy See. That of the Govern- ment of France was conspicuous by absence, in every public ceremony

in which the Pontiff and the high dignitaries of the Church took part. The French Ambassador always occu- pied a high place; that is the case no longer! Happily, the French laity were quite numerous in this assembly, showing that they at least have not forgotten their ancient at- tachment to Rome.

Cardinal Vincenzo Vannutelli, after a hymn had been sung, read the opening address, which was in Latin. For nearly three hours a series of discourses followed, each lasting from a quarter of an hour to twenty minutes, all in praise of the Immacu- late Mother of God. It was a strange thing to listen to this unanimous concert of laudation expressed in several different languages, and in dif- ferent forms, but all harmonic in theme. Indeed it seemed as if there were a rivalry between the repre- sentatives of the different nations in claiming priority of devotion to the doctrine of the Immaculate Concep- tion. And even the members of the religious orders, whose work for the benefit of humanity and the advance- ment of thought is now recognized, have been urging their claims to have been very early in sustaining this doctrine. The Carmelites put for- ward their arguments, the Dominicans urged their devotion to the Blessed Virgin, and the Franciscans made evident, what scholars have al- ways recognized, that they are per- haps the earliest, certainly the most persevering, champions of this devo- tion through six centuries.

To Cardinal Vannutelli succeeded the Archbishop of Pisa, Mgr. Maffi, who spoke in general terms of the persons who had come here from various parts of Italy, and from other lands beyond the mountains and the seas to take part in this great assembly, and he welcomed them cordially.

A letter from the Secretary of Count de Mun announcing the illness and incapacity of the Count, to come to Rome, was read.

Monsieur Touché, Bishop of Or- leans, in his address touched on the history of the devotion to this doc- trine throughout the ages. He was followed by the Abbot Pellegrini, of Grottaferrata, who urged the claims of the Greek Church as having recog- nized the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception at an early period. This Abbot is the Superior of the Greek Basilian Monastery at Grottaferrata.

Father Kotmann, of the Minor Franciscans, spoke in German of the cult of the Immaculate, and he was followed by Mgr. Joseph Wilpert, who spoke in excellent Italian on the Blessed Virgin in the Catacombs. There is perhaps no one more cap- able of treating this theme than he, whose work on the pictorial art of the Catacombs is epoch-making. He examined rapidly the most notable paintings in these subterranean cham- bers, which represent the Prophecy of Isaiah, shown in two pictures; the Adoration of the Magi, the Annuncia- tion, the Prophecy of Micah, etc.; and he concluded by showing in clear terms that the position of Mary in the Church of the early ages was, in substance, similar to that which she holds in the present age.

On the following day, after the introductory prayer, Father Gaetano Zocchi, S.J., treated of the prophetic words of the Magnificat: "All generations shall call me blessed." Father Joseph Lehmann, of Lyons, converted with his brother from Jui- daism to the Catholic Church many years ago, treated of the Crucifix and the Immaculate Virgin with great eloquence. The Rev. Father General of the Dominican Order, Father Hyacinthe Cormier, took for his theme the relation between the Blessed Virgin and the Mission of St. Dominick. The Bishop of Tarbes, Mgr. Francois Xavier Schoepfer, in whose diocese the sanctuary of Lourdes is situated, took Lourdes for his theme, and in a most inter- esting discourse told of the pilgrims and pilgrimages that have been made to that most celebrated shrine. From 1867 to 1903, said the Bishop, there have gone to Lourdes 4271 pilgrimages, containing altogether 8,817,000 pilgrims. The pilgrimages from abroad during this period were 292, and these were from Italy, Bel- gium, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Spain, Portugal, England, Ireland, the United States of America, Ca- nada, Brazil and even Bolivia. From

1867 to the September of 1904 there were at Lourdes 1643 Bishops, amongst whom were 277 Arch- bishops, 10 Primate, 27 Patriarchs and 63 Cardinals — of those 757 were foreigners. The Bishop of Tarbes spoke of the miraculous cures of which Lourdes is the permanent scene. The reports are controlled by the Medical Office; officially, they amount to 2600; but in reality the extraordinary graces surpass 5000. The Bishop described some of them, and he demonstrated the groundless- ness and absurdity of the plea of suggestion: "every human explana- tion being impossible, there remains nothing else than to go back to the intervention of God." And, conclud- ing, he said that the religious move- ment which came forth from the banks of the Gave (at Lourdes) has spread from France over the whole world; once more the Immaculate Virgin will have brought men back to God: "Per Mariam ad Jesum!"

At this moment, when the Bishop of Tarbes had concluded his remark- able discourse, Father Stagni com- manded to the Congress that at Lisbon, through the initiative of the Patriarch, Cardinal Netto, a commission is being organized to erect a church in honor of Mary Im- maculate, as a memorial of the 50th anniversary of the proclamation of the Dogma.

Count Carlo Santucci, a member of the Communal Council at Rome, treated of the Immaculate Concep- tion and Modern Errors.

This was followed by a discourse delivered by the Rev. Father David Fleming, of the Order of Friars Minor, on "The Seraphic Order and the Immaculate."

The definition of the Immaculate Conception, said Father Fleming, marked a new epoch in the cult of the Mother of God, a new and bril- liant fulfilment of those words of Mary: All generations shall call me blessed. After treating in his own most able and clear manner of the unfolding, according to the neces- sities and circumstances of the time, of the truths contained in the de- posit of Faith, Father Fleming said that amongst the truths which have been thus developed after many cen- turies is that of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. This doctrine was taught from the beginning, es- pecially in the third century; it was well known in the Eastern Church, the ancient liturgy of which con- tains luminous traces of it. But in the Western Church there began, with St. Bernard, a great confusion among the doctors. The rev. speaker then traced, in a brief but clear summary, the efforts of the Franciscans in favor of the doctrine, noting how the true doctrine was preserved and taught in the University of Oxford, first by Bishop Grosseteste, then by Barrow, and finally by Duns Scotus, who had succeeded Barrow in the Chair of Theology. When Duns Scotus was sent to teach at the Sorbonne, in Paris, he found another atmosphere: all the professors were hostile to the doctrine of the Imma- culate Conception; but finally the arguments of Scotus triumphed, and thenceforward the confusion began to disappear till the day on which Pius IX., with his infallible definition, dissipated forever the last shadows which obscured the supreme privilege of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary.

The discourse of Father Fleming, notable among the most notable in the Congress, was received with great applause.

It would be a long though most interesting task to note even the names of the speakers and the sub- jects of their discourse. In the af- ternoon, meetings of sections were held in two large halls of the Roman Seminary, and some most inter- esting discourses were read. Here Rev. Father Taunton surprised all his hearers by claiming a priority of devotion to the Immaculate for the Anglo-Saxon Church. He mentioned two cases in which in the eleventh century the Immaculate Conception is mentioned as a liturgical feast- one in an ecclesiastical calendar, where the 8th of December is mark- ed as the feast of the Conception of the Mother of God, and another in the Benedictinials, which were blessings given by the Bishop at a certain place in the Mass. This was quite a revelation. Strange to say, however, a Franciscan Friar, Father Agostino Molini, in his paper on

"The Dogma of the Immaculate Con- ception in Franciscan History," a copy of which discourse was dis- tributed to each person present, re- fers in a note to a calendar sculptured in marble in the 9th century in which reference is made to the Im- maculate Conception as a feast ce- lebrated by the Christian people.

The interest of these meetings is all absorbing, and some of the Irish Bishops at present in Rome make a point of attending them.

STATE OF IRELAND.

Mr. Dillon Finds the Country in a Worse Position than He Ever Remembers.

In a speech at Belfast, on Dec. 1, Mr. John Dillon, M.P., said:

"We have been told that a new era is dawning in the country. We have had speeches every year from Sir Horace Plunkett and a variety of rather well-intentioned persons de- claring that there is an industrial re- vival; that Ireland is entering on a new era, and that in the twentieth century, it is going to embark upon a career of prosperity unknown in the past history of the country. What has this career brought us to- day? Where are we to-day? I think the country is in a worse position to-day than I ever remember, and we are face to face with a threatened re- newal of hunger and distress in the West of Ireland. What surprises me is this, that there could have been any doubt in the minds of any intel- ligent man who has ever given any attention to politics as to the re- sult of the government of this coun- try. During the last few years we have been told of the Co-operative Societies and of this new Department of Agriculture and Technical Educa- tion, and of a hundred other things that were to start Ireland on a car- eer of prosperity. But when all this political quackery was being dinned into our ears every sound principle on which experience has taught us the genuine prospects of a nation must be built up has been violated in respect to this country. £200,000 was given to Sir Horace Plunkett to spend on the Depart- ment of Agriculture, and within the last three or four years £2,000,000 a year has been added to the taxa- tion of this country. Now even England, one of the richest coun- tries in the world, is suffering acute- ly at this moment as a consequence of the mad career of extravagance which has spent nearly £300,000,000 on the Boer War, and has added £40,000,000 to the permanent mili- tary and naval taxation of England. England is suffering, and distress is abroad on the streets of the great cities of England. But what is only a wholesome lesson to England, what she can endure, survive, and triumph over, may be the death and ruin of Ireland. And while we are told to expect great things from these various nostrums and quack remedies which are being continually thrown at us, we are called upon at the same time to take our full share and more than our full share in the mad career of British Imperialism, which in my opinion is threatening even Britain with poverty. But as regards Ireland there can be no second opinion of its effects upon Ireland, because England embarks upon her great enterprises of Imperialism in the hope of extending her trade, and we do not get any share of that extension and we don't expect it. Our £2,000,000 a year is a dead loss without any prospect of repayment. Yes, and then remember what that comes upon the top of two millions a year added to the taxation of Ireland is the answer of Great Britain and the British Par- liament to our demand for relief. Eight years ago, acting on the re- port of the Royal Commission, for- tified by the report of that Com- mission which, as you remember, was comprised almost entirely of Englishmen with three exceptions we proved that Ireland is paying more than its just share to the expenses of this kingdom by about three millions a year. What has been the answer? That we are now paying two millions a year more than we paid then. 'Yes,' said the British Minister when we make this complaint: 'it is true you are paying two millions a year more, but you are paying a smaller proportion because we have increas- ed our payment by forty millions.' That is an interesting argument, but a rather unsatisfactory argument to the poorer nation. It amounts to this, that if they took all our in- come in taxation, no injustice could be done so long as our proportion in relation to England was not increas- ed. The fact is that in financial partnership with England instead of being a benefit to this country, as

we are told, is ruining and drawing the life blood out of this country, and until a stop is put to it, it is idle to hope that emigration will cease or that any prosperity will arrive in Ireland. All we have heard for the last four or five years about the Agricultural Department and the various other quack remedies that have been instituted in Ireland as a remedy for the agricultural and in- dustrial depression of this country, reminds me strongly of the days of my youth, when in the early sixties we used to read the annual orations delivered by Lord Carlisle and his successors in the Lord Lieutenantcy at the Lord Mayor's banquet. We have abolished that institution. The Lord Lieutenant cannot respond any longer for the prosperity of Ireland at a Lord Mayor's banquet, but year after year the Lord Lieutenant re- sponded to the toast of the prosper- ity of Ireland and at a time when the population of Ireland was de- creasing at the rate of fifty and sixty thousand a year, he used al- ways to say that Ireland was enor- mously prosperous, and that she was rapidly becoming the fertile mother of flocks and herds (laughter); and so it is to-day, when our nation is being done to death, and that is not a bit too strong a word to use, by over-taxation, by a ruinous system of land tenure, which, thank God, I think, will soon be swept away, by mis-government in all its worst forms, and we have nothing offered to us but political quackery in its very worst and most malignant form."

Church Architect's Sudden Death.

Wednesday morning there died suddenly at 57 Henry street, To- ronto, Joseph Connolly, for some years known as one of the best archi- tects in that city. Mr. Connolly, who came out from the old country some years ago, was actively en- gaged in his business until his death. During his stay in Toronto he was identified with the erection of several of the Toronto churches. Recently he had busied himself with the build- ing of the new spire on St. Mary's Church on Bathurst street.

Mr. Connolly was born in Limerick, Ireland, in 1840. He became an architect and soon reached such prominence that he was elected to the Irish Royal Institute of Archi- tects. After living successively in Dublin and Limerick, he came to Canada and was elected a companion of the Royal Canadian Architects.

Mr. Connolly's death was due to bronchial asthma, from which he was a sufferer. Deceased leaves three children, Miss Connolly, who was with him at the time of his death, Miss Fanny and Joseph, of Vancou- ver.

Soon Followed His Master.

Pio Centra, the faithful attendant of the late Pope Leo XIII., died at Rome on Saturday of apoplexy, thus fulfilling his own prediction that he would soon follow his master. Centra, who was one of the most pic- turesque figures of the Pontificate, lived entirely for Pope Leo, sleeping practically in the same room and en- joying the entire confidence of the late Pope.

MUSIC OF SISTINE CHOIR.

The Cardinal Prefect of the Vati- can library has opened to students the manuscripts, scores, and other documents concerning the Sistine choir. These have hitherto been jealously guarded from the public. The collection consists of 250 pieces written or printed and representing the work of 150 composers from the fourteenth to the eighteenth century. The rarest of these are the miniatur- ed ones of the fifteenth century, which belonged to Pope Pius II., (Piccolomini), and some choral books of the year 1502.

AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

The Sister Superioress of St. Patrick's Orphan Asylum begs to gratefully acknowledge the receipt of \$50 from a lady who does not wish her name to be known, through the Rev. Father Martin Callaghan, for the benefit of the orphans.

CHURCH BANNER MADE BY CONVICT

Beautiful Piece of Work by Philadelpia Prisoner Unveiled in Church of the Gesu, Philadelphia.

A banner wrought in gold and silver, representing the Immaculate Conception, the product of a convict in the Eastern Penitentiary, was un- veiled Sunday evening at the Church of the Gesu, Philadelphia. The Rev. Michael Noel, of the Church of the Gesu, is chaplain of the Eastern Penitentiary, and several months ago he noticed that one of the prisoners was weaving a design in fabric upon gold and silver bullion.

Father Noel learned that the man designated by the prison officials as No. 2312, block 9, was Joseph W. Grawal, serving a term for embez- zlement. Father Noel asked Grawal if he would make a banner for the church and the latter assented. For sixteen hours a day Grawal worked unceasingly for sixty days to com- plete the banner.

The prison officials encouraged him in his work and even installed a special electric illumination in his cell. Last Friday the banner was taken to the church. Nothing was said to the members of the church concerning the identity of the artist. The banner measures six feet four inches. Ten pounds of solid gold were used. Its value is estimated at \$2000.

Mark Twain on Joan of Arc

In Harper's Magazine for December Mark Twain, who has recently made a thorough study of the original doc- uments bearing on the life of Joan of Arc, pays a wonderful tribute to this slight girl whom he calls "by far the most extraordinary person the human race has ever produced."

"All the rules fail in this girl's case. In the world's history she stands alone—quite alone. Others have been great in their first public exhibitions of generalship, valor, legal talent, diplomacy, fortitude; but always their previous years and as- sociations had been in a larger and smaller degree a preparation for these things. There have been no exceptions to the rule. But Joan was competent in a law case at 16 without ever having seen a law-book or a court house before; she had no training in soldiery and no as- sociations with it, yet she was a competent general in her first cam- paign; she was brave in her first battle, yet her courage had had no education—not even the education which a boy's courage gets from never ceasing reminders that it is not permissible in a boy to be a coward, but only in a girl; friend- less, alone, ignorant, in the bosom of her youth, she sat week after week, a prisoner in chains, before her assemblage of judges, enemies hunting her to death, the ablest minds in France, and answered them out of an untaught wisdom which overmatched their learning, baffled their tricks and treacheries with a native sagacity which compelled their wonder, and scored every day a victory against these incredible odds that camped unchallenged on the field. In the history of human in- tellect, untrained, inexperienced, and using only its birthright equipment of untried capacities, there is no- thing which approaches this. Joan of Arc stands alone, and must con- tinue to stand alone, by reason of the unfulfilled fact that in the things wherein she was great she was so without shade or suggestion of help from preparatory teaching, practice, environment or experience."