

Manufacture of Relics.

A SUDDEN and terrible blow has fallen on the Popedom, in the discovery of a most extensive manufacture and sale of false relics by the priest officials of the Papal court. Before, however, stating the particulars of the illicit traffic in relics, it will be as well to present a view of what is the regular practice at the Vatican in regard to relics. It is well known that for ages the Papacy has carried on a trade on relics, and that they abound in all parts of the world amongst Catholics, who put the most profound faith in them, and believe them possessed of wonderful supernatural power. These have all issued from the manufactory of the Vatican under authority of the successive popes, and many of them have been expressly blessed by them. Notwithstanding that on this system they have two heads of St. Peter in Rome, as many as four, five, six, seven bodies of the same saint in different places, and as much wood of the true cross as would build a navy, these things do not in the least shake the faith of devotees. The priests say, that there being such things only makes the miracle the greater. The Vatican has for ages had a distinct department for the production and dissemination of relics, at the head of which is placed the Pope's Vicar. This vicar appoints a superintendent of relics, a Jesuit, by the way, who pronounces to what saint the body about to be cut up into relics belongs, and these are prepared in the Vatican itself. . . .

The Jesuits play a prominent part in these transactions, as they do in most Catholic affairs. Father Gaggi, we are told, put the authenticating seal to the false relics, some of which were in shrines, and other settings of gold and silver. Brother Benoit was the great wholesale dealer in them, and during their trial, with their usual cunning, the Jesuits took care that he could not be found. It was confidently believed that he was secreted in the head-quarters of the Jesuits at Lyons. No means whatever were taken by the Pope, or his court, to make known the existence of this legion of forged relics, so that, as far as they were concerned, the thousands and tens of thousands

of dupes might go on for ever worshipping the bones of sheep and hares, and carrying them to the sick in the hope of their being healed by them.

The exposure of this most scandalous manufacture of and traffic in the bones of sheep, hares, and old pagans, within the precincts of the Vatican, and by the spiritual officers of the Pope himself, has produced a profound sensation throughout Christendom, and has invalidated the whole of the pretended holy relics in existence. The report of this trial, and the letter of Colangeli, are printed in a small book, and sold for two francs—little more than eighteen pence—and have been translated into German and other languages. In combination with the shock given to the Popedom by the resistance to the dogma of infallibility, this exposure has gone far to shake the great papal imposture to its deepest foundations. What a religion must that be which, trading on the ignorance and superstition which it has itself created in such vile fetish wares as these, makes its impostures so gross and palpable that its very priests, seeing all its impudent greed, themselves extend the base delusion on their own account!

Unprepared Teachers.

It was positively funny from one standpoint of view, and it was very sad from another, to see that Bible-class teacher last Sunday before his class without any preparation for teaching. There were several bright-eyed, quick-minded young people who soon perceived they had the teacher (so called) at a disadvantage, and they used it, by asking questions he could not answer, and making the blush of shame come into his face on account of his inability to furnish those ready minds with solid nutriment. It was very humiliating to hear those irreligious young people say, after school closed, "Did'n't we bore him, though?" Pray, study, and be ready.—*Sunday-school Times.*

THE blossom can not tell what becomes of its odor, and no man can tell what becomes of his influence and example, which go beyond his ken on their mission.