

SOVEREIGNS' VISITS
TO THE VATICANSIGNIFICANT FACTS RECALLED
BY VISIT OF THE KING AND
QUEEN OF SPAIN

By Mrs. Enrico Puoti

The visit of the Spanish sovereigns to His Holiness Pius XI. recalls to mind the numerous visits which Sovereigns and Presidents of Republics have made to the Head of the Catholic Church in recent times, after the latter had lost his temporal dominion, as if to demonstrate that in the thoughts of the Heads of States the lack of territorial sovereignty in no way diminished the prestige and importance of Papal spiritual sovereignty.

These visits can be classified in two distinct periods. The first lasts until May, 1920. Up to that time the attitude of the Holy See was opposed to the coming of Catholic Sovereigns and Heads of States to Rome. If the latter had come to the capital of Italy it would have been natural and proper for them to visit the Pope, but the Pope made it known that they would not be received. It was not until the visit of the Vatican that the Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria-Hungary, after he had received the visit of the King of Italy, Victor Emmanuel III., did not return it at Rome, and only several years later, met his successor King Humbert I. at Venice. On the other hand, the President of the French Republic, Laurier, in 1904, broke the decree of the Vatican and came to Rome to greet King Victor Emmanuel III. This was the first time that the Holy See, which had previously refused to receive the monarchs, had accepted the visit of a sovereign.

THE SECOND PERIOD BEGAN WITH

the visit of Benedict XV. on the Christmas reconsecrations of peoples, published May 24, 1922. In that document the Pope said that having ascertained that the exchange of visits of Sovereigns and Heads of States greatly helped to better the cordial relations between nations, the Holy See, wishing to contribute to the cordiality and fraternalization of nations, was disposed to receive the monarchs with which it had opposed up to that time, the coming of Catholic sovereigns to Rome. The prohibition was rescinded, but, through confidential agreements, it was arranged that, in case of a visit of a Catholic Head of State, the visit to the Pope would have to be the first solemn act made by him in the Eternal City. In fact the protocol constantly followed is that these sovereigns, on the very day of their arrival and before any solemn ceremonies at the Court of the King of Italy, go to pay their visit to the Pope and only after they have fulfilled this duty towards the Head of the Church, can the series of official ceremonies begin.

VISITS OF NON-CATHOLIC SOVEREIGNS

During the Pontificate of Leo XIII. the visits of non-Catholic sovereigns to the Pope were numerous. In 1888 that Pontiff received the Prince of Imperial Germany, who was afterwards Emperor, more than once as Emperor. The 22nd of April of that year His Holiness was visited by the King of Sweden who at that time was also King of Norway. On the 12th of October of the same year the famous first visit of the Emperor William II. took place. The Kaiser was accompanied by Prince Henry of Prussia. On this occasion the private conversation between Leo XIII. and the Emperor was hindered by the sudden entrance of Prince Bismarck, who according to a previous agreement with Chancellor Bismarck, thus interrupted so that the Pope would not have time to speak to the Emperor on the Roman question.

Some years later, on the 20th of November, 1900, Leo XIII. received the King of Serbia, the unhappy Alexander Obrenovic, who a few years after was barbarously assassinated together with Queen Draga by the conspirators who wanted to put the dynasty of Karageorgiev back on the throne.

In 1898 Doctor Campos Salles while ambassador at Rome was elected President of the Republic of Brazil. About to leave for Brazil to assume the supreme executive office of the State, he wished to visit the Pope. His Holiness consented to receive him though he was the Head of a Catholic State, because he was only elected and had not yet been formally invested in power.

Finally in 1903, the last year of the life of Leo XIII. the Pope received, within a brief period, Edward VII. of England and the 24th of April the Emperor of Germany on the 3rd of May. The English Sovereign went to the Vatican in a private manner while William II. went in great pomp, with a retinue in uniform and in an equipage brought especially from Berlin.

During the Pontificate of Pius X. the only royal visit was that of King George of Greece. It was made it impossible for Heads of States to travel to Rome during the earlier part of Benedict XV's reign. His Holiness received several visits from rulers in the two years preceding his death. The first Head of State who visited him was President Wilson, in January 1919, as the President passed through Rome before going to Paris for the Peace Conference. The

meeting was characterized by mutual cordiality and the President told the Pope his ideas regarding the League of Nations. Benedict XV. encouraged the project and gave the President his best wishes for a European systematization which would have to have been very much better than that afterwards devised at the Conference of Versailles to have been given Vatican approval.

In that same year, on the 27th of May, the Pope was visited by the Prince of Wales and some months afterwards by Epitacio Pessoa who was head of the Brazilian delegation to Paris when he was elected President of the United States of Brazil, and, before returning to his country, like his predecessor Campos Salles, wished to pass through Rome to pay an act of homage to the Pope.

On the 10th of December, 1920, Benedict received the King and Queen of Denmark, and on the 15th of July, 1921, the Crown Prince of Japan, Hirohito, together with his uncle the Imperial Prince Kain Ga.

VISITS TO PRESENT POPE

The present Pope, a little more than a month after his elevation to the Pontificate, in March, 1922, received the first Catholic Sovereign who had come to Rome since 1870 with the approval of the Pope, the King and Queen of Belgium. The visit had been previously arranged with His Holiness, Benedict XV. and the death of that Pontiff caused the Sovereigns of Belgium to find on the Throne of St. Peter his successor who welcomed them with that benevolence which is characteristic of the Head of the Church and does not change although the person of the Pope changes.

This year before the visit of the King and Queen of Spain, the Pope received on the 3rd of February the Crown Prince of Roumania, and on the 9th of May the King and Queen of England. This latter visit differed from that of Edward VII. which took place, as has been said, in a very private manner. That of George V. was made with the greatest splendor and the meeting of the two powerful Sovereigns with the Head of the Church could not have been more cordial and satisfactory.

This recent visit, of the Spanish Sovereigns, surpassed all the preceding ones for splendor and solemnity. On both sides it seemed as if each had tried to do his best to give the greatest importance to the visit and accentuate the significance of the intimate union between Spain and the Papacy. This was done not only because of the glorious history of the Spanish nation—a history which is intimately linked with that of the Catholic religion—but, above all, because King Alfonso wished that his visit to the Sovereign Pontiff should not only have the character of the simple courtesy of one Sovereign towards another, but also that of an act of homage which he, as head of the Spanish nation, intended to make in the name of his people to the Year of Jesus Christ, to the Head of that Apostolic Roman Catholic Religion to which Spain, today more than ever, professes to adhere with all her soul and with all her strength. These feelings do not arouse wonder when the deep sentiments of faith and piety animating that Sovereign and always manifested in every circumstance of his life and reign, are recalled.

KING OF SPAIN'S PIETY

The son of the pious Maria Christina, born after the death of his father Alfonso XII. the present King was put under the protection of the Pope even before his birth by his mother who had asked Leo XIII. to be the godfather of any children he might bear. The venerable Pontiff very willingly consented and was represented at the baptism by the Nuncio at Madrid, Monsignor Mariano Rampolla del Tindaro, afterwards Cardinal Secretary of State until the death of the Pope. A little later the Pope sent the Queen Regent the Golden Rose as a mark of particular benevolence, and the Queen when inaugurating the Cortes solemnly declared: "Every day I am indebted to the Holy Father for the greatest demonstrations of esteem for our country and of affection to my person and that of the King, my son, demonstrations which contribute in a very material manner to maintain the intimacy of the relations between the Holy See and the Spanish Government for the good of the Church and the State."

Educated under these auspices and in these sentiments, Alfonso XIII. has never let an occasion pass for giving public manifestations of his faith and piety. In 1891, on the occasion of the centenary of St. Louis Gonzaga he sent his fatherly benediction signed by his still infantile hand to Rome to the tomb of the angelic saint. When he married the Queen Mary Victoria, who was born a Protestant and converted to the Catholic religion before their marriage, he wrote to the Pope also in the name of his Consort a very eloquent letter in which he declared that her conversion was not inspired by interest and dynastic considerations, but was the fruit of fervor and profound conviction of the truth of the Catholic Religion. In 1911 when the famous Eucharistic Congress was held at Madrid, King Alfonso participated at the Communion of the children and during the long hours in which the Divine Sacrament was distributed to thousands and thousands of boys and girls he held up the little canopy,

accompanying the Cardinal who administered the Sacred Species. Then, at the Final Procession, he received the Sacrament together with the Queen, the Queen Mother and all the Princes and Princesses of the royal house in the Throne Room where all Spain was consecrated to the Divine Sacrament.

But the most eloquent manifestations of his faith was made by the King at the consecration of the Spanish nation to the Heart of Jesus in 1919.

This unforgettable ceremony took place on the summit of Our Lady of the Angels, where the piety of Spain had erected a monument to the Sacred Heart. There the King in the presence of the royal family, Cardinals, Episcopate, government, magistrates, army and thousands of people, standing on the steps of the altar, read an eloquent declaration of faith and piety.

Y. M. C. A. IN POLAND
CAUSES CONCERN

By Rev. Nikodem Ciesinski

The growth of the Y. M. C. A. in Poland and its recent activities, cause concern among those interested in preserving the Catholic faith of the nation unimpaired. Among all the Protestant agencies, Methodists, Baptists, advocates of the "National Church," etc., that have invaded Poland since the World War, the Y. M. C. A. presents the greatest menace to the traditional Faith of the country. The Association has now been organized into a national branch of the international organization and is carrying on vigorous work.

Its activities are particularly dangerous from the Catholic viewpoint because of the efficiency with which, after the War, it carried on welfare work in a manner to popularize it with many elements of the people. The "Y" came into Poland with General Haller's army in April, 1919, and from the time of the establishment of its first "soldiers' home" in Lublin, its activities developed on an enormous scale. Homes were built, motion picture theaters established, aid given to charity, courses in physical training inaugurated, libraries and reading rooms opened, and arrangements made to sell food to soldiers at remarkably low prices. It has been brought out that in November, 1920, alone, the Y. M. C. A. spent \$50,000 for welfare work in Poland.

Of course, those who understand that the real concern of the Y. M. C. A. is the propagation of the Protestant religion, issued warnings from time to time against the friends who came "bearing gifts." The work of the Jesuit Fathers Urban and Kwiatkowski, was particularly effective in this respect. Suspicion as to what might be the attitude of the Association was confirmed by statements made by Dr. John Mott, international officer of the organization and William Rose, another Y. M. C. A. leader. Dr. Mott after a discussion of the necessary work of regeneration, in an address, declared that "this work cannot be achieved in the narrow bonds of dogmatism and the Church."

The same spirit was revealed in statements by Mr. Rose that the Y. M. C. A. could not accept cooperation from a man who believes that he possesses the whole truth of God and that other religions are in error. Mr. Rose also insisted that in the reading rooms of the Association the literature and publications of the Protestant denominations should be displayed, on the ground that all could aid in the search for truth.

The Polish Hierarchy has definitely forbidden Catholics to become members of the Y. M. C. A., their action being in conformity with the letter of the Holy Office of November, 1922, condemning the Y. M. C. A. and calling upon the Bishops to report on its activities. Although the new Polish Y. M. C. A. is a national autonomous body it is directed by the same men who formerly conducted its activities, most of whom are known to be "liberals" and as not friendly to Catholic interests.

PROOF OF BIBLE STORY
FURNISHED BY LATEST
MACALISTER FINDS

Dublin, Dec. 8.—The latest message of Prof. Macalister to the Daily Telegraph reads: "Found early Canaanite Mycenaean pottery, among which jar handle with twelfth dynasty scarab sealing. Discovery of Jebusite fortress is confirmed."

This message, in conjunction with that which preceded it, reporting discovery of the Jebusite north wall with tower, means that the veil has been lifted from one of the most fascinating historical problems in which mankind is interested. "We can positively say," comments the Daily Telegraph, "that Professor Macalister has discovered the ancient city of the Jebusites, the Milo which was already centuries old when David took it about 1000 B. C. It is these Jebusites who lived in Palestine many hundreds of years before the Jews came there, and of whom it is said in Genesis that they descended from Canaan, son of Ham, the son of Noah."

"We shall await with impatience Professor Macalister's written report on the pottery which he has discovered, and which evidently belongs to the pre-Greek Mycenaean

era. But the importance of the find of the jar handle with the seal of the twelfth Egyptian dynasty cannot be over-estimated.

"Professor Macalister mentions this find in his telegram to show the value he attached to it, for it makes it possible to fix the date of the stratum in which the remarkable remains have been discovered.

"The twelfth dynasty of the so-called Theban line reigned more than twenty centuries before Christ. These were powerful and successful Pharaohs, all these Amenem-hats and Usurteens of the twelfth dynasty, mighty builders and conquerors, whose possessions reached beyond the Nile cataracts and far into Asia.

"It is with a feeling akin to reverence that one gradually sees emerging out of the mists of ages proof positive of the truth of the Biblical history.

"The spades and picks of Professor Macalister's workmen are now turning over the ground trodden by King David, and by the ancestors of the Jebusites he conquered."

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, Dec. 30.—St. Sabina, Bishop, and his companion martyrs. St. Sabina was Bishop of Assisium. During the persecutions under Diocletian and Maximian, he and several of his clergy were apprehended. By order of Venustianus, governor of Etruria and Umbria, the Saint's hands were cut off and his two deacons were tortured until they died. Venustianus was cured of an affliction of the eyes and was afterwards healed. His successor caused the Saint to be beaten to death with clubs.

Monday, Dec. 31.—St. Sylvester, Pope, was born in Rome toward the close of the third century. He was a young priest when the persecution of the Christians broke out under Diocletian. In 312 after the triumph of Constantine, St. Sylvester was elected pope and thus became the first Pontiff to rule the flock of Christ in security and peace. He strenuously combated the Arian heresy.

Tuesday, Jan. 1.—The Circumcision of Our Lord, or New Year's Day. The law of circumcision continued in force until the death of Christ and our Saviour was circumcised that He might redeem those who were under the law.

Wednesday, Jan. 2.—St. Fulgentius, Bishop, after holding office as the procurator of the Province of Cathage, was inspired by St. Austin's treatise on the Psalms to enter religion. He was elected Bishop in 505. His books and letters, some of which are still extant, confounded the Pelagian and Arian heresiarchs. For his opposition to heresy he was cruelly scourged by the Numidians. Finally he retired to an island monastery where he died in the year 530.

Thursday, Jan. 3.—St. Genevieve, Virgin, was born at Nanterre near Paris. When seven years of age she made a vow of perpetual chastity. During the siege of Paris by Childeric, King of the Franks, Genevieve with a few followers went out and procured corn for the starving citizens. Childeric, although a pagan, respected her and at her request spared the lives of many prisoners. She has become the patron Saint of Paris.

Friday, Jan. 4.—St. Titus, Bishop, was a convert from paganism and a disciple of St. Paul. He was patient and painstaking. St. Paul "gave thanks to God, Who had put such carefulness for them in the heart of Titus."

Saturday, Jan. 5.—St. Simeon Stylites, when a mere child began his monastic life. He tortured his body and ate but once in seven days and, when God led him to a solitary life, kept fasts for forty days. Thirty-seven years he spent on the top of pillars, exposed to the heat and cold, day and night adoring the majesty of God.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
WORK

IN DETROIT

Detroit, December 14.—That there are more homeless and neglected children in the care of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul than at any previous time in the history of Detroit, despite the unusual prosperity of the last year, was the outstanding feature of a report on the society's activities submitted at the quarterly meeting held last Sunday at St. Boniface Church. On December 1, the department of child care had 840 children under its direction, or 70 children more than the average for any month of the year and the largest number in the history of the department.

During the eleven months which ended December 1, a total of 1,725 cases involving 4,800 children, were handled by the child caring department, according to the report of James Fitzgerald, executive secretary in charge of the department. Of this number 1,067 were new cases. The average number of children in families reported to the department is three. Mr. Fitzgerald said, this he pointed out, refutes the fallacy that large families compel persons to seek the aid of social and charitable agencies. Analyzing the cases, he stated that more than

800 were due to desertion by the father or mother, to divorce or illegitimacy, the latter cause alone contributing 82 cases. The report showed 41% of the cases resulting from moral causes, 45% from physical causes, and only fourteen due to economic reasons, such as absolute want.

The society's child-caring department spent \$71,686 during the five months ended December 1, according to the treasurer's report. Expenditure of \$45,000 for land, buildings and equipment was reported by the chairman of the committee which organized the camp at Port Sanilac, near Port Huron.

During the first season which closed last fall, Camp Ozanam provided recreation for 140 boys, each of whom spent several weeks at the camp. Next spring the camp will have accommodations for 300 boys, and a new group will be sent out every two weeks. The meeting followed a retreat at the close of which nearly 300 men attended the General Communion.

IN BROOKLYN

Brooklyn, N. Y., Dec. 14.—More than \$200,000 was expended on charitable work in Brooklyn during the year by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, according to a report read last Sunday evening at the annual meeting of the Society in St. John's Chapel, Gree and Clermont Avenues.

One half of this sum was spent to provide clothing, fuel and rent for the poor families and the other half was divided among the homes and asylums conducted by the Society. Richard A. Farley, vice-president presided at the meeting, which was attended by 150 committee chairmen. The principal address of the evening was made by Mr. Francis J. O'Hara, director of charities in the Brooklyn diocese.

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Mabou..... 1 00

Mrs. Alex. D. MacLean, 1 00

Baddeck..... 5 00

Mrs. L. N. Tanney, Iroquois..... 2 00

Mrs. Mary Sheehan, Midland..... 2 00

Though great men shall apostatize, yet the cause will live; and though the public speaker should die, yet the organ which conveyed it, and the breath of Liberty, like the work of the holy man, will not die with the prophet, but survive him.—Henry Grattan.

PERUVIAN PRELATE

Archbishop Emilio Lisson, of Lima, Peru, who is now on a visit to Washington, is planning to make a notable extension of the work of English education begun by him in Peru some years ago. Through the zealous cooperation of Cardinal Dougherty, of Philadelphia, His Grace of Lima was able to establish in Miraflores, a suburb of Lima, an English High School in charge of eight sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, who were assigned to the work from the Motherhouse of the Order in West Chester, Philadelphia. Five of these Sisters are teachers of regular classes, one an instructor of painting, and the other two care for the home. Already this institution has 125 pupils, 75 of whom are native Peruvians. A number of them are residents of Lima, making the trip to Miraflores each day by bus.

The existing school is not quite as well located as the Archbishop would like and has not the accommodations which are necessary fully to meet the demands among the Peruvians for American education. This demand is constantly growing because of the desire of many young men of Peru to obtain an American college education in the United States. It is the Archbishop's hope that soon he will be able to extend the facilities of the existing institutions so that it will be able to take care of all who apply.

The opening of the Panama Canal has brought Peru into much closer relationship with the United States than it was in the old days. As commerce between the two countries has grown, there has been an increased desire on the part of the young men of Peru to fit themselves through an American education for the business opportunities which they now believe are open to them by reason of this greater commerce between the two countries. Catholicism being the religion of nearly all Peruvians, the Archbishop of Lima believes that the American education which the young men of Peru are seeking in increased numbers should be under Catholic auspices. He will return to Peru shortly, confident that the extension of the American education facilities which he so much desires will be accomplished in the near future.

CHANGED ITALIAN POLICY

Rome, Dec. 5.—Cesare De Vecchi, one of the most intimate advisors and collaborators of Mussolini ever since the advent of the Fascist regime, has been appointed by the King to the important position of Governor of Italian Somaliland.

Before his departure for the colony, Signor De Vecchi called upon Cardinal Gasparri, Papal Secretary of State at the Vatican. There has been so little cooperation in the past between the Italian Government and the Vatican, that a visit of this kind does not fail to attract interest and comment in Roman circles.

Signor De Vecchi, interviewed by the representatives of several Roman newspapers, declared that his visit had nothing to do with world politics, but that he had considered it advisable to consult Cardinal Gasparri with regard to affairs in Somaliland. "Somaliland can become a colony of the greatest utility to us and to civilization," he said, adding that "in order to do

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our work well we have need of the moral support of the Papacy."

Previous governments, Signor De Vecchi declared, had always ignored religion even in the Italian colonies, although it is one of the greatest factors in the evolution of peoples and countries.

The new governor stated that it would be his policy to give every possible assistance to the missionaries in Italian Somaliland and to build churches, schools and hospitals for them.

ROME AND ARGENTINA

The Vatican will not appoint Monsignor Michele de Andrea as Archbishop of Buenos Aires and has so notified the Argentine Government. Two other candidates, the Bishops of La Plata and Ushuaia, remain of the list of three names suggested by the Argentine Senate. It was stated that the Vatican does not recognize the right of patronage over appointment of bishops which the Argentine Government contends it inherited from the Spanish Government.

Buenos Aires, Nov. 27.—The Argentine Government will not present another candidate to the Holy See, despite the decision of the Vatican not to confirm the nomination of Monsignor de Andrea as Archbishop of Buenos Aires by the Argentine Government. President De Alvear has issued a decree declining to accept Monsignor de Andrea's resignation of his candidacy tendered to the President. Foreign Minister Gallardo in making public the President's decree stated that the Government will insist on the Vatican accepting Monsignor de Andrea as Archbishop of Buenos Aires.

In two opposite opinions, if one be perfectly reasonable the other can't be perfectly right.—Goldsmith.

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