

passed, "but I trust Your Holiness has long since pardoned me."

Four years later, after his too-short reign, Leo XII, died and was succeeded on the Pontifical throne by Cardinal Castiglione, who took the name of Pius VIII.

Much surprised indeed would have been the witnesses of the procession and altar-boy's fight of 1775 could they have foreseen the future.

He who commences badly may end well ; we must never despair of anything.

The Prayers of Children.



IF we only knew the efficacy and the might of those artless prayers ! Prayers of the angels of the earth, powerful as those of the angels in heaven ! If we all realized their full value, parents would be more particular to make their little ones pray at home and to bring them often to church to pray at the foot of the altar where the fond Lover of children gazes benignly upon them and blesses them with the same tender love as when He walked among men. Teachers in schools and colleges would use every means in their power to encourage and facilitate their visits to the Blessed Sacrament whether in public or private. Even those toddlers who can only lisp a language all their own may pray and be understood by the listening Christ : moreover, I doubt if there be any sweeter sound in His ears than this incoherent babble, such a sore puzzle to their elders, besides, their innocence joined to the supplications of the Lamb, who in the Eucharist intercedes for poor sinners, appeases God's anger, draws down His blessings on their families and homes and safeguards society itself.

Unhappy mothers who neglect to make your little children pray, why are you surprised when crosses and