

THE ROMAN CURIA

AS IT NOW EXISTS
By Rev. Michael Martin, S. J.
This is a volume which the Publishers heartily and without any reserve recommend to the clergy and laity of the United States, and wherever the English language is used.

There are comparatively few who have the leisure or facilities for studying the immense work being carried on by the Congregations, and Tribunals of the Roman Curia throughout the Catholic world. Many of the priests of this country and of other countries as well acquainted with the Departments of the Curia as these were constituted under previous Roman Pontiffs; but not so many have had the opportunity for acquiring accurate information upon the present condition of the Curia as reorganized by the ecclesiastical legislation of 1908.

The advantages of the work are not confined to ecclesiastics. The laity will find many facts of religious interest expressed in terms intelligible to every one. They will see what the Roman Curia at the present day really is, its departments, the authority of each Congregation and Tribunal, the mode of procedure in transacting ecclesiastical business, etc.

The author of the book is the Rev. Mr. Martin, S. J., Professor of Canon Law and Moral Theology in St. Louis University, already known as the Annotator of Slater's "Moral Theology."

Price, net, \$1.50. Postage 15 cents extra. CATHOLIC RECORD, London, Ont.

MURDER MOST FOUL

Thomas a Becket, famous prelate of the Church, lived in troubled and revolutionary times. His brilliant abilities and his unflinching courage in maintaining the integrity and the rights of the Church against the ambitious and unscrupulous Henry II, marked him for vengeance, and the tragedy of his assassination before the very altar of the Cathedral of Canterbury brought down upon the king and his emissaries who perpetrated the awful deed the universal execration of Europe, though the king professed ignorance of the intended assassination and the greatest penitence for having been in any way connected with it.

Thomas a Becket was of Norman blood, but was born in London, and entering the priesthood, rapidly rose to the highest distinction. He was the first native of England who was made Archbishop of Canterbury and primate of England. His quarrel with Henry arose about six years before his death. The Archbishop was despoiled of his property, and compelled to fly in disguise to France. His cause was taken up by the Pope and the king of France, but all their efforts and several personal interviews between the king and the Archbishop proved unavailing to effect a reconciliation; and the strife increased in bitterness when Henry II had the excommunication of his son Henry, a prerogative of the primate performed by the Archbishop of York.

The latter and his assistant bishops were consequently steppeled by the Pope, at Becket's request. In 1170, however, a reconciliation took place at Freitville, a border town in Touraine, and Richard Brito, four barons of the court, to undertake the task. They met Dec. 28, 1170, at the castle of Ranulph de Broc, near Canterbury, accompanied by a body of armed men. The next day they had a stormy interview with the Archbishop in his palace, and on the same evening invaded the Cathedral during the vesper service. Becket prevented all opposition to their ingress by declining, as he said, "to convert a church into a castle," and implored his assailants to spare everybody except himself.

They attempted to drag him from the church, so as not to desecrate it by bloodshed; but while manfully wrestling with De Tracy, Becket received a blow which inflicted a slight wound upon him, and which shattered the arm of his faithful cross-bearer, Edward Grimos. The Archbishop then knelt at the altar, when the

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other three barons gave him the blow and his brains were scattered on the floor.

The murderers fled from the wrath of the people to Karesborough, and then to Rome, whence the Pope sent them as penitents to the Holy Land. The king of England barely escaped from being excommunicated by the Pope, who ordered the Cathedral to be closed for one year. In 1172 Pope Alexander III, canonized Becket as St. Thomas of Canterbury. His remains were deposited in 1221 by Henry III, in a rich shrine, which became a resort of pilgrims (described in Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales," of the scene of alleged miracles and of periodical festivals.

Henry VIII, after the reformation, despoiled the shrine of its precious treasures, and had the saint's name struck off the calendar and his bones burnt and scattered. Not a vestige remains of the magnificent shrine, and the Cathedral itself was partly destroyed by fire in 1872, the interior of the eastern part of it, known as Becket's crown, or corona, having been only recently finished.—Freeman's journal.

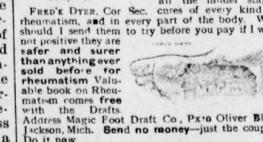
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FUNERALS AND MARRIAGES

ARCHBISHOP IRELAND FORBIDS SECULAR MUSIC AND SONGS

"O Promise Me" and other popular songs at nuptial rites hereafter will be barred at all Catholic weddings in the Archdiocese of St. Paul, in accordance with a letter issued to all his priests by Archbishop Ireland. Hereafter no music save the sacred Latin chants prescribed by the rubrics of the Church will be heard. The same ruling applies to funerals, "Grave abuses have crept into some Churches, so that at times the listener wonders whether he is taking part in a Catholic or in an altogether secular service," said the Archbishop's letter. "To this state of things a peremptory stoppage is imperatively called for."

Neither bride, bridegroom, nor organist will be permitted to make free choice of music for professional or recreational, the rule being construed as prohibiting the Mendelssohn and Wagner wedding marches, as well as the vocal selections. "During the High Mass," the Archbishop writes, "all chant in other languages than the Latin is forbidden by the rubrics of the Church; this rule must be obeyed to the letter."

Before or after the High Mass, or during the Low Mass, chants in other languages are permitted. Invariably, however, those chants must be such as are given in authorized Catholic hymn books. Chants of all other kind or origin are strictly forbidden. "The music to be made use of by the organist, in the form of incoming or outgoing marches, must be such as to accord in origin and tone with the spirit and intent of the rubrics of the Church."

"The pastor will hold himself personally responsible in all matters concerning music and chant on the occasion of requiem and nuptial Masses. Nothing in this regard will be left to the free choice of organist or chorister; and no concessions, not authorized by the spirit or the prescriptions of the rubrics, will be made to requests coming from parties immediately concerned in the requiem or the nuptial Mass. The letter, furthermore, decrees that during the ceremony of the benediction of the Blessed Sacrament "the chanting, in all cases, will be strictly Gregorian—no figured music, no chanting in parts, being allowed under any pretext."

O HEART OF MINE!

O Heart of Mine! How sad thou art At parting from a friend,— Dost thou not know that God ordains Such sorrows for an end?

Dost thou not know, with every cross God sends a blessing too; That though to-day the sky seems dark, To-morrow 'twill be blue?

'Tis first the cross and then the crown, Cheer up, sad heart, and nobly say, "Thy will, dear Lord, not mine!" —Mary L. McLinnart.

DIED

LYONS.—At Kentville, N. S., on Thursday, February 20, 1918, Walter Leo Lyons, third son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Lyons. May his soul rest in peace!

SCHNECKENBURGER.—In Detroit, Mich., Feb. 14, 1918, Mrs. G. Luban Schneckenburger, aged sixty years. Interment in St. Thomas, Ont., Feb. 19th. May her soul rest in peace!

HARAGAN.—At the residence of his son, D. P. Haragan, Calgary, Alta., on January 15, 1918, Mr. David Haragan formerly of Kinkora, Ont., aged seventy-one years. May his soul rest in peace!

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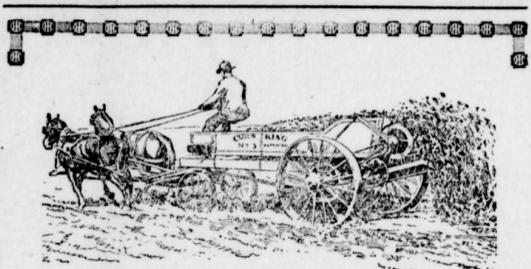
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