

in full conformity with the dignity to which the city has been raised by God and with those gifts with which she has been so richly endowed. She is, as it were, the home of all Christians wheresoever they be ; she is the chief seat of sacred power, and the guardian, for all time, of the Devine doctrines committed to her trust ; for from her, as from some great fountain head, streams of life flow forth unceasingly through all the channels of the Catholic world."

Happy, indeed, are they, who, during the past year, have been able to visit Rome and her basilicas ; who have had the privilege of kneeling at the feet of the venerable Pontiff himself, and of receiving the blessings of the Jubilee direct from his lips.

It is not given to all, however, or even to many, to cross continents and oceans to go to Rome ; the number of those who have this privilege is comparatively small. Difficulties of travel, circumstances of time, place and condition, hinder the faithful from making so long a journey. In the beginning, this inseparable obstacle was not considered. For more than three centuries, the privileges of the Jubilee year were limited to the Eternal City ; and the journey thither had to be undertaken by those who wished to profit by the graces attached to the *Anno Santo*. Gradually, however, a more lenient interpretation was given to this unwritten law ; and it has come to pass now that the extension of the ordinary Jubilee begins, for the universal Church, immediately after the celebration has ended at Rome.

Since the pontificate of Alexander VI., it has been the custom to extend the period during which the indulgence of the Jubilee may be gained by the world outside Rome. The present Pontiff is going to follow this custom of his predecessors. The extended Jubilee begins on Christmas Eve of the present year ; so that all who have not been able to go to Rome, may gain the indulgence in their respective countries.

This benevolence on the part of our holy Pontiff should