

THE LIVERPOOL RIOTS

Due to Misunderstanding of Certain Clauses of Emancipation Act, (London Tablet.) We publish in another column the salient parts of the remarkable report which Mr. Ashton, K.C., has sent to the Home Office setting out the results of the long inquiry he has conducted as to the riots in Liverpool, and the conduct of the police in suppressing them.

PLACING THE RESPONSIBILITY.

There are two men for whom Mr. Ashton's report must make unpleasant reading. One is the gentleman who is apparently known in Liverpool as Pastor Wise—though one thinks he might have been conveniently described otherwise—and the other is the Prime Minister of England. It is desirable to say a word as to the responsibility of each for the horrible exhibitions of religious hatred which formed the subject-matter of this costly inquiry.

Christendom that, though we are Englishmen, we have not the rights of ordinary Englishmen. We may practise our religion privately, provided we keep to our 'places of worship' and do not venture into the open. What we anticipated as the result of Mr. Asquith's unhappy interference at the time of the Eucharistic Congress quickly came to pass. Mr. Ashton traces the disturbances in Liverpool directly to the excitement caused by what had taken place in London, and to the misunderstanding as to the force of certain clauses in the Emancipation Act, which were invoked to secure the abandonment of the procession through the streets round the Cathedral.

LEGALITY OF PROCESSIONS.

While we find ourselves in happy agreement with almost every sentence in Mr. Ashton's report, it is less easy to acquiesce in some of his recommendations. It may be expected that, before closing this report, I should say a few words with reference to processions and open-air meetings of a religious character. So far as the public streets and highways are concerned, processions and meetings stand on the same footing. A meeting is a procession at rest, and a procession is a meeting in motion.

A New Theory.

Mr. A. S. Barnes, in a recently published volume ("The Man of the Iron Mask," London), propounds an interesting and plausible new theory. It is that the celebrated and mysterious "Man in the Iron Mask," far from being, as was once supposed, a twin brother of Louis XIV, was really the eldest illegitimate son of Charles II. of Great Britain, who became a Jesuit priest and was entrusted with secret letters by his father to the Pope, Louis XIV, and "Madame" (Charles' sister) relative to one time to the negotiations for a Union Church of England, and at other times to the "secret treaty," one of the clauses of which was that England should be completely reunited to the Holy See.

ARCHBISHOP SCORES PRESIDENT. Says He Did Not Give Vatican a "Square Deal."

At a public meeting of the American Federation of Catholic Societies in the diocese of Boston, held in that city on Sunday last, His Grace Archbishop O'Connell scored with no uncertain words the action of President Roosevelt at the Vatican. John Callan O'Laughlin, who endeavored to negotiate with the Vatican, was likewise severely castigated by the Archbishop, who declared that Mr. O'Laughlin had played the part of "Judas" and was "the sort of Catholic that we are ashamed of."

TOUCHES ON ROMAN METHODISTS.

"I am holding responsible those who are in charge of that institution, and that institution has for many years been the centre of the most virulent campaign of lies and abuse of the very vilest kind against the Holy Father, the Church of which he is the head, and of the Catholic principles, forgetting that the State religion in Italy is the Catholic Church."

DOES ROOSEVELT LOVE CATHOLICS?

"Now, Mr. Roosevelt has always said and has given us to understand that he is very fond of Catholics and he liked them very much. We will let that pass. We suppose it is true. If it were true, then Mr. Roosevelt, why did you dare insult the Holy Father, the Pope? Why did you dare to pass over the common rights of man, to turn down an offer of hospitality from the Holy Father, the head of the great Catholic Church, whom we revere as the Vicar of Christ? Now, Mr. Roosevelt, do you really love us? If so, you have shown your affection for us in a very strange way. The Vatican knew perfectly well that its action would be misrepresented. The Cardinal Secretary of State, Merry del Val, knew perfectly that at once there would be oceans of vilification heaped upon him, and Mr. Roosevelt allowed him to take the blame."

over the world that the head of the Church is wrong, and Mr. Roosevelt is the greatest thing in creation. That is the sort of a Catholic that we are ashamed of. Mr. John O'Laughlin, who seems to be looking for a job and is willing to sacrifice the things that man holds most sacred for this particular work, which he hopes may come his way.

"He will live to see the day that he will regret these words, for there never was a man yet in the history of the world who played the part of Judas that didn't in the end pay for it, and Mr. Callan O'Laughlin, who is 'insincere,' will live on."

THE ASCENSION.

Lone are the streets of Nazareth, And lone the white Judean roads; For to His Father's blest abodes, Christ mounts in spite of sin and death! In Bethany no more they see His form along the beaten way, His friends, heart-broken, weep and say: 'We miss His face in Galilee!'

Preparations Complete For Passion Play.

All the parts have long been distributed, the costumes are finished, and all that remains to do is rehearsal. Already this has been accomplished in regard to some of the minor parts in the story of the Saviour as disclosed in the "miracle play, and a general rehearsal is expected the beginning of next month—strictly in private."

Japanese Nun's Mission.

The foreign mission bodies of the Church are deeply interested in the presence in this country of a Japanese nun known in religion as Sister Marie Louise of St. Maur. She was born in Singapore sixty-two years ago, educated in Paris, and speaks French and English as well as several Oriental languages.

The Moral.

"Monsieur le Cure," said a pompous French magistrate to his pastor, who was urging upon him the performance of his Easter duty. "I never go to confession, for the simple reason that I never sin."

CATHOLIC READING PUBLIC.

Dr. Maurice Francis Egan Says it is Unappreciative.

Here are some crisp paragraphs from an introduction that Dr. Maurice Francis Egan has written for a collection of short stories in ten volumes, recently published by Benziger Brothers:

RE-PRINTS.

"There was a time when an American Catholic author's manuscript was crowded out of the market by the habit indulged in—our country had not yet seen the justice of the copyright law—by publishers of reprinting foreign books."

CATHOLIC PUBLIC IS SLOW.

"The ambition of every author is to be read, not to be praised. He ought, too, to be able to live by his work. I regret to say that the Catholic public, with the exception of that small fraction of it called the 'reading public,' which has been created by the clergy, the publishers, and the educational institutions, sees the necessity of paying a cash price for everything except for ideas."

BETTER PROSPECT NOW.

"There was a time when a great deal of output from certain Catholic publishing firms was dear and nasty. It was veritable junk, horrible stuff, glittering to the eye, but worse than dead sea fruit to the cultivated taste. And this helped to give us all, authors and publishers, a bad reputation. But that time has gone, and ought not to be recalled, except as a part of history which has had an evil effect on present conditions; and one of its results is that no Catholic author can live—even frugally—by his work."

Chinese Join Catholic Church.

Twenty-nine years ago a Chinese man arrived in St. Paul from Canton, China, and on making his

fortune and returning to the land of his fathers to spend the rest of his life in ease, says the St. Paul Pioneer.

In business he was unusually successful, and instead of the modest 'pile' of a few hundred dollars with which most Celestials are content, he is rated to-day as the richest Chinaman in the Northwest. The first part of his ambition was realized, but a new influence has changed his ideas about the great Eastern Empire. He has left on a visit to Canton, and, after a few months, he will return to St. Paul, bringing with him his three boys to be baptized into the Catholic Church, the faith which he himself has professed. Incidentally he may induce other Chinamen to follow his example.

Thomas Hum Gin, for that is his name, was formerly proprietor of an extensive chop suey house, and is now connected with a wholesale grocery and hotel.

His conversion was the forerunner of many more among the Chinese business men of St. Paul and Minneapolis, and Father Cosgrove now numbers seventy-five among the Catholic Church parishes of the Twin City, that number having been baptized into the Church. The work has been accomplished quietly, and during spare hours, and starting with an acquaintance gained by his slight knowledge of the Chinese tongue, the priest has become a well known figure among the Chinese men here.

Father Benson's Sermon.

"There are two reproaches continually cast at the Catholic Church, and the Catholic Church alone," said Rev. Robert Hugh Benson, the distinguished convert-priest and writer, at the Boston Cathedral last Sunday morning.

"Why is it, cries the man of the world, that all other religious societies are lax in the marriage tie and the Catholic Church is not? Why is it when the world is agreed that certain sins are natural in human nature, and, therefore, must not be treated too harshly, that the Catholic Church stands up and holds up to the world a standard of purity which is utterly out of reach of men to attain?"

"The substance of this objection is true. She is divine and seeks perfection; she is human and tolerates imperfections. How unfortunate it is that the world does not understand that these accusations brought against her are her mightiest and the most persuasive credentials."

The Cathedral was filled to overflowing at the service, and thousands who wished to hear Father Benson were turned away. It was announced, however, that he would preach again at the same service on May 1.

Costly Gifts.

The library of the Catholic University at Washington has received from an anonymous benefactor a complete set of the publications of the Henry Bradshaw Society, an English association for the reprinting of the most valuable of medieval liturgical texts. Among the most important of these volumes are the famous seventh or eighth century antiphonary; the seventh century Irish book of hymns and a martyrology published in the ninth or tenth century. These documents are of great value to the student of the mass and the sacraments of the Middle Ages.