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### LEO XIII. AND CATHOLIC CONGRESSES.

SOME time ago His Holiness was pleased to receive the Permanent Committee for Catholic Congresses, whose President is that excellent gentleman, Commendatore Giovanni Acquadrini. The Pope thanked the Commission for their zeal in defence of Catholic principles and encouraged them to never cease to make the most strenuous efforts in furtherance of that holy cause, "The example of other nations," said His Holiness, "long accustomed to the struggle, together with the assistance of heaven should be a reason to hope."

Leo XIII. possesses all the firmness of the immortal Pius IX. together with a certain positive force of character which is all his own. His tact in putting Bismarck into a false position with relation to the Sects,—his powerful denunciation of the Revolution,—his determined circular to the French Episcopate on the occasion of Gambetta's Romans diatribe,—the active reforms which he is initiating on all sides,—in Rome, Germany, and the United States,—in short, his whole policy from the moment of his accession to the chair of Peter, proves that he is a Pope of the calibre of St. Gregory VII, Innocent III, and Boniface VIII. His late circular to the Papal Nuncios at foreign courts respecting an aggressive policy toward the Italian robbers who are at present diverting as well as horrifying the world with their monkey ricks and macaroni legislation; man-

ifests that he possesses something of the grand spirit of Sixtus V. God be praised, for giving to His Church such a Successor to Pius, IX! His powerful intellect is already making itself felt throughout Christendom, and he is evidently one of those men who believe in the French adage:—"Aide toi et Dieu t'aidera."

We call especial attention to the words of His Holiness, to the Commission for they are of great interest to all Catholic Irishmen. "The example of nations long accustomed to the struggle." Ireland stands first among those nations. Indeed, with the sole exception of Poland, we know of no other nation to which those words apply. Germany has done well of late years, but the fact, however creditable to the Catholics of that empire, is exceptional in her history. The greatest trials the Church has suffered during the last thousand years have had their origin in Germany. Had it not been for the providential lapse, of the Alt-Catholic party,—that evil principle which had so long disturbed the Church in Germany,—we might not have been able to-day to testify to the worthy stand which the Catholics of that country, had taken in the face of the infamous Kultur Kampf. Thus, the Providence of God elicits good from evil, even as the perfection of the crop is largely due to the raging storm, which clouds for a time, the light and warmth of the sun.

Ireland has been long accustomed to fight for the Church and endure persecution, for the sake of truth. For centuries she has stood, firm as the rock