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GENERAL INTENTION FOR APRIL.

Named by the Cardinal Protector and blessed by the Pope for all Associates.

The Poverty of Italian Nuns.



ONE of the first acts of the sacrilegious usurpers of Rome was to confiscate and sell at auction most of the property belonging to contemplative sisterhoods. This had been, for many years before 1870, the constant policy of the Piedmontese government. But the effects of this wholesale spoliation became still more outrageous after the forcible occupation of the Papal States, where so many fervent communities of women were consecrated to a life of prayer and silent labour. Then it was that the venomous hatred of the holiest Catholic institutions, which is so characteristic of Italian Freemasonry, found vent. That secret power behind Victor Emmanuel's and Humbert's throne could now wreak its mean revenge on defenceless women, and it did so with a refinement of cruelty that stands as a model for its servile imitators in France and Ecuador.