

## HERE LIES THE FUTURE.

### THE MEANING OF THE LATE ENCYCLICAL.

THE DOCUMENT IS A LUMINOUS CHART IN WHICH THE GLORIOUS PONTIFF LAYS DOWN THE COURSE OF THE YOUNG DEMOCRACY FOR THE ENLIGHTENMENT OF OLD CIVILIZATIONS.

ROME, February 7.—In the encyclical to the American Church, as I have already hinted in previous letters, Pope Leo XIII. has again shown the broadness of view and the ability to break with the old traditions of Europe which characterize his pontificate. Following in the train of the history of three thousand years, the Church, before him, in its desire to direct man's efforts, in its endeavor to guide human progress, has kept within narrow limits, and has constantly skirted the shores of the Mediterranean, while the human family is a sort of vegetation which passes in succession from zone to zone, from continent to continent.

Though far-seeing historians begin to perceive the part belonging to the United States in the grouping of economic and international forces, the great masses of Europeans still deny to that prosperous country perfect life, distinction, grace, synthetic culture, the full development of the higher faculties. Prejudices, like commonplaces, die hard. Truth only can conquer them in the long run.

Well, the authoritative voice of Leo XIII. puts an end to this period of false judgments on the United States; it opens a new era, that of the recognition of the gifts and superiority that mark and adorn the American race. It is not the least of the surprises of history to see the White Man, he who but yesterday was called retrograde, incline the majesty of his power before the starry flag. The Pope is history; he is authority above all; he is the witness of great and fruitful realities; he is not the assertion of a man; he is a whole world that speaks and declares itself. Of his own free will he has lowered the ancient glory of Europe before the land of Columbus, and has said to the old civilization: "There lies the future." When in my modest but sincere letters from Rome I marked down these facts, the ignorant and the incredulous reproached me for my optimism. Leo XIII. has set his sovereign seal on my prophecies. Forward! glorious and strong America! You bear Caesar on your breast. Your banners will wave on all shores. Every epoch is marked on the dial of the ages by the victory and supremacy of a people; your hour has struck!

That is, as I have incessantly repeated, the secret reason for the predilection that Leo XIII. has for the Church in the country of Washington and of Jefferson. This encyclical is the child of that feeling. It is the radiant culmination of a long and patient work. How petty were the fears of those who opposed, who, disturbed in their habits and their rents, accused Leo XII. of troubling their rest and their placid quiet. How little they understood his genius, his foresight, the grandeur of his views and his magnanimous courage, when they set their narrow and decrepit ideas above his presentiments and initiative. Blind also were those who, satisfied with their selfish wisdom, seemed to consider it a crime in the Pope that his mind should be conciliating and his attachments to American institutions frank and loyal. Those foreigners who took with them their local traditions, those Europeans who dwelt in the United States as in an old country, those brains narrow and limited like their native mountains, all those "ancients," those faithful to the old order of things, all those guardians of the graveyards of history, had no foreboding of the new impulses and the new birth of things.

What shall I say now of the contents of the encyclical? It is as luminous as a ray of sunlight, one of the warm and golden rays of the Mediterranean. It is historical, solemn, and melodious as an epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. I might well here repeat Bossuet's panegyric of the great apostle. What pleases me above all is the explanation of the reasons for the delegation to Washington. The bishops who feared this influence, the Protestants who were suspicious of it, will not be, perhaps, completely disarmed. Will they not at least admit that it is a mag-

nificent view of the Church and of the collaboration of Rome in the work of a Church? Has not the hour gone by for the local powers to be jealous of this cosmopolitan, moderating force? What meaning nowadays have the antique shades of Louis XIV., of Frederick II., of Philip and of Henry VIII., the times when little thrones and small or great courts quarreled over a fragment of ground or a vestige of influence? They are but objects for a museum of history, for the chests of archives.

The horizon of mankind has grown wider. With the pride of patriotism and of local self-esteem the knowledge of the true and great social interests has progressed. We no longer have to deal with petty political rivalries, with the child states of aristocrats and monarchs; the social era, the era of emancipation, the era of manhood, the era of full application of the Gospel is approaching. And in this new struggle a great idea is ripening, the idea of universal brotherhood, of the lowering of barriers; Gallicism and like tendencies die and fall. Above this concentration of races and of nations rises the Papacy like a crucible of unity and an amphitryonic power. Here are the times, if I mistake not, foretold by the Leibnizes, the Guizots, the Gregoroviuses, the Mommsens, by all those seers or philosophers who foresaw, following national rivalries and political complications, the *pax romana* under the sovereignty of Christ, that higher civilization conquered at the cost of so many tears and such bitter struggles. Whosoever does not understand the new part which falls to Rome in the dawn of this new stage of humanity, does not see the signs of the times and is ignorant of the first elements of the policy of Leo XIII. in the United States. *Longingna Oceani spatia*, the title of the encyclical, will last.—*INNOMINATO in the Catholic Universe.*

### AN INTERESTING RELIC.

#### A MEMORIAL OF CATHOLIC ENTERPRISE IN AFRICA.

The account that has appeared in the London Times of the recent removal to Germany by the officers and men of an Imperial German warship of a Cross set up by the olden Portuguese explorers of Africa on the headland ever since known as Cape Cross will be read with interest by many. It will be noted with gratification that the memorial in question, after having stood beneath the sun of Africa for a full four hundred years, still preserves sufficient traces of the artistic skill of those who carved it to enable its new keepers to set forth its history with much exactitude. It will be seen that the year which witnessed the erection of the Cross now described was 1495, or just two before the discovery, by Vasco de Gama, of the passage to the East Indies round the Cape of Good Hope. At the time when the famous and sacred landmark was raised on Cape Cross the holy emblem marked the limit of the southern progress of Portuguese exploration of the African coasts. The mere fact that the sign chosen was that now described attests the character of those who set it up and the spirit in which their voyages, so full of daring and adventure, were undertaken. It must not either be forgotten that the account which we now publish describes the erection elsewhere of similar Crosses. In every case these marked the progress of men whose primary aim and design it was to secure the extension of Christianity and the greatest glory of God. Every one is aware how these objects were largely defeated by the greed and cruelty of the motley crowd of dissipated and avaricious adventurers whom the civilized portion of the world always seem to cast off into newly-discovered or newly-developed regions, and who were only too well represented amongst those Portuguese emigrants who soon founded colonies in Africa. To such personages was due the establishment of the hideous and heinous African Slave Trade. The crimes and excesses of these people, however, in no way detract from the earnest piety of the first explorers, or from the beauty and fitness of the memorial which we now describe, and which, amid the tempests of four centuries, has looked down upon the storm-tossed ocean, bringing to the mind of many a mariner memory of the sacrifice of Calvary and winning from many a Catholic heart the earnest, trusting prayer which God loves best of all.

It has long been the custom of Protestant writers, and English ones most

of all, to write and speak as if to the so-called Reformation, and to England in particular, chiefly belongs merit for the development of Maritime enterprise and the progress of geographical exploration. No more false pretence could, of course, be advanced; but the Cross which is now lodged in a German museum comes as an useful reminder of the fact. It was some nine years after the erection of this monument of Catholic enterprise that Columbus first trod the shores of America. In 1412, seventy-two years earlier, Prince Henry the Navigator had sailed along the African coast as far as the great promontory which he or his sailors christened Cape Nun, because of its resemblance in outline to a religious in her coil or head covering. A full eighty-two years earlier the Canary Islands had been discovered by other Portuguese mariners, and ever since the traders of their land had been trafficking in the products of the fertile and beautiful continent, of the true extent of the resources of which Europe appears to have only recently become aware. The very year the Portuguese captain set up the Cross which has lately been removed, England was the scene of civil strife and turmoil, only partially ended by the result of Bosworth field. Her navy, commerce and industries were in every respect inferior by those of Spain or Portugal. Nevertheless, proofs abound that, wholly Catholic as she may be said to have been, despite the first foul growth which already sprung from the seed sown by the Lollards and by Wycliffe, no time was lost by her merchants in taking what advantage they might of the adventures and discoveries of both the Spaniards and the Portuguese. The date on the Cross will, not unnaturally, lead some who read the article which we now republish to inquire how things fared within our own country at the time when the Portuguese sailors, with much labor and straining, were dragging the weighty memorial to the summit of the headland on which it was destined to stand so long. The condition of Ireland at the time was deplorable. Three hundred years of invasion and of intrigue had worked their natural result amongst our people, albeit without as yet bringing either profit or security to their enemies. Within the Pale there was dismay and confusion. Its barons and its burgesses had all sympathized with Richard III, and so fearful was Henry VI. of offending their susceptibilities that he had just created Gerald, Earl of Kildare, his Lord Deputy, Thomas Fitzgerald, his Chancellor, and Roland Fitzestace, Baron of Portlester, his Lord Treasurer. These were Yorkists to a man. Outside the Pale there was disunion and bloodshed. Chieftain warred with chieftain and clan with an energy which, if properly directed, would have driven the stranger from the soil. The "Annals of the Four Masters" tell the story in a series of records which become painful in the dull monotony of their tales of strife and foray, of foray and strife. Meantime, however, the mariners of Catholic Portugal were beating out across the unknown seas, bearing in their gallant galleons such enigmas of their cause and loyalty as that the memory of the setting up of which is revived by the article which we now print.—*Irish Catholic.*

### CESARE CANTU.

#### DEATH OF ITALY'S GREAT HISTORIAN.

A brief cablegram from Rome announces the death of Cesare Cantu, the Italian historian, and probably the foremost of living Italian writers.

Cesare Cantu was born in Brivio near Milan, December 8, 1807. In his early youth he determined to enter the priesthood, but afterwards finding it was not his vocation, became a professor in the University of Sornio at the age of eighteen, and after taught in Milan. In 1831 he published "Lombardy in the 17th Century," at which work the Austrian government took offence and he was cast into prison. While there he wrote his great romance "Margherita Pusterata." His most celebrated work, his "Universal History," was translated into English, French and German, and brought him a fortune. Later he published a "History of Italian Literature," and "History of the Italian People." All his works are marked by their depth of research, their tolerant spirit, and by a recital of the history of the people, rather than the doings of dynasties.

In politics Cantu's position was peculiar. He hated Austria, distrusted France

and abjured the secret societies, but was an intense Liberal. The ideal he looked forward to was an Italian Republic with the Pope at the head. Elected to parliament in 1864, he opposed the civil marriage bill and was the only one in the parliament to vote against the separation of Church and State. For some years he had been living in retirement, respected and revered by all parties.

### THE WORLD AROUND.

Mount Orizaba, Mexico, is in a state of eruption.

A cable to Hawaii is to be laid by private enterprise.

Cardinal Gibbons sails for Rome the first week in May.

The heirs of the late Frederick Douglass are to contest his will.

Only 284 business failures last week against 248 for the same week last year.

The cable of the Columbia Car Company's line was put in operation this week.

The Nicaragua canal construction company of New York is to be reorganized.

An address to be presented to Mr. Gladstone is being generally signed in Armenia.

A warm warfare is being waged between St. Paul and Minneapolis for the possession of the state capitol.

Officers of the American Church Missionary Society of New York have been removed for a defalcation of \$20,000.

Worth, the famous dressmaker, is dead. Although he made his name and fame in Paris, he was an Englishman by birth.

The Democrats figure the appropriations by the last Congress at \$990,388,691, while the Republicans make it 37,000,000 more.

The Four Seasons Hotel, which cost a million of dollars, was sold for \$28,000 to the representative of the certificate holders.

Pontiac builders are looking for an unusually active season in their line. Over 100 new houses will be added to the town.

Frank Wenter, president of the board of directors of the Chicago drainage canal, has been nominated for mayor of that city by the Democrats.

Nearly a shipload of supplies from New England has been distributed among the needy people of Newfoundland, where the destitution is keen.

Dr. Parkhurst, in conjunction with Sam Jones, is about to begin a crusade against vice in St. Louis, on the plan of his New York anti-Tammany crusade.

A Pennsylvania Railroad locomotive exploded at Cove Station, eleven miles west of Harrisburg, on Saturday. The fireman was killed and the engineer probably fatally hurt.

The Catholics of Alsace are organizing a pilgrimage to Rome, departing on April 29th and returning on May 18th. The Bishop of Strasbourg will accompany the pilgrims.

An epidemic of influenza is raging in Europe. Many of the notables of England and Germany have been prostrated by it, and the courts and schools in many places have been closed.

The Argentine Republic has accepted the decision of President Cleveland in the boundary arbitration with Brazil, and congratulated the latter country that a long-standing dispute has been peacefully settled.

In an important armor test held Monday at the Indian Head Naval Proving Station it was conclusively demonstrated that the heaviest armor made in this country cannot be pierced by the next largest guns, and that our new battle ships, whose sides are to be sheathed with plates like those tested, will be practically invulnerable to high-powered guns at the usual fighting range and under the conditions which, it is believed, must prevail in the target afforded by a vessel when either in motion or practically at a standstill.

Ant. W. M. Kelly.

W. M. F. Kelly.

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