

II.

Extension of the Universal Jubilee

CELEBRATED IN THE HOLY CITY IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN
HUNDRED TO THE WHOLE CATHOLIC WORLD.

LEO, BISHOP,

Servant of the Servants of God, to all the Faithful who shall Read these
Letters, Health and the Apostolic Benediction.

The sacred season which we closed yesterday with the solemnities of religion was a source of joy to us while it lasted, and will leave many grateful memories behind it. For the Church's desire and her sole aim in renewing this celebration, after a lapse of seventy-five years, was to give a salutary stimulus to men's minds, and this, with God's help, we are seen to have attained. The number of those who have with gladness and eagerness striven to avail themselves of the extraordinary privileges of gaining the sacred indulgence has not been small—it has run into the hundreds of thousands and has been made up of all classes of society. It is beyond all question that multitudes of souls have thus been cleansed by salutary penance and renewed to the life of Christian virtue, and we have every reason to believe that from this head and source the Catholic name has derived a fresh influx of faith and devotion all over the world.

Following the example set by our predecessors, we now intend to enlarge still further the bounds of Apostolic charity by offering a more ample opportunity for obtaining the favours of heaven. We have determined to throw open to the faithful in all parts of the world during the first six months of next year that treasury of sacred indulgence which has been entrusted to us, and which has been put within the reach of the faithful in Rome during the last twelve months, for this design will, we think, serve greatly for the revival of