

THE INFLUENCE OF ORGANIZATION.

It gives me much pleasure to be with you on this memorable and interesting occasion when you celebrate 'Embarkation Day' and bring out prominently in the exercises of your Order the importance of the voyage of the great Columbus to the New World, and its effects upon the destiny of the nations. Besides, the theme upon which I have been invited to address you is congenial to one which is very dear to me: 'The Influence of Organization'...

AIMS OF SECRET SOCIETIES.

Hundreds of pamphlets have been written by clergymen and laymen on various subjects concerning our religion which are invaluable as an instructor to the masses of the Catholic laity but through some unknown cause they are seldom seen in their hands. Frequently the 'True Witness' has reviewed these publications which are written in a manner that is most entertaining. In order to more fully point out this fact, we now reproduce the introductory portion of one dealing with the subject of secret societies...

THE IRISH COLLEGE IN PARIS.

I must tell you something about the famous 'Irish College' of Paris. It is an old institution. The old Lombard College was given over to the Irish bishops of Louis XIV's time and to-day, although the present college is a modern structure, it is supported out of the revenues of the land and houses belonging to the Lombard College. For seven hundred years there has been an institution of learning on the hill of St. Genevieve specially devoted to the education of candidates for the sacred ministry in the Irish Church; and the Irish College of today is the heir of a long line of saints and scholars...

THE CHINESE WAR.

Through the clouds of confusion that overhang China ever since the Boxer troubles began, there are grim flashes of lightning that can be seen far beyond the horizon of our time. One of these comes in the form of the terrible edict issued by the Pankai of Shantung. This fanatical document blames the Christians for having caused all the trouble in China, and declares that they must be all put to the sword. There is nothing new in this, as far as Catholicity goes. The Catholics are so numerous in China to-day that they outnumber by four to one the non-Catholic Christian population. As a consequence, and despite the partial press that suppresses that which it does not care to have known, the Catholic element is the one that has so far most suffered in China. There is a peculiar repetition of history in all this...

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

The Catholic Church is a city to which avenues lead from every side, toward which men may travel from any quarter by the most diversified roads, by the theory and rugged ways of strict investigation, by the more flowery paths of sentiment and feeling, but all arrive at its precincts, and find that there is but one gate...

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whereby they may enter, but one door to the sheep-fold—narrow and low, perhaps, and causing flesh and blood to stoop in passing in. Men may wander about its outskirts, they may admire the goodness of its edifices and of its bulwarks, but they cannot be denizens and children if they enter not by that one gate of absolute, unconditional submission to the teachings of the Church...

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The letter which the Sovereign Pontiff has addressed to Cardinal Respighi, Vicar-General, recommending public prayers to implore Divine protection for the sorely tried Church in the Far East, is yet another proof of the deep anxiety and fatherly solicitude with which Leo XIII. watches the progress of events in China. In compliance with the Holy Father's exhortation, the Cardinal-Vicar has sent a circular to all the churches and religious institutes under his jurisdiction, directing special...