

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 1871 the diocesan priests of Ireland conducted the college. Cardinal Logue was a professor there for some years. Thirty years ago the Irish bishops made a compact with the Lazarists to conduct the college, and they have charge of the institution at the present time. The funds are invested by the French Government and the college must be maintained in Paris. There are about 80 young men studying for the different dioceses of Ireland in the college, and they hope to increase the number when some necessary repairs made in late years are all paid for. The college is one of the oldest institutions in Paris, and is situated on Rue des Irlandais 'the Street of the Irish.' This brings to my mind the splendid reception given to a number of Irishmen and their ladies who visited the Exposition last week. It is unusual for the Paris press to pay any particular attention to the nationality of the hundreds of thousands of visitors to the World's Fair; but the announcement of a body of people from Ireland coming to Paris seemed to call for a special notice, and it was given with a will. 'L'Eclair' fairly brimmed over with welcome. 'The brave, generous Irish—the faithful friends of France—the only people in Europe who sympathized with France in her misfortunes of 1870—the people of France welcome them. The Irish have figured conspicuously in the ecclesiastical history of Paris. Two Irishmen were archbishops of Paris. An Irishman was president of the Sorbonne. Irishmen may be said to have founded that great institution as a public holiday. Not only did Ireland furnish for several hundred years the professors of the schools of France, but she opened the halls of her own great schools to the scholars who flocked to her shores from France in quest of an education they could not get at home. For a thousand years St. Patrick's Day has been observed in Paris, and during the Penal days it was the only city in the world in which the 17th of March was kept as a public holiday. Correspondence of Rev. D. S. Phelan, in Western Watchman.

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. In the early days of Christianity the Roman emperors and the Roman people blamed the Christians for every misfortune that overcame them. If the reasons were unfavorable the Christians were declared to be the cause and edicts were launched against them. If any plague struck the land the fault was set down at the door of the Christians. If fire swept the cities, or excessive rains swelled rivers, or an extra dry year left its baneful effects upon the land, in each case the cry was 'to the lions with the Christians.' We thus see that history repeats itself in more ways than one; the same cry goes up today from the quarters of barbaric powers of the East, and the Christians are put to the sword. It would seem as if one of the principles upon which Christianity is based is persecution—not by, but against the true followers of Christ. When we seriously reflect upon the dark events now transpiring in China we can come to no other conclusion, than that the Church Militant is destined to have her martyrs unto the end of time. When St. Ignatius had given his admirable code of discipline to the Order of Jesus, that helped to spread the lights of the Gospel in every land, he prayed to God to grant his spiritual children the boon of persecution for Christ's sake. And if ever a prayer was heard and granted by Heaven, that one was surely of the number. From that day down to the present the Jesuit has been the object of an almost general persecution. Even in civilized Europe the Order has been suppressed, harassed, crushed, expelled; and the individual members of the Order have known almost every imaginable oppression that ignorance, or bigotry, or both combined, could produce. On a larger scale it has been the same with the Church. From 'Peter in chains' to Leo in the Vatican has suffered beyond measure at the hands of all species of men. But even as Leo the Great met and turned back the hordes of Attila, so will his worthy successor Leo XIII, by means of prayer protect the Christian missions, and will turn back the tide of paganism and barbarism that menaces to engulf, sooner or later, the whole of civilization. Throughout the long ages the Church has ever stood between mankind and the wrath of Heaven. She saves the world daily, and the world knows it not. 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 prayers to be recited for the safety of the persecuted Christians in the Far East, and already numerous congregations assemble every evening at Benediction in all the churches of Rome to pray for their distant brethren. It is said by a correspondent that the Holy Father intends to personally officiate at a solemn Requiem for the repose of the souls of the victims of Chinese barbarism, to be celebrated shortly in the Vatican Basilica. Dr. Lapponi has opposed the idea, owing to the present very hot state of the weather and the fatigue which the aged Pontiff would have to sustain, but the Holy Father has not abandoned his intention, and the Mass will probably be celebrated during this month. Nearly all the missionaries who have suffered martyrdom were Italians, says the Roman correspondent of the 'Catholic Times.' Foremost amongst them, in the place of honor, I must quote Mgr. Fantosati, O. F. M., in religion Father Antonio of Treviso, Vicar Apostolic of Hunan. This brave apostle, who was born in 1842, had devoted 33 years of his life to successful missionary work in China, whither he first went in 1867, only revisiting his country once, in 1888, on the occasion of Leo XIII's sacerdotal jubilee. It is interesting to know that he was a great friend of the Peci family, having studied at the Franciscan Convent of Carpino, where he became the special protégé of Count Giovanni Battista Peci, the Pope's brother, whose son, Count Ludovico Peci, has ordered a solemn Requiem Mass to be celebrated in the Cathedral of Carpino for the repose of the heroic Franciscan's soul. Mgr. Fantosati's companions in the glorious order of martyrdom were three young Friars of the same Order—Father Cesidio, of Fossa, aged 23; Father Stephen, of Santeramo, aged 33; and Father Joseph, of Galliate, aged 31. The latter had spent four years in China, and the two former only left Italy last year for the distant land where they have found the palm of victory. The news from China this week is of a more hopeful character, and certainly less sensational than it has been for weeks past. From Washington comes the report that Minister Wu has received an edict under date of August 5, in which the Chinese Government permits the powers to hold open and free communication with their ministers. This includes the sending of cipher messages. Another report from the same quarter says: As a result of the conference two days ago between the President, Acting Secretary of State Adee, Secretary Root and General Corbin, a cablegram was sent early this morning to Consul-General Goodnow, including a copy of the dispatch from Minister Conger, and advising him of the situation as it is understood here. He was directed to communicate this to Earl Li Hung Chang, to Sheng, and to such viceroys as can transmit it to whatever government there is in the Chinese Empire. This table contained what is said to be a very emphatic statement of the position of this Government, saying that action is immediately necessary. While it is not, strictly speaking, an ultimatum, it is very close to it. The Government officials here regard the situation as very dangerous, to Minister Conger and other foreigners in Peking, and grave doubt is expressed whether the international force can reach Peking in time to rescue the ministers. A message has been sent to Minister Conger by the State Department, in reply to the dispatch received from him late yesterday. It advises him of the approach of the relief force and exhorts him to be of good cheer.