

which every newly elected Pope comes for coronation. It is very large and elaborately ornamented, with this inscription over its principal entrance:—"The most Sacred Lateran Church, Mother and Head of all Churches in the City and in the World." The skulls of S.S. Peter and Paul are said to be kept beneath the high-altar. In an adjoining building are the celebrated *Sancta Scala*—"The sacred staircase brought from Jerusalem, consisting of 28 marble steps, which led up to Pilate's Judgment Hall, trodden by Christ and stained with His precious blood," resorted to by pilgrims from all lands, who ascend them on their knees, halting long enough on each step to repeat a prescribed prayer. The sight of a dozen men and women crawling up these steps, with intense devotion pictured on every countenance, was one that can never be effaced from memory. No doubt they were as much in earnest as was Luther when he commenced the ascent of them in the same manner some three hundred and fifty years ago, when, fancying he heard the familiar words, "The just shall live by faith," he sprang to his feet, deliberately walked down, and "fled from the scene of his folly." On either side of the Holy stairs are ordinary flights of steps for heretics. What a strange admixture of piety and superstition you find at the top of these stairs!—A picture of Christ on the Cross, with the precious inscription: "He was wounded for our iniquities, He was bruised for our sins, and ~~with~~ His stripes we are healed." Beneath this is an iron grating through which you look into a small gothic chapel called the *sancta sanctorum*, containing "sacred relics." So holy is this place, none but the clergy may cross its threshold, and none but the Pope may officiate at its altar—over which is written in letters of gold: *Non est in toto sanctior orbe locus*—"There is not in all the world a holier place." Do you ask what these men and women expect to gain by this act of penance? It is no secret. The tempting reward was put into my own hands by the priest in attendance at the foot of the stairs—"Whosoever ascends these consecrated stairs on bended knee, reverently meditating on the passion of the Saviour, and repeating the said prayers, secures for

himself, or for his friends in purgatory, *nine years of Indulgence* for each step, as often as this pious exercise is repeated." What is an Indulgence? Listen to John Tetzel, the agent Leo X. sent to Germany in 1517 to sell them—"A parchment, signed and sealed by the Pope, granting full absolution for sins committed, or which you shall hereafter desire to commit. . . . There is no sin so great that the Indulgence cannot remit it. More than all this; indulgences save not only the living, but also the dead." There was a regular schedule of prices—so much for polygamy, for church-robbery, for murder, etc. "The very moment that the money clinks against the bottom of the chest, the soul escapes from purgatory and flies to heaven!"

Now my readers know the meaning of the Latin words placarded on every church in Rome,—*Indulgentia plenaria quotidiana, pro vivis et defunctis*, and why these deluded people are shuffling up these stairs on their knees. Can credulity go any farther than this? O yes. By kissing the measure of the Virgin's foot (taken from her real shoe), and reciting three Ave Marias; or by adoring the handkerchief of Saint Veronica on stated days, you secure 300 years of indulgence!† By visiting the Church of Santa Croce in Gerusalemme on the second Sunday in Advent, you may gain "11,000 years of indulgence, and the remission of all your sins"!!

### Missionary Cabinet.

JAMES HANNINGTON—S. E. AFRICA.\*

IF enthusiasm, consecration, faith in his mission, and determination to do or die for it are among the necessary qualifications of a successful missionary, all these were embodied in Bishop Hannington, the martyr missionary, whose brief Episcopate came to a tragic end in the wilds of Africa, on the 29th of October, 1885.

Hannington was born at Hurstpierpoint, Sussex, England, 3rd September, 1847. His impulsive and headstrong disposition

† DEAN ALFORD in *Sunday Magazine*, 1884, p. 475.

\* JAMES HANNINGTON, FIRST BISHOP OF EASTERN EQUATORIAL AFRICA, by E. C. Dawson, M. A., Oxon. New York: Anson D. Randolph & Co., 1887. Price \$2.50.