

NEW PONTIFICAL ORDER.

And Some Interesting History of the Different Orders Conferred by the Holy See.

It is a well-known fact that the Pope, in spite of the occupation of Rome, is still acknowledged by all governments to be a sovereign, and as such he has the right to confer orders, decorations, and titles which are officially recognized everywhere as equal to the decorations of any other state. In considering them, we must distinguish between orders properly so called, and decorations, service-crosses, etc. There are five orders conferred by the Holy See, viz., the Order of Christ, of Pius, of Sylvester, of St. Gregory, to which we may add that of the Holy Sepulchre, although it is entirely different from the rest historically and in the manner of conferring. The highest rank is in the Order of Christ. It originated in Portugal, where it was founded in 1188 by King Dionysius, as an ecclesiastical military order to defend the boundaries against the Moors. Pope John XXI. approved it on April 14, 1219, but reserved the right to confer it himself. It is conferred very rarely. It has only one class, but as a special mark of distinction a star of brilliant is sometimes given with it. The real badge of the order is an oblong enamel cross of red with an inner cross of white, and is worn around the neck with a red ribbon, whilst the splendid star ornaments the left breast. Like every Papal order, the Order of Christ has a special gorgeous court uniform, consisting of a red dress coat with white gold-embroidered facings and cuffs, gold epaulets, white trousers with gold trimmings, sword, and two-pointed hat with white feathers. Next comes the Order of Pius, which was instituted in 1847 by Pius IX, who thus resuscitated the Order of Cavalieri Pii, founded by Pius IV. in 1550. Originally this Order had only two classes, but now it has four, viz., the Grand Cross, commander of the first class (with star), Commander of the second class, and Knight's Cross. According to the Bull of June 26, 1849, the first three grades bestow hereditary, the last one only personal nobility, on the recipient. The ribbon of this Order is dark blue with two red stripes. The gala uniform consists of dark blue dress coat with red, gold-embroidered cuffs, white pantaloons with gold stripes, epaulets with the insignia of a colonel in gold, two-pointed hat with plumes, and sword with mother-of-pearl hilt. The Order of St. Sylvester, according to tradition, is the most ancient of all Papal Orders. It is also called the Order of the Golden Spur, and is said to have been instituted by the Emperor Constantine and conferred by Pope Sylvester I. In the middle ages this Order was not only conferred by the Popes, but also by other sovereigns, and the title "Eques aureus," or "aureatus," was considered one of the greatest titles of honor. Of this Order only 150 Commanders and 300 Knight Crosses can be given away; besides all the Papal Chamberlains are born Knights of the Golden Spur. Of the Order of the Holy See, the one most frequently conferred is that of St. Gregory, founded in 1831, by Gregory XVI. It comprises two classes, namely, for military and civil services, and each division has four classes, viz., the Grand Cross of the first and second class, Commanders and Knights. The Knights of the military division wear the decoration, which consists of a red indented enamel cross, in the centre of which is a picture of Gregory the Great, and on the reverse the inscription "Pro Deo et Principe," with a trophy; and those of the civil division wear a green enamelled laurel-wreath. The gala uniform consists of a dark green open dress coat with silver embroidered cuffs, without epaulets, white pantaloons, sword, and two-pointed chapeau with black plume. Properly speaking, the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem does not belong to this series, but forms a division by itself. Its history dates back to the time of the Crusades, when it was considered a special honor to be knighted at the Holy Sepulchre, and great privileges were bestowed on these knights since that time. Alexander VI. granted the Franciscans, the custodians of the Holy Sepulchre,

the power to confer knighthood there. Benedict XIV. reformed the statutes in 1747, and after having lapsed into disuse they were revived by Pius IX. in 1847. Since then the Patriarch of Jerusalem is the representative of the Pope in all affairs of this Order, and he has the power to grant it independently. In Rome he is represented by a bailiff of the Order, at present the Papal Chamberlain, Count Fant. This decoration is intended for those that have deserved well of the missions in the Holy Land. Next after the Order of the Holy Sepulchre will now rank the Order of the Pilgrims of the Holy Land, which has just been instituted by our Most Holy Lord Pope Leo XIII. It is like to the Order of the Holy Sepulchre in purpose and in constitution, and it is like to it also in the beginning of its history, being founded by Leo XIII. in a similar manner. The decree of institution was despatched under date of May 2, 1900, to the Guardian of the Holy Land, Father Frediano Giannini. The decree expresses the lofty religious and social purpose of His Holiness in creating this new Order, and the same is expressed by the decorations which the members will wear. This is a Jerusalem Cross, viz., one large cross with smaller crosses in the angles and spaces. The joinings of the great cross bear the words of foundation. "Leo XIII. Creavit Anno MCM." The branchings of the main cross represent the Annunciation, the Nativity, the Baptism, and the Last Supper, and they are closed in transverse bars, on each of which are the words: "Christi Amor Iraxit Nos." For the words of foundation are substituted on the other side a figure of the Redeemer of the Resurrection, for the sacred mysteries those of the Prayer in the Garden, the Flagellation, the Crowning with Thorns, and the Resurrection, and for the "Christi Amor," etc., this other legend: "Signum Sacri Ite Hierosolymitani." These decorations will be borne with ribbons of red made up with four-fold stripes of blue silk upon the left side of the breast, just as the Crusaders wore their crosses of old. They will be in gold, silver and bronze, according to the claims of the recipients, and these claims will be constituted and controlled by the devotion shown in pilgrimage-making to the Holy Land. Pilgrimages twice made give a free right to the silver cross, but for the reception of all the crosses it is necessary for the pilgrims to present letters from their parish priest, guaranteed by their Bishops, in proof of their moral lives and status of pilgrims, and to make an offering of ten francs to the Father Guardian of the Holy Land. The expenses of the decoration will be defrayed by each pilgrim. By the institution of this Order, Leo XIII. has performed another great and far-reaching act of his Pontificate, and in the venter of things political in the East created a new protection for the Holy Places of the Divine Presence.

"A FREETHINKER!" HE SAID. Perhaps there are few things in contemporary literature so peculiarly exasperating to a Catholic reader as the high-and-mighty manner in which agnostic, positivist and freethinking authors dismiss as beneath their notice all consideration of the supernatural and the miraculous. The pretentious assumption that genuine scholarships has set aside the miraculous as non-existent is as false as that science has said the last word on natural phenomena. "Monsieur l'Abbe, I can not believe in your apparitions; for I am a freethinker," said a visitor to Lourdes, addressing the Abbe Peyramale. "A freethinker!" replied the priest. "Then you should be a profound scholar in religious science. Have you read our gospels?" "A little." "And the Old Testament?" "Never." "Have you read Fenelon?" "I know his Telemachus." "Are you familiar with Lacordaire's Conferences?" "No." "Or with Chateaubriand's 'Genius of Christianity?'" "No." "Why, then, my dear fellow," said the abbe, "you are not a freethinker; you are merely a common ignoramus." -Ave Maria

POPE CONDEMNS A CHICAGO CROSS.

New York, Aug. 4. — Indignation has been caused among the clergy and laymen of the Catholic Church over a cross bearing a figure of the Blessed Virgin which has been offered for sale by a Chicago firm. It is called the "Cross of the Immaculate Conception," and was placed on the market about two months ago. It met with a ready sale until one of them fell into the hands of Cardinal Martinelli, who, it is said, promptly forwarded it to the Pope. The cross was at once condemned by the Holy See, and the fact has just become known that Catholics are cautioned not to purchase it. In a recent letter to Archbishop Corrigan and other high dignitaries in the Church, Cardinal Martinelli said: "The symbols of Catholic devotion are not merely pious incentives to prayer, or to acts of self-denial and charity; they are expressions of the mind of the Church and of the truths she teaches. To the thoughtful Catholic every object of devotion carries with it an appeal to his or her intelligence, in that it sets forth the doctrines of the Church. True, Catholic instinct generally recognizes any combination of religious symbolism which fosters superstition or erroneous conceptions of doctrine, and thus lends itself to the propagation of falsehood and misrepresentation of Catholic belief. The cross of the Immaculate Conception is a case in point. Under the plea that the Virgin Mother of Christ had a share in the passion of the Divine Son and that her immunity from the stain of original sin consisted in her anticipated fruit of the cross of Christ, it combines the image of the Blessed Virgin with that of the cross and puts the figure of the Immaculate Mother where the body of the dying Saviour is properly placed to show that He died for mankind. "Him we adore when we bend the knee to the symbol of the cross, and it is utterly misleading to put upon the cross of our Blessed Lady, who however exalted she is among the children of men, differs from her Divine Son by the illimitable distance that exists between the Creator and the creature—between God and man. So the pretty cross is apt to teach false doctrines and should not be used by Catholics, for a symbol that serves to deform truth is itself at best but a pretense." Catholics all over the United States have been cautioned, both from the pulpit and in religious periodicals, against having anything to do with the cross in question. Archbishop Corrigan said last night that the clergy treated the matter quietly, as it did any similar condemnation.

THE GRANDE CHARTREUSE.

The London Globe has the following interesting paragraph on the way in which the iniquitous Associations Bill may affect the monks of the Grande Chartreuse, who are so famous for the manufacture of the delicious liqueur, which takes its name from their ancient monastery. "It is said that the Brethren of the Grande Chartreuse are expecting dispersal as an unauthorized body. This Order has, perhaps, had as chequered a career as any religious Order that now exists. On no fewer than six occasions has the monastery been destroyed by fire; once it was destroyed by an avalanche, once it was sacked by the Calvinists, and once the monks were obliged to quit it by a decree of the National Assembly. After such vicissitudes, an order of dispersal would perhaps breed less alarm than it would with other bodies, for their constant recovery after other disasters must breed hope that they will overcome the present one." The French Government, infatuated as it may be, will, however, in our opinion, think twice before it resolves upon interference with a Community whose industry contributes so much to the material prosperity of the country. The Freemason clique, which happens to be in the ascendant just now, are well aware that the materials for the manufacture of the famous liqueur are to be gathered both in the forests of Austria and in those of certain districts of America, and that in the case of interference by them the monks are ready to transfer their industry to either of those countries.

NEGRO SUPERSTITIONS.

Many of the negro superstitions in Kentucky are quite interesting. An old philosopher told me with great gravity: "If you want peppers to grow, you must git mad. My old 'oman an' me had a spat, and I went right out and planted my peppals, an' they come right up!" Still another saying is that peppers, to prosper, must be planted by a red-headed or by a high-tempered person. The negro also says that one never sees a jaybird on Friday, for the bird visits his satanic majesty to "pack kindling" on that day. The three signs in which the negroes place implicit trust are the well-known ones of the groundhog's appearing above ground on Feb. 2, that a hoe must not be carried through a house or a death will follow, and that potatoes must

be planted in the dark of the moon, as well as all vegetables that ripen in the ground, and that corn must be planted in the light of the moon. Feed gunpowder to dogs and it will make them fierce. A negro will not burn the wood of a tree that has been struck by lightning, for fear that his house will burn, or be struck by lightning. If a bird flies into a house, it brings bad luck. If a crawfish or a turtle catches your toes, it will hold on till it thunders. When a child, I was told by a black nurse that if a bat alights on one's head it would stay till it thundered. This was so terrifying that even now I have an unnecessary fear of being clutched by a bat.

THE MOST TRYING PERIOD IN A YOUNG MAN'S LIFE.

The transition or hobbledoy period, between boyhood and young manhood, when a youth is no longer a boy and not yet a man, is the most trying time of his life. This is the age when the interrogation point assumes colossal dimensions. Every faculty of his nature is asking questions and wondering what the future has in store for him. This is the period which tries him. This is the time when great changes in the meaning of which he cannot solve, begin in his life. He is growing so fast, and his tastes are changing so rapidly, that he does not yet know what he is going to do, what occupation or profession to choose. While the youth is in this unsettled condition, teacher and parents should exercise great patience in dealing with him, as whatever is put into this part of his life is put into the whole of life. This is the impressionable stage, when, if he hears a lawyer expatiate upon the beauty of the law, he will think that he is cut out for the bar, and will change his mind next day in favor of medicine, if he hears a doctor enlarge upon the nobility of the medical profession. The lad changes from one thing to another with equal impartiality and lack of judgment. He has not had sufficient experience to see the thorns, the difficulties, the discouragements incident to the different vocations, but he sees only the flowers and the pleasant side of them. — O. S. Marden, in Success for August.

NEW USES FOR SAWDUST.

Sawdust, which used to be a waste product of the mills, is now being utilized in a number of ways. Compressed into bricks with tar, it is employed for making gas, the bricks being carbonized in fire-clay retorts. About eight per cent. of their weight is converted into gas. From 30,000 to 40,000 cubic feet of gas are obtained from each ton of the bricks. Compressed into blocks with coal-dust, sawdust makes an excellent fuel, 300 pounds of which are said to be equal to 500 pounds of soft coal. It gives little smoke and no ashes worth mentioning. Bricks of clay and sawdust are recommended for building, being only half as heavy as ordinary bricks and taking plaster direct without the intervention of laths. In apartment houses sawdust is largely used for filling walls and floors, to deaden sound. Mortar for building has been made recently of sawdust instead of sand. Hardwood dust, which is worth much more than softwood dust, is utilized for smoking hams, being preferred to cordwood because it smolders slowly. Many objects of decorative art are made by compressing sawdust. Immense quantities of this material are used in ice-houses, fish-markets, and in every industry in which ice is employed largely. The distillation of wood alcohol and various chemicals from sawdust has become an enormous business. Wood shavings, which were formerly thrown away, now find a ready market, being compressed to solidity by a special machine. This machine takes five tons of shavings in ten hours, which is about the daily surplus of a large saw-planing-mill. One operator does all the work. Such shavings are used largely for burning lime. They form an economical fuel for making steam, being consumed slowly and developing a heat almost as intense as that of good coal. The great demand for a pleasant, safe and reliable antidote for all affections of the throat and lungs is fully met with in Bickle's Anti-Consumption Syrup. It is a purely vegetable compound, and acts promptly and magically in subduing all coughs, colds, bronchitis, inflammation of the lungs, etc. It is so palatable that a child will not refuse it, and is put at a price that will not exclude the poor from its benefits. Wood oil is now made on a large scale in Sweden from the refuse of timber cuttings, stumps and roots. TESTED BY TIME. — In his justly-celebrated Pills Dr. Parmelee has given to the world one of the most unique medicines offered to the public in late years. Prepared to meet the want for a pill which could be taken without nausea, and that would purge without pain, it has met all requirements in that direction, and it is in general use not only because of these two qualities, but because it is known to possess alterative and curative powers which place it in the front rank of medicines.



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