

congratulations at the feet of the late Pontiff, of glorious memory, on the happy occasion of his reaching the years of St. Peter in the direction of our Holy Church. My recollections of that mission will remain with me until my dying day. Recently again my colleagues deputed me as one of their representatives at the funeral of Pope Leo XIII., in testimony of the sorrow at that event which they shared with the entire civilized world. I followed the remains of our late Sovereign Pontiff to the tomb with feelings I cannot attempt to describe. And now, Holy Father, that the mantle of Leo has fallen upon your shoulders, I am here, humbly and respectfully to lay at your feet the sincere congratulations of my colleagues of the Irish party, and in their name, and in the name of those they represent, and the name of the millions of their kinsmen scattered to the ends of the earth, to offer you an Irish welcome to the Apostolic Throne. Your Holiness will not be unfamiliar with the name of Ireland. Coming, as you do, from beautiful Venice, you will remember the Irish Archers, who in mediaeval days upheld the banner of St. Mark in many a memorable conflict, while the Queen of the Adriatic, the bulwark of Christendom, bore back and broke the overwhelming torrent of Moslem power and saved the liberties and the civilization of the West. But it is as head of the Church that we trust you will come to know us better, and in that great position we beg your fatherly help to draw still closer those bonds of love which, from the coming of St. Patrick, have bound Ireland to Rome, so that our country may continue to deserve the proud title conferred upon her by your illustrious predecessor, of the consolation of the Holy See, until time is no more. With this prayer, Holy Father, I beg, on behalf of those I represent, for ourselves and for our families, and for our people at home and abroad, the Apostolic Benediction.

Pope Pius made the envoy of the Irish Party sit beside him and assured him that long ago he had learned to love the warm-hearted people of Erin. He praised "the undying fidelity" of this portion of his flock; whose homage was "most acceptable," and they received in return a blessing from "the full heart" of the chief Shepherd.

Later Sir Thomas Esmonde received the following letter :

HONORABLE SIR:—You have discharged a high and memorable mission in the name of the Irish Parliamentary party by laying at the feet of the Holy Father your affectionate and elevated address expressive of sentiments of unalterable attachment to the Holy See, together with the best wishes for its ample prosperity.

The opportunity you have furnished to the new Vicar of Christ to direct his august attention to the loyalty and undying fidelity of the Irish people comes most appropriately in the midst of the testimonies of devotion and respect which come to him from all parts of the world. It is therefore with extreme satisfaction that the successor of St. Peter, from whom the great