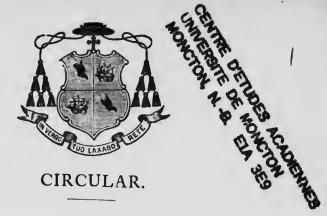
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I.

REVEREND AND DEAR SIR:

As you are aware the heart of our Holy Father Pope Leo XIII, profoundly touched by the miseries which at present afflict human society, moved him to proclaim a Grand Jubilee for all who would visit the Eternal City during the year 1900. In his admirable Encyclical, proclaiming the Jubilee, His Holiness describes and deplores the darkness, the errors, the miseries, the evils, from which the greater portion of the human race is suffering. He then urged mankind to arouse their hearts from the lethargy into which they were plunged, to advert to the danger in which they lived - none other than of perishing eternally, and to direct all their efforts to attain the heavenly and eternal good for which only they were created. This is the happy result the Church wishes to secure in proclaiming a Jubilee. By her prayers and supplications she strives to satisfy the Majesty of God, outraged by the sins of her children; then opens her treasury and pours forth with a lavish hand her favours and benedictions.

The heart of the Sovereign Pontiff was gladdened by the hundreds of thousands who flocked to Rome during the Holy Year to avail themselves of these munificent privileges; but not unmindful of his less favoured children, who could not enjoy that happiness, the Holy Father has this year extended the Jubilee to the whole Catholic world.