

## FREEMASONRY.

The utterances of His Holiness, on the occasion of the Christmas greeting from the Cardinals, is a blow at the secret societies, the open enemies of the Faith, and the Masonic fraternity in particular. By despatch's from Rome we learn that in the throne room of the Vatican the Pope received the College of Cardinals, headed by Cardinals Monaco and Lavallée, who presented him with the best wishes of the Christian world and their special homage on account of the Christmas season. The Pope, who enjoys good health, rose from the throne and thanked the Cardinals in a distinct voice. In the course of his remarks he referred to Freemasonry as follows:

"The storm is growing daily and all who use their eyes to see know it. All Catholics should give their moral attention to this matter that threatens to change the religious physiognomy of Europe. The progress made by this movement in our times is very remarkable. We regard it as a great instrument of ruin and disaster and desire to have placed in contrast to it our own great divine institutions. Our solicitude is extended to all people of the earth, but especially toward Italy, still smarting under the heavy blows of the war of 1870. From the smoking ruins of political revolution we see issuing the most disastrous projects ever put before a Catholic people.

"All the deplorable doctrines calculated to steal the souls of a great people are put forward with shameless frequency. They must be regarded as the outcome of that evil-intentioned sect, Freemasonry. Freemasonry, although posing as such, can never be a sincere friend of the people, for those who put erroneous impressions into the people's brains are its enemies. The artifices the society of Masons displays are neither new nor surprising. This sect is plentifully backed by money and evil-disposed brains, and they have an immense field of operation before them, namely, to pervert the minds and hearts of good Christians.

"We must liken this sect, to the deadly symbol of a one-sided war to the knife, war without mercy, a war that is bound to upset all civilization unless checked. In spirit and destructive qualities the sect of Freemasons is as much to be feared as that political society preaching the overthrow of the foundation of civil order. Anybody who understands the doctrine of Freemasonry knows that in their anti-Christian zeal the Freemasons recognize no restraint. Their object is to destroy all religion, all faith—to change the entire order of things.

"In the midst of such dangers it is pitiful to see that the very children of the Church look on with indifference while the Church is being persecuted, while those vampires breathe hatred and death against the mother Church that redeemed our people. When the state assumes to repudiate the Church its policy becomes simply senseless. It is a policy of misappreciation of the benefits derived and of ingratitude."

It is evident that the Holy Father feels keenly upon this subject, because in the *Osservatore Romano* of the 16th December, a letter to the hierarchy of Italy and to the Italian people, dated the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, was published in Latin and in Italian. Reference is made to the Encyclical *Humanum genus*, of the 20th April, 1884, and to that of the 15th October, 1890. He accuses the sectaries of selfishness, ambition, and secret hostility to what is good. They have, he says:

"substituted for the maxims of religion and morality the maxims of man-made codes of law. Unsurprisingly Leo XIII. condemns them for introducing civil marriage and civil funerals. They have destroyed the property of the Church, and have influenced public morals in such a way that the only ideal now is the acquisition of wealth. All Catholics are invited not to receive such people into their houses, not to belong to clubs in which they are to be found, to be on guard against them when they present themselves in Catholic families as friends, as teachers, or as physicians. The Catholics are to unite to found Catholic schools and Catholic homes for

the poor. They are to form friendly societies among the lower classes, to publish Catholic papers and books, and to establish Catholic banks."

To us in Canada, who come in contact with the Freemasons of our country, all this fear and anxiety, on the part of our Sovereign Pontiff, may seem exaggerated. But, in this Dominion, no sect and no secret society can work the mischief that has been done in Europe,—simply because here they are not sufficiently strong, and as a consequence they keep in their horns. It is otherwise in France, Austria, Italy and other continental countries. The Pope has suffered a perfect martyrdom in consequence of the malignant influence of the societies, and he beheld the fearful tragedies they marked the extraordinary reign of Pius IX. He knows truly too well and at the cost of untold sufferings, the influence of the societies and the objects that have in view. Leo XIII. was in the full flush of his manhood when the Masons of Europe and their different branches, the Illuminati, the Carbonari and the other mysterious bodies, sought to deluge the Continent in blood. In France all legitimate authority trembled, and the word "religion" was a signal for attack. No age was respected, and no position was revered; no sanctity was a safe guard and no innocence was a protection. Mazzini—"the Apostle of the dagger" was abroad, and his envoys and spies filled the cities and hamlets of Europe.

But in Italy, the home of Faith, the centre of Religion, the struggles that Leo must remember were fierce beyond description and they were to the death. It is true the societies were eventually beaten and the Church came out triumphant; but that was to be expected, since she is under the especial protection of her Divine Founder. Still it was a wild and terrible time; scenes destined to be repeated before the close of that same reign, in 1870; scenes that Leo does not wish to behold re-enacted in the future. He witnessed and passed through both storms of revolution, and he knows the signs upon the horizon that tell of clouds collecting for another similar cyclone. It is for this reason that he raises his voice to warn the world in general and Italy in particular, of the danger that menaces to strike at any moment.

What wonderful and melancholy scenes must not pass before the vivid mind of the great Pontiff, as he conjures up the panorama of the days that are gone! Geoberti, Strabini, Mamiani, Mazzini and hundreds of their companions—the manipulators of the stiletto—are brought forth from their caverns by the magic influence of memory. Leo XII., must often ponder upon the scenes produced by the societies; he must recall the day, when on the balcony of the palace, the assassin's bullet, intended for Pius IX., pierced the brain of Cardinal Palma; he must remember the hour and the place, the memorable day when the commissioned scoundrels of the societies stabbed Count Rossi on the very steps of the Senate; he must have a vivid recollection of the flight to Gaeta; all these sad events must pass, in solemn procession, before him when he thinks of the Freemasonry of the present day.

It is no wonder that, the very moment the venerable Pontiff catches a glimpse of any token upon the sky of the future indicating a masonic movement against the Faith, he should raise his potent voice to sound the alarm for the world. He is upon the scene, he knows what took place twice already, and the moment his acute ear catches the rumbling of the distant thunder, he gives instructions to his faithful that they may know what to do. It is to be hoped that

the grand and world-blessing reign of the present Pontiff will not be disturbed any further by the wickedness of the societies, and that Freemasonry and its kindred organizations will ever meet complete defeat at the hands of this glorious Vicar of Christ.

## THE TRUTH.

*La Verité*, of Quebec, finds us very ignorant and illogical, and considers Rev. Father Lambert not much, if any at all, better. We would be at a loss to know how to explain this appreciation were it not that during fifteen years we have followed the career of the editor of *La Verité* and could not fail to remark how ambitiously he strove to become the *Veuillot* of Canada. He says we never read ten lines of that author's works. All who know us personally will take that for what it is worth. He finds fault with us for giving *Veuillot* full credit for all his able work in defense of the church; because we had the hardihood to say that he was over-zealous under certain circumstances. *La Verité* will admit that it has at times, not often, but at times been mistaken; it would be very unjust were we to conclude therefrom that all its strong battling for its principles had no merit at all. As to the French Revolution and its effects, that learned writer seems to forget that, like a mountain lake that bursts its bonds and leaps in cascades down the hills, the principles that had birth in the "Reign of Terror" have come down to our day, at almost every decade forming a cascade, and even to-day are surging around the feet of the great French Republic. It is of that continued revolution that we spoke, and to it Father Lambert refers. However, we have no intention of entering into a discussion with *La Verité*, we are too ignorant and so, we suppose, is Father Lambert, to contend with that powerful organ. Evidently its editor has not read more than one copy of the *TRUE WITNESS* since last January, or he would not say we touched upon the subject without any cause, that it was irrelevant. We would advise *La Verité* to peruse our files during the past several months, meanwhile we prefer to remain in ignorance, with Father Lambert for a champion, than to be considered a paragon of knowledge ever with the approval of *La Verité*.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

Continued from first page.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL, anti-Home Rule member for South Tyrone, has told the people of Boston that he is against Home Rule because after a two week's investigation of affairs in the Province of Quebec, he found out the "pernicious influence exercised by the Roman Catholic Church in the politics of that Province," and that he fears "a similar influence would be allied with Home Rule." Granting that Mr. Russell were able to study all the relations of Church and State in the Province of Quebec, and to succeed in mastering, in two weeks (lecturing, sight-seeing and dining), what others—equally able men—have spent years in studying, even then we would ask that gentleman a very pertinent question. How comes it that he was an anti-Home Ruler before he ever crossed the Atlantic, if his experience in Quebec is the sole basis of his argument? Does Mr. Russell think that the people of Boston are demented? One more of the shallow reasoners on the side of intolerance and injustice.

THEY have a group in Paris called the *Libre Parole*; its members held an anti-Semitic meeting, one night last week, at the Tivoli Vauxhall. The Marquis de

Mores took the platform at 9.30 p.m. He began by an onslaught on the Jews. He declares that were it not for them and the other capitalists the social question would be solved long ago. Pandemonium was let loose. It is useless to attempt an account of the confusion, the frantic appeals, the ungovernable exhibitions of temper, and everything, in word and deed, that belied the title of the Free Speech group. Apparently it is not sufficient that the Jews of Russia should be persecuted by the autocratic tyrants of that land, but even France where the Republican motto "Liberty Equality and Fraternity," is upheld, disgraces herself in the eyes of the world by an anti-Semitic movement. Their "Liberty" is all well and good as long as it includes themselves to the exclusion of all others; their "Equality" means "give me your share, or let us divide it, but I keep my own portion;" their "Fraternity" was once well defined by some wag, in the days of the Revolution. On the walls of the Bastille were the words—*Fraternité ou la Mort*—"Fraternity or Death." Underneath some one wrote: *Sois mon frere ou je te tue*—"Become my brother or I will kill you." The Jews, as a people, have their faults, but, goodness knows, they could teach many a lesson worth learning to the tyrannical autocrat on the one hand, and the still more tyrannical socialist on the other.

THE *Catholic Weekly Review* gives the following piece of sarcasm and "scientific humbugging," which it clips from the *Pilot*; it is too good to let pass without being reproduced. "Astronomer Snyder, of Philadelphia, says that the earth collided with a comet and knocked it into impalpable smithereens (to use a scientific expression) on the night of Nov. 23. Whereupon, Astronomer and Prophet Wiggins, of Ottawa, Canada, rises to remark that if the earth had collided with a comet, it, the earth, would be where the Republican party now is, in less than twenty minutes. Comets, according to Br'er Wiggins, are not gaseous nebulae but solid bodies like the earth itself, 'positively electrified' as the sun and planets are. Every now and again their store of electricity gets low, and they make a home run (speaking again in the language of science) to the sun, where they get recharged and sail off into space for a fresh cruise. Sometimes they tarry too long at the electric source and get overcharged, as happened to Biela's comet some years ago, when that amiable luminary, its own worst enemy, burst into two parts and went to the dog-stars generally. Astronomer Wiggins appears to know all about comets, but like all theorists, he offers no plan for altering their dissipated orbits."

IN the *Contemporary Review*, Mr. Stepford A. Brooke has a paper upon Tennyson and amongst other most elegant passages we find the following very truthful estimate of art.

Most skilful representation of the ugly—that is, of anything which awakens either repulsion or base pleasure, or horrors which does not set free and purify the soul, or scorn instead of reverence, or which does not kindle in us the desire of reproduction of it, that we may stir in others similar emotions to our own—is not art at all. It is clever imitation, it is skill, it is artifice, it is not art. It is characteristic of an age which is writhing under the despotism of positive science that the accurate and skilful representation of things and facts which are not beautiful is called art, and it belongs so all persons who care for the growth of humanity, not to denounce this error, for denunciation and criticism are barren of results, but to live and to work for the opposite truth. Far more rests on that effort than we imagine. A third at least of the future betterment of mankind to which we now look forward with more hope than we have done for years depends on this effort, on all that it involves, on all that it will create in the imaginative and spiritual life of the human race.