

POPE LEO'S SUCCESSOR

DESPITE THE REIGNING PONTIFF'S
GOOD HEALTH, SPECULATION
IS RIFE.

Joan of Arc's Beatification—Italian Free-
masons and Their Anti-Clerical
Congress—A Martyred
Priest's Memory

PARIS, Dec. 1.—From Rome I learn that although the Holy Father's health continues satisfactory, the great age of the Pontiff is causing anxious thoughts and much speculation as to who will succeed to the chair of Peter. Pope Leo XIII. is a magnificent personality, towering by right of intellect, piety and majesty over all the governors of this world. His superiority is even recognized by States in which the Church has but slight hold. Men are wondering who is there in the Sacred College capable of filling the place of the present Pontiff. Thanks be to God, the abiding presence of the Holy Ghost in the Church will direct all things for good. But from a human standpoint it is not unlawful to discuss a matter of such tremendous issues to the Christian world.

Cardinal Paracchi's name is not mentioned as much as formerly. Cardinal Monaco la Volta is scarcely in the state of health to bear the burden. Cardinal Rampolla's French tendencies would meet with opposition from Italy and Austria. Cardinal Ledochowski, who is an Imperial lover, would be distasteful to France. Cardinal Serafino Vannutelli and Cardinal di Pietro are persons of high distinction both as diplomats and prelates, and attention is naturally turned in their direction. But perhaps Cardinal Galimberti is looked to as the most likely of all. He wields tremendous influence in the Sacred College, and his political views are wide and enlightened. In the meanwhile may our Divine Lord preserve for many years the present Pontiff gloriously reigning.

JOAN OF ARC.

Although I am inclined to accept the statement with reserve, I am informed that there is some hitch in the proceedings relative to the proposed beatification of Joan of Arc. It is even said the process may fall through. There is no dispute as to the great virtue and patriotic mission of the Maid of Orleans, but it is felt that there is not sufficient evidence of the heroic sanctity required by the Church for enrolling her among the saints. The devotion of the French to the Holy Maid is natural and commendable enough, but this is a matter which concerns the Church Universal, and so far no miracles have been worked by her intercession. Other signs required by the Congregation of Rites are also said to be wanting.

SLAP IN THE FACE FOR FREEMASONS.

The Italian Liberals made a great boast of the Anti-Clerical Congress they proposed to hold in the Eternal City a few weeks ago; but now they have been obliged to announce its postponement to 1895. The pretext is that that will be the twenty-fifth anniversary of the destruction of the temporal power, and therefore the "better the day, the better the deed!" The real reason, however, it must be confessed, is that notwithstanding every effort on the part of the Freemasons, the idea fell flat, and a spare attendance would have exposed them to ridicule. Moreover, the scheme was not favored by the government, which was scarcely prepared to allow so wanton an insult to the Supreme Pontiff.

FUNERAL OF FATHER ICARD.

On November 24th the mortal remains of the Abbe Icard, the nonagenarian superior-general of the Sulpician Fathers and rector of the Seminary of St. Sulpice, were committed to their last earthly resting place in the Cemetery of Ixey. The funeral ceremonies were of a most imposing character. At 10 a.m. the coffin was borne from the seminary to the Church of St. Sulpice, where a plain catafalque had been erected. The Mass for the Dead was celebrated by the parish priest, Canon Meritan, in presence of Monsignor Ferrata, the Apostolic Nuncio; Cardinal Ricard, Archbishop of Paris; Mgr. Coullie, Archbishop of Lyons; the Bishops of Versailles, Chartres, Puy, Meaux and Tennesse and the Abbots of La Trappe, Chambray and Liflege. The Sulpician Fathers were

represented by the superiors of the different houses of the congregation in France. Mgr. d'Hulst assisted at the function in his quality of rector of the Catholic University of Paris.

The personal holiness of the deceased was remarkable, and he has left a memory which will be treasured up by thousands of priests all over the world who have known and loved Father Icard during different portions of a long life consecrated wholly to the greater glory of God.—*Correspondence of the Catholic Times.*

RELIGIOUS NEWS.

In the December Consistory the Pope will create eight Cardinals, of which four are of foreign nationality.

A Redemptorist Monastery, the erection of which has cost over £13,000, was opened recently at Ballarat, Australia.

A new Catholic college, costing \$110,000, is to be built at Sioux Falls, S.D., close to Bishop Marty's residence.

Bishop Keane lectured in Boston, at the Boston theatre, on Sunday, Nov. 26. His subject was "The Future of Religion."

Rt. Rev. Bishop Horatman blessed last week the magnificent new Ursuline Convent, Cleveland, O. The entire cost of the convent is estimated at about \$200,000.

The Benedictine Abbey of Braunau, in Bohemia, has just celebrated the fifth centenary of its foundation. This is the most ancient house in the kingdom of St. Wenceslaus.

Mr. Thorpe, for many years rector of the Cleveland Cathedral, goes to the Immaculate Conception of that city. Father Burke, rector of the Cathedral in Dubuque, goes to Waterloo, Iowa.

Lady Herbert of Lee, the Dowager Duchess of New Castle, the Dowager Lady Denbigh and Lady Margaret Howard, sister of the Duke Norfolk, are faithful workers among the Catholic poor of London.

Rev. Edward T. Dunne was consecrated Bishop of Dallas, Tex., at the Church of All Saints, in Chicago, on Nov. 30. Archbishop Feehan was the consecrator, and Archbishops Janssens, Ireland, Katzer, and Ryan were present.

During the past year very extensive renovations have been made on the Holy Name Cathedral, Chicago, and the estimated cost of the improvements is \$150,000. The ceremony of unveiling the cathedral will take place before Christmas, and promises to be an elaborate and imposing one.

No one, says a Paris correspondent, could have a more peaceful or happier death than Marshal McMahon. He was perfectly resigned to the will of God, and after he had made his confession to the Abbe Auvray and received Extreme Unction his life quietly ebbed away.

Rev. John J. Gray, pastor of St. James Church, Salem, Mass., died on last Sunday. He was the second priest ordained by Archbishop Williams. Previous to his death he had been in poor health for years, and on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination on Dec. 25, 1891, he was unable to celebrate the Mass.

The entire congregation of St. Paul's Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, was nearly asphyxiated, Nov. 13, by escaping gas. So gradually had they inhaled the gas that no one observed its effect until one of the altar boys fell over into a priest's arms. Even then so stupefied had the congregation become that the fainting of the boy caused no excitement. A

member of the congregation who happened to come late to church noticed the smell of gas and the sleepy condition of the congregation, and at once opened doors and windows, thus doubtless saving many lives.

There is a Catholic hospital in Berlin, the Hospital of St. Hedwig, which is served by the Sisters of Charity. Its report for 1892, just issued, shows that during last year 5,840 were admitted to the hospital. The majority of these were non-Catholics, the exact numbers being 2,248 Catholics, 3,311 Protestants and 60 Jews.

Colonel Richard Malcolm Johnston, the distinguished novelist, read from his own works before a large and appreciative audience, in the study hall of the Academy of the Sacred Heart, Chester square, Boston, on the afternoon of Friday, Nov. 17, under the patronage of the Children of Mary, and for the benefit of their vestment fund. Rev. James A. Doonan, S.J., of Boston College, presided, and among the audience were Rev. John A. Buckley, S.J., Henry J. Smandelle, S.J., and Timothy Bronnahan, S.J., of Boston College.

"Shorter" Pastry and "Shorter" Bills.

We are talking about a "shortening" which will not cause indigestion. Those who "know a thing or two" about Cooking (Marion Harland among a host of others) are using

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