

FRANCE AND THE HOLY SEE.

Last Sunday witnessed a complete rupture between France and the Holy See. The Nuncio, Mgr. Lorenzelli, left Paris the previous evening for Rome.

The occasion of this rupture is the Pope's order that two Bishops Mgr. Geay of Laval, and Mgr. Le Nordez, of Dijon, should come to Rome and stand their trial for very grave charges made against them. The case of Mgr. Geay is an old one. He was reprimanded by Leo XIII., and ordered to Rome, but refused to go, and, as he was supported by the government, the late Pope, hoping to conciliate the government on larger questions, temporized. As to Mgr. LeNordez, some three months ago most of the seminarians in his diocesan seminary refused to be ordained by him, alleging that he was known to be a Freemason. These students were severely criticized by some ill informed Catholic papers in England and America, but the better informed French and Belgian papers are now vindicated by the sequel to that regrettable incident. When summoned to Rome in the middle of last month and threatened with suspension and dismissal if they were not in Rome at the end of the month, both these recreant prelates appealed to the French Government and were told to remain at the head of their dioceses and defy the Pope. It appears, however, that one of the two, Mgr. Le Nordez, repented at the last moment and started for Rome on the 27th ult.

Painful as these facts are, they should not unduly astonish anyone who remembers that one of the twelve apostles was a traitor. And, although we know of only two disreputable French bishops, it ought not to surprise us if there were more in so large a number as eighty, especially if we consider the way in which they are chosen. The Concordat of 1801 between Pius VIII. and Napoleon I., was, on the whole, a wise and at the time, a necessary measure. For a country that is overwhelmingly Catholic, the normal condition is union between Church and State. But, after the Concordat had been accepted by the Pope it was doctored by the notorious Talleyrand, ex-bishop of Autun, and when it was promulgated nine months after the Pope's acceptance, there were found tacked on to it certain "Organic Articles," which neither Pope Pius VIII. nor any of his successors have recognized. These eight organic articles aimed at shackling the Church in France, and Premier Combes now bases his opposition to the Holy See upon these articles. So long as the ruling power in France was nominally Catholic, the disastrous results of this dishonest addition to the Concordat were far less evident than they have been of late years. Louis Philippe, who wanted the bishops to be his humble tools, used to complain that after he had chosen them with a view to their docility, as soon as they had received the Holy Ghost, they became independent and unmanageable by himself. Napoleon III. chose his bishops fairly well. So did the Ministers of Worship during the first years of the present Republic. But for the past twenty-five years the French government has been giving no end of trouble to the Holy See by proposing unworthy candidates, ambitious clerics devoid of apostolic energy. Mgr. di Rende, a predecessor of Mgr. Lorenzelli, is reported to have said: "I spend my time in mourning the absence of worthy candidates, keeping back unworthy ones, and passing third-rate men." The wonder is that, with such a system, the unworthy ones are not more numerous. But the time-serving prelates, who, without giving general scandal, have pandered to the prejudices of an irreligious government, are the real authors of the present persecution in France. They have sacrificed the religious orders in order to save themselves. And now retribution is at hand.

Our uncompromising Pope, Pius X., said lately to an eminent prelate:

"My duty is to give France good bishops; it is better that she should have no Bishops at all than unworthy ones, and as long as the French government continues to propose to me such, so long will I refuse to appoint them. Episcopal vacancies are mere accidents, but it is a real misfortune for a country to have bad Bishops, and God helping me, I will never consent to such an evil."

The Holy Father, seeing that the present Government of France has forged the Concordat—a treaty of alliance between Church and State—into a weapon for wounding and destroying the Church, would not be sorry to have the wielder of that weapon break it into pieces. The rupture of the Concordat would be followed by great hardships for the true Catholics of France, but it would ultimately free that great country from the official interference of apostates in the inner government of the Church.

HALF JEST, WHOLE EARNEST

(Written for the Review).

THE EYES NOT A FOOT RULE.

Smithson.—How tall and stately Mrs. Ventnor looks!

Brownson.—How small and insignificant looking her husband is!

Smithson.—And yet they are both exactly the same height, five feet six.

Brownson.—You don't mean to say so? Well, that only shows to what lengths face, figure and dress will go.

DEBTOR TO HIMSELF.

Bretherton and Jenkins, travelling from ocean to ocean in a C.P. R. Pullman, have been four days the only occupants of the smoking room, the car being filled with ladies and non-smoking men. Bretherton, a scholar, author and critic, has been bored to death, without showing it by Jenkins, whom he had never met before. Jenkins, whose small talk and ill-natured gossip betrays a vacant, vulgar mind, finally volunteers the information that he holds a degree of A. B. from some tenth rate American university. "Yes, sir, I am a university graduate, and I am proud to say that I owe no man any thanks for my education. We were five boys, and my father sent each of us away from home to earn our own living at fifteen. I made some money clerking, saved every cent I could, went to night school, then taught in a business college, then started one of my own, slaving day and night, and by the time I was twenty-two, I had enough capital to put me through a college course. That's how I am now an A. B., and have nobody to thank for it but myself."

Bretherton to himself: "A. B. must stand for Abominable Bore," to Jenkins: "Indeed! What a creditable record! I always admire a self-made man when the making results in something. My history is unfortunately quite different. I was surrounded from my birth by highly educated people, I learned more from my father than I ever learned at school, college or university. I owe everything to my relatives, my teachers, my friends, and most of all to my Maker."

Jenkins.—Still you seem pretty well fixed.

Bretherton.—O yes, it's the only debt I enjoy.

Jenkins.—Why?

Bretherton.—Because nobody ever reminds me of it.

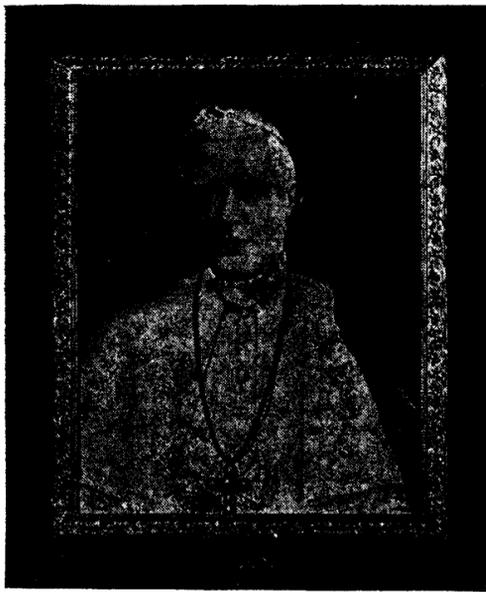
TWO DEFINITIONS.

Professor of English Literature to Normal School students: "Can any lady or gentleman define a paradox?"

Mr. Lexicon, with parrot learning: "Something seemingly absurd, yet true in fact."

Professor: "Very good; that's Stormonth's definition. Now could any one of you express the same idea in a more striking way?"

Miss Epigram, bubbling over with a happy thought: "It seems to me a paradox is truth standing on its head to attract attention!"



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