

fact, Catholics are indebted to subsidies from the State for their studies the more should prompt and generous private liberality be extended, and the more imperative is it that those to whom God has given riches should consecrate it to the preservation of the treasure of revealed truth.

But, in order that these labours should be truly profitable to Biblical science, the learned should reply on the principles We have indicated already. They should loyally recall that God, the Creator and Master of all things, is at the same time the author of the Scriptures. Therefore nothing to be discovered in nature or in the memorials of history can be in disaccord with them. If there seems to be a contradiction on some point, exertions must be applied to cause its disappearance now by having recourse to the wise judgment of theologians and interpreters to ascertain what there is of the true and the likely in the passage on which there is dispute, and again by carefully weighing the arguments opposed to us. One must not yield ground when there even exists some semblance of truth in the contrary opinion. In short, as the truth can never in any fashion contradict the truth, it may be held for certain that an error has glided either into the interpretation of the sacred words or in some other portion of the discussion, and if one or other of these faults is not sufficiently clearly perceptible, there must be patience before attempting a definition of the sense of the text. Indeed, very numerous objections, borrowed from all the sciences, have been raised for a long time in a multitude against the Scriptures, and have entirely disappeared as being without value. Similarly, in the course of interpretation, numerous explanations have been proposed touching certain passages of Scripture concerning neither faith nor morals, which a profound study has since permitted to be understood in a juster and more lucid fashion. Time destroys new opinions and inventions, but truth remains for ever. Thus, as nobody can flatter himself that he understand the entire Scriptures, on which subject St. Augustine himself avowed that "he was ignorant of more than he knew," each one, should he meet a passage too difficult for him to explain, should exercise the prudence and the patience demanded by the same doctor: "It is better to be charged with unknown but useful signs than to envelop one's head by absurd interpretations in a network of errors, after having freed it from the yoke of submission."

If Our counsels and Our orders are honestly and wisely followed by the men who devote themselves to subsidiary studies—if in their writings, teachings, and labors they propose to refute the enemies of the truth, and to hinder youth from losing the faith, then, in fine, they can rejoice at having veritably served the interests of Holy Writ, and carried such aid to the Catholic religion as the Church is entitled to expect from the piety and knowledge of its children.

These, Venerable Brethren, are the warnings and precepts inspired by God, which We have resolved to impart to you on this occasion relative to the Scriptures. It is your function now to watch that they are observed with suitable respect, so that the gratitude due to God for having communicated to the human race the words of His wisdom may manifest itself more and more and in such a mode also that this study shall produce the abundant fruits We desire above all in the interest of the youth destined for the sacred ministry, who are Our eager care and the hope of the Church.

Employ with ardour your authority and multiply your exhortations, in order that these studies may rest in honour and prosperity in the seminaries and universities dependent on your jurisdiction, that they may flourish purely and in an auspicious fashion under the direction of the Church, according to the salutary teaching and examples of the holy Fathers and the usage of our ancestors: that they may attain, in process of time, such progress that they shall be truly the support and glory of Catholic truth and a divine gift for the eternal salvation of the people.

We finally admonish, with paternal love, all disciples and ministers of the Gospel to cultivate Holy Writ with respect and lively piety. Their intelligence cannot truly expand in a salutary way as befits it, if they do not sweep away the arrogance of terrestrial science

and cultivate with fervour the wisdom which comes from on high.

Once initiated in this science, enlightened and fortified by it, their intellect will have a power, ever amazing, to recognize and avoid the errors of human science, to pluck solid fruits and garner them for eternal interests.

The soul will thus be more ardently borne towards the advantages of virtue, and will be more fervently animated with the divine love. "Happy are those search witnesses who search them out with their whole heart" (62).

And now, relying on the hope of divine aid, and full of confidence in your pastoral zeal, We accord with full confidence in God, as guarantee of the heavenly favours and testimony of Our particular good-will, the Apostolic Benediction to you all, to all the clergy, and the people confided to them.

Given at Rome near St. Peter's, the eighteenth of November, 1893, and the sixteenth of Our Pontificate.

LEO XIII. POPE.

THE JUSTICE OF GOD.

The Terrible Punishment of a Sacrilegious Magistrate.

We read in a correspondence of La Monde the following:

With the intention of building a new exchange, great alterations were made in the Convent of Saint Francis, in the city of Oporto, in Portugal. These alterations were under the direction of an official who enjoyed a very high reputation in the city.

It was deemed necessary to open a door of communication between the new edifice and the adjoining church, which had been previously profaned by making it a storehouse for the reception of various kinds of merchandise. To do this it was necessary to destroy the altar which still remained and on which was a remarkable and valuable picture of the Blessed Virgin.

The workmen who were influenced by family traditions and had been, from childhood, accustomed to venerate this picture of the Virgin, who had many a time seen their mothers, wives or sisters, kneel before it in their afflictions and sufferings and pour forth the sorrows of their souls and ask of God through the intercession of His Virgin Mother to relieve their distress, refused, resolutely, to injure the picture which they so much venerated. The magistrate reproached them with what he called their superstition, took an axe in his own hands from one of the workmen and, with the first blow he struck the picture in the breast, but at the same instant he let the axe fall and fell back uttering a piercing cry and covering his eyes with his hands found that he was perfectly blind and remained so until the hour of his death. The altar was not destroyed; public worship is now held in the Church, which was originally a magnificent structure, and the injury done to the picture of the Virgin is still plainly visible.

This occurrence has wonderfully increased the devotion of the people of Oporto, and, in the family circles, the event is spoken of in the usual conversations that arise, so that, gradually but imperceptibly, it has exerted a powerful influence in educating the minds of the children and in teaching them to reflect on the mysterious justice of Divine Providence.



YOUNG GIRLS

entering womanhood ought to have just the special help that Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription can give.

They need to be started right. The "Prescription" aids and promotes the proper functions, corrects the delicate weaknesses and derangements that might become chronic, establishes regularity and health, lessens pain.

They want a nourishing, supporting, strengthening tonic, such as an experienced physician has especially prepared for the female system, in the "Prescription."

In every "female complaint" and weakness, and in all nervous conditions, if it doesn't benefit or cure, the money will be returned.

Miss MARGIE JACKSON, of Barbreech, St. Landry Parish, La., says: "I was lying sick for some time with female complaints, and all the medicine my friends gave me did me no good. Death was approaching; all my friends had given me up to die. I heard of your wonderful medicine, and I bought two bottles of it, and before I had taken the last, I got entirely well. I am still enjoying good health, and expect to praise your medicine every where I go."

THE WORLD AROUND.

The shoe trade is brightening in Lynn, Mass.

The Viking ship has arrived at New Orleans from Chicago.

Counterfeit aluminum dimes have appeared at Cincinnati.

Germany thinks President Cleveland's message shows partiality for France.

Russia has been notified that assisted emigrants will not be allowed to land in this country.

Italy will issue a new loan, if she can, to provide for the manufacture of arms for the army.

Emperor William has turned his attention to directing the rehearsals at the Berlin theatres.

For the present all the miners on the Gogebic Range are amply provided with food and clothing.

The Sultan of Morocco has guaranteed Spain indemnity for the damage done by the ruffians at Melilla.

The Italians at Massowah defeated 10,000 Dervishes recently. Both sides lost about 100 men each.

The Matabeles have been completely subdued. King Lobengula has fled and his warriors scattered.

The headquarters of the Knights of Labor will probably be removed from Philadelphia to Washington.

Six persons have been sent to the penitentiary from Eastern Kentucky for defacing brands in saw logs.

Several Lehigh Valley telegraph operators were arrested for causing the \$170,000 wreck at White Haven, Pa.

The kingdoms of Bavaria and Wurtemberg are threatening to withdraw from the German imperial federation.

It is stated that an agreement has been concluded between England and Italy for mutual protection of their citizens in Brazil.

Victor Schoelcher, the well-known French statesman, author, and traveller, died Tuesday of pneumonia, aged eighty-eight years.

John D. Rockefeller's Christmas gift to the Chicago University is another contribution of \$500,000, increasing the amount of his gifts to this school to \$4,600,000.

The Duke of Edinburgh has notified the English parliament that he relinquishes £15,000 of the £25,000 grant yearly received by him.

A shock of earthquake was felt at Bedford, Pa., Monday afternoon. In certain parts of the town several parties ran out of their houses.

The Tuam Herald says: At the winter assizes for the five counties of Connaught, just closed, the province was shown to be—substantially—crimeless.

A pamphlet urging France to form an alliance with Spain and Morocco to command the Mediterranean Sea, has attracted considerable attention in Paris.

Polygamy was openly advocated in New York last week by an oriental, one of a band commissioned to spread the creed of Islam in this country.

An express train on the Southern Pacific was held up Saturday night, 12 miles north of Los Angeles. The robbers blew open the express car with dynamite and escaped with a sackful of coin.

The London Times, in an article on Norway and Sweden, says that if the approaching election in Norway should be carried by the radicals the King may be forced to use arms to compel Norway to remain in the union.

Paul Schwartz, proprietor of the American metallurgical works, died Tuesday, of pneumonia, at Phoenixville, Pa. He was the only living holder of a chemical secret for making a cheap high-grade steel, and the secret dies with him.

According to mail advices from the Congo, the tribes along the Upper Weille, under the command of Sultan of Samio, have defeated the Soudanese Mahdists, driving them toward the Upper Nile. The Mahdists threaten the Bahr-El-Ghazel district.

Reports to Bradstreet's agency from 119 points in the United States show that more than 801,000 employees in industrial and other lines are now in enforced idleness, and that 1,955,000 persons are dependent directly upon them for support.

The Supreme Court in Indiana has de-

ecided that a 'property' holder has a right to damages against a person who establishes a barroom in his vicinity and injures the value of property. The court held that the retailing of liquor was an immoral business.

ROMAN NEWS.

(Gleaned from the London Universe.)

The Pope has approved the constitution of an executive committee for the erection of a church dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary at Lepanto.

Father Arsene Lefevre has died at Lille in his ninetyeth year and the sixty-ninth of his life as a Jesuit. He was most pious and charitable of men, R.I.P.

The Civiltà Cattolica has lost its director in the person of Father Berardinelli, who expired in the midst of his colleagues. The deceased was born at Campobasso in 1816, and was remarkable for his exquisite literary taste and his profound philosophical and theological knowledge.—R.I.P.

Five more missionaries are preparing to leave the Congregation of Belgian Missions for the Congo. They are impatiently awaited at Boma, Nemalo, and Moando. As these devoted men have a familiarity with joinery and gardening, they are sure to be of immense utility in the technical education of neophytes.

A solemn funeral service has been celebrated in the Church of the Stimmate at Rome for the relatives of the Holy Father by the care of the Parochial Committee of St. Eustachio. Count Pecci and all the surviving members of the family were present, as well as numerous Cardinals, representatives of the Roman nobility, and the entire diplomatic corps accredited to the Holy See. Mgr. Cassetta, almoner to the Pope, presided at the function, and the signers from the Sixtine Chapel executed several admired pieces of the Maestro Mustafa, written for the occasion.

His Holiness has been highly gratified at receiving from Mgr. d'Hulst, rector, and the professors of the Catholic Institute of Paris, full and complete adhesion to the Encyclical on Scriptural Studies. The terms in which their letter is couched are those of sincere submission to the Pontifical authority. Although the Catholic Institute needed no proof of its orthodoxy, its adhesion has been received with not the less joy at the Vatican.

Some of the noblest families in Italy are faithful to the Church of their fathers, in spite of multifarious defections—that is to say, defections until the bed of death. For instance, the Countess Sambuy of Turin, daughter of the Senator, has made up her mind to take the veil among the Carmelites. A convent at Dijon has been selected for the reception of her vows.

The Pallium has been formally handed over to Mgr. Combes, the new Archbishop of Carthage and Primate of Africa. His entry into his diocese was made with impressive pomp, a procession having been formed from the railway station to the cathedral in which the clergy, religious congregations, confraternities, and schools took part. He was received by Mgr. Gazaniol, Bishop of Tuburbo, who pronounced an allocution, to which the Primate responded. The bells kept ringing constant carillons, the troops—the 4th Zouaves and the Chasseurs d'Afrique—lined the streets, and the authorities were all represented in the grandiose function.

The Encyclical on Biblical Studies has excited the liveliest interest in Turin, as we read from a correspondent of the Osservatore Romano. Piedmont counts many able theologians amongst her children, Canon Ghiringello and the learned Tezza, who no longer live, and Canon Joseph Re of the Metropolitan Mission, whose name is an epitome of virtue, erudition, and sound doctrine. He is conversant with the principal European and Oriental languages, and devoted himself to them with the object of making himself better acquainted with the meaning of Holy Writ. By continuous vigilance and patience he has amassed a library of twenty thousand volumes, of which no less than seven thousand are in Hebrew. He has been engaged for the past fourteen years bringing out his series of "Archives of Biblical and Oriental Literature, contributions to the study of Holy Writ"—an unique publication of the kind and one which is highly esteemed by the learned in Italy.