

AS OTHERS SEE US.

The following are the selected extracts from the outside press of the day:—

Pope Leo will address a Breve to the forthcoming Anti-Masonic Congress in Trent, in which he encourages the Congress in its labors, and accords his Apostolic benediction. The Viennese clerical papers state that great interest is shown towards the Congress by the higher clergy and laymen, and that the attendance is likely to be very large. At the same time, it is a curious fact that the contributions received up to the present time will not cover expenses.—*Standard*.

Archbishop Bégin, Cardinal Taschereau's coadjutor in the archdiocese of Quebec, has issued a circular to the clergy of the archdiocese, says the New York correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle*, in which he expresses approval of the forthcoming Anti-Masonic Congress. In the course of the circular he denounces the Freemasons as an infernal sect.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Daily News* telegraphs: Preparations for the great Anti-Masonic Congress at Trent are being completed, and the President of the organizing committee, Commendatore Alliata, has arrived from Rome to superintend. It is evident that a kind of Council of Trent is planned. The Congress will meet in a church, where 1,200 seats have been prepared. It will, moreover, be opened in the beautiful Cathedral of Trent, on the 25th September.

Referring to the allegation that the Freemasons are "an infernal sect," a writer in the *Western Morning News* says: English Freemasons do not recognize themselves under this description; and once in a curious mood I sought an explanation of the aversion of Romanists to Masonry, from, perhaps, the highest authority in England. He explained with a gentle courtesy, which made his bitterness only the more strange, that Masonry tempted

Romanists to enter into religious communion with men not of their faith; and though he admitted that English Masons, if they stood alone, would not deserve the harsh things which were said of them, he pointed out that they were in association with Continental Freemasons, whom he evidently loathed. My conclusion was that the great Roman ecclesiastics regard the Freemasons as the destroyers of the Temporal Power.

There is to be a demonstration against the wicked Freemasons somewhere. Why are the Freemasons so much detested in Catholic countries? Here we know them chiefly as a charitable body, who assist each other in want, educate poor children, do all kinds of charitable actions, and practice a ritual which is concealed. All kinds of highly respectable people are Freemasons. I am one myself. So are you, my Brother, no doubt. So also, one is proud to say, is His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. So is the Emperor of Germany. So are many millions of people. Why, then, does the Roman Catholic Church hate this harmless body? That Church does nothing without a reason. Well, the reason, I take it, is two-fold; first, that on the Continent many Freemasons are actively hostile to the Church; and, secondly, that the ritual of Freemasonry has in some cases been substituted for that of the Church. There is such a thing on the continent as a Masonic funeral, and there are people in the country who see in Freemasonry a very possible bulwark, if it should become necessary, against sacerdotalism. These, I believe, are the reasons why Masonry is denounced and Freemasons are excommunicated. Speaking as one of the Craft, I can conceive no other reason.—*Sir Walter Besant*, in "*The Queen*."

It is now settled that the International Anti-Masonic Congress is to be held at Trent from 26th to 30th September, under the patronage of the Pope, and a large number of cardinals and bishops. The motto chosen is