

Nothing more dignified remains in royal portraiture than the lordly and sensitive face of "the Royal Martyr," on the canvases of Van Dyck—now on view at the New Gallery. Of Charles II., who desecrated the scene of his father's beheading by worse than levities, we can at least record that he had the grace to repent of his misdeeds, and the real, intransitory glory to join, on his death bed, the Church of which his great-grandmother, his mother, and his wife were consistent members, and his brother a very sincerely struggling one.

With the Stuart period Catholic names in connexion with the throne have passed away, and with it the marriages of English royalties to those of France, Italy, Austria, and Spain—the more's the pity. With the Act of Succession—that great label of bigotry on our statute law—which abolished the legitimate descent of the Crown in favour of the Protestant descent, the old idea of the Divine Right, and the old loyalty to it, received its death-blow. The Sovereign was not born, but made—the nominee of Parliament. Nor can the change, as a principle and apart from personal grounds, be seriously regretted, even by those who last Saturday, at the private view of the Stuart Exhibition, proudly wore the white rose. It was the Tudor, and essentially Protestant conception of kingship that had its victims in the Stuarts. But the absolutism which Protestants were ready to applaud in Kings who used their powers against the Catholic religion, became a crime in men suspected of leanings to Orthodoxy. James II. was a more constitutional Sovereign than Henry VIII.—that real sinner against the ancient liberties of the English people. But he was a Catholic, and no bigotry of Protestantism would have none of him, nor of the later Catholic representatives of his line; and the English Constitution—that "palladium of our liberties," has for its foundation a denial of liberty of conscience to the Sovereign. Some such thoughts as these must have been uppermost in many minds last Saturday among the great crowd at the New Gallery. The Committee who have gathered this collection of Stuart mementoes together are led—worthily, consistently, and soberly—by the Earl of Ashburnham, himself the possessor of the most profoundly pathetic of the Stuart Relics—the shirt worn on the scaffold by Charles I.—

"Who nothing common did or mean
Upon that memorable scene."

Other Catholic names on the Committee are those of the Duke of Norfolk, the possessor of an incomparable Van Dyck of Charles I.; the Marquis of Bute, Lord Braye, Lord Arundell, the Earl of Granard; the Earl of Orford bearing a name honourably associated with the history of art during the Stuart period; Lord Clifford, Lord Herries, and Sir Bernard Burke; the Viscountess Maidstone, most ardent worshipper of the White Rose; Mr. Cashel Hoey, C.M.G., rich in historical lore; Mrs. Maxwell Scott, representing, by name at least, the novelist who has made the Stuart cause romantic among latter-day Scots; Mr. Henry Doyle, C.B., and Mr. James Doyle; Mr. Everard Green; and, most learned of Jesuit historians, Father Joseph Stevenson. Among the contributors to the Exhibition are many more familiar Catholic names, including the Colleges of Douai, Stonyhurst, Oscott, Blairs—the very association of which with the Stuart cause creates and revives history. Altogether the collection is one of keen and varied interest. It brings to mind, as if it were only yesterday, an epoch already distant, of which, nevertheless, the passions, and loves, and hopes, and tragedies still linger as something more than mere

memories—an enthralling interest in many lives.—*Weekly Register.*

THE IMAGE OF GOD.

FROM THE SPANISH OF FRANCISCO DE ALDANA.

O Lord! that seest, from yon starry height,
Centred in one the future and the past,
Fashioned in Thine own image, see how fast
The world obscures in me what once was bright!
Eternal Sun! the warmth which thou hast given
To cheer life's flowery April, fast decays.
Yet, in the hoary winter of my days,
Forever green shall be my trust in heaven,
Celestial King! Oh, let thy presence pass
Before my spirit, and an image fair
Shall meet that look of mercy from on high,
As the reflected image in a glass
Doth meet the look of him that seest it there,
And owes its being to the gazer's eye.

—*Longfellow.*

CATHOLIC AND LITERARY NOTES.

"Amicus" wants to know why I say that Mozart never had anything to do with the so-called XII. Mass? Because anyone acquainted with the genuine and authentic works of the great musician is aware of that. Then he asks, "Don't you like its music as very nice?" Nice for the stage, perhaps, but not for the church.

"Then the correspondent queries whether Gounod's "Faust" does not rank with the best operas? It does truly. It is an inspiration of genius. But it is also true that Gounod is a one-opera composer. His other lyric attempts are not so good. Gounod excels in church music, his mind being ascetic. His setting of Bach's "Ave Maria" is a gem of purest ray serene.—"*Laclede*" in *Montreal Gazette*.

It is remarkable that "The Imitation of Christ"—which we sometimes think is not sufficiently valued by the generality of Catholics—was the favourite book of General Gordon, a man of very true religious instinct, who at times seemed almost to be a Catholic; of George Eliot, the novelist, who was a Positivist; and of Auguste Comte, the founder of Positivism.

The appointment is announced of Captain James Mitchel to the position of Fire Marshal of the City of New York. Captain Mitchel is the only surviving son of John Mitchel. His appointment is, needless to say, warmly approved by the Irish citizens of New York. It is a tribute to the son of a great Irishman. Moreover, it shows how old animosities have died out when we find this soldier of the army of the South, whose brothers gave their life for the Southern cause, thus finding his place among the men of the North.

Mr. O'Kelly and The O'Gorman Mahon have hitherto represented the warlike element in the Parnellite camp. *On dit*, it will soon be reinforced by General Butler of "the Great Lone Land," who has imbibed Nationalism with the mountain breezes of County Wicklow, where he is now living amidst beautiful scenery and surroundings, and not very far from Avondale.—*The World*.

NOTICE is hereby given that application will be made to the Parliament of Canada at its next session for an Act to incorporate a Company of Canada, "The Assets and Debenture Company of Canada," with power to buy, sell and guarantee, and advance money upon debentures or other securities: to buy and sell and advance money upon stocks, shares and assets of any description, and to guarantee payments of principal or interest or both, and to act as agents in all such matters, and for such other powers as may be incidental to the business of such corporation

F. H. CHRYSTLER,

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Dated November 20th 1888.

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