Late that "the bad temper of him wouldn't let him go to the hospital and take the care off " from her. I went away, sick in heart at her

appalling selfishness.
It was ten days later, and I was in the rooms with James. He had been unconscious all night. His breath was coming quickly and with tre-mendous effort. His eyes were closed and a discharge was oozing from the hids. His frame was heaving. He had not spoken for twelve hours, nor had he taken food or drink. His end was near. I held his wrist, and the unsteadiness and flick-ering of the pulse with the other signs told of coming dissolution. Mary the wife, stood by his chair.

wish he were dead," she he's a terrible care." Not a word of the man's sufferings No wish springing from the desire to bring relief to the dying man! Solely the thought of relief for her-

I felt the pulse skip a few beatsthen came a longer interval without a beat. The face of James began to

get gray.

Just then James Acheson opened eyes. Oh, how weary they sed! Dim, partly filled with discharge, slightly staring, the old Irish blue eyes looked strange indeed. They were fixed on me, but vacantly, His lips moved, but no sound came from them. Slowly his eyes turned towards his wife. As they came upon her face the dimness disapeared. A glow of affection, a flame of joyous recognition leaped within their depths, transforming the eyes, filling them with tenderness, vivifying the blue again. He was looking directly at her. His lips moved. This time we heard the words I love you, Mary," he said-and

died. Two months after his death I was summoned to see Mary. She was querelous, whining, complaining.
Mrs. Fitz had moved away. There was "no one to do anything" for

"If I want a pint of milk from the corner, I must pay a child two cents to get it for me," she complained.
"If I want a bundle of wood, or a loaf of bread, I must pay to have some one bring it in.'

Why don't you go out yourself?"

I asked her.
"Oh, I'm afraid," she said. "I'm afraid I'll fall, I'm not used to going out for things, James always went for them till he was sick, and then all the neighbors brought them for me, till he died. And now no one'll do anything for me."

She looked at me for sympathy. I felt her appeal, but it did not move me as a similar lament in another lonely old woman would readily have

She rocked her head to and fro. 'Oh, Doctor," she moaned; "I wish

James was here." No word of mine or of any human being could deepen that lonely old woman's grief. She had often wished the death of James. She had never spoken well of him. And, now alone, the one buttress that stood be-tween her and the world's true estimate of her gone, she was pierced with the desolation of the abs the man who felt what had never

THE SERAPHIC CALVARY

Rome. Ang. 10 .- Readers will recall that a few weeks ago, thanks to the remonstrances of all lovers of St. Francis of Assisi and lovers of art the civil powers revoked the order to cut down the woods surrounding the famous retreat called La Verna, that wild and rugged spot that, from an elevation of some 3,000 feet Lord appeared to His faithful serv. above the level of the sea, looks down upon the City of Florence. It is a scene of wild grandeur. Cut off from the world by deep gorges. clothed by a thick forest which the aninterrupted growth of centuries has made so thick as to be well-nigh impenetrable, La Verna is certainly a spot full of interest for those who reverence the memory of "the Poor

Here it was over 700 years ago St. Francis, while engaged in prayer and fasting, received the Stigmata, the imprint of the Five Wounds of Jesus Christ, on his hands, feet and Here the Patriarch used come to be alone with God, enduring such fasts and hardships as saints alone can support. Here amid this scene of savage splendor, wild, bleak and forbidding, the son of Pietro Bernardone, cloth merchant of Assisi leved to commune alone with God,

Let us then make an excursion to La Verna this week and describe it for the Catholics of New York, leaving aside the politics of Rome with all its trouble, worry and, last, but not least, its burning heat. It makes this week a more interesting theme.

"FRA TEVERE ED ABNO" In the year 1918 the Poor Man of Assisi, accompanied by the pious Orlando Catani, Count of Chiusi, and Montedolgio, came to La Verns. The former chose it as a place well suited to his desires, and the Count promptly made to him a donation the wild gorge, the surrounding hills and La Penna-that bold mount a view of the Tiber, the Arno, the City of Florence, past of Umbria with all its fertile plains, and Romagna. Of this it was Dante wrote: Crudo sasse infra Tevere ed

Well, indeed, might the great door.
Florentine call the place a rough "W rock, for, were it otherwise, we may Brother, kindly

feel certain the son of Pietro Bern ardone, who chose Lady Poverty for his bride, could not be induced to accept the gift. This donation was confirmed to the sons of St. Francis by the descendants of Count Catani in A. D. 1274, who also gave to the Religious the platter and the glass which their great Patriarch had used at the table of the Count and which the family had preserved with care those sixty years.

THE SACRED HERMITAGE

order began to build a monastery over the black caverns of La Verna in which St. Francis slept and communed with his Creator. But in 1472 a fire destroyed the building. Scarcely had the cinders grown cold than the Wool Guild of Florence commenced to rebuild it, and later on Cosimo I., Grand Duke of Tus-cany, and his lady, Eleonora of Toledo, improved the edifice. It would seem as if the Medici, with all their faults, were ever jealous of allowing to pass by any opportunity of showing generosity and the cause of religion or of art was in no part of Europe are the poorer classes better educated. You will today, the foremost center of art in all Europe, and you obtain some idea of the strong efforts of that foundations of the strength of their

Within the little Church of St. Mary of the Angels (which has all the spiritual privileges of its noblelooking namesake at Assisi, and which St. Francis had erected by order of the Blessed Virgin,) they laid the pious Count Orlando Catani. who had become a Tertiary Franciscan. In the year 1260 the edifice was consecrated by seven Bishops, among other famous persons who were present at the ceremony being St. Bonaventure, then General of the order, by the express wish of Pope Alexander IV.

THE CHAPEL OF THE BIRDS

How this spot grips one's imagina tion! It seems to enter into one's soul and speak of God, of Nature, of the power which holiness of life has over the lowest of God's creation as well as over the highest. On La Verna the visitor is shown the many little sanctuaries that are connected with the life of St. Francis while on

that bleak mountain side. One of these is called "the Chapel of the Birds." which recalls to us the spot where flocks of birds of different species bade their kind friend been in her own heart, the love that a hearty welcome when he arrived gives sacrifice, devotion—all, for from the world below. Then there is the "Chapel of the Cross." erected over the cavern in which St. Francis used to fast at certain times in the year in honor of Michael the Archangel. Another is "La Cappella del Fago," where water burst forth miraculously from the rock, from which the saint washed his wound after receiving the stigmata.

> ant several times and promised him that his Three Families, those great bodies covering the globe, should flourish in perpetuum. With deep interest one gazes at "the Bed of St. Francis," a cavern damp and gloomy, where upon a stone the Patriarch used take his repose. Hard by this stood the angel who revealed to him some of the prodigies that took place on the day on which the Tragedy of Calvary occurred. Here also is shown the precipice down which the Devil, in his rage at the amount of good the Poor Man of Assisi was doing and would achieve in the person of his Three Families, attempted to hurl the servant of

St. Francis was blessed with the possession of a loving soul. When about to leave La Verna, the scene of so many spiritual joys and physical hardships, he turned to bid it

" PAX !" When Dante was an exile from his beloved Florence he wandered over Italy, a prey to sorrow, anger, bitterness of spirit, resentment. His mighty soul was smitten by the revenge which his political opponents had taken upon him, and also by the

anguish which his domestic troubles One day a sad looking stranger knocked at the door of the monastery of La Verna. It was Dante, he whose praises the whole world was destined to sing when the author of "La Divina Commedia," should be indifferent alike to praise or blame. The stranger knocked, as I have said, and a lay Brother opened the

"Pax!" replied Dante. "Peace. Nothing more Nothing more."

Well, it is what we all, even the happiest of us, are looking for, "Pax." If kindness and a cheery welcome went for anything we may feel sure that Dante's quest was not in vain.

VISITORS TO LA VERNA

How many of the great ones of Heaven and of the earth repaired to La Verna, attracted by the sweet connection of the lowly one of Assisi! There it was St. Bonaventure wrote his "Itinerarium mentis in Deum." St. Anthony of Padua, St. Bernardine of Sienna, St. Vincent Ferrer, St. Thomas of Agnin, St. Just twenty-six years after the death of the Patriarch of Assisi his Ferrer, St. Thomas of Aquin, St. John of Fermo, and other saints and servants of the Lord visited La Verna.

While still Cardinals Pope Gregory IX., Pope Pius II., Pope Paul III., Pope Leo XIII. went there to honor the abode sauctided by the footsteps of St. Francis. And they grew to love the spot, despite all its barren-ness and bleakness, for they looked to the soul, the spirit of the saint who had blessed it.

Of the many soverigns and prininvolved. Go to Florence and all ces who were at La Verna let me over Tuscany and you will find that in no part of Europe are the poorer Johanna de Savoia, Empress of the Greeks: Robert, King of Jerusalem find that the peasants of the Tuscany. Hills speak an Italian as pure as is spoken by Italy's legislators, the They climed that rough mountain when the sanctuary was accessible when the sanctuary was accessible and the sanctuary was accessible speak and the sanctuary was accessible when the sanctuary was accessible and the sanctuary was accessible sanctuary was accessible speak and the sanctuary was acces Yes, the means and this whether of their people, and this whether the latter liked it or not. It would seem as if they pounded learning into them. No wonder that one of the Medici, Lorenzo, was called, and bears the name in history to this bears the name in history to this comed and shown hospitality just comed and shown hospitality just comed and shown hospitality just as their glorious founder would have them do. On the feast of Portion cula, of the Stigmata, of St. Francis, idea of the strong efforts of that great family of merchant princes, thousands of the faithful repair to who, at the very zenith of their greatness, were so proud of the business acumen that laid the they are entertained by the Franciscans with hospitality aided by kind Providence. Once when Grand Duke Leopold II. visited La Verna on the occasion of the feast of St. Clare of Assisi and witnessed how hospitably such multitudes were treated he ex pressed his astonishment at how well Franciscan poverty exercised so much hospitality.

And so our little pilgrimage ends And thus leaving rugged La Verna our party follows the course of old Father Tiber as he meanders down to the City of the Seven Hills, winds by the Vatican, skirts the Palatine Hill and hurries off down to Ostia to bury himself in the blue waters of

HAS THE POPE TALKED TOO MUCH?

J. Harding Fisher, S. J., in America

Immediately after his arrival in the United States, whither with a number of other editors of Italian papers he has come for the purpose of promoting a better understanding between the peoples of both countries, S. Antonio Agresti, the editor of La Tribuna, proceeded to assail the Pope. Among other ob-jectionable and false statements he remarked that "The Pope has talked altogether too much, not openly but secretly." The subtlety of this statement is patent. If the Papal talk has been secret, obviously no one can ask for its publication. How very simple! The precaution taken by the editor of La Tribuna is quite in accord with the methods used by his paper in out the world today, "La Cappella della Repromissione," where St. Francis wrote to Fra Leone the heavenly blessing, and where Our Lord appeared to His faithful and the staples of the anti-clarical terms of the staples of the anti-clarical terms. press, of which La Tribuna is so conspicuous an example.

Agresti knows of such talk let him produce it publicly. We in the United States have a right to know it, for it is too much to expect that a people so eminent for their love of fair play should accept dark and sinister hints as facts, especially when they come from a man whose paper is synonymous with anti-clerical prejudice. As a nation, we are thoroughly in sympathy with the part Italy is taking in the world-struggle for liberty; but right-minded men are disgusted with S. Agresti's attempt to import anti-clericalism attempt to import anti-clericalism into the United States. His reference to the Church and the Pope, injected into his first public utterance without any other reason save his anti-clerical animosity, is gratuitous adieu for ever. This is the spot of evidence may be conddently regarded as false. The secret talk of the Pope to which he darkly refers is words of farewell to the mount. and unsupported, and in the absence But the Pope's public talk has not been a myth; it is on record

characterize it as excessive. The Papal"conversation" with the families, were certainly not excessive. Neither will any one say that the Pope talked too much when he persuaded the Powers to consent to an exchange of interned civilians, but when some pretended to misunderstand it, he made it doubly which more than 3,000 Belgians have been restored to their homes, and more than 20,000 Frenchmen were pressed in general terms had been if the protest against the invasion of belgians revel, as I have able, but when some pretended to misunderstand it, he made it doubly which more than 3,000 Belgians have been restored to their homes, and more than 20,000 Frenchmen were

permitted to pass into France during the space of a single month. It was as a consequence of the talk of the Pope that Switzerland and other neutral countries were enabled to offer medical care, com-fort and hospitality to many thousands of sick and wounded sol diers belonging to the nations at war; and that the treaty of Berne was effected in May, 1918, which provides for the exchange, return to their own country, or internment in Switzer-land of prisoners who are fathers of four children. The "Papal train," which almost every week brings back to Italy Italian prisoners suffering from tuberculosis and other diseases grew out of the Papal negotiations.

The Pope talked with the German Government and hundreds of thousands of Belgians and Frenchmen were permitted to get word from their relatives; he talked with the Austrian Government and letters from the Serbians began to reach their families; he talked again with dear ones who were either captured or dispersed in Libya, received detailed information in answer to her in-

It was through the initiative of the Holy Father that prisoners in Austria-Hungary, Belgium, England, Dardanelles, that the last restingplaces of the buried soldiers would, kept intact, religiously cared for and marked with distinctive signs, and that photographs were sent to various countries of different cemevarious countries of different ceme-teries, thus enabling the identifica-tion of individual graves. Even S. Agresti would not dare say that in negotiating these acts of gentle kindness, the Pope talked

Benedict XV. by his intervention and pardon of many condemned to geath; he secured mitigation of punishment for many others under lesser sentences, for others he obtained liberty, permission to return to their native lands, or the alternative of being interned in Switzerland. Nor did his benefit liberty, which the living he caled cence stop with the living, he asked nd was granted the favor of having the remains of the dead honorably buried in the zinc, to be later trans-

ferred to Italy.

He interested himself actively in behalf of the destitute populations in Belgium; he acceded to the request of many influential persons in Poland to come to the aid of that unhappy country and after long efforts succeeded in getting from the Governments concerned the necessary per-missions; the transport of food to the starving civil population of Montenegro was made possible by the unremitting endeavors of the Holy Father. The Italians in the portions of Italy occupied by Austria were furnished with the necessaries of life not only through concessions granted at his request but out of his own private purse. From the German Government he obtained permission for the French prisoners, and the inhabitants of the occupied parts of France, both individually and collectively, to receive food sent in from outside the German lines.
Again and again he sent money to Belgium, and at the request of Mr. Hoover, he appealed to the Ameri can children to help the children of that country, with the result that thanks to the generosity of Amerithem squarely are known to be the staples of the anti-clerical Italian pecuniary aid in surprisingly large amounts to the destitute people of France, Luxemburg, Poland, Lithu-This alleged excessive talk of the ania, Ruthenia, Serbia, and Montensimply non-existent. If S. egro. He had presents, food, clothes, books sent to the prisand oners of War of every nation without distinction of nationality or re ligion. He despatched medicine and garments to the Italian prisoners in Austria, and donated a most bountiful sum to the relief of the Italian war-orphans. He persuaded the rectors of a number of colleges in Rome and practically every seminary in Italy to put their establishments at the disposal of the Government for use as hospitals.

His solicitude for Belgium is one of the most persistent of all the Pope's war activities. When the rest of the world was either silent or powerless to aid that afflicted country, the Hely Father wrote letter after letter to Cardinal Mercier, and gian people. He appealed to the Catholics of the entire world to follow his example, and low his example, and especially to the Catholics of the United States. for any one who cares to read; and even S. Agresti is not tempted to services throughout the country and sacerdotal ministrations for wounded in the hospitals. He obtained passports for the Belgians, The Papal conversation" with the wounded in the hospitals. He belligerent Powers in behalf of prisoners of war, incapacitated by wounds or disease from further military service, which resulted in the priests, religious and citizens 1915, and has since that time been responsible for the steady stream of such men back to the bosoms of their families, were certainly not excessive.

Authority and has since that time been for the Belgians who had been transported to Germany, release from prison, mitigation of suffering, and even the restoration of liberty.



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directed against Germany's unjustifiable violation of Belgium's neu-trality. He protested likewise against the attacks made by German troops against the priests and civil the same Government and news of the Italians in the territory occu-pied by Austria was forwarded to their refugee relatives; he talked with the Bishop of Tripoli, and Ital-ican faculty of the University. He protested also against the shooting of Father Dupiereux, of Father Hoh-let and other pricests. He defended ians of Louvain, and to his efforts ians, torn with anxiety about their the Jesuits against unfounded dear ones who were either captured or charges, expressed disbelief in accusations made in proclamations posted in Brussels, demanded protection for Belgian priests and religious and that pastors should be allowed to return to their parishes, were allowed to rest from work on Sunday, and that the Ottoman Government gave assurance to the horizontal forms and the control of the contr tried to impose on them, and saved them from being condemned to hard ment gave assurance to the bereaved them from being condemned to hard relatives of those fallen in the labor. He extended his protection to many Englishmen and had them liberated from prison.

He protested against the burning of ildings in Louvain and demanded that sentinels be posted to save them from ruin, and that libraries and institutes of learning should not be destroyed. He insisted on the evacuation of convents occupied by German troops, and obtained from the German Governor a promise that works of art should be safeguarded, Benedict XV. by his intervention and that public buildings dedicated secured the reprieve, commutation, to civic and religious purposes should not be harmed. These are only a the secured mitigation of few of the instances of the Pope's ament for many others under benefactions towards Belgium. The

It would appear from all this that the Pope has indeed spoken much, much to the purpose, much in the interest of the Allies. S. Agresti must have been aware of the char-acter of the public negotiations of the Pope, for a resume of them was published and freely circulated in Rome in the form of an appeal to facts as against the calumnies of anti-clericalism, prior to his de-parture for the United States. No doubt the existence of this circular, every statement of which is based on a document to which explicit reference is made, made him shrink from complaining of the Pope's public utterances. The foregoing catalogue of what the Holy Father has done, which might be almost indefinitely prolonged from the sources published the Civilta Cattolica amply Papacy made by La Tribuna's editor.

THE DYING SOLDIER'S GUARDS

hear the whispered words, " Absee the heavenly food brought

nigh sense Thy touch, I hold Thee for the way,-Now watching angels sing on high

The melody,
"Well done, the victory is won."

I feel Him near me in the clinging night; whisperings as of mother's voice . Then singing of this closing Sweet singing to the heart's own

choice The melody.
Well done, the victory is won."

hear Him whispering hope, the voices stay Their song of sovereign victory near; Exultant Michael hymns his martial

lay, And hosts of choiring angels hear The melody. Well done, the victory is won."

Rest me, sweet voice that speeds the waning night, And quits me of the battle's sting; sent large sums of money for the Lead thou, blest Mother, to the vision

The melody,
'Well done, the victory is won!" MICHAEL D. LEAHY

One man is made of agate, another

of oak; one of slate, another of clay. The education of the first is polishing; of the second, seasoning; of the third, rending; of the fourth, molding. It return of 8,868 Frenchmen to their native land between the months of March and November in the year of tion had a large share in obtaining is of no use to season the agate: it is possess, for sevices in which they may be honored.—Ruskin. When our griefs come back to us

and even the restoration of liberty.

His protest against the invasion of out sxcitement and the gush of revel,

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abella, by Anna T. Sadlier. uriel Selwode, by Emily Bowles. Woven with strands of history are dark threads of jealousy plots and forgeries; but there are also brigh weavings of love; and, of course, all's well the ends well.

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