

of the Fisherman from the days of St. Patrick to those of Pius X.

In the case of Pius X there are additional reasons why the love of Ireland should be displayed towards him with especial intensity. Other Pontiffs have been remarkable for the sanctity of their lives, for the brilliancy of their intellects, for the extraordinary activity that they displayed in the government of the Church. Perhaps the trait in Pius X that appeals most to the Irish people is his extreme simplicity and his tender solicitude for the suffering classes of society. It is his custom to receive on certain days the children of convents and parochial schools. When it was suggested to him recently that the children of the convents should be received separately from those of the parochial schools, his answer was that they were all his children, and he would have no distinction. At the time of the terrible earthquake in Calabria he took an active part in assuaging the sufferings of the afflicted, establishing a Relief Fund and appealing to the entire Catholic world for assistance. In this connection it is worthy of note that when one of the Irish bishops sent a contribution to that Fund His Holiness returned, if I mistake not, half the contribution for the poor of the bishop's own diocese.

Though occupied with the numerous matters that relate to the government of the Church, Pius X takes a lively interest in Irish affairs. Proof of this was given at the audience which he accorded some time ago to John Redmond. He termed the Irish Party the defender of the Catholic religion in Ireland; he extended his sympathy and blessing to the efforts of the Irish people for political liberty; and he presented his portrait to Mr. Redmond with the following autograph inscription:

"To our beloved son Redmond, leader of the Irish party in the British House of Commons, with the wish that he, together with his equally beloved colleagues, using all legal and pacific means, may win that liberty which makes for the welfare of the Catholic Church and the entire Irish nation, we impart our apostolic benediction with particular affection."

May Pius X long live to govern the Church with the prudence and wisdom that have up to the present distinguished him in guiding the Bark of Peter, and may Irishmen ever retain for him and his successors the same sentiments of loyalty and affection that the Papacy has always received from the devoted children of Ireland.