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Revision of the Vulgate

By Abbott Gasquet.

This week's issue of "Home" announces that Abbot-Primate Gasquet has arrived in Rome, not for a flying visit, but to remain here at least six months, and not on a holiday, but to grapple with all his energy the colossal task that now devolves upon him as President of the Benedictine Commission which is to make an exhaustive collection of all the variants of the Vulgate. The other day Abbot Gasquet had a long audience with the Holy Father which must have inspired him with great courage and confidence. Plus X. told him how highly he approved of the decision of Abbot-Primate Hemphill in appointing him as President of the Commission, and how he might begin his work with the assurance that the Pontiff relied implicitly on him and on his colleagues who would select among the Sons of St. Benedict. Their task would prepare the way for as perfect an edition as possible of the original text of St. Jerome; they would have to search out every scrap and fragment of the ancient text, in every library, museum, collection and manuscript, in every country in the world; they would have to copy them, compare them, weigh them, sift them; they would have to use the widest erudition, the most minute and painstaking research, the most rigidly scientific methods. They knew that the Pope expected all of this of them, but they knew also that he trusted them fully. The Holy Father inquired also concerning the expense of the undertaking, and learned that they would amount to between twenty and twenty-five thousand francs (\$5000) a year. The Commission will have to find that much while the work lasts, but there can be no doubt that generous Catholics will be found in abundance to promote an undertaking so important for religion and biblical science.

That was in many ways a very suggestive audience, and one would like to have been present at it, but the scene must have been something like this: There were two figures in the large room known as the Pope's private library. Plus X. was seated behind the desk, covered all over with books and pamphlets and documents, above which rose the Crucifix and the little bronze statue of the Blessed Cuck of Ars, with its short cassock and its child-like smile, and the Pontiff's chair was turned at a slight angle towards the window; in another chair a few feet away sat Abbot Gasquet; the Pope, clothed from head to foot in white relieved only by the golden fringe of his cincture, the Benedictine in the black habit of his order, the Pope, grave almost to solemnity, the Abbot, robust, eager, full of energy. Plus X., the legendary parish priest of reaction, the learned Benedictine of the ways and means and methods for carrying out a scientific task of world-wide scope and importance. And while the Head of the Catholic Church, the heir and representative of all the Pontiffs and Doctors, of all the Christian wisdom and of nineteen centuries, with the most brilliant minds of the Catholic universe at his service, was thus instructing the leader of a group of scholars belonging to an order which kept the light of learning burning all through the dark ages, and which has produced many of the most keen and patient scholars the world has ever known, out in the streets the philosopher might have heard the voices, truculent or petulant or querulous or strident, of priests, suspended or excommunicated or reprimanded, of writers of novels and articles in the newspapers, some of them brazenly in their own name, others stealthily and treacherously under the cover of anonymity, and all of them proclaiming in different tones: "The Pope is wrong, the Congregations are wrong, the theologians are wrong, everybody is wrong except ourselves—we know everything, we have put a new face on everything!" And the marvel is that they have followers, even as the late (but forgotten), Mr. Dowie found thousands to believe that he

was the Prophet Elias Number Two. Abbot-Primate Gasquet has not yet formed his commission, but he has laid the foundation of it by selecting the three first members. They are Abbot Janssens, Rector of the International Benedictine College of Sant' Anselmo; Abbot Amelli, Prior of Montecassino; and Dom Breuille, of Belgium. Other Benedictines will be chosen from different nationalities, and before long the work will be in full swing. It is not likely that many of us now living will be alive to see the end of it. The Benedictine Commission, availing themselves of the services and studies of other scholars both within and without their own Order, and even, on occasion, of non-Catholics, will first take up the study of the text of one part of the Bible—possibly that of the Pentateuch, and will not leave this until they have copied or photographed all the documents bearing on this and collected them here in Rome. Even one part of the Scripture, treated as it is to be treated by the Benedictine Commission, may absorb the labors of half a generation.

Abbot Gasquet the other day left the Pope's presence in a very different frame of mind from that of a learned Professor in a German University who had a private audience recently with the Holy Father. His Holiness received the Professor with his usual kindness, and listened to what he had to say with an attention that almost amounted to deference. Indeed, this is characteristic of His Holiness: one does not need to be a German University Professor or to be a great Bishop or a Prince of the Blood to secure his attention and interest. You go into a private audience with him, nervous and excited and perhaps wondering how you will get through it, and a moment later you are sitting in Abbot Gasquet's chair, and before you know how it has happened you will find your little self telling the Pope something that was on your mind with the kindly eyes of the Pontiff fixed on you, until you suddenly remember where you are, and as the audience closes and you leave the room after receiving the blessing of the Father of Christendom, all your nervousness comes back, and perhaps you almost run against one of the Noble Guards in the next room. But if you happen to be a German University Professor, who thinks a great deal of himself, you are likely to lose your head in a different way, and this is what happened to the man in question. When he found himself sitting there close to the Pope, and saw that the Pontiff seemed to be quite interested in what he was saying, the German Professor must have begun to feel that he was a person of exceptional importance. However that may be it was not long before he undertook to explain that he had been concentrating his gigantic intellect on the question of the authorship of the Pentateuch, and that he had come to the conclusion that Moses was not really the author of it at all. But a change had passed over the Pope's face—he had not grown angry or impatient with the bumptious headlike personage before him, only he had risen to his feet, and was saying very quietly: "There is no Decree inflicting a censure on this opinion of yours, but you cannot be a professor for Catholic youth. You must resign at once—here, now." The Professor resigned—"Notes from Rome," in N.Y. Freeman's Journal.

MODERNISTS SUBMIT,

Five of the six authors of the anti-encyclical, over in Italy, have expressed to the authorities their contrition for the part they took in that publication. The Studi Religiosi of Florence, edited by Don Salvatore Minocchi, which was perhaps the first review in Italy to unfurl the banner of Modernism, has announced that its present number is the last. In France the Modernist magazine Semein and Quinzaine have disappeared. It is certain that another condemnation of the Modernist movement is imminent, and more than likely that the censure will not be limited to the last number, which consisted almost entirely of criticism or defiance of the encyclical "Pascendi."



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A Friars' Invention.

From the Philippines, says the Franciscan Anzales, comes news of a very useful discovery by a Franciscan friar, which is of considerable importance to one of the principal industries of those islands. There is there a peculiar species of banana tree, from the bark of which cloth of a very fine texture can be woven into costly fabrics. Hitherto the process of removing the rind from the soft white fibre has been both tedious and difficult. But Father Matthew Atienza, a Spanish friar of the Franciscan mission in the islands, has devised a machine by which the rind is easily and quickly removed, and in so doing has conferred a great boon upon the large weaving industry. This, however, is only one of the friar's achievements. He has constructed several bridges, among them a suspension bridge, besides being the architect of a very fine Church.

It Retains Old and Makes New Friends.—Time was when Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil had but a small field of distribution, but now its territory is widespread. Those who first recognized its curative qualities still value it as a specific, and while it retains its old friends it is ever making new. It is certain that whoever once uses it will not be without it.

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Synopsis of Canada's North-West Homestead Regulations

ANY even numbered section of Dominion Lands in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, excepting 8 and 26, not reserved, may be homesteaded by any person who is the sole head of a family, or any male over 18 years of age, to the extent of one-quarter section of 160 acres, more or less.

Entry must be made personally at the local land office for the district in which the land is situated.

Entry by proxy may, however, be made on certain conditions by the father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister of an intending homesteader.

The homesteader is required to perform the conditions connected therewith under one of the following plans:

- (1) At least six months' residence upon cultivation of the land in each year for three years.
- (2) If the father (or mother, if the father is deceased) of the homesteader resides upon a farm in the vicinity of the land entered for, the requirements as to residence may be satisfied by such person residing with the father or mother.
- (3) If the settler has his permanent residence upon farming land owned by him in the vicinity of his homestead, the requirements as to residence may be satisfied by residence upon said land.

Six months' notice in writing should be given the Commissioner of Dominion Lands at Ottawa of intention to apply for patent.

W. W. CORY,
Deputy Minister of the Interior.
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New Postal Regulations BETWEEN CANADA & UNITED STATES

At a conference recently held at Washington between postal representatives of the United States and Canada, the postage on newspapers passing from Canada to the States was not only increased to sixteen times the former rate, but it was decided to make Canadian publishers affix stamps to the papers instead of paying on bulk weight as formerly. This necessitates an increase in the subscription price of THE TRUE WITNESS to subscribers in the United States to \$1.50 instead of \$1.00 per year, as formerly.

Our friends in the United States will kindly take notice when sending subscriptions and renewals.

Truly a Struggling Mission In the Diocese of Northampton, Fakenham, Norfolk.

HELP! HELP! HELP!—The Love of the Sacred Heart and in Honor of St. Anthony of Padua, DO PLEASE send a note for the erection of a more worthy Home for the Blessed Sacrament. True, the out-post at Fakenham is only a GARRET. But it is an out-post; it is the SOLE SIGN of the vitality of the Catholic Church in 35 x 20 miles of the County of Norfolk. Large donations are not sought (though they are not objected to). What is sought is the willing CO-OPERATION of all devout Clients of the Sacred Heart and St. Anthony in England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and the Colonies. Each Client is asked to send a small offering to put a few bricks in the new Church. May I not hope for some little measure of your kind co-operation?

The Church is sadly in need, for at present I am obliged to SAY M.A.S. and give Benediction in a Garret. My average weekly collection is only 3s 6d, and I have no endowment except HOPE.

What can I do alone? Very little. But with your co-operation and that of the other well-disposed readers of this paper, I can do all that needs to be done.

In these days, when the faith of many is becoming weak, and the Church is sadly in need of its development, and is about to treat Our Divine Lord Himself as it treats His Holy Church, the Catholic Faith is renewing its youth in England and bidding fair to obtain possession of the hearts of the English people again. I have a very up-hill struggle here on behalf of that Faith. I must succeed or else this vast district must be abandoned.

IT RESTS WITH YOU

to say whether I am to succeed or fail. All my hopes of success are in your co-operation. Will you not then extend a co-operating hand? Surely you will not refuse? You may not be able to help much, indeed But you can help a little, and a multitude of "littles" means a great deal.

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"May God bless and prosper your endeavours in establishing a Mission at Fakenham."

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St. Lawrence, "The Longworthy," "Son."
Katharine went to her Mrs. Sherwood, this side with Lord March announced that she was in London for the Katharine throw down and dropped into a chair. She must live this not worth living. The man had given her fell. She picked it up; "Miss O'Connor: I am sorry you did. Let me tell you, to say mortification, that the engaged to is the husband sister."
"What did it mean?"
Wirt Perceval? There sorrows than hers. She per into a drawer and in a subdued frame of her aunt say good-bye to CHAPTER XXI—"Dom Mrs. Sherwood took the position of affairs did not come down to breakfast. Her aunt she remained upstairs and she smiled bitterly and wrath. What did she playing fast and loose with Perceval had been engaged himself to the Lord Marchmont and Lord Marchmont had been. Was there a Duke that this penniless you should comport herself with arrogance?
But Katharine was not was not one of those peace so highly that the crifice self-respect and piety. An unpleasant interview she felt blameless sense, had no terrors for Sherwood did not know looked forward in triumph coming scene, and said
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