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the Catholic world is apparent every-the Catholic world is apparent every-where. All interest is centered in the Vatican and St. Peter's. The civil government of Italy extends to the same religion, when enjoying interest extends to the same religion, when enjoying its same religion. tion's borders, but the papal authority of Rome reaches to the remotest corners of the earth. I was anxious to see the man upon whom such vast responsibility rests, and whose words so profoundly influence millions of the human race. Lord Denbigh of England had given me a letter of introduction to Cardinal Merry del Val, our papal secretary of state, and armed with this I visited the Vatican. Cardinal Merry del Val is an exceedingly interesting man. He was born of Spanish parents, but one of his grandparents was English, and he is connected by ties of blood with several families of the English nobility. He families of the English hoolity. He was educated in England, and speaks that language fluently and without accent, as he does French, German, Italian and Spanish. His linguistic accomplishments are almost as great as those of the famous Cardinal Mezzofanti. Cardinal del Val is an unusually young man to occupy such an important post— he is not yet forty. He impresses one as a man of rare ability and he possesses extraordinary versatility and a diplomatic training that will make him eminently useful to His Holiness. The papal secretary of state is a tall, slender, distinguished looking man. His intel-lectual face is thin and oval; his eyes are large, dark and brilliant, showing his Spanish birth. He received us in his private apartments at the Vatican. They are among the most interesting of the one thousand two hundred rooms in that great building and were once occupied by that famous pope who a Borgia. The ceilings and walls down to the floor are painted magnificently, the decoration having been done by hand of a master artist of Borgia's the hand of a master artist of Borgia's reign. For centuries the suite now occupied by Cardinal Merry del Valhad been part of the Vatican library. The beautiful walls were once hidden a coat of rude whitewash, but the paintings were discovered not long ago and restored once more to view. Before visiting the Vatican I called

Monsignor Kennedy, the rector of the American college. Monsignor Kennedy is a learned and an exceedingly agreeable American, and under his efficient management the number of students in the college has been doubled He enabled me to within a few years. He enabled me to meet Pope Pius' Maestro di Camera. By the good offices of Cardinal del Val and the Maestro di Camera, it was arranged that I should have a private audience with the Holy Father the fol-lowing day, Monsignor Kennedy acting

as interpreter.

Pope Pius received us in his private room adjoining the public audience chamber, where distinguished Catholies from all over the world were collected and ready to be presented and receive the papal blessing.

The private audience room is a rather small apartment, simply but beautifully furnished and decorated. A throne bearing the papal crown occupied one side of the room. His Holiness greeted us very courteously and cordially. He wore a long white cassock, with a girdle the waist; the fisherman's ring was on his finger and he wore a small, closely fitting skull-cap of white. I had the opportunity to study his face. It is a round, strong face, full of kindliness and benevolence, but there are not lacking indications that its possessor has a pur-pose and will of his own. The face is ruddy and the nose rather long-it is ruddy and the nose rather long—It is straight and not arched. His eyes are large, blue and friendly. The scant hair visible below the skull-cap is white. In stature the Holy Father is about five et, nine or ten inches and his figure is sturdy, but not too heavy. His step light and give strength and good health.

His Holiness has already gained a reputation as a democratic pontiff and en oys a large and growing popularity with the people. He is an orator and with the people. He is an orator and often on Sunday goes into one of the many courtyards of the Vatican and preaches to crowds that gather quite in-formally. His gestures are said to be graceful and his voice melodious. His manner is earnest and his thoughts are expressed in clear and emphatic language. There is a feeling in Rome that Pius X. is going to be known in history as a reformer—not as a reformer of doctrine.

If I may venture an opinion upon such brief observation, it is that heart characteristics will dominate the present pontiff's course. He is not so re-nowned a scholar and diplomat as was his predecessor, nor is he so skilled in statecraft, but he is a virile, energetic practical, religious teacher, charitable practical, religious teacher, charitable, abounding in good works and full of brotherly love. I am confident that he will play an important part in the weld-wide conflict between man and

The world has made and is making great progress in education and in in dustry. The percentage of illiteracy i everywhere steadily decreasing. The ndards of art and taste are rising and the forces of nature are being harnessed to do the work of man. Steam, madly escaping from its prison walls, turns

ROME, THE CATHOLIC CAPITAL

As SEEN BY THE HON. WILLIAM JENNINGS
BRYAN.

The dominant feature of Rome is the religious feature, and it is fitting that it should be so, for here the soil was stained with the blood of those who first hearkened to the voice of the Nazarene—here a cruel Nero lighted his garden with human torches, little thinking that the religion of those whom he burned would in time illumine the earth.

The fact that the city is the capital of the Catholic world is apparent everywhere. All interest is centered in the of sympathy often manifest between same religion, when enjoying incomes quite unequal—these things would seem to indicate that the heart has lagged behind the head and the purse. The restoration of the equilibrium and the infusing of a feeling of brotherhood that

will establish justice and good will must be the aim of those who are sincerely in-terested in the progress of the race. This is pre-eminently the work of our religi-ous teachers, although it is a work in which the laity as well as the clergy must take part.

After meeting Pius X., the late be loved patriarch of Venice, I feel assured that he is peculiarly fitted to lead his portion of the Christian Church in this great endeavor.—Reprinted from "The World and its Ways" by William J. Bryan, pages 549-558.

THE COLOGNE CATHEDRAL.

Although the great Cologne cathedral, the finest specimen of Gothic architecture in the world, is not finished, its nagnificent facade is so old it is crumb-. Other parts of the exterior stone work are in a like state of decay from age, and it is estimated that proper repairs will cost \$2,500,000 and fifteen years of labor.

The stone of which the principal outside features, including the magnificent

flying buttresses, are built is a volcanic rock called trachyte, and came from the quarries at Drachenefels, not far from Cologne. It is a light colored stone, hard and fine for building purposes, but after nearly seven centuries of exposure to the weather it is disintergating from the effects of wind, rain and frost with

alarming rapidity.

The great Dom, as the cathedral is called, was begun in the year 1248, but it may take a half century yet to com-plete it, and while the new portions are being constructed the old ones are going to ruin.

This is true only of the exterior, the ornamental shell of the splendid edifice, for the interior walls and pillars and the foundations are in the best of condition.

The present cathedral architect, Herr Hertel, has made a report recently in which he expresses grave fears that unless the work of restoration is prosecu-ted with vigor the most beautiful portions of the structure will go to pieces From all parts of the cathedral huge slabs and smaller fragments of carved stone fall frequently, and some of the most characteristic of the medieval ornaments—gargoyies, flutings, finials at the top of the spires and other stone orna-ments—are so defaced as to be unrecognizable.

There is a large building fund in charge of the Cardinal Archbishop of Cologne, but the interest on it is not sufficient to make the most necessary current repairs, and the money to re-store the cathedral, if it is to be restored, must come from other sources.

Meantime the masons, all of whom be to an ancient guild of cathedral long to an ancient guild of complete builders, are still working to complete the Dom in accordance with the orig-inal plans, just as their forefathers worked and just as their descendants for generations probably will continue to

The great Cathedral in Milan, the most beautiful in all the world, is many centuries old, too, and is not yet com pleted, but the climate of Milan is milder and has not worked such ravages as has this climate of Northern Germany, with its bitterly cold winters and biting

GOD'S WEAPONS, THE WEAK THINGS OF EARTH.

God has chosen these things that the world despises precisely in order that no flesh may glory in the triumphs of faith. Humanly speaking, the note of weakness characterized every agency that Christ and His apostles invoked in the cause of faith. The Incarnation and its surroundings, the life and death of the Saviour, the personality of the apostles, the weapons they used—"the sword of the spirit which is the Word of God" yes, the Word of God is more powerful than all the paraphernalia of kings and peoples.

The foolishness of the Gospel has with

reformer—not as a reformer of doctrine, but as one who will popularize the church's doctrine with a view to increasing the heartiness and zeal of the masses in the application of religious fruth to everyday life.

I assured his Holiness that I appreciated the opportunity that was his to give impetus to the moral forces of the world, to which he replied: "I hope my efforts in that direction will be of such as to merit commendation."

Answering my statement that I called to present the good-will of many Catholic friends as well as to pay my respects, His Holinesss asked me to carry his benediction back to them.

If I may venture an opinion upon such brief observation, it is that heart characteristics will dominate the pressure is failthed.

The foolishness of the Gospel has withstood the wisdom of all mere human philosophy. It has brought peace and hope to sophy. It has brought peace and hope the very even amid sufferings utterable. With it, amid the torments of martyr-dom, the even my dow, the heavens were opened to St. Stephen, and whilst his soul yet lingered on earth he saw the "Lamb of God in the world, to which he reight hand of God in the aven." These same things are the treasures of the faithful still. To preserve these treasures and safe-treasures of the faithful still. To preserve these treasures seeking whom he may devour, whom re-sist ye strong in faith."

The safeguard of faith, then, is faith itself. "Let us not be more wise than it behooveth to be wise, but let us be wise unto sobriety."

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a physician. If we want an opinion upon some legal question we go to an attorney for it. If we want to know God's will— God's law-God's revelation-we do not. or should not, go to the magazine or the essayist for it; we do not call in the man who denies God, or declares Him unknowable—in a word, we do not invoke the aid of those whose whole life and mind have been occupied on the things of sense. God has not left His blessed Word to the hazard of such a scheme; but we turn to the Church of ages, to that living visible organism sealed with the blood of the Saviour and scaled with the blood of the Saviour and animated and guided by the Holy Spirit, living within her according to the promise of her Divine Founder and Master. Loyalty to that Church is the touchstone of faith and the safeguard of faith. Loyalty not in belief only as a dogmatic fact, but loyalty in the prac-

No man ever yet made shipwreck of his faith whilst practicing it. But many have lost it through neglecting it.

tice of her teaching.

Faith is a virtue—a power—and to be strong and vigorous needs to be exercised, even as physical exercise is necessary to the health of the body. It appeals to reason that neglect in either case is liable to bring weakness, disease and death.—Rev. G. Montgomery.

THE MAD INFIDELS.

M. Clemenceau is once again in a tight position, but he has by this time become so adroit at extricating himself from such positions that he may justly be regarded as the Ministerial manacle slipper or jail breaker, just like Houd-ini or Jack Sheppard. He finds he had lost the game so far as the object aimed at in the persecution of the Church i concerned. In this persecution he had the full support of the Socialists in the Ministry and the country, because the thought the Church would be complete ly annihilated. But this pleasing hope was doomed to disappointment; the Church keeps on her way under the altered situation more successfully than under the old conditions in many imrtant respects. Hence the allies are now enemies, because Cleme ceau can give them no more. The Socialists are in revolt, and now he turns around to the conservatives and asks their support against the extrem He made a speech a few days ag at Bandol which has all the fragrance simple innocence and artless grace i what it says and more in what it does not say:

"The Premier said that the old enem ies of the Republic were now definitely defeated and that there was no longer any danger from the political organiza-tion of the Church, which he described as the most tyrannical in the as the most tyrannical in the world, or from royalist reaction. The people, he said, must understand to-day that their peril came from the extremists, and choose between the Republic and revolution. The government intended, the Premier said, to preserve the regime of liberty, to enforce freducation and to continue the fight for an income tax and social refor as old age pensions, but without interfering with the freedom of opinions, and i proposed to fight every form of anarch

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and put down all incitement to public

A denunciation of tyranny on the part of the Church, coming from the liberty-loving patriots who throttled and garotted her, and then proceeded to plunder her, is surely an edifying performance. Robert Macaire was never half so fine a moralist when deivering himself to his humble imitator Jacques Strop, on the rules of thieving and murder as fine arts fit for gentle men professors as the Premier of the bastard French Republic of to-day.— Philadelphia Catholic Standard and

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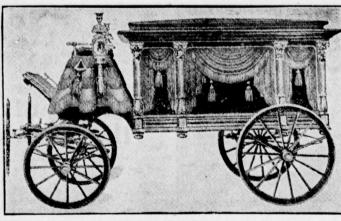
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