

ROME DESPATCHES ON THE FEAST

Tribune Special Service

Rome, Dec. 8.—There was a magnificent spectacle in St. Peter's to-day on the occasion of the celebration of the jubilee of the proclamation of the Immaculate Conception. Observances in connection with the jubilee have been in progress for a month or more, and the celebration reached a glorious climax to-day with the celebration of the papal mass in St. Peter's followed by the solemn crowning by Pius X. of the mosaic picture of "Our Lady" in the choir chapel.

The interior of the vast basilica was illuminated and adorned with magnificent hangings, and the building was filled with a great concourse of people including all the pontifical dignitaries, diplomats and the Roman nobility. From all parts of the Catholic world, prelates and priests had journeyed hither to participate in the celebration. From the United States there were present more than 1,000 lay members of the Church, headed by a distinguished delegation of churchmen that included Bishop McDonnell of Brooklyn, Bishop Chatard of Indianapolis, President Morrissey of Notre Dame University and a number of others.

Italian troops kept order in the square in front of St. Peter's while the pontifical bodyguard was stationed within the cathedral.

Pope Pius, attired in his state robes, was borne on the sedia gestatoria at the head of an imposing procession composed of the entire papal court, 500 patriarchal cardinals, archbishops and bishops. A roar of cheering rose from the multitude on the Pope's appearance, but the applause was quickly hushed by the guards. When the cortege reached the choir the Pope alighted, took his seat on the pontifical throne, and the cardinals and other ecclesiastics massed around him. The solemn ceremony of the papal mass was then proceeded with. A feature of the impressive ceremonies was the singing of Perosi's new cantata "all'Immacolata."

The crowning of the mosaic picture of "Our Lady" followed the celebration of the papal mass. Exactly fifty years ago to-day, immediately after the mass in which the dogma of the Immaculate Conception was defined, Pius IX set a rich crown on this image, but the new crown placed there to-day by Pope Pius X is vastly more precious. It consists of twelve large stars, formed of hundreds of precious stones, and united by an aureole of solid gold.

An interesting feature in connection with the present jubilee celebration has been somewhat overshadowed by the brilliant ceremonies in St. Peter's. This is the "Marian Congress" now in progress in the vast Church of the Twelve Apostles, and in the halls of the Cancellaria and the Roman Seminary. All countries of the civilized world are represented in the congress and also in the Marian Exposition, which occupies the eight large halls on the first floor of the Lateran Palace.

RUSKIN.

Prof. Charles Eliot Norton's reminiscences of John Ruskin are very entertaining. Few men were more gifted in various ways than Ruskin, but his career was, after all, a wretched one. He was ill-mated in marriage and actually surrendered his wife, who did not love him, to the painter Milais. The woman and the man both died of cancer of the throat. One of Ruskin's most grievous sources of misery was his unsettled religious ideas. Mr. Mallock, in his "New Republic," admirably sketches him, along this line. Under an assumed name, as one of the warring philosophers of the book, Ruskin delivers an agnostic sermon, very eloquent, very touching, rather reverent and like the cry of a soul wandering in the darkness and craving for a light that was before him, had he only had less pride of opinion and less of the spiritual blindness that affects so many intellectual men. One strange passage in a letter to Prof. Norton, about 1862, naturally impressed me. Though Ruskin was intimate with Norton, Lowell and men of the North opposed to the South, he did not quite agree with them on the subject. Here are his words:

"The miserablest idiocy of the whole has been your mixing up a fight for dominion (the most insolent and tyrannical and the worst conducted in all history) with a soi-disant fight for liberty. If you want the slaves to be free, let their masters go free first, in God's name. If they don't like to be governed by you, let them govern themselves. Then, treating them as a stranger State, if you like to say, 'You shall let that black fellow go, or,' etc., as a brave boy

would fight another for a fag at Eton, do so; but you know perfectly well no fight could be got up on those terms; and that this fight is partly for money, partly for vanity, partly for wild anarchy and the devil's cause and crown, everywhere."

He saw no good for the United States to result from the war, and some people are of the same opinion still. I leave the matter where it is, as a curiosity. Time will tell whether Ruskin had a kind of prophetic outlook or was mistaken. We are not at the end of the results of the war, by any means. Even the old, New England abolition anti-imperialists today think so. But, "let the dead past bury its dead" and let us all, North and South, hope for the best in the future.—James R. Randall in Catholic Columbian.

Ste. Rose du Lac Noes.

I feel inclined to-day to write on a subject of interest to us all, which is above our heads, under our feet and all around us, which concerns our past and will influence our future, which is in fact—the weather. It has been compared to a woman, shall I say then, it is delightful? Shall I say, like Cleopatra, "it charms by infinite variety? Shall I say?—Oh, no! I will never say; at times, it is very trying. Our Lady of the Snows has donned her white mantle and smiles with sunshine in her eyes of heavenly blue, and if by night the moon is turned away the constellations are all the more brilliant on that account, not being eclipsed. Blue and white, these are Our Lady's colors I could never understand the wail that went up, even among Catholics, when Kipling adopted one of her lovely titles with which to adorn this land of Canada, Maria ad Nives; the poets have all to come to us, whatever their faith, or lack of it, and borrow from Holy Church if they want something extra nice. Now we have celebrated to the best of our ability the glorious feast of the Immaculate Conception with prayer and Communion and solemn Benediction, and we have lighted up our houses, even we who live on the prairie so that the Angels may see the Gaudes Maria, or Mary Lights,* and find our door and join in the Ave Maria which St. Gabriel taught them long ago, if it is ever long ago in Heaven, and not one eternal and beautiful to-day.

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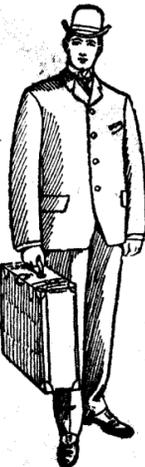
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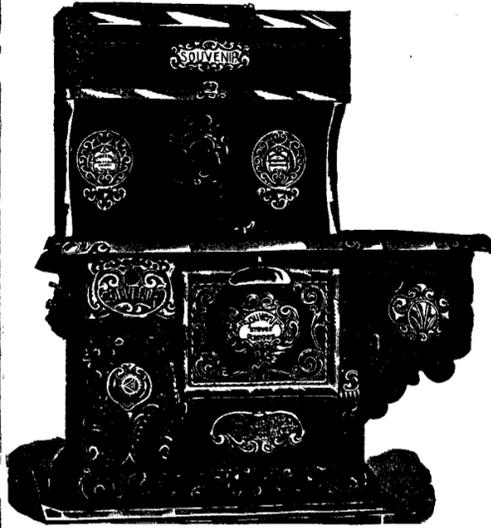
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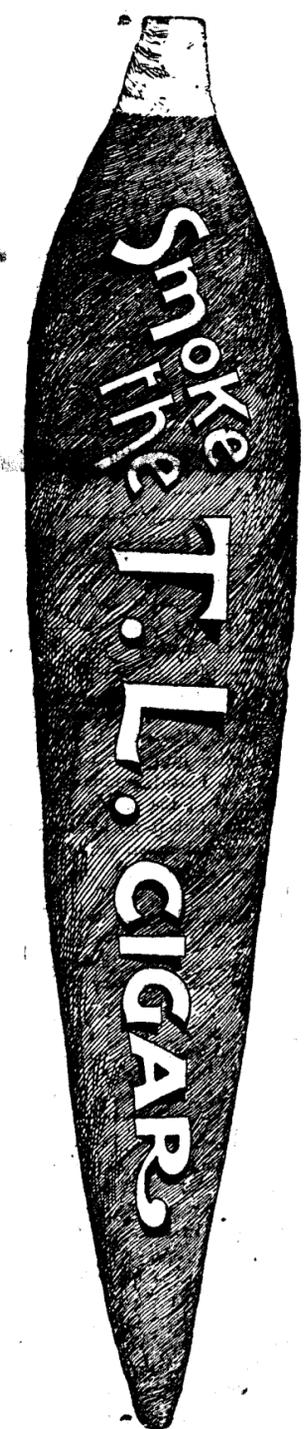
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