

THE POPE AND ITALY.

The following is the discourse delivered by the Sovereign Pontiff to the pilgrims of Venetia and Lombardy.

BELOVED CHILDREN—That God, who in His sweet providence tempers our sorrows with comforts, while allowing Us to be sorely troubled by a miserable sret, consoles Us with ever new and bright proofs of filial love offered to Us by the Catholic world, and especially by Italy, which is singularly the object of Our love. Every proof of fidelity and love which she makes to Us is especially pleasing to Us on account of the links which bind Us to her in a particular manner, hence are We well pleased with this declaration of love which from the depths of your Catholic hearts you now make Us.

"Noble, indeed, is the thanksgiving which you make to God, who in both Our Jubilees has been pleased to turn the unanimous exultation of Catholic peoples to the splendour of the Chair of Peter. Nor less noble is the sorrow which you express at the sight of the obstinate men in a state of rebellion against God and against Us, and makes them deaf to Our voice, which ceases not to call them back to Him. By your words We well know that your brotherly love laments the state of too many Italians, over whom Our fatherly heart weeps. Our sorrow is the greater since We know that to foment and exasperate these ill feelings in Our regard the impudent calumny is untiringly circulated that We and the clergy and all Catholics are enemies of the peace, prosperity, and well-being of our country, and that the calumny gains ground. God is Our witness, to whom the thoughts of Our august ministry are ever turned; nor do We hesitate to appeal to all those who, free from passion, examine all the acts of Our laborious Pontificate. With more alacrity than ever have We striven to keep alive and in vigour that ancient faith which was and is its supreme good, its link with the past, the beginning and life of its greatest glories. Lovingly solicitous for the preservation of these glories We have striven as much as in Us lay to favour science, letters, and art; while, at the same time, with the funds placed at our disposal by Our children it has been a pleasure to Us to lighten the lot of the poor, to provide for them proper instruction especially for youth which is surrounded upon all sides by snares. In order to defend it from greater evils, and in order to bestow upon it greater advantages We have directed frequent and warm exhortations to the clergy and the laity, and among the happy fruits which have thence resulted may be mentioned the present spectacle of the clergy allaying the passions of an angry populace by the dictates of Gospel justice, and that of Catholics who, under the guidance of religion, undertake enterprises for the public good. Can all this, not to mention other results, be called hostility to one's country? Is it not more worthy of the name of a love not mendacious? It is simply because we love our country that both in the social and political order We would have her feel the superhuman virtue of the Papacy, which, ever living and young, can at all times give new life to nations, lead them on to civilisation and justice, and make them prosperous and great. If, instead of suspicion and ill-will, Our counsels and invitations were received with loyalty and rectitude of purpose, the most arduous problems of to day would be more easily solved, and Italy, even sooner than might be expected might take her stand among the nations endowed with new life and glory.

But, if by loving one's country it is meant that We must bear in pacific silence the glaring offences almost with impunity committed to her disadvantage against honesty and religion, then Our conscience shall never consent to such love—never! Often and in clear terms

have We denounced the real enemies of Our country; We have unmasked their real intentions, and pointed out the pernicious effects which have thence resulted, but too many arts are used every day to stifle Our voice, or to cast contempt upon it. And though the events of every day prove the truth of Our admonitions, though a deluge of corruption, of subversive principles, of misery of every kind has established a reign of terror, yet who is there who is ready to be convinced of his errors? Who is willing to turn his eyes to those remedies which alone can lead to safety? These remedies, precisely because proposed by the Church and by Us are rejected or ignored, so dense is the present blindness or so great the prevailing pride.

In the meantime, however, We, sustained by the arm of God, shall continue in our task of vindicating the downtrodden rights and liberty of His Church; We shall continue to implore of Him peace and benediction. Thanks to the common prayers of the faithful, the hour of divine mercy for our fallen Italy is hastening on, and many a beguiled heart is returning in compunction to Him who is the way, the truth, and the life.

Beloved children, join action and sacrifice to your daily prayers. We have already pointed out to you the field in which your action may be exercised to advantage; bear in mind, and with unswerving fidelity observe Our admonitions. Let concord reign among your voters, that in provincial and municipal councils your most vital interests may be well guarded in the best way at present possible. You see in the bosom of the family, in the school, in the workshop, everywhere, how daring is the spirit of irreligion; how powerful a guilty press; how many wrecks license is making; do you, therefore, on your part, use those means at your disposal to oppose to these evils an efficacious remedy, for which end the light and authority of your example be of especial avail. In such a course of action you will meet with sacrifices not few nor light, but you have already calculated upon them, and have declared yourselves ready to sacrifice all for Our cause, which is the cause of God. In fighting with constancy for this cause you will show yourselves worthy of your fathers, who, from their strong love of religion, drew genius and ardor for ennobling their country. For the rest, your coming here to celebrate the feast of Our Jubilee, the dense and solemn crowd which you make around Us, the open profession of your faith, are strong proofs of the firmness of your intentions. May God bless them and render them fruitful! May He, according to your desires, strengthen your faith, sustain and crown your hopes, and inflame you with the spirit of love, which suffers all and operates all with generosity.

To Our wishes We join the Apostolic Blessing, which, in the name of God and from the depths of Our soul We bestow upon you here present, upon your families, and upon the entire Italian people.—*Irish Catholic*

Christmas Sale.

A casual visitor to the little parlors at the Convent of the Precious Blood on Wednesday of last week would have questioned what might be the occasion of this assembly of happy, expectant-looking ladies who nearly filled the rooms, and, with a pleasing flutter of excitement, seemed to await some important developments. It was our privilege to be there; and, in the bright faces around us, we recognized many of the ladies who had dispensed Christmas gifts—for a consideration—at the "Christmas Sale" held the week before in the Confederation Life Building. Behind their cloister appeared a few white-robed nuns, also with expectant faces, though perhaps less excited than the ladies outside the grille, for at this meeting was to be

made known the result of many months' labor.

The head of each table banded her returns to the President, who marked the amount in her book; then added the whole, and announced that the united efforts of those zealous workers had realized \$1331.00. A thrill of astonishment and satisfaction passed through the rooms; the ladies fell to congratulating each other, and frequently asked the unanswerable question: "Where did it come from?" The good nuns were quite unequal to the task of thanking the ladies whose hard work had resulted so happily, though, no doubt, all were satisfied with the few words which came from behind the grille, as those words promised a remembrance in their fervent prayers.

The "Christmas Sale" of 1893 is numbered among the past, of which it forms the fourth. To those who did not visit the "Sale" we say another chance will be given you next year, and we advise you not to miss it.

A comfortable and commodious luncheon parlor formed a substantially pleasing feature, where a regular restaurant business was carried on in a most successful manner. Mrs. John Foy presided over this department, assisted by Mesdames N. Rooney, Mitchell, De La Haye, Lynn, the Misses Hughes, Long, Costello, Macdonell, and a bevy of other attentive waitresses. Those who did not patronize this attractive luncheon parlor missed a treat.

A table of fancy and useful articles was stocked from end to end with a confusing variety of beautiful things; here presided Mrs. Doane, assisted by Mrs. Small, the Misses Bayley and Nettie Sheil.

At the next table we encountered a bewildering array of bewitching dolls, that gazed upon us with imploring eyes, which seemed to say—"buy us." They were simply irresistible. The guardians of this little world in wax were Mrs. Monahan, the Misses O'Connor, Steers and Mallon.

We grew serious as we approached the next table, where articles of devotion were displayed. Beautiful statues and crucifixes, beads and prayer books, and most exquisite lilies, the latter the work of the nuns, were sold by the Misses Macdonald, Verrey, Murphy and Lane.

The candy table next gladdened our sweet tooth. Here, as promised in their advertisement, fresh candies were made daily. Visitors during the early part of the day might have witnessed the ladies in charge seated at a table behind their booth, with deft, fair fingers fashioning the toothsome dainties, which were sold almost as soon as they were manufactured. Miss Kirkwood presided over these good things, assisted by Misses Moran and Berthon.

At the other end of the hall we saw a table covered with china, decorated especially for the occasion, all of which was sold, after reserving twenty-five prizes, which were drawn for at the close of the "Sale." We congratulate the lucky winners. Miss Le Maitre looked after the china.

In every way and in every branch the "Christmas Sale" was a decided success.

St. Joseph's.

The Mission given by the Redemptorist Fathers at this church closed Tuesday evening, Dec. 5th, and was most successful. A branch of the Temperance Society of the League of the Cross was established here Monday evening last by Rev. Dean Bergin. The different Masses at St. Joseph's will in future on Sundays, be at 7, 9 and 11 a. m. A mission will open at the Church of St. John the Evangelist, East Toronto, this (Thursday) evening, and will also be preached by the Redemptorist Fathers, Revs. Cyril Dodsworth and John Lynch.

Sacred Heart Church.

We are pleased to learn a mission will open in this church Sunday, Dec. 17th, and close Christmas day, for the benefit of the French speaking Catholics of Toronto. It will be preached by Rev. Fr. Lacoste, O.M.I.



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