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A PAPAL AUDIENCE.

Missionary Record, O. M. I.
The new Superior General of the Oblates, the Right Rev. Father Augier, was admitted to an audience of his Holiness Pope Leo XIII., on the morrow of All Souls' 1898. Whether by good luck or by very special favour, the General was received almost on his arrival in Rome. The petition for an audience was presented to the Pope at eleven on Wednesday, November 2nd, and at three the same day the BIGLIETTI were received in the Via S. Pietro in Vincoli appointing nine o'clock next morning for the audience.

The Father General was accompanied to the Vatican by Father Joseph Lemius, Procurator in Rome, Father Pichon, of Angers, who had just preached the annual retreat to the Scholastics, Father Stefanini, of Vico in Corsica, the preacher of the retreat at the Junior House in Rome, and Father Francis Lemius, private secretary.

After the first words between the Holy Father and the Superior General, Father Augier thanked his Holiness in particular for his recent letter, which we ourselves have published under the heading, FRUIMINI BENEVOLENTIA NOSTRA. The Pope replied in the most truly benevolent manner, "I was particularly desirous of showing my appreciation of your devotedness and zeal in your many Missions." "You are young, my dear father," his Holiness added, "and you will have time to do a great deal of good." Many things were spoken of during the half-hour which the Fathers had the happiness of spending in the august presence of the venerable Pontiff. The Roman house of studies was not forgotten, the Pope saying that studies under the shadow of St. Peter's chair would be an advantage not only to the students themselves, but to the countries into which their duties would afterwards take them. All the Fathers asked blessings for a great variety of persons and works, and the Father General did not forget certain religious publications of the Oblates, including the MISSIONARY RECORD. All were enchanted with the great personal kindness shown them by the Vicar of Christ, who gave each his hand to kiss as they were retiring. "You do not reside in Rome?" said the Pope to Father Augier. "No, your Holiness, but I intend to come every year." "That is right; VENEZ, VENEZ." "And you are not leaving Rome," he said to Father Joseph Lemius. "Oh! no, Holy Father." "A LA BONNE HEURE; TRES BIEN." From beginning to end the aged Pontiff was indeed a Holy Father amongst happy children.

We find in the Roman Letter of the CATHOLIC TIMES of December 9th, some further particulars concerning the same memorable interview with the beloved pontiff:—

I hear among clerical friends talk about the recent audience granted by the Holy Father to Father Augier, the new Superior-General of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. His Holiness was most kind and paternal. The Superior General mentioned to the Holy Father that in his late visits to distant countries—Ceylon, South Africa, and Australia—he had found the faithful were most devoted to Leo XIII., and prayed much for the prolongation of his days. "In truth," said the Pope, "there must be many prayers for me, and prayers that are heard I am in my ninetieth year in spite of all my cares, anxieties, and trials. Is it not marvellous? And, still more wonderful, my faculties remain as they have been, so that I am busy for fourteen hours a day! When you are gone I shall have to receive a Bishop; and, when the private audiences are over, I must hold my council with the Secretary of State. It is now half-past nine," continued His Holiness with his usual vivacity, "and I shall remain at this desk until two in the afternoon." When the Superior-General made a small offering of Peter's Pence, the Holy Father said in his animated way, "It is very touching to see how the children from all parts come to the assistance of their Father. By means of the alms that come to me I am able to do a great deal this year for many churches in the East. The faithful are generous; generous souls are found amongst both rich and poor. It was only yesterday I received three pounds sterling from an Irishman who, like you, excused himself for not being able to offer much. I assure you I did not forget him this morning in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. I prayed much for all his intentions. Providence, Providence!" the Pope went on to say, "all my hopes are in the Providence of God."

THE REVIVAL OF A SLANDER.

After the chastisement administered to Rev. Mr. Hyde, the slanderer of Father Damien, by the late Robert Louis Stevenson, it is rather surprising to find that the infamous attack of Mr. Hyde on the memory of a saintly man should have found a defender, and this in the person of Sir Berry Smith, ex-Consul for Great Britain at Samoa. Fortunately he appealed to the testimony of an honorable man. He had he intimidated, been informed by Mr. Clarke, a friend of Stevenson and a missionary in Samoa, that the deceased author regretted having written that pamphlet against Mr. Hyde and in defence of Father Damien more than anything he had ever written. A month or two ago Mr. Clarke told the readers of the "British Weekly" that "the statement that Stevenson regretted having written the pamphlet because of the injustice it inflicted upon

the clergyman concerned is simply a grotesque reversal of the facts"; that Stevenson certainly felt regret, but that it was caused by the knowledge that in publishing the pamphlet he had given a world-wide publicity to the scandal which had excited his righteous indignation and which otherwise would not have travelled outside a very narrow circle. And now, as we learn from the "Boston Pilot," Stevenson's widow has written to Mr. Charles Warren Stoddard, her friend and the friend of her lamented husband, expressing the hope that he would through the Catholic papers deny the assertions of the ex-Consul. "Every statement made by Sir Berry Smith is," she says, "false and has been so proved by responsible persons." It may be noted that Master Austin Strong, Mrs. Stevenson's grandson, is a convert and that his conversion and baptism were approved of by every member of the Stevenson family, including Robert Louis himself.—L'pool Catholic Times.

FATHER FALLON O. M. I., ENDORSED IN ENGLAND.

A telegram from Ottawa says: "Father Fallon, the leading Catholic preacher here, delivered a sermon on Sunday which has caused a tremendous sensation in the capital and throughout the Dominion generally. Dealing with the question of liberty of religions under the British flag the preacher declared that the Catholics of the Empire should do their best to have the Coronation oath removed from the Coronation service on account of its containing portions stigmatising the Mass as superstitious and idolatrous. Why, asked the preacher, should Queen Victoria have insulted her Catholic subjects, than whom none were more loyal, by taking that oath, and why should the Prince of Wales take such a pledge of his crown? The sermon has been commented upon generally and with widely different opinions by the Press here." We think it is permitted because the Catholics of the Empire are too tolerant. If the Catholics of Great Britain and Ireland and Canada and the Colonies declared, with one voice that it must go, go it would.—L'pool Catholic Times.

A MOSLEM UNIVERSITY.

It is curious to find a Mahometan advocating in the Nineteenth Century Review a proposal for the establishment of a Moslem University by England, and what is more curious still is the fact that the proposal seems likely to be carried out. Lord Kitchener, the victor of Omdurman, favors such a step, and thinks the Sudan would be the most fitting locality for the innovation. What a satire would it be to find the Government which does not dare to

give Ireland a Catholic University setting up one for the benefit of a system which is as much opposed to Christianity, in its traditions, its achievements and its spirit, as ancient paganism was! But this is part of the finesse of English policy. While every concession is made to the demands of oriental cults, the smallest measure of justice to the people who have in time of trial been the mainstay of the British Empire in the East is resisted to the point of revolution.—Philadelphia Catholic Standard and Times.

FALLEN FROM WASHINGTON'S IDEALS.

(By Henry Morton Parker, in January Donahoe's.)

That we have fallen very far below the standards to which our legislative and municipal life was adjusted during the lifetime of Washington, and for nearly two generations after his death is a fact of universal notoriety. At several periods since the civil war there have been times when the cry of Isaiah to the people of Juda: "Thy princes are the companions of thieves: everyone loveth gifts and followeth after rewards," might be urged with equal cogency against many of our own prominent statesmen. A large number of them have been convicted at various times of receiving bribes in different shapes, while, in a lower political sphere the "bosses" and office-holders of our great cities have outstripped, in the magnitude and audacity of their speculations, the delinquents of any other country since the day when the empire of Rome was offered for sale by her pretorian guards. That this astounding perversion of the moral sense, this frightful demoralization of the official classes in the nation, the state and the city, still continues without exciting any particular feelings is demonstrated by the trial now going on in the second state of the Union where the man who is its actual ruler, who practically elects its congressmen and senators, stands charged with malversation of funds.

A GOOD REFERENCE.

John was fifteen, and very anxious to get a desirable place in the office of a well known lawyer, who had advertised for a boy, but doubted his success, because, being a stranger in the city, he had no reference to present.

"I'm afraid I'll stand a poor chance," he thought, despondently; "however, I'll try to appear as well as I can, for that may help me a little."

So he was careful to have his dress and person neat, and when he took his turn to be interviewed, went in with his hat in his hand and a smile on his face.

The keen lawyer glanced him over from head to foot.

"Good face," he thought, "and pleasant ways."

Then he noted the neat suit—but other boys had appeared in new clothes—saw the well-brushed hair and clean-looking skin. Very well, but there had been others quite as cleanly; another glance, however, showed the finger-nails free from soil.

"Ah! that looks like thoroughness," thought the lawyer.

Then he asked a few direct, rapid questions, which John answered as directly.

"Prompt," was his mental comment; "can speak up when necessary. Let's see your writing," he added aloud.

John took a pen and wrote his name.

"Very well, easy to read, and no flourishes. Now what references have you?"

The dreaded question, at last! John's face fell. He had begun to feel some hope of success, but this dashed it again.

"I haven't any," he said, slowly; "I'm almost a stranger in the city."

"Can't take a boy without references," was the brusque rejoinder, and as he spoke a sudden thought sent a flush to John's cheek.

"I haven't any references," he said, with hesitation, "but there's a letter from mother I just received. I wish you would read it."

The lawyer took it. It was a short letter.

MY DEAR JOHN,—I want to remind you that wherever you find work you must consider that work your own. Don't go into it, as some boys do, with the feeling that you will do as little as you can, and get something better soon, but make up your mind you will do as much as possible, and make yourself so necessary to your employer that he will never let you go.

You have been a good son to me, and I can truly say I have never known you to shirk. Be as good in business, and I am sure God will bless your efforts.

"H'm!" said the lawyer, reading it over the second time. "That's pretty good advice, John—excellent advice. I rather think I'll try you, even without the references."

John has been with him six years, and last spring was admitted to the bar.

"Do you intend taking that young man into partnership?" asked a friend lately.

"Yes, I do. I couldn't get along without John; he is my right-hand man!" exclaimed the employer heartily.

And John always says the best reference he ever had was a mother's good advice and honest praise.—Sacred Heart Review.

WINNIPEG

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