



GENERAL INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER.

*Named by the Cardinal Protector and blessed by the
Pope for all the Associates.*

The Interests of the Church in Italy.

THE Holy Father, and with him all men of sound judgment, to whatsoever country they may belong, loudly proclaim that the Pope's temporal sovereignty is necessary for the proper government of the Church. It is all very well to expatiate on the so-called interests of the nation—better say the ruthless tyranny of a party,—but we cannot blind ourselves to the interests of an illimitable society like the Church, which are manifestly paramount.

A situation which is vexatious to a society of nigh on to three millions of men, who go to make up all or at least the vast bulk of civilized nations, is, to put it mildly, one of violent strain, and doomed to change in the no very remote future.

But are not the true interests of the Italian nation, so to say, identical in this case with those of Holy Church? "It is not easy to comprehend," observes Leo XIII, "how the infatuated *sectaries* have gone so far as to boldly pretend that the temporal power of the Pope has proved a curse to the Italian race, since, on the contrary, the history of every age bears out the assertion that the Papacy has been at all times for the peoples of the Italian peninsula a sure guarantee of prosperity and endless blessings."