

ROME CORRESPONDENCE OF THE TABLET

(Continued from Oct. 29th)

WHY GOD LOVES FRANCE.

France seems to be outdoing itself in pilgrimages to Rome this year, for now another has arrived, representing the movement known as the "Jeunesse Catholique" and numbering over six hundred. They were received by the Holy Father yesterday. What his Holiness thinks of the future of France he revealed last Friday in reply to an address presented by the Committee of the National French Pilgrimage of Paris: "Your presence," he said, "strengthens in us the conviction that God loves France because He loves the Church, and since He protects His Spouse, He will also protect her beloved daughter. Yes, God loves France for her many works for the salvation of souls, which, like the waters of a majestic river, send their blessings far and wide; He loves her for the peaceful conquests of her intrepid missionaries, who carry the light of faith to the least known corners of the earth and through the darkness of idolatry. God loves France, for if she has not always corresponded with the mission He has entrusted to her and with the privileges He has bestowed on her for the fulfilment of this mission, He has not left her ingratitude unpunished, and He has raised her up again with the very hand which has chastised her. He loves her, because during these very days of proscription and sorrow He calls her children to the shrines of Montmartre, Paray-le-Monial and the Grotto of Lourdes to pray and weep and to admire the wonders of His power. Such graces as these God grants only to nations that He wishes to save."

CONSECRATIONS AND BREAK-FASTS.

Yesterday Cardinal Merry Del Val consecrated another Apostolic Delegate—Mgr. Ragonesi, Archbishop of Mirra, who will shortly sail for Colombia. When his Eminence was consecrated Archbishop some six years ago in the Spanish National Church of Santa Maria di Monserrato, a few steps away from the English College, he dispensed with an old custom to inaugurate a new one. Instead of the usual breakfast offered after the ceremony to the invited guests, he devoted the money this would have cost to a dinner for the poor of the neighborhood. This example has been followed more than once since then, and it was followed last Sunday week by Archbishop Agius, the new Apostolic Delegate to the Philippines.

THE MAKING OF A DELEGATE.

By the way, the story of the appointment of "Father Ambrose" to his present lofty dignity is interesting and typical. Everybody who speaks English in Rome knew of him, but comparatively few knew him personally, for he led a very retired life, occupied with his work in the monastery of Sant'Ambrogio, his confessional in Sant' Andrea delle Fratte, and his spiritual direction of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin and other communities. Nobody was surprised, although his friends were sorry, when it was learned last summer that he had been transferred to England. Later on we learned that his General, who has been appointed Apostolic Visitor of the Houses of the Resurrectionists in the United States, had decided to bring Father Ambrose with him as "socius" or companion. His ticket was bought, and everything was arranged for his departure when he received a telegram from Rome one afternoon, summoning him at once to the presence of the Holy Father. Three days later Father Ambrose found himself kneeling before Pius X., who received him with his usual kindness, and asked him if he had yet seen the Secretary of State. "Well," said Pius X., "go and see him now, and remember that you have to say 'Yes' to him." It was all very mysterious, but Father Ambrose dutifully made his way from the Pope's private study to see the Cardinal. A few seconds later he was enlightened, and very much amazed. "The Holy Father has ordered me to come to your Eminence, and say 'Yes,'" he explained, "but I have no idea what the 'Yes' is to mean." "It means," said the Secretary of State, "that his Holiness wishes you to be Apostolic Delegate to the Philippines, and that you are to be consecrated Archbishop of Palmyra at once." My informant at the Vatican does not describe what happened

after that; but, after all, we know the rest.

A FALLACY EXPLODED.

In a talk to one of his confirmation classes recently, Bishop Hartley, of Columbus, O., told the following story:

About twenty-two years ago the bishop, then Father Hartley, was consulted by a Catholic man who occupied a clerical position with a large corporation. He was discouraged to find that promotion was very slow coming his way, but saw, to his dismay, that clerks less competent were placed ahead of him, all for the simple reason that they belonged to the same secret society as the heads of the firm, and when advancements were to be made, those were favored, to his exclusion. He wanted Father Hartley to tell him why the Church was so severe against secret societies. The priest gave him the Church's good reasons—its objection to the ritual which led the members away from their own church services, and so on, and advised him to be true to his Church, no matter what came. After some conversation, the man left, satisfied with the reasons given, and resolved to continue to be, as he always had been, a loyal son of the Church.

The years rolled around, and some four weeks ago Bishop Hartley met the same gentleman for the first time since that memorable conversation; and after the first greetings were over, the Bishop's mind naturally reverted to the subject then discussed, and he asked the man how he had gotten on. His reply was that he had more than prospered. He is now a member of the corporation of which he was then but a clerk. Two of his sons are getting salaries of \$2,000 a year each, two daughters happily married, and two at home with the parents.

"No, indeed, I never regretted taking the advice you gave me that day, Bishop," said the gentleman. "Shortly after that, things began to go wrong at our place of business. The clerks in responsible positions became dissipated and grew careless at their work, with the result that the firm soon noticed the danger to its standing. After futile efforts to make them attend to business properly, the dissipated ones, whom I had formerly envied for their advancement, were dismissed, and I was given a position of trust, finally becoming a member of the firm."

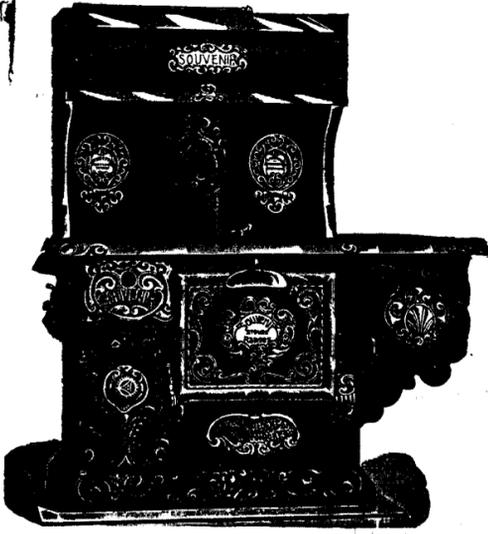
The popular belief, says "The Catholic Columbian," that only the "man with a pull" forges ahead nowadays could have no better disclaimer than the above. Integrity, coupled with merit, will always win.

A CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE.

"The Dreyfus agitation was one of the most sonorous hullabaloes in history," says the "New Zealand Tablet." "It arose over a doubt as to whether a Jewish army captain was receiving a fair trial at the hands of a French court-martial, and it stormed and rumbled round and round the earth in a deafening clangor of vociferation. The secular newspapers led off and swelled the thunderous din. They were convulsed by paroxysms of frothing hysteria. But today, when there are tens of thousands of Catholic Dreyfuses scattered all over France, the same newspapers are as dumb as tongueless mummies. And here it is no question as to the fairness or unfairness of a trial. It is a case of the wholesale proscription of vast numbers of people—the pick of the country—the head and front, and, indeed, the sole cause, of whose offending is the faith they profess and the religious habit which they bear in honor and a blameless life. Their property is plundered; they themselves are turned out, often penniless and hungry, and banished like noxious beasts from a land to which they had given the best and noblest service without fee or reward. And this, too, without accusation or trial. As an act of wholesale proscription and spoliation it takes rank side by side with what Jessop calls 'The Great Pillage' of Henry VIII., and with the historic madness of the French Revolution. But the papers that raved over one doubtful victim of a miscarriage of justice are tongue-tied and as mute as muzzled dogs when the certain victims of oppression and tyranny count by tens of thousands."

Dr. Douglas Hyde writes to the "Cork Examiner" a letter in which he highly eulogizes the new President of the Queen's College, whom he describes as an enthusiastic Gaelic Leaguer.

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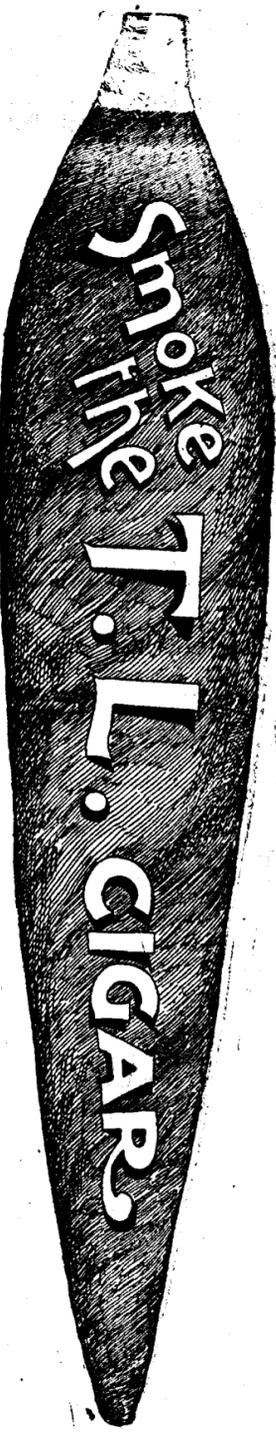
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