

and above all, in Ireland—it may be worth her while to renew diplomatic relations with the Vatican so that she may control the appointment of his bishops by the Pope. The conclusion, however, by no means follows necessarily from the premises, and so far as Ireland is concerned, we may venture to predict that it never will follow from them or any others. No sacrifice nor concession that England can ever make will buy for her from the Pope the invidious and detestable right of the Veto. That she should seek, after all her penal laws, and all her cruel enactments, to buy it, is not, however, a matter that should grieve or dismay the Irish people. It is a signal confession of failure and a testimony to their steadfastness and the efficacy of their resistance, as well as to the sympathy and union that exist between them and their hierarchy and clergy.

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR.

In order that no kind of grace might be wanting in the most sweet advocate of men, the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may justly say that God in His divine counsel wished that her pictures should ever be held in great honour, and become famous by wonders and miracles. Amongst these pictures, that of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour holds a distinguished place (Breviary).

Description of the picture.—The miraculous picture of Our Blessed Lady of Perpetual Succour is only twenty-two inches in height by eighteen inches in width. It is painted on a gold ground. Our Lady, in half figure, holds her divine Son on her left arm, and with her right hand she presses the tiny hands of the Child to her breast. She wears a dark azure mantle, lined with green. The tunic is red, and, like the mantle, edged with gold. The folds of the dress are marked by gilded lines. Above the figure of our Lady are the Greek letters MY OP (Mother of God).

The Infant Jesus is represented as a grown child. One of His sandals has fallen off; He clasps His Mother's arms in terror as if He wished to seek refuge in her bosom from the instruments of His Passion, which the Angels are presenting to Him. Near His head are the Greek letters IC XC (Jesus Christ). On the right of the Blessed Virgin is the figure of the Archangel Michael, who carries in a vase the lance and the sponge. Above him are Greek letters O AP M (The Archangel Michael). To the left is the St. Gabriel, who presents to the Divine Infant the cross and the nails. Above him are the Greek letters O AP T (The Archangel Gabriel). The faces of the Virgin and Child are amiable indeed, but stamped with an expression of deep sadness. The eyes of the Virgin Mother are turned upon the beholder, with a sad and reproachful expression, which seems to say: Cease to offend my divine Child, and I will be to you a Mother of Perpetual Succour.

The picture is the work of a devout and skilful master. The style is Grecian, and, according to the best judges, it must have been painted in the 13th or 14th century.

Historical account of the Picture.—The picture of Our Blessed Lady of Perpetual Succour, of which many copies are now venerated throughout the whole world, was brought from the island of Crete to Rome in the 15th century.

It remained for some time in a private house, until, by a special interposition of Divine Providence, it was publicly, and with great solemnity, placed in the Church of St. Matthew, under the care of the Augustinian Fathers, on the 27th March 1449.

From that time until the Church of St. Matthew was destroyed, during the occupation of Rome by the French, between the years 1809-15, it was ranked amongst the miraculous pictures of our Blessed Lady, for which the Eternal City is so renowned. So many and great were the miracles and graces which Almighty God was pleased to grant, through the intercession of His Divine Mother, to those who invoked her aid under the title of Perpetual Succour, or of the Madonna of St. Matthew, as she was popularly called, that the Church of St. Matthew became one of the chief places of pilgrimage, and a true sanctuary of Mary.

Upon the destruction of this church, the Augustinian Fathers removed to a small church in another quarter of Rome, and the once famous picture remained for nearly sixty years, hidden and unknown, in a private oratory in their convent.

Its history, indeed, had been recorded by many writers, but their works were not generally known; and, as time went on, the devotion to our Blessed Lady of Perpetual Succour and her picture which had been the channel of so many graces for three hundred years, was forgotten.

It was, however, the will of Almighty God and his Blessed Mother that this devotion should be revived, and that the holy picture should be once more venerated by the faithful.

On the 11th December, 1865, our Holy Father, Pius IX., was pleased to order that the sacred picture should be publicly exposed in the Church of St. Alphonsus in Rome belonging to the Redemptorist Fathers, and which stands almost on the spot formerly occupied by that of St. Matthew.

This was done with the greatest solemnity on the 26th of April 1866, and on the 5th of May following his Holiness came to the church to visit the holy picture.

From that time the devotion to our Lady of Perpetual Succour has continued to spread more and more in the holy city, and in various parts of the Continent. Innumerable engravings of the picture have been printed and distributed in Rome alone. Up to the beginning of 1882, about eight hundred copies had been demanded by Bishops, priests and others, numbers of which are now exposed to the devotion of the faithful in Austria, France, Germany, Spain, Belgium, Holland, England, Scotland, Ireland, Switzerland, Poland, Denmark, and Norway; the United States, Canada, the Republics of Mexico, Ecuador, and Chili; in Palestine; in Japan; and, lastly in Australia.

It is also worthy of mention that, in the island of Crete or Candia, from which the original picture was brought, his lordship the Bishop,

Monsignor Aloysius Cannavo, has procured two copies for public veneration in the towns of Candia and Cania.

So great and striking were the graces, spiritual and corporal, obtained by those who visited the Church of St. Alphonsus in Rome, and there invoked our Lady of Perpetual Succour, that, at the general desire of the devoted clients of Mary, the seven parish priests, and the most distinguished inhabitants of that quarter of Rome in which this church is situated, petitioned the Chapter of St. Peter's to crown the holy picture, a mark of distinction conferred only on those pictures and statues in Rome which are celebrated for their antiquity and miraculous graces.

The coronation took place on Sunday, the 23rd June 1867, at the very time when the centenary festival of the holy Apostles had brought to Rome nearly five hundred Bishops, and a multitude of priests, and faithful from all parts of the world.

The solemnities of the coronation and the public procession of the sacred picture were attended by numbers of these; and in this way Almighty God has been pleased to extend the knowledge and efficacy of the devotion of our Lady of Perpetual Succour in all those countries from which these venerable and pious pilgrims had come.

No day has passed since the coronation which has not drawn new clients to our Lady of Perpetual Succour. And now, ten years after the restoration of the sacred picture, so wide-spread has the devotion of the faithful become, that our Holy Father, Pius IX., by decrees dated 18th May and 1st June 1876, grants:

1. Proper Office and Mass to be said in honour of our Lady of Perpetual Succour in the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer.
2. He raises the Feast to be a double of the second class.
3. In memory of the solemn coronation of the picture, he appoints the Feast to be kept on the Sunday before the Nativity of St. John the Baptist.

In fine, his Holiness has been graciously pleased to make the 'Pious Union,' already established in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour and St. Alphonsus, an *Arch-confraternity*. The most Rev. Father General of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer is Director of this Arch-confraternity, and he has power to aggregate other confraternities to it, and to communicate to their members the faculties, graces, and indulgences which have been granted to the Arch-confraternity.

This, then, is a brief notice of the holy picture of Our Lady under the consoling title of Perpetual Succour.

Who is there that is not in need of succour every moment of his life? And when has there been a time in which Divine succour was more needed by the Holy Church, by the Vicar of its Divine Head, and by all the faithful, than at the present?

It is a time for perpetual unwearying prayer for perpetual and unfailing help.

Those who feel this—and who is the Catholic that does not feel it?—need not be urged to fly for succour to her who is the channel of all graces.

For themselves, for the Holy Church, for the Sovereign Pontiff, for his faithful children in Rome and throughout the world, and for his enemies, they will, with confidence, invoke the Immaculate Mother, and will not weary in repeating again and again, 'O Blessed Lady of Perpetual Succour, pray for us now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.'

"BUCHU-PAIBA."—Quick, complete cure all annoying Kidney Bladder, and Urinary Diseases. At chemists and druggists. Kempthorne, Prosser and Co., agents, Dunedin.

According to the official report of the General of the Society of Jesus, lately issued, this Order is now 350 years old; has furnished 240 saints, 1,500 martyrs, 13 Popes, 60 Cardinals, 4,000 Archbishops, 6,000 authors, and now numbers 2,500 missionaries.

A Dundee journal the other day gave an interesting sketch of the life of Lady Florence Dixie. It states that the well-known lady is thirty years of age, and that during the Fenian movement she "threw herself on the side of the struggling nationality, and has ever since loyally and consistently advocated the right of Ireland to a native Parliament." She is well known in the literary, political, and sporting worlds, says the writer of the sketch, who claims her to be the first lady war correspondent, having acted for the *Morning Post* during the Boer War. She is now advocating Home Rule for Scotland in letters addressed to a journal in the North.

According to telegrams received from Warsaw, the Russian Government has closed the Catholic church at Brest-Litewski, thus depriving 20,000 souls of the means of attending Divine service. In the neighbourhood of Stuck two other Catholic churches have been closed. It is further announced that the Government has decided to transfer the Protestant theological faculty of Dorpat to St. Petersburg, the better to check the progress of Protestantism in the Russian dominions.

As regards wealth the United States ranks first among the nations of the world. In revenue France, Great Britain and Ireland and Germany are ahead of her, placing this country fourth. In expenditure she ranks eighth. In the amount of debt, France the United Kingdom, Russia and Italy are far ahead of this country. In regard to commerce only three nations, the United Kingdom, Germany and France are ahead of us. The United States have more miles of railroad and telegraph lines than any other nation, and the value of American manufactures is greater than that of any other nation. The army of the United States, if placed on a war footing, would be excelled in numbers by only one nation in the world, France. On the peace footing the army of this country ranks below Russia, Italy, China, France, Germany, Austria, India, the United Kingdom, Turkey, Spain, Switzerland, Holland, Mexico, Belgium, Sweden, Japan, Denmark, Portugal, the Dutch East Indies and Persia. This by a singular anomaly, the richest country in the world, keeps a smaller standing army than the Dutch East Indies and many impoverished and unimportant countries. She has no effective coast fortifications, and only three modern ships of war.—*New York Tribune.*