

ented at the blasphemous and impious ceremonies was the Evangelical Society of Berlin. A ceremony of a different kind, but one very proper to the occasion, was the inauguration made on the same day, in the church of St. Silvester in capite, of the Confraternity of Expiation. The Pope has received from the Catholic world 60,000 messages of condolence and sympathy.

The medal struck this year as usual on the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul commemorates the restoration by the Holy Father of the cloister of St. John Lateran. This work which was begun by Pope Pius IX, has been completed by Leo XIII. It has been carried out in a manner consistent with the splendour which has always been a feature of the basilica. A bas-relief of the portico is represented on one side of the medal, the profile of the Holy Father occupying the other.

M. Henri Lasserre, who had been for some time a visitor to Rome, has just returned to France. He takes back with him permission for another edition of his translation of the Gospels, which had been recently condemned by the Congregation of the Index. It may be remembered that the condemnation of this work was hailed by a portion of the non-Catholic world as a proof of Rome's fear and hatred of Holy Writ, the fact being that the translation contained many glaring errors. An *erratum* will be added in the new edition. For those who respect M. Lasserre, and appreciate his works, as most educated Catholics do, it is pleasant news to hear that he has been able so satisfactorily to arrange a matter which must have cost him a great deal of anxiety and chagrin.

The Vatican Museum has been enriched by the addition of the ancient reliquary presented as a jubilee offering to the Pope by Cardinal Lavigerie. It was found among the ruins of an ancient basilica in Numidia, and has been pronounced by De Rossi, the famous archæologist, to date from the fifth or sixth century. It is of solid silver, and beautifully adorned with symbolic tracery. De Rossi further gives his opinion that it had contained the relics of some martyr. The style of the work is Byzantine.

One of the facts worthy of being recorded and kept in active memory for continual use, with regard to the erection—among diabolical surroundings—of the statue of Giordano Bruno, is that a sum of £12,000 was subscribed by the Freemasons for the purpose. One hundred and fifty Masonic banners, moreover, were carried in company with that which bore the device of Satan overthrowing the Church. This is a fact that should be, to Catholics at least, a sufficient warning as to the true nature of Masonry.

The Pope has conferred the cross *pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* on the Princess Clementine, mother of Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria in recognition of the labours undertaken by her in her son's principality for the support and propagation of the Catholic religion. The work done in this direction by the Princess is the more meritorious since it subjects her to the enmity of Russia, whose interest it is to encourage the Russo-Greek Church only in the country alluded to. The Princess is said to be extremely popular among the Bulgarians, which must further her efforts among them for the advancement of the Catholic religion.

Nothing but evil continues to be reported concerning the financial condition of Italy. The indebtedness of the city of Rome itself is enormous. As a proof of the general state of misery that prevails the fact may be taken that the number of applicants for sixty small Government places, hardly yielding a support above the level of starvation, recently vacant, was ten thousand. Suicide also, as a means of escape from wretchedness, is largely on the increase.

Signor Crispi has made a virulent attack in the Senate on Cardinal Lavigerie. In speaking of Catholic schools in the East, which the Italian Franciscans had refused to make an agency of his policy, and for which he had made a vain attempt to substitute secular schools, he denounced the Cardinal as a political agent of France, and found an excessive grievance in his obtaining aid in Italy for carrying on his crusade against African slavery. It is, however, hardly so much jealousy of France as a desire to thwart an illustrious ecclesiastic in an undertaking that must bring additional glory to the Church and make the Catholic religion more respected in all civilised countries that actuates Signor Crispi. His motives are not difficult to discern.

A protest was made by the Catholics of Rome on St. Peter and St. Paul's day against the profane and infamous demonstration that took place on Whit Sunday. It assumed the shape of an attendance at St. Peter's, where alone of all the churches in Rome Benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament was given. The Catholic life of the city was never more evident. Streams of people poured through the streets into the piazza and the great church was thronged. Cardinal Monaco La Valletta officiated. The *Tantum Ergo* which was intoned without accompaniment by the immense congregation was overpowering in its effect. In the evening the façades of the churches, the Catholic colleges, and many private houses, were illuminated.

The efforts made to bias the Pope against Ireland have resulted in finally inducing his Holiness to make up his mind to a very contrary effect. He has declared that in future when any Irish question demands his special attention, he will consult not only the hierarchy in Ireland, but also that in America and Australia. The Holy Father evidently sees the unity of the Irish race and recognises in all its significance the greater Ireland. This fact is a full guarantee against anti-Irish intrigue at Rome.

The sudden summoning by the Pope of a secret consistory on June 30, caused great alarm. The Italian Government were

principally affected, and still remain in anxious doubt as to what decisions were arrived at. The allocution delivered on the occasion by the Pope had special reference to the enormities of the Bruno demonstration, and complained of the position occupied by his Holiness as unendurable and unsafe. But nothing has transpired as to the resolutions adopted respecting the Holy Father's action. Report speaks of a decision formed to leave Rome—at least on the outbreak of war. But the matter for the time must remain uncertain.

ODDS AND ENDS OF FASHION.

DEAR ELSIE,—The latest announcement of the Americo-European matrimonial market is the engagement of Miss Gwendolin Caldwell to the Prince Joachim Murat, grandson of the famous Marshal and sometime King of Naples, and of Caroline Bonaparte. It is hard to believe that Miss Caldwell has been dazzled by rank and title. Better things might have been expected from a young lady who had given such a proof of a superior mind as that given by Miss Caldwell in the princely donation made by her a few years ago towards the foundation of the Catholic University at Washington. She and her two sisters, you know, were joint heiresses of the late Mr. Shakespeare Caldwell, of Virginia, who left a fortune of somewhere about a million of money. Prince Joachim Murat, who has the reputation of being a spendthrift, will form a striking contrast to his wife's father. She will be the Prince's second wife, by the way, his first having been a daughter of the Duke of Wagram, and three of whose children survive her. All of them are married and settled in life. But the Prince is ever so much older than Miss Caldwell. He was born at New Jersey, where his father had taken refuge on the overthrow of the First Empire, and his mother was an American—by name Miss Caroline Kraser. He was brought to Europe in 1849, when the tide of fortune had set in favour of Prince Louis Napoleon—afterwards the Emperor Napoleon III, and he was then fifteen years old. Miss Caldwell is in her 26th year; so you may calculate the exact disparity in the ages. It is, nevertheless, to be concluded that the match is one of mutual affection. In matters of this kind they say, and we must admit, dear, with some appearance of truth, that the common sense of no woman is to be relied on.—By the way, a fashionable wedding that has actually occurred is that of Mr. John V. Dahlgren, son of the late Admiral Dahlgren, U.S.N., to Miss Elizabeth Drexel, daughter of the late Mr. Joseph Drexel, of New York. The wedding dress is said to have cost £1000. It was of rich white satin, trimmed with point d' Alençon of a fabulous age and immense value. Besides sprays of orange blossoms fastened with diamond pins, a tiara of diamonds was worn over the rich lace veil. The four bridesmaids wore dresses of white moiré and point d'esprit lace, white felt hats with ostrich feathers, and carried crêpe de lisse fans. The presents were magnificent and of great price. But do you think the betrothal ring given by Luther to Catherine von Bora—was a lucky gift to be presented by a Catholic bridegroom to his bride? They say this ring had been for more than two hundred years an heirloom in the Dahlgren family. The family museum and there the jar of some pickled snake, or the hand of some heathen mummy, would, I should think, be a fitter place for it than the finger of the bride. But Mr. Dahlgren included it among the bridal gifts. *Absit omen*, as people who talk Latin say.—The wedding-dress of the lovely Lady Cynthia Duncombe, daughter of Lord Feverham, and sister of the equally lovely Duchess of Leinster, the other day, was somewhat of a departure from the ordinary rule. It was of white and gold brocade, over white silk muslin and white satin. The fastening of the veil, was, to match the dress, of gold. The bridegroom was Sir Richard Graham, of Netherby, who is brother of the Duchess of Montrose,—that is the younger Duchess—not the old lady, famous as "Mr. Manton" on the turf, and otherwise known as "Bob," who, a year or two ago married a man quite young enough to be her grandson. But then perhaps her Grace was of an opinion once expressed by a French lady of her rank, who declared that for a *bourgeois* a duchess should never be more than thirty years old. The youth whom she married was a commoner.

The engagement of the Princess Louise of Wales to Lord Fife has given rise to all kinds of gossip. It is said the Ministry have recommended Her Majesty to insist on the renunciation by the Princess of her right of succession. As it is, should the deaths of the Princes Albert Victor and George occur, her Royal Highness would be heiress presumptive to the crown of England, and it would never do for a subject to occupy the place of consort of a reigning queen, or to be father of a future king. The marriage is regarded as Morganatic, and it is urged that the usual rule followed when there is any possibility of accession to the throne should be observed, and all rights regularly renounced. Marriages of consanguinity, so common in the Royal Family, can hardly be said to have an exception in that alluded to. Lord Fife is grandson, on his mother's side, of the Countess of Errol who was a member of the FitzClarence family. It is said in some quarters that his Lordship is the lineal descendant of the Macduff of Shakespeare, but elsewhere this descent is denied, and a much less ancient origin assigned to the House. The Earl is much older than the Princess, being in his fortieth year, while she is only twenty-two. He has long been on intimate terms with the Prince of Wales and his family, and passes for a sufficiently good fellow, being also a fair landlord. It is said that the engagement was formed between the couple, the other day at Ascot. Stories are told of a horror entertained by the Princess towards German princelings, such as it has commonly been the fate of the Royal damsels of England to wed, but this horror does not seem to extend to the sisters of her Royal Highness, of whom it is said the one is to marry the Landgrave of Hesse, and the other the Hereditary Prince of Hohenzollern Langenburg. Another rumour is to the effect that the Royal family were lately much annoyed and disappointed at the match made by the German Emperor for a sister of his wife with Prince Frederick Leopold of Prussia, a man of great wealth, for, after all, there are German princesses who are not the paupers that the whole race are regarded, with some reason, in England as being. It is said Prince