

San Francisco Mail News

[From our Exchanges.]

POPE LEO XIII. has addressed to Cardinal de Luca, Bishop of Preneste and Prefect of the Congregation of Studies, a very important letter, which is supplementary to his recent Encyclical on the philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas, and practically gives effect to its teaching by taking measures which will secure the diffusion of St. Thomas' works and their spirit throughout all the schools of the Christian world. These practical measures include first the teaching of the Thomistic philosophy in all the great schools of Rome immediately under the direction of the Pope; secondly, the establishment of a Thomistic academy, and thirdly, the republication of the complete works of St. Thomas Aquinas in an edition which will rival that of St. Pius V., and also the republication of the principal Commentaries on Aquinas, as those of Cajetan, Ferrari and Del Vio.

The Rome correspondent of the *Pilot* writes:—It is reported that His Holiness Leo XIII. is studying the method of turning the Vatican Archives to the best account. He desires to place them in the position for which they are so admirably adapted, and to put them, as much as possible, in the way of being advantageous to historical science. With this object in view, a brief will shortly be issued, in which, amongst other dispositions, the plan of a school of Paleography, or the study of ancient writings and documents, and of Pontifical Diplomacy, will be laid down. This resolution of the Pontiff is well calculated to promote seriously the study of historical science so finely illustrated by the Vatican Archives, which contain copious and valuable treasures hitherto unknown to the literary world. Much also is hoped from the fact that Cardinal Hergenrother, one of the most learned members of the Sacred College, is the present director of the Vatican Archives.

The "Society of Atheists" in Venice wrote to Garibaldi to ask him to become their Honorary President. The General replied:—"I willingly accept the office of Honorary President to the Atheist Society." It is rumoured that Garibaldi intends to visit Sicily to stir up the Republicans, and afterwards to return to Rome to solicit the King to pass an extraordinary decree to legitimize his natural children, as the courts refuse to grant him a divorce from his wife.

Emigration to America from the neighbourhood of Genoa is going on. On October 3 about 1000 persons embarked at that port, and on October 5, 1200.

The special Rome correspondent of the *Pilot*, writing on Oct. 12, says:—A criminal trial now in progress at the Court of Assizes attracts the attention of all Rome. A circus rider named Cardinali is charged with the assassination of a Captain Faddo, of the Italian Army. The aim of the assassin was to marry the widow of the captain; and this woman, with a go-between named Antonietta Carozza, and circus-rider in Cardinali's circus, is charged with being an accomplice in the crime. The revelations made in the examinations of the witnesses are of the most horrible description. They form a tissue of immoral relations expressed in the foulest language, and intrigues of the lowest and most brutal character. The evidence of the witnesses is of a nature only fitted to be heard by judge and jury in secret. Yet, women who are termed ladies on account of their position, go to the court every day and bring their daughters with them, to listen to these most revolting details. They sit there daily, in tribunes something like theatrical boxes, from nine in the morning until 5 in the afternoon. There is laughter at the more disgusting details, and if some very piquant revelations are not forthcoming, these wives of some of the richest Roman merchants express their annoyance in unmistakable terms. Those to whom the Court refuses admission pore over all the nastiness of the evidence in the daily journals, one of which is occupied every day with reports of this trial. These women are furnishing a fine specimen of modern Roman gentleness and civilization.

A cablegram of Oct. 21, from Dublin, says:—A private conference of tenant farmers was held here to-day. The thirty-two Irish counties sent delegates. Cork and Maryborough, Galway and Ensiscothy, Ballinrobe in the County of Mayo, Tipperary and Sligo were particularly strongly represented. Mr. Parnell, M.P., was present. The conference was held for the purpose of forming an Irish land league which should compass two main objects, the first being the reduction of rack rents, the second that occupiers of land might have facilities for obtaining the ownership of it. Mr. Parnell was unanimously elected President. Long discussions ensued, the sense of the meeting being that the time was gone when landlords could be asked to abate their rents; that the people who tilled the soil had a right to live on it; and that even if a general abatement of rents were made, this would avail little without security of tenure. The charges of Rorism brought against the movement by opposition journals were indignantly refuted; and the sending of "coffin notices," and all violent measures, deplored. A letter was read from Major O'Gorman, M.P., of which the writer declared before Almighty God that the Irish had more cause for violence than had the French in 1789. Finally, it was determined to draw the counties together into a solid organization during the coming winter, and thus defend the farmers against those threats of eviction which now hung over them. Resolutions were passed inviting Mr. Parnell to proceed to America, and there win the sympathies of the Irish for their afflicted fellow-countrymen.

Protestantism in Ireland, like the crab, is, it seems, progressing backwards. The Endowed Schools Commissioners are now holding an inquiry at Dublin. The evidence given on Tuesday principally referred to the Protestant Diocesan Schools in Elphin. It was stated that twenty-five years ago the Protestants in Sligo had three good schools, at which they could receive a good education; but that they had only one now, and it would be soon closed.

This is really too good. There has been an enquiry as to the late riots in Lurgan. In Ireland it is generally believed, and not without good cause, that the magistrates of the north of Ireland are, as a rule, such bigoted partizans that it is next to impossible they can

dispense even-handed justice in the case of an accused person who is a Catholic. This is one of the things that had to be inquired into. Who, think you, have been the persons called upon to give evidence that such was not the case? The very magistrates whose justice has been called into question. For instance, the chairman of the Town Commissioners, and Lord Lurgan's agent, by-the-by, stated that he had been a magistrate for forty years, and had never seen the slightest shadow of party feeling shown by the local magistrates. Of course not. Bigotry and prejudice are blind—far blinder than justice is said to be. What a farce of an enquiry! As this has evidently been a Protestant inquiry in a Protestant district, why should not the Government institute a Catholic inquiry into the Lurgan riots, and let the inquisitors hold their sittings say in Dublin?

The outgoing Papal Nuncio, having been made a Cardinal during his tenure of office in France, was on Tuesday invested with the biretta by President Grévy, with the pomp and ceremony usual on such occasions. As Cardinal Meglia is not a member of the French episcopacy, the conferring of the biretta by the President of the Republic was not strictly necessary, and it may be assumed that M. Grévy being called on to do so was a graceful way on the part of Rome of acknowledging the temporal sovereignty of the Chief of the State in France, and to make a kind of public profession of the amicable relations existing between the Roman Curia and the French Republic. The new Cardinal was taken to the Elysée in a State carriage, escorted by Cuirassiers. A battalion of infantry with flag and band attended as a guard of honour. There was the usual Latin speech from the ab-legate, and the not less usual exchange of complimentary speeches between the new Cardinal and M. Grévy. All the distinguished parties concerned in the ceremony subsequently lunched together, for President Grévy is ever mindful of what his duties are in the dispensation of State hospitality. A small crowd stood gaping at the gates of the Elysée while the ceremony was going on.

Persecution may be all very well in Prussia, where two-thirds of the people are Protestants, but it won't do in Catholic France. M. Jules Ferry has no luck at all with his bill for the suppression of the Jesuits. Marseilles is the most Radical of all cities of France, and the Municipal Council were asked of late to sign an address of confidence to M. Jules Ferry. Strange to say, four of the municipal councillors, viz., MM. Montricher, Raband, Rouffo and Schlessing, all of them Protestants, refused to sign the address, and so the plan had to be given up. In exactly the same way, the persecuting policy is being defeated elsewhere by the people themselves. In Paris, the municipality had disendowed twenty-four schools of the Christian Brothers, and had put secular teachers in their places. The brothers set up new schools, which are now filled to overflowing, whereas those schools from which they had been turned out are almost empty. On the whole, the French people begin to protest by their actions against the persecuting spirit that animates their government, and this is the first step on the road to a healthful reaction.

In the Catholic Jura which, by the superior wisdom of European diplomatists, was annexed to the Protestant canton of Berne in 1815, the people have been constantly kept in a state of exasperation for the last six years. Their priests have been outlawed and a disreputable set of ecclesiastical rogues and vagabonds, the offal of all seminaries of Western Europe, have been put into their places. The Catholic people themselves have been compelled to leave their churches in the hands of those renegades and worship God as best they might in barns and sheds, very much as the people of Ireland had to do in the days of the tyrant Cromwell. A movement is now going on throughout the Jura to separate that district from Berne and constitute it into a separate canton. Similar secessions had previously taken place in the cantons of Basle and Appenzell, and the movement will certainly be supported by the entire Catholic population of Switzerland. When this is done the Jura will be able to breathe freely once more.

The Marquis of Bute has done a thing which calls to mind the good days of Catholic England, when religion was paramount above all other matters of daily life, and when the highest in the land vied with each other in doing service to the Church. The noble marquis has prepared a translation—which has engaged nine years of his life of the Catholic Breviary, and his object in publishing it is "to open to the English reader the whole of the prayers of the Church," and "more especially to converts." A very important service, truly, and one that will render the name of the present Lord Bute everlastingly respected and esteemed. It is to be hoped that cheap editions of his lordship's eminently valuable and useful volume will be published, so that it may be brought within the reach of all.

The menace of article 7 of the Government Education Bill, which hangs over the schools under religious direction, has not reduced the number of pupils in them. The Jesuit College in the Rue de Madrid, Paris, will re-open with 100 more than last year. Accounts from the departments state that the threatened establishments recommence the scholastic year under most prosperous conditions, and congregationist primary schools in Paris, founded since the expulsion of the teachers from the municipal buildings, are filling rapidly.

The Honourable Margaret Mary Petre, who was lately professed a nun of the Good Shepherd, at Hammersmith, is the third daughter of Lord and Lady Petre, and is twenty-nine years of age. Her eldest sister is the Countess of Granard, and she has five sisters who are younger than she. Her eldest brother is the well-known Father Petre, who, by the way, will one day be the first Catholic priest for many generations entitled to a seat in the House of Lords. The motto of the Petres is "Nothing without God," and it has received in the actions of members of the family a noble exemplification.

The union of England, Germany, and Austria makes a strong power, if it could be relied on for offence and defence. But its natural result is to compel a junction of France, Russia, Italy, Turkey, and probably Spain. The latter union is immediately the stronger. England's weakness is India, and neither Austria nor Germany could assist her there. Germany dare not move in Europe for fear of France, nor Austria for fear of Italy, which has now an enormous organization of 2,000,000 soldiers. England has a losing game on the world's chess-board.