

## VALUABLE DISCOVERY.

(Special Correspondent of the Pilot.)

ON the steep sides of the Simbrivian Hills, 26 miles beyond Tivoli and 4 from Rome, St. Benedict established his first monastery. This was the first home of the monks of the West. Its foundation dates back nearly 14 centuries. "Nothing can exceed the solemn grandeur of its situation, perched upon huge crags, and with the roaring river below. The monastery was founded in the 5th century by the Abbot Honoratus, the sainted successor of Benedict, and though repeatedly attacked and burnt by the Lombards, the Saracens, and by its own neighbours, it always rose again from its ashes more splendid than ever."

It is almost unnecessary to say that it, as all Benedictine Monasteries have been and are was a seat of learning. In 1464 the first printing-press in Italy was established here by Sweynheim and Pannartz, and the first book printed was "Lactantius de Divinis Institutionibus," a copy of which edition the monks will show you still in their great library.

And now, when the monks of this monastery are preparing to celebrate the 14th centenary of the birth of St. Benedict, their patron and founder, a valuable collection of ancient codices are brought to light by one of the fathers. The Rev. Dom Paolino Manciana, a Cassinese Benedictine, after long and patient research, has had his labours crowned with success; and amongst other codices has some of St. Thomas Aquinas written by the Saint's own hand. Among the autographs are the following:—

1. Various works of St. Isadore, Augustine, Jerome, Bernard, Anselm of Canterbury, Cassian, Pseudo-Dionysius, Radberto, Bonaventure, etc.

2. A complete course of Lenten Sermons, a valuable unpublished work on the "Casa spirituale," and the other work published, *De articulis fidei et Sacramentis Ecclesie ad Episcopum Panoramitanum*.

3. Many *Questiones disputatae*, of which three are unpublished. Of these three the first two concern the immortality of the rational soul.

Amongst the codices of the Holy Doctor annotated and discovered recently by the diligence of this Benedictine Father, are found:—

1. About a thousand sermons or collations *De tempore et de Sanctis*. Many of these are written throughout as they were recited or dictated by the Holy Doctor, others are only dictated or reported in brief by his disciples, amongst whom those best remembered are Fra Pietra da Andria and Fra Reginaldo, to whom learning owes several of the works of St. Thomas which are already in circulation.

2. Very many *collations*, or reasonings of the Angelic Doctor to the students of the Sorbonne, according to the custom of those times, a custom introduced by St. Thomas's master Albertus Magnus. These *collations* are a real treasure of wisdom. The Saint reasons therein according to his mode with that clearness of idea and facility of discourse which are admired in all the works produced by that mighty intellect. Every discourse may be justly described as a perfect treatise on doctrine and Christian morals.

3. Amongst the codices annotated by the Saint are found also the *Glossae super Evangelium Lucae* which formed part of a work of his heretofore unknown, and which was composed by him before the *Catena aurea*; there are found here also the codex of the *Catena aurea* itself, and a commentary of St. Thomas on the Epistles of St. Paul, amongst which is that addressed to the Romans.

Amongst other codices, recently discovered by the illustrious Manciana, not annotated by St. Thomas but contemporary with him, are those containing some of his works previously unpublished, as for example, two complete Lenten Courses marvellous for the profound and most extensive learning which the Holy Doctor spread with full hands on various subjects.

The authenticity of these precious codices has been unanimously recognised by the most illustrious paleographers, amongst whom it suffices to mention the Abbe Uccelli. The handwritings of the Holy Doctor, existing in the codices recently discovered, were photographed, and, on being confronted with other autographs from the same hand existing in the Library of the Vatican, in the National Library of Naples and in the Monte Casino Archives, were recognised as being perfectly alike.

At the expense of the Benedictine Monks an album has been formed containing the photographic reproduction of the autograph annotations made by Saint Thomas in the famous Bible of Viterbo.

This valuable collection will be presented to the Holy Father on Sunday March 7th at the grand audience to be given on that day to the Catholic philosophers and scientists of the world.

It is furthermore announced that the monks of the Abbey of Monte Cassino will publish within a short space of time the sermons and unpublished works of the great doctor which have recently been discovered in the Archives of Subiaco. A Roman journal commenting on these facts remarks:—We have no need of many words to praise the labours of the illustrious discoverer. The service which he has rendered to science is of such a nature as to win applause even from his very enemies, and from those who so wrongly declaim about the ignorance and idleness of the monks. This is a service which adds a new glory to the well-deserving and illustrious Order of Monte Cassino which nobly follows the glorious traditions of its great founder, gathering in the silence of the cloister and diffusing throughout the world the treasures of science and of civilization.

P. L. CONNELLAN.

The Earl of Sandwich, who is the owner of the St. Holme estate, Huntingdon, has, in consequence of the serious floods which have occurred during the last two years, instructed his agents to intimate to the tenants of the estate that at the next rent audit he will return the whole of the last year's rent. His lordship has further intimated that the rental will be reduced in all cases, viz., from £2 5s. to £1 18s. per acre.

## LORD BEACONSFIELD MANIFESTO.

THE most important electioneering manifesto which has been issued is that of the Prime Minister addressed in the form of a letter to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. Beneath its pompous phrases the artful purpose is transparent of appealing to whatever of anti-Irish prejudice may exist in English constituencies for support on the ground that the present Government alone is able to prevent Ireland from severing "the constitutional tie which unites it to Great Britain in that bond which has favoured the power and prosperity of both." Lord Beaconsfield hopes that "all men of light and leading will resist this destructive doctrine." The men of light and leading appealed to, we suppose, are the English electors, who, it is hoped, thus flattered by the Prime Minister, may return an overwhelming majority of staunch and bigoted Tories, able to set the demands of the Irish party on all Irish or Catholic parties at defiance. Lord Beaconsfield, in his manifesto, then has a fling at the Liberals and their leaders, who, notoriously, in view of the coming elections, are nervously afraid of being supposed to favour the inquiry into the Home Rule question demanded, as a test of confidence, by Irish electors. Having proclaimed it as a first duty of an English Minister to maintain the unity and uphold the imperial character of this realm, Lord Beaconsfield exclaims:—

"And yet there are some who challenge the expediency of the imperial character of this realm. Having attempted, and failed, to enfeeble our colonies by their policy of decomposition, they may, perhaps, now recognise in the disintegration of the United Kingdom a mode which will not only accomplish, but precipitate their purpose. The immediate dissolution of Parliament will afford an opportunity to the nation to decide upon a course which will materially influence its future fortunes and shape its destiny. Rarely in this century has there been an occasion more critical. The power of England and the peace of Europe will largely depend on the verdict of the country."

Lord Beaconsfield afterwards declares that Her Majesty's ministers have succeeded in maintaining peace, and asserts that peace cannot be obtained by the passive principle of non-intervention, and the Prime Minister ends with the characteristic piece of bombast that "Peace rests on the presence, not to say the ascendancy, of England in the Councils of Europe." A judge for this bombastic manifesto!—*Universo*.

## MR. SULLIVAN, M.P., AND THE PRINCE IMPERIAL.

A COMMITTEE has been formed for the purpose of organizing a public protest against the proposal to place a memorial to Prince Louis Napoleon in Westminster Abbey. In reply to an invitation to act on the committee, Mr. A. M. Sullivan, M.P., has addressed to Mr. Nettleton the following letter:—

House of Commons, March 6, 1880.

Sir,—In reply to your letter of yesterday's date inviting my presence at a representative conference to organise a "protest against the proposed memorial to Louis Napoleon" in Westminster Abbey, I regret to find myself so strongly and completely opposed as I am on this subject to many gentlemen with whom I agree on most other public questions. Like most Irishmen I love France, but I am neither Bourbonist, Bonapartist, Orleanist, Communist nor Republican. The outburst of national emotion, in deference to which a site for this memorial to the Prince Imperial was granted in Westminster Abbey, was creditable to the sympathetic feeling and generosity of the British nation. Touched by the tragic circumstance of his untimely fate, and the heroic spirit of his last stand when so cruelly abandoned, the English people seemed unanimous in the demand that this tribute of sympathy should be paid to his memory. No political character attached to the proposition, and it is pitiable and pitiful that hateful political animosities and hatreds should now seek, as it were, to accomplish a triumph of insult over his ashes. No doubt Sir H. Lowe found some Englishmen to applaud him when he was heaping cowardly indignities on the head of the great uncle of this young Prince, and thought it quite a grand idea to style the victor of Austerlitz and Marengo "Monsieur Bonaparte." But the verdict of history, the voice of the world, has settled that issue, and has decreed eternal infamy to those who could thus meanly insult the helpless and unfortunate. This young Prince fell in the uniform and under the colours of England; a volunteer in the service of the country that had given his parents asylum and hospitality. Though I respect the chivalrous feeling which impelled his course of action, I deeply regret it, for the war in which he fell was one of the most unjust and wicked England ever waged. But the guilt and crime of that war must be on the heads of those whom England elects as a government, and who decree these aggressions, not on the brave soldiers who go where the national mandate sends them. Nothing more becomes a great nation than magnanimity. Your movement, doomed to fail, is only calculated to blur and mar the grace and generosity of an act which all the world will applaud, and which none will misunderstand.—Yours very truly, A. M. SULLIVAN.—Charles Nettleton, Esq.—

New York, March 26.—A check drawn by the Treasury Department to the order of William H. Vanderbilt for \$10,500,000, being three months' interest on \$1,050,000 of United States 4 per cent. bonds was paid through the Clearing House in this city yesterday. This represents an income of 3,450,000 a day, of 143,000 70 per hour (or nearly that), nearly 240,000 a minute, and of nearly 4 cents per second, sleeping and waking. It is, besides, only one of Vanderbilt's sources of revenue. This large investment in Government bonds was from the proceeds of his sale of 50,000,000 dols. New York Central stock. He has recently purchased a vast amount of real estate on Broadway and Fifth Avenue, and is now said to rank next to the Rothschilds in point of wealth. It is asserted by knowing ones that Vanderbilt is to day worth more than 130,000,000 dols.