

unalterably opposed to the doctrine that a workingman is merely a piece of machinery from which as much profit as possible is to be extracted and when worn out to be thrown aside as any other piece of mechanism that has survived its usefulness.

This species of social paganism, however much it may be endorsed by political economists, is so revolting to the Church that she had never lost an opportunity of condemning it in the strongest terms. Whilst she has ever recognised and defended the just claims of capital, she has never swerved one inch from the position she has taken in regard to the dignity of man as the child of God and the heir of Heaven. She has, therefore, a strong claim on the attention of wage-workers when she speaks on the Labour question. Speaking in her name, Leo XIII. reminds us that the solution of the Labour question lies in the observance of the great truths taught by the Gospel.

It has been well said that if the Sermon on the Mount were taken by all men as their guide in their dealings with their fellow-men society would be regenerated from top to bottom. In the synopsis of the Encyclical that has been published the Holy Father is represented as saying that "the true solution can be found in the Gospel, which, if rightly studied, would teach the employer and the employed to become united while fulfilling their respective duties."

The Holy Father, however, recognises that in the default of men taking the Gospel as their guide in right living something in the way of alleviating the hard lot of labour can be accomplished by legislation. He holds that the State should countenance all institutions that are likely to improve existing social conditions. In this connection he deals with the question of strikes, wages, and hours of labour for workmen, and speaks of the good results of working-men associations. The brief summary of the Encyclical that has been published shows that the head of the Catholic Church is in full sympathy with the legitimate efforts labour is making in all countries to improve its condition. The Encyclical cannot fail to be a timely and valuable aid to the solution of the great social problems that are imperiously demanding attention in all civilised lands.

FEARFUL EXPLOSION IN ROME.

(From a Special Correspondent of the Liverpool *Catholic Times*.)

EARLY on St. George's Day Rome became the scene of a catastrophe which was attended with the most disastrous consequences. Fortunately, the loss of life is small, but the damage done to property is enormous. At ten minutes past seven in the morning a severe shock was felt throughout the city. The earth trembled, buildings shook, and a tremendous report louder than thunder was heard. At the same moment windows were shattered in all directions. Women ran shrieking into the streets, and the noise caused by the breaking glass and the echoes of the report led everyone to believe that buildings were falling in every direction.

The confusion was indescribable. People in the churches found the windows falling about their ears. Priests saying Mass were surprised at the altar by a shower of glass and dust, while the general panic was increased by the fact that the origin of the disaster was unknown. Shortly, however, a thick column of smoke was perceived in the direction of Porto Portese, and it soon became known that an explosion had occurred at the Powder Magazine about three miles from the city walls.

The magazine was situated on the side of a hill well covered with vineyards and many buildings. When the powder was first stored there many remonstrances were made about the danger of having it so near the city. But the Government, bent on surrounding Rome with forts, persisted in their intention, and large quantities of cartridges were stored there.

Shortly before the explosion two soldiers on duty were warned by a captain of the approaching calamity. They escaped, but he was thrown down by the force of the shock and severely injured. He still lies in a precarious condition, but it is hoped that he will recover.

Many others in the neighbourhood were enabled by timely warning to escape, but the great anxiety was to save the boys at the Vigna Pia. This is a large agricultural school founded by Pius IX., for the purpose of instructing poor boys in agriculture and the care of vines. The greater part of the lads were told to run over the hill and get safely away. The youngest ones were gathered under a vault which the Brother in attendance thought the safest place in the case of an accident. So in the event it proved. The building was completely wrecked. The vault alone escaped, and the Brother had the satisfaction of saving his boys from anything worse than cuts from falling glass and some bruises. Others were not so fortunate. A poor Dominican friar was struck down in his garden and was carried away to die. In another place, from a mass of fallen masonry and timber, a hand was seen opening and shutting convulsively, mutely appealing for help. Every effort to rescue the unfortunate man was made, but debris continued to fall in as fast as it was cleared away and the task was a hopeless one. In every direction from the scene

of the explosion are ruined houses and other buildings, the walls of which, in most cases, alone remain.

In the first reports of the accident it was said that the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls had suffered considerably. The damage to the building was, however, confined to the facade, now in process of erection, and to the stained-glass windows in the nave, which are completely shattered.

Leaving the scene of the accident, the loss to property is less striking. Some factories near the Porta Portese had the tiles stripped off their roofs, and in many places the shutters and woodwork of the windows are torn away or shattered.

In the Trastevere nearly all the glass is broken, and some of the churches were closed for a short time. At St. George in Velabro, where the feast was being kept, the sprigs of box which it is here customary to strew in the churches on such occasions were mingled with the fragments of the church windows.

St. John Lateran has lost a great deal of glass inside the church as well as the windows.

St. Andrea delle Fratte has lost every pane of glass in the church and a great deal of the woodwork as well.

At the Gesu there was a second tragedy later in the day. A man who was mending the broken windows there fell from the ladder on to the marble pavement of the church and was killed.

There is probably not a church in Rome that has not lost its glass to some extent, but nowhere has the loss been so great as at the Vatican. The painted window on the Grand Staircase is a complete wreck. On the first staircase the enormous stained-glass windows representing St. Peter and Paul, which were the gift of the late King Maximilian of Bavaria to Pius IX. and which are familiar to every one who has visited Rome, are entirely ruined. The Loggia of Raphael lost nearly every pane, though the upper Loggia was almost uninjured. The whole Cortile of St. Damasus looks as if it had been bombarded. Even the clock has lost its face. The Pope's Library was laid open to wind and weather, though the room where the Holy Father was at the time was unharmed. But the Audience Chambers were so damaged that the audience which was to have been held on that day, and to which I was invited, had to be postponed. St. Peter's is in the same plight as the Vatican, while the Hall of the Beatification has had nearly all its panes swept away.

The entire extent of the damage is yet unknown. It is estimated already at enormous sums, while the question is being raised as to who is responsible.

The whole catastrophe is a warning as to surrounding a city of monuments such as Rome with such dangerous neighbours, and it is to be hoped the Italian Government will learn the lesson and evacuate the other magazines without further delay.

BODY-SNATCHING.

TORN FROM THE GRAVE.

AN Extraordinary Case has lately come under our notice. It appears that Mr H. A. Crane, who travels over this and the adjacent colonies in the interests of one of the largest importing firms in this city, and therefore is a well-known man all over the colonies, has lately been in very indifferent health. He had suffered from a severe shaking at the Windsor Railway Smash, and had been under the treatment of the best physicians in Melbourne and Sydney. The most troublesome symptom was Neuralgia, which was excruciatingly painful; he had been a sufferer from this complaint on and off for years, but since the accident he had suffered ten times worse than ever. He consulted physician after physician without benefit; they told him amongst them, he had every complaint from atrophy of the liver to heart disease. His case was so remarkable that we give his own version of it in his own words, considering that he has had a miraculous escape from acute suffering, if not from an untimely grave. He says:—

For the last seven years I have been a victim to the most excruciating agony from neuralgia, and also suffered from extreme nervousness. I tried hundreds of so-called specifics, but without avail, and, being a commercial traveller, am particularly liable to colds from exposure to draughts, etc.; a slight one even always fled to my facial nerves, and caused acute neuralgic pains, preventing sleep, and causing excessive sympathetic headache. I saw CLEMENTS' TONIC advertised, procured a bottle, and in two days the pain was completely cured, a consummation I had never expected, and am deeply thankful for same. This was four months ago, and from then till now I have never had the slightest twinge of the excruciating torture I used to have. You may make what use of this you like.

Yours gratefully,

HENRY A. CRANE.

We also received similar letters from T. Garrett, Esq., M.P., who says:—"He has found CLEMENTS' TONIC a great aid to appetite and digestion," and from Mrs Whalley, who was quite worn out, tired, weak and unable to move. She took seven bottles of CLEMENTS' TONIC, and now can eat, work, and sleep, and is stronger than ever before.

We could go on like this with evidence that proves the value of CLEMENTS' TONIC in acute diseases right down the column, and then for yards over the edge of the paper, so inexhaustible is our supply of influential and positive endorsement. We will send full particulars of the disease CLEMENTS' TONIC is suitable for on receipt of your name and address. F. M. CLEMENTS, NEWTOWN, SYDNEY