

Loss and Gain

While the Government officials (says the 'Catholic Times') are busy making their inventory of the spoil, the ecclesiastics may well ponder over the situation opened up by the Separation Law. It brings them some good. Their Bishops will now be appointed by the Pope alone; an enormous gain. And the Bishops will be free to leave France without the Government's permission. They will be able to publish their pastorals and decrees at will; to hold synods; and to travel beyond the limits of their diocese at pleasure. They will become free men, in a word. And that is no small gain; for they will thus be in a position to supervise and advance the interests of the Church. But, on the other side, they will be poor. And poor, too will be their clergy. Nor is it likely that the Government will allow the Separation Law so to work its effects as that the Church and the priests may derive much benefit from it. The local associations will not be permitted to become too active, and there are ominous threats that the priests are to be deprived of their rights of citizenship. Already it is being suggested in anti-clerical circles that the priests shall not be allowed either to vote or to teach. On the ground that they are subjected to obedience to what the Freemasons are pleased to call a foreign power, it is proposed that the clergy throughout France should be held incapable of exercising the franchise. And from many quarters comes the warning that, if the Separation Law proves too weak to muzzle the Church, its rigors should be increased and extended.

JAPAN—A New Cathedral

A Catholic Cathedral is to be erected at Tokio on a site given by the Mikado.

POLAND—A Papal Encyclical

The Pope has issued an Encyclical to the Bishops of Russian Poland, calling upon them to exhort the people to work steadily for the restoration of peace. The Holy Father cherishes sentiments of paternal affection for the entire Polish nation, and recalls the fact that the Poles were ever loyal to the Holy See. 'The massacre of the Jews is strongly condemned, and the Emperor is praised for his ukase conferring freedom on all the people of his dominions. The Pope promises to use his influence with the Czar and his Government for the religious and moral good of the Polish population.'

ROME—Cardinals Created

A secret Consistory was held at the Vatican on Monday, November 11. In his Allocution the Holy Father referred in the language of regret to the state of affairs in France, and said he would deliver his grave and solemn judgment in another form. Four new Cardinals have been created—Joseph Samassa, Archbishop of Erlau, aged 77; Monsignor Cagiano de Azevedo, Major-domo at the Vatican, aged 60; Marcello Spinola y Maestre, Archbishop of Seville, aged 70; and Joachim Arcoverde de Albuquerque Cavalcanti, Archbishop of Rio de Janeiro, aged 57. Episcopal appointments already announced were proclaimed, including those of the Co-adjutor Bishop of Leeds and the Auxiliary Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle.

The Apostolic Blessing

When receiving in audience the new Rector of the Irish College, Rome, Very Rev. Dr. O'Riordan, the Holy Father directed him to convey the Apostolic Blessing to the Bishop of Limerick and his clergy and people.

Norway and the Holy Father

King Haakon has sent an official notification of his accession to the throne of Norway to the Pope. Particular interest attaches to this act, and it is the first occasion on which the Vatican has been authoritatively recognised by Scandinavia since the era of the Reformation.

A Life of the Late Pope

Mr. Marion Crawford, the well known novelist, together with Count Edoardo Soderini and Professor Giuseppe Clementi, is compiling the life of Pope Leo XIII., from unpublished documents, which the late Pontiff entrusted to the Count before his death. The work will consist of four volumes, two of which will summarise the history of the Pontificate of Pius IX., and the whole four will, in the opinion of those who have read the documents, revolutionise the general feeling with regard to the attitude of the last two Popes towards the unity of Italy.

Codification of Canon Law

A Rome correspondent states that the codification of the Canon Law of the Catholic Church, which is now proceeding, is an enormous task, upon the prosecution of which his Holiness Pope Pius X. has set his heart. The work is one in which the whole Catholic Church is

deeply interested, as it affects the government of the Church in every country. It is not unlikely that the Vatican Council, which was prorogued thirty-five years ago, may be re-opened at the conclusion of the labors of the Pontifical Commission, so that the new ecclesiastical legislation may be read before the assembled Bishops of the Catholic world.

The Widow's Mite

The 'Tablet's' correspondent in Rome, writing on December 3, says:—Last Monday Father Brandi, editor of the 'Civiltà Cattolica,' made his fifth Calabrian visit to the Holy Father with over 80,000 francs in his inside pocket—a sum which brought the 'Civiltà' subscription to over 550,000 francs. The Pope was agreeably surprised, and as he took the printed list from the Jesuit to look over it he remarked: 'There must be some large offerings here to make such a fine total.' 'Yes, Holy Father,' replied the editor, 'but you will find that the largest offering is from a poor woman,' and he pointed at the foot of the page to the only letter which has been printed in connection with this very successful subscription—just a few lines from a parish priest to explain that the five pence enclosed reached him too late to be sent with the offering from his parish. It was from a poor woman who had been present in the church when the appeal was made but who had not even a penny to give. A couple of days later, however, she managed to earn half a franc, and at once hastened with it to the Parroco begging him to send it to the poor sufferers in Calabria. Thus her five pence came to figure in the 'Civiltà' list wedged in between sums of thousands and hundreds of francs. The Pope read the letter. 'Yes, Father,' he said, deeply touched, 'you are right; that is the greatest offering you have received, for it is the Widow's Mite over again.' Then he pulled open a drawer of his desk and took out a big silver medal struck in commemoration of the second year of his Pontificate, one of those usually presented every year to the Cardinals and the high officers of the Papal Court, and handed it to Father Brandi. 'Send this to her from me,' he said, 'and tell her that the Pope thanks her for her great generosity and sends her a warm blessing.'

SCOTLAND—Interesting Ceremony

In the large vestry of St. Andrew's Cathedral, Glasgow, on Sunday, December 3, a most interesting ceremony took place. Professor Philimore, the Greek professor at the Glasgow University, who recently joined the Catholic Church, and also a distinguished lady convert, received the Sacrament of Confirmation from the Most Rev. Dr. Maguire.

Papal Distinction

A distinguished mark of Papal favor has just been conferred upon a Scottish gentleman. Mr. Stuart A. Coats has been appointed Private Chamberlain to his Holiness Pope Pius X.

The Archdiocese of Glasgow

The archdiocese of Glasgow has 267 priests, 11 of whom are members of religious Orders. The latest annual return of baptisms (1904) is 13,771, and of Confirmations (1905) 8674. The children presented in religious examination (which is practically the average attendance at the Catholic elementary schools) were 54,400. The total estimated Catholic population of the archdiocese is about 380,000. Its schools number 109, with 152 departments. There are 87 missions or parishes, with 117 churches, chapels, and stations. The charitable institutions are 16.

SOUTH AFRICA—Church Progress

A hundred years ago—in 1805—Revs. Jaannes Lanskink, Jacobus Nelissen, and Lambertus Prinsen landed at Cape Town by permission of Commissioner General de Mist. They were the first priests who were permitted to celebrate Mass in South Africa. In the following year, when the Cape fell under British rule, they were expelled by the Governor, Sir David Baird. To-day the Catholics can point to five Vicariates and two Prefectures-Apostolic, one hundred and sixty-five churches and chapels, and two hundred and fifty-three priests.

UNITED STATES—Archbishop Ryan and the Jews

Archbishop Ryan, of Philadelphia, has contributed 500 dollars to a fund being collected for the Jews in Russia. In addition to sending his cheque, Archbishop Ryan issued an appeal for contributions to the fund.

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