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 Most Illustrious and Reverend Sir,
 Through your good offices, the Holy Father has lately received the first volume of the (illustrated) *Catholic Encyclopedia*, which is to be followed by fourteen other volumes. Quite apart from the rich binding especially prepared for his Holiness, and from the numerous remarkable illustrations which enhance the value of the work, and which charm the reader by their perfect artistic finish, the Holy Father notes with a special satisfaction the importance and practical utility of this new encyclopedic work. To collect and publish in a form so attractive for the English-speaking world where there are still so many non-Catholics, the magnificent and immortal achievements of the Catholic Church and her children in the domains of science, literature, and art cannot but be an enterprise eminently helpful and beneficent. Moreover, as the preface of the first volume explicitly states, the purpose of the work is to set forth the immense benefits conferred through the Catholic Church on mankind; not only by furthering moral and social development, but also by promoting civil, scientific, and artistic growth and progress. In conclusion, the Holy Father heartily congratulates the efficient editors and their collaborators on the first happy fruit of their labors; he encourages them to continue with zeal the great task to which they have set their hands, and as an earnest of his special good will he bestows on each of them his Apostolic benediction.

I avail myself of this welcome occasion to assure your Grace of my very profound esteem, etc., etc.

(Signed)

R. CARD. MERRY DEL VAL.

Rome, December 1, 1907.

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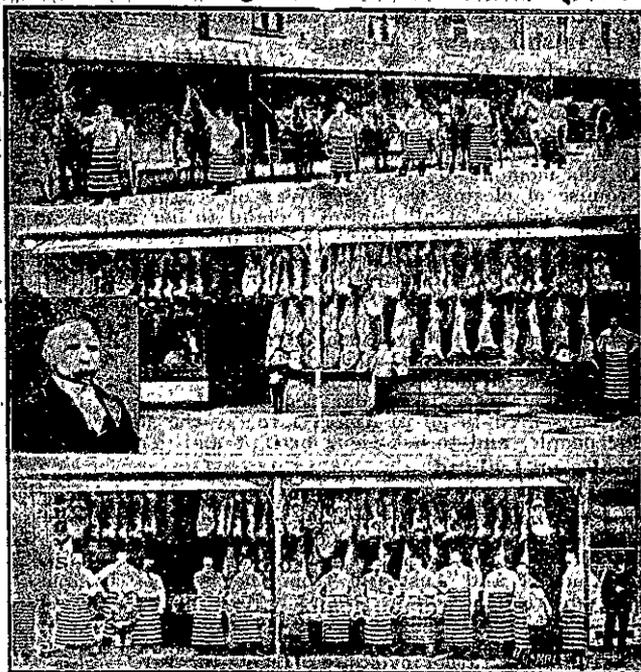
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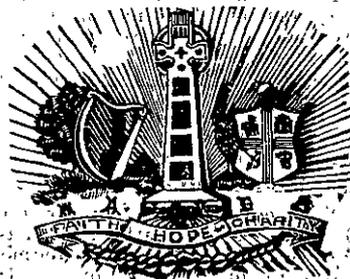
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