

followed by the hypocritical letter of VICTOR EMMANUEL to Pope PIUS IX. The Sardinian King declared that he addressed the Pope 'with the affection of a son, with the faith of a Catholic, and with the loyalty of a king.' He solemnly asseverated that he advanced with his troops 'for the safety of your Holiness.' And in due course he ordered General CADORNA to batter down the walls of Rome at the Porta Pia, and wrested the city and the surrounding territory by force of arms from the venerable old Pontiff whom he had a few weeks before professed to regard 'with the affection of a son.'

The 'regeneration' of 'United' Italy has not brought either liberty or prosperity to that distracted country. Even the decent semblance of liberty has been crushed by a military despotism. The Press is muzzled. Despite the wholesale confiscation of the property and endowments of the Church and of the patrimony left for the support of the poor, Italy is the most impoverished country in Europe. It is ever on the dizzy brink of national bankruptcy, and is taxed to an extent unknown in any other civilised country in the world. Every wage-earner is taxed, as MULHALL shows, to the extent of 20.4 per cent. of his total earnings, as against 11.2 per cent. in the United Kingdom, and 7.4 per cent. in Australia. Bread riots and brigandage are almost chronic over considerable areas of the country. From 1874 to 1883 some 12,000 peasant families were annually evicted and their property sold for the non-payment of an impossible tax. In an article which appeared some time ago in the *Fortnightly Review* the noted Anglican clergyman and writer, Rev. Mr. HAWES, stated that none of the Deputies or Ministers of 'United' Italy were above fraud; and he broadly describes the new régime as one of 'widespread robbery, bribery, and corruption, from the ticket-office to the National Bank.' According to MULHALL, 1,147,000 persons fled from 'regenerated' Italy in the years 1881-87. Later years show an enormous increase in the statistics of emigration. At the close of July, 1899, ex-Premier CRISPI, one of the 'regenerators,' felt himself constrained to confess that 'Italy is surely going to destruction.' And the well-known writer, Professor LOMBROSO, said, in the course of a letter to the *Tribuna*: 'The crater is ready to spit fire.' 'Editors and statesmen,' he added, 'do not dare to raise their voice for fear of arrest, and the people are cowed into temporary obedience by the military.'

In the census of 1881 the Pope was entered as a subject of the Italian Crown. His very palace and furniture are held in tenancy, the declared property of the State. The disgraceful onslaught made by organised sectaries on the corpse of PIUS IX. in the streets of Rome on July 12, 1881,—under the eyes of the Italian police, who made not the least attempt at effective interference—fully justified the remark made by the *London Times* in its issue of July 16 of the same year, 'that a living Pope may be excused if he does not trust to remaining in the Vatican, when they [the Italian Government] allow a dead Pope to be outraged in the streets of Rome by an insulting mob.' It has not been reserved for the Duke of NORFOLK to discover that the present position of the Pope in the Eternal City is one that cannot endure. Leading politicians of the Italian Revolution have themselves cried out for a settlement of the Roman question. The Marquis VISCONTI-VENOSTA—already mentioned in the course of this article—declared during the great hunger-riots of two years ago, that until what he calls 'the eternal Roman question' 'is settled we shall never have peace in Italy. At no time,' he adds, 'since the Italian troops entered Rome, has the Roman question so insistently demanded solution. To-day an agreement between the Quirinal and the Vatican is a question of life and death for the nation.' He then added the following significant remarks:—

Diplomacy has two ways of dealing with hostile nations. If they are weak, it tries to extinguish them. If they are too strong, it arranges an understanding. The Papacy cannot be extinguished. All the anti-Catholic persecutions of the last six years have been useless. The strength of the Papacy and of the Catholic party has waxed greater every day. Never was it so powerful as at this present moment. I consider the Vatican the real arbiter of the situation. We Italians must arrive at an arrangement with the Pope, even at the cost of a great sacrifice of our pride. If we do not, our nation is doomed in the near future to a terrible cataclysm, of which the recent riots have been the premonitory symptoms.

CAVOUR, the father of the Italian Revolution, saw enough of the results of his work to say: 'A treaty of religious peace in Italy would reach further into the future of human society than the Peace of Westphalia.' The solution of the Roman question put forward last year by one of the sons of GARIBALDI was a Federal Italian Republic under the presidency of the Vatican. But the plan that is most in the minds of men, and has been most discussed in newspapers, magazines, etc., postulates the independence of Rome, with a *circondario* or surrounding district, and of a port—say Civitavecchia—guaranteed to the Pope by Italy and the other Powers of Europe. Even this minimum *amende* for a great outrage would probably settle for ever a difficulty which is becoming year by year more acute, and which, coupled with the ruinous financial condition of Italy, can only accentuate internal discontent and blast the prospects of the peace and prosperity of that most distressful of European nations.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscribers are entreated to forward the amounts due by them at the earliest possible moment. The amounts due by individual subscribers are not considerable, but taken together they amount to a very large sum. The many calls that we have to meet make it imperative on us to greatly reduce the amount of indebtedness of our subscribers. We therefore ask those who have received accounts to wipe off their indebtedness to us before the close of the dying century. This will be a suitable mode of celebrating the parting of the nineteenth, and the beginning of the twentieth century.

MARIST BROTHERS' FUND.

We have received and duly forwarded to the Rev. Treasurer (Father O'Shea, Boucott street, Wellington) the following sums in aid of the fund being organised to reimburse the Marist Brothers, late of Stoke, the heavy financial outlay which they have been compelled to undergo in their necessary defence during the recent trials:—Mrs. Griffin, Railway Hotel, Nightcaps, £1 1s; Mr. Thomas Fox, Dunedin, 10s; and per Rev. Father Coffey the following amounts: Mr. John Donlan, Lawrence, £1; Mr. John Laffey, Court's Hotel, Dunedin, £1. We learn that the following amounts have also been received by the Rev. Treasurer: Hokitika parish, £12; Kaikoura, £9; Milton, £7 15s; Okato, £4 11s; Blenheim, £4; Hibernian Society, Christchurch, £2 2s.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

The work of strengthening the foundations of St. Joseph's Cathedral is progressing and will take some time to complete.

The Dunedin branch of the Hibernian Society, at their last meeting, voted £2 2s to the Marist Brothers' Defence Fund.

The Sisters of Mercy, South Dunedin, thankfully acknowledge receipt of the following sums in aid of St. Vincent de Paul's Orphanage: A Friend, Lawrence, £1; A Friend, 12s 6d.

A very successful bazaar took place in Queenstown last week for the purpose of extinguishing the debt on the handsome new church dedicated to St. Joseph, which forms so interesting a landmark in the pretty town on Lake Wakatipu.

The Rev. Father McCarthy, Inspector of Catholic Schools for the archdiocese of Melbourne, reached Dunedin on Friday last, via Sydney and Wellington, and left on the following afternoon by the Waikare on the trip to the West Coast Sounds.

The annual retreat of the clergy of the Diocese of Dunedin opens in Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, on next Monday at 8 p.m. The diocesan synod will be held on the following morning and the conference on the same day.

On Monday evening a meeting was held in St. Joseph's Hall for the purpose of making arrangements for the annual picnic of the children attending the four Catholic primary schools in Dunedin, South Dunedin, and North East Valley. Rev. Father Murphy, Adm., was in the chair and there was a good attendance. It was decided to hold the picnic at Evansdale on Wednesday, 6th February.

On Monday afternoon the members of the honorary medical staff and the officers of the Dunedin Hospital assembled in the library of that institution for the purpose of making presentations to Dr. O'Neill, house surgeon, prior to his departure for South Africa. There were present—Drs. Roberts, Gordon Macdonald, Colquhoun, Closs, Batchelor, Lindo Ferguson, Barnett, De Lautour, G. Brown, and Evans, Mr. A. Burns (secretary), Mr. Cook (assistant-house surgeon), Mr. G. Hoffman (dispenser), and Mr. P. Miller (chairman of the Hospital Trustees). The first presentation was made by Dr. Roberts, ex-chairman of the hospital staff. It consisted of a handsome and valuable field glass, and was accompanied by words of warm encomium on Dr. O'Neill and of the high estimation in which he is held by all who know him. In the course of his reply, Dr. O'Neill referred to the period of his stay in the Dunedin Hospital as the pleasantest of his life. The pleasure he had experienced while there was due to the very kind treatment he had received at the hands of the hospital staff. To one and all of