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PRIME 6D

MESSAGE OF POPE LEO XIII. TO THE N.Z. TABLET.

Pergant Directores et Scriptores New Zealand Tablet, Apostolica Benedictione confortati, Religionis et Justitiæ causam promovere per vias Veritatis et Pacis.
Die 4 Aprilis, 1900.

LEO XIII., P.M.

TRANSLATION.—Fortified by the Apostolic Blessing, let the Directors and Writers of the New Zealand Tablet continue to promote the cause of Religion and Justice by the ways of Truth and Peace.
April 4, 1900.

LEO XIII, Pope

Current Topics

Arbor Day

Wednesday of this week was Arbor Day. It was a Government holiday, and here and there small groups of teachers and taught set rooted saplings, with much ado, into holes in the ground and left them to their fate—played at tree-planting in the dainty and dilettante style of the 'pretty maid' of the tableau who 'goes a-milking' in ball-room shoes, with a gilded three-legged stool under one arm and a pasteboard bucket under the other. Little knots of prisoners, their clothes decorated with the broad-arrow, plant small areas year by year about such show-spots as Rotorua. And for the rest axe and fire-stick and whirling saw are eating our forests up. Our timber export is increasing by some £60,000 a year; the fast-increasing demand in England, America, etc., for wood-pulp for paper-making is tolerably sure, in the near future, to hasten the devouring of our forests; and thus, while we are planting by the rood, we are destroying by the square mile, reducing year by year the value of a great source of national revenue, denuding the hill-sides of their natural protective covering, and preparing the way for floods, landslips, the detrition of many of our rich uplands and the destruction of the arable country at their bases. A few years ago, in writing on this subject, we instanced the warning lesson of what we had personally witnessed in Spain and in France, where the Governments are now engaged, at an enormous expense, in re-afforesting great denuded areas of once valuable farm lands, which, as a result of the reckless destruction of timber in a former generation, have been turned into a stony, silt-strewn wilderness by the unbroken action of rushing flood-waters. We have in our forests one of the best of our national assets. But they are being mismanaged in a way that inevitably lead to a grave national loss. We sorely need a live and active Forest Department, with a system of planting and cutting-out by rotation-blocks which has been such a boon to Germany, Norway, and Sweden, Switzerland, and India. With such a system we should speedily see the aimless and unskilled destruction of our forests cease and

Fresh groves grow up and their green branches shoot
Towards the old and still-enduring skies.

A Journalistic 'Discovery'

Mental ripeness is commonly humble; mental rawness is inflated with pride. We are all familiar with the aggressive controversialists of diluted intellect who, after having read a cheap—and usually nasty—tract or two, deem themselves qualified to teach Catholic theology to the Pope and the whole College of Cardinals. The performance is, as a rule, sufficient to make a tombstone smile. The serious illness of the Pope furnished a

golden opportunity for blundering which omniscient journalistic wights have eagerly taken advantage of. The result has been the appearance, in our secular papers, of a charming variety of tit-bits of misinformation about conclaves, 'candidates' for the Papacy, and the laws of succession to the See of Rome. One imaginative journalist, in his search for a mare's nest, made a 'discovery' that must have caused no small amusement to Cardinal Moran. It was nothing less than this: that his Eminence has the 'right' to have the conclave for the election of Leo's successor postponed until his (the Cardinal's) arrival in the Eternal City. And the portentous news was sent tingling along the submarine wires to the ends of the earth!

Of course no such right exists. Gregory X's constitution of 1274 provides that, on the death of a Pope, the Cardinals present in curia (that is, in residence within the Papal Court) were to await for ten days, the arrival of their absent colleagues. At the expiration of that time they were to meet together in conclave and elect his successor. If any Cardinal did not go into conclave, or was forced for any reason to leave, the election was to proceed without him. But provision was made that those who came late and wished to enter might do so. These and other provisions regarding the conclave were confirmed by Boniface VIII. in 1294. In 1562 Pope Pius IV. issued a constitution which also provided for a delay of ten days only, and ordered that the Cardinals present should have the right of electing at once 'without waiting for other arrivals.' The 'novemdiali' or ten days' delay has since then been dispensed with on only two occasions of special danger, and for these occasions only. It was abrogated in 1797, when the First Napoleon's victorious troops seized the Eternal City, proclaimed the Roman Republic, and when the aged Pontiff, Pius VI., had retired from its desecrated walls to the great Carthusian monastery near Florence. He published a Bull authorising the Cardinals to meet immediately after his death to decide whether it was desirable to observe the usual ceremonies, etc., which did not affect the essence of the electoral act, and to proceed to the appointment of his successor. Similar provisions were made by Pius IX. in the anxious years that followed the invasion of the Papal States and the capture of Rome by the Piedmontese troops in 1870. The fourth provision of the Bull of Pius IX. ran as follows:—'If the Pope dies in Rome the Cardinals present in curia at the moment of his decease are at once to decide, by a majority of votes, if the election is to take place out of Rome, and out of Italy. As soon as the number of Cardinals present represents the half, plus one (that is, a bare majority) of the total number of the Sacred College, they may, if they consider it advisable, proceed immediately to the election, without waiting for the expiration of any other delays.' These abrogations of the 'novemdiali' were,

Hancock's "BISMARCK" LAGER BEER.

NEW ZEALAND'S
NEW INDUSTRY