

ROME LETTER

Rome, June 27, 1914.

LETTER OF PIUS X. AGAINST NATHAN'S INSULTS.

Back from America has Nathan come only to find himself driven by the Roman vote from the Capitol and thrust into private life. His very first act has been to give a Socialist journal—the filthy lewd journal that caters for back-street tastes—an interview on his reception in the States. Below will be found the burden of his tale, but before referring to it, I give, by request, a translation of the public letter of protest written by the Pope on the occasion of the infamous speech which Nathan, as Mayor of Rome, uttered at the Porta Pia on the 20th of September, 1910.

Letter of Protest from Pius X. to the Cardinal Vicar of Rome.

To Our beloved Son, Peter, Cardinal Respighi.

Lord Cardinal,—A circumstance of exceptional gravity moves us to address you to-day in order to express the profound sorrow of our soul. Two days or so ago a public functionary, not satisfied with recalling solemnly the recurring anniversary of the day on which the sacred rights of Pontifical sovereignty were trampled upon, raised his voice to launch mockery and insults against the teachings of the Catholic faith, against the Vicar of Christ, and against the Church itself. Speaking in the name of this Rome, that ought to be, according to authoritative declarations, the honored and peaceful home of the Sovereign Pontiff, our spiritual jurisdiction has been directly aimed at, and the matter went so far as to hold up to public contempt even the acts of our Apostolic ministry. In addition to this audacious contestation of the mission entrusted by our Lord Jesus Christ to St. Peter and to his successors, ideas and expressions of a blasphemous nature ran through his speech, and he also dared to rise publicly against the divine essence of the Church, against the veracity of her dogmas, and against the authority of her councils. And since to hatred for the Church goes naturally more pronounced hatred for every manifestation of Christian piety, he did not stop even at the wicked and anti-social proposal of offending the religious sentiments of the faithful. By reason of this accumulation of impious affirmations, as gratuitous as they are blasphemous, we cannot but raise our voice in just indignation and protest, and, at the same time recall through you, Lord Cardinal, the attention of our sons in Rome to the continual offences, ever becoming greater, to the Catholic religion, even on the part of the civil authority, in the very See of the Roman Pontiff. This new and extremely painful incident will certainly not escape all the faithful of the Catholic world—for they also are offended,—who will unite with our dear sons in Rome in sending up to the Almighty their fervent prayers that He may rise in defence of His divine Spouse, the Church, which is so unworthily made the object for calumnies always more poisonous and for attacks always more violent from the unpunished pride of her enemies. Let us hope that for the honor of the Eternal City these intolerable attacks may not be renewed. As a pledge of our special benevolence, we impart to you from our heart, Lord Cardinal, the Apostolic Benediction.

From the Vatican, September 22, 1910.

PIUS X., Pope.

NATHAN'S INTERVIEW.

But what has Nathan got to say?

A few days ago some ignorant person, writing from New York to a daily in Rome, inveighs against: 'the immense majority of Irish who are implacable as to the Roman question and against strong German bodies and lesser Latin organisations.' In Nathan's interview

senile fury is shown against 'the Irish Papists.' Regarding the protests made against his coming to America as official representative of Italy to the Panama Exhibition, Nathan smilingly told the reporter on his arrival here on Thursday:

'Things have been enormously exaggerated. It is well the public should know it. We must not confound the American Catholics, who remained quite indifferent to the famous protests, with the Irish Papists who tried to make them. . . . To the Irish Papists—who are rather numerous here and there in the United States—my personality, with my decided anti-clerical precedents, was a pretext, and I would say a happy pretext, for an attempt to recommence the old agitation (for the Pope). But the public, the great American public, pays no attention to it. Indeed, beginning with the authorities, it saw the necessity of assuming a contrary attitude by giving me a welcome so cordial as I should certainly never have received through my own individuality.'

O'CONNELL'S EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE.

Whenever an enemy praised O'Connell, the Liberator examined his conscience. Nathan's brazen propensities would fain laud America. Let us hear more: 'The American is a polite and independent people in the best sense of the word, strong and severe. Just fancy if it would allow itself to be led or misled by an imported Papist element which, after all, naturally represents only an incalculable minority. Besides, if it were worth while I could give many proofs that the movement—let us call it so—of protest is a little galvanised. Let one suffice. When public indignation, sincere and felt, is in the air against a man, it happens among other things that letters of protest, anonymous and signed, insulting and polemical, reach him in bundles. Of such I got only three. But I received an enormous quantity of letters and addresses of congratulation and welcome.'

CONGRATULATIONS.

Now this is only half Nathan's bosh. I must reserve the remainder, which is equally interesting, till next week. But to the 'Irish Papists' so hated by the enemies of the Church, their fellow countrymen in Rome take off their hats. You must have done well when this Whitechapel production had to get off so much bile. But he is to return to your midst. *Thiggin tu unois!*

NOTES.

It may interest 'Irish Papists' to know that Gill and Son, the Catholic publishers of Dublin, are about to issue an edition of the new breviary with the 'proper' for each country.

Among those who saw off the Most Rev. Archbishop Harty to Naples on Tuesday were Rev. Joseph Lavesque, Portland, Oregon; Rev. J. J. Troy, Lennox, Des Moines; and Rev. D. Kissane, Iowa. These gentlemen have been received in audience by Pius X.

The Most Rev. John Dowling, O.P., Archbishop of Trinidad, has arrived at Rome, and is the guest at St. Clemente of the Irish Dominicans.

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From China comes the news that President Yuan Shi Kai has ordered the decoration of the National Order of the Rice Blossom to be bestowed on Monsignor Giesen, O.F.M., Bishop of Paltus. Monsignor Giesen has charge of the Vicariate of Northern Shantung, the episcopal residence being at Tsinanfou. This city has 500,000 inhabitants, and is called the Lyons of China, as it is the centre of the silk industries.

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