

who anointed the king; the Bishop-Duke of Laon, who held the sacred *ampulla*; the Bishop-Duke of Langres, with the sceptre; the Bishop-Count of Beauvais, with the emblazoned surcoat; the Bishop-Count of Châlons, with the royal ring; the Bishop-Count of Noyon, with the baldric—and on the left the six temporal peers—the Duke of Burgundy, holding the crown; the Dukes of Guyene and Normandy, and the Counts of Champagne, Flanders, and Toulouse. The ceremonies of the coronation at Reims presented two characteristic features, the use of the sacred *ampulla* and the touching for scrofula (king's evil). According to the legend the holy *ampulla* was brought by a dove to St. Remigius when he was in the act of crowning Clovis. This *ampulla* was a small crystal vial, two-thirds full of balm; its superb ornamentation was added later. It was kept at the Church of Saint-Remi, in a reliquary which also contained a golden needle and a silver paten. When needed for a coronation, the Abbot of Saint-Remi brought it to the Cathedral. The golden needle was used to mix the balm, taken from the *ampulla*, with chrism on the silver paten. Several of the Popes visited Reims. In the early days of the Carolingian dynasty it was the scene of two famous interviews: between Stephen III. and Pepin the Short, and between Leo III. and Charlemagne. In 816 Louis the Debonnaire was crowned by Stephen V. in the Cathedral of Reims, and the Pope conferred the title of Augusta on Queen Ermengarde. Pope Leo IX. came to Reims in September, 1049, when he consecrated the Church of St. Remigius. Popes Callistus II., Innocent II., and Eugene III., each opened councils at Reims in the years 1119, 1131, and 1148 respectively.

Reims and its Cathedral are especially memorable, and dear to Catholics, for their association with the Blessed Joan of Arc. The coronation of Charles VII. at Reims (July 17, 1429) was directly brought about by the heroic Maid. The story is well known to every Catholic. When the heavenly Voices began to call on her, loudly and more loudly, to rise and deliver her country, Joan made arrangements to go to the Dauphin and make known to him her mission. When Charles first heard of her approach, he burst into a fit of loud laughter at the idea of France being delivered by a young girl, when men in armour could not save it. But the simple and natural manner of Joan won a way for her irresistibly. 'Gentle Dauphin,' said she, 'I am Joan the Maid. I come with a commission from the King of Heaven to drive your enemies out of Orleans, and to conduct you to Reims, where you shall receive the crown of France, which is your right.' From this straightforward declaration she never departed. When, eventually, her mission was accomplished, and the coronation of Charles took place at Reims, Joan stood by the altar with her white banner in her hand, and, when the golden circlet was placed on the head of Charles, knelt down weeping at his feet, and said: 'Gentle King, now is accomplished the will of God, Who would have you come hither to Reims to receive your consecration, and show that you are the true King, to whom the Kingdom of France rightly belongs.' Joan's father was present at the ceremony, and had his lodgings at Reims in the 'Hôtel de l'Anc Rayé,' and the archives of the city—unless they, too, have been destroyed—still preserve the accounts of expenses incurred for his entertainment. Joan wrote from Reims (July 17) a letter to Philip the Good, Duke of Burgundy, inviting him to make peace; and in August, 1429, and March, 1430, she wrote from Bray-sur-Seine and from Sully three letters to her 'very dear and good friends and loyal Frenchmen, dwelling in the city of Reims,' exhorting them not to lose heart under the renewed menaces of the Duke of Burgundy and the English. With such a history and such associations Reims and its Cathedral were naturally very dear to the hearts of patriotic Frenchmen, and their ruthless destruction is a blow which will make them keener than ever to cleanse their soil of the pitiless and barbarous invader.

Notes

Home Rule

The Home Rule Bill is now, happily, on the British Statute Book; and Mr. Redmond is being made the recipient of numerous and well-deserved congratulations on the success of the magnificent, well-directed, and long-sustained efforts of the Party. But 'it's a long way to Tipperary'; and the real rejoicings will naturally come when the Home Rule Bill Suspensory Act has expired, and the Bill is at last put into actual operation.

German Savagery

After our leader was in type and just as we go to press, cable messages are published which show that the destruction of Reims Cathedral was, after all, purely wanton; that the German battery made the beautiful and historic edifice a deliberate mark; and that the famous monument is now nothing but an empty shell. Germany appears to be determined to make her name a by-word and a reproach amongst the nations; and there will be a heavy account to settle when the day of reckoning comes.

Catholic Social Guild Examination

A number of candidates have sent in their answers to the C.S.G. examination questions which have been sent out to them, but there are still a few whose papers have not come to hand. As those at a distance would receive the examination questions somewhat later than others we have decided to accept all candidates' papers which reach this office not later than October 3. If there are any candidates who through mistake or oversight have not received the examination paper, a copy will be sent immediately on receipt of telegraphic request.

A Too Appreciative Reader

A Christchurch correspondent writes to complain that someone is in the habit of removing the *N.Z. Tablet* from the Christchurch Public Library, and that this unfair and unscrupulous practice has been going on for about two months. It is, no doubt, a very genuine compliment to the paper, but we would prefer that our admirer should show his appreciation in somewhat more honorable fashion. We have mentioned the matter to the Library staff, and also to a representative of the Detective Office at Christchurch; and the 'absent-minded beggar' who has been in the way of slipping off with the paper in his pocket will do well for the future to be content to take his chance and his turn with the other readers. Fair play is bonny play. Anyone who wants the *Tablet* exclusively to himself can have it by paying the very modest sum of thirteen shillings per year.

THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

Destruction of Reims Cathedral—an irreparable loss. Page 33.

The great Congress at Lourdes—a wonderful gathering. Page 9. A New Zealander's impressions. Page 24.

The Causes of the War—an impartial and authoritative review. Page 23.

On sacred and historic soil—a visit to Subiaco. Page 15.

Catholic Federation activities—the boarding out of Catholic children. Pages 29, 49. How to strengthen the organisation. Page 17.

The Passing of Pius X.—death-bed scenes. Page 31.

American Papers and the War—no dominant pro-German sentiment. Page 21.

Let us sin no more, lest the Blood of Christ be shed in vain for us!