

## ROME LETTER

(From our own correspondent.)

April 23.

It is a long cry back, 2668 years since Rome was founded. But the Romans never fail to celebrate the birthday of their city, that city which began on the Palatine as a village of wattle huts, and soon spread out, conquering nation after nation, until Rome sat on her seven hills as the mistress of the world. With what enthusiasm and affection the Romans observe the 21st of April each year! In the early morning the great bell of the Capitol booms out, and soon the city is gay with banners. The people are in their holiday attire; the military and gendarmes wear their gala uniforms; and there is a general briskness in the air that betokens the Roman holiday. Sight-seeing people that they have been these 2668 years, the Romans surpass themselves on April 21. Over on the Campūs Martius where Caesar trained his legions; down the Tiber, the silent witness of so many battles; up on the Palatine, where only in 1914 the archaeologists unearthed the hut of Romulus; down in the Forum that once resounded to the voice of Cicero, Caesar, and Pompey, and beheld bloody struggles between the patricians and the plebs; up the sides of the Capitol on which a pair of wolves and a couple of eagles are kept to remind modern Romans of ancient history—these are places the people love to think about, for they represent to them even yet all that is great in peace and war, the perennial youth of the Eternal City.

### THE KING OF BULGARIA.

How many, one wonders, saw how much was contained in the following note, which appeared in the Vatican organ the other evening? It is an extract from the *Dnevnik* of Sophia, and is headed, 'The piety of Ferdinand I., King of Bulgaria.' As is usual every year, so this year also, his Majesty the King assisted at the solemn ecclesiastical functions during Holy Week in the Catholic Church, partly in Sophia and partly in Philippopolis. On Easter Monday, he received the Holy Sacraments, and at the Mass celebrated by Mgr. V. Pejor, Coadjutor-Bishop, he communicated in the Catholic Cathedral of Philippopolis, near the tomb of his deceased consort, Princess Maria Louisa. After the Mass his Majesty knelt at the tomb and prayed devoutly for her soul in the presence of a multitude of the faithful.

From the above we can gather that King Ferdinand has made the crooked way straight, hard though it was for him. Four years ago this monarch weakly yielded to powerful influences, and consented to the Baptism of Prince Boris, his eldest son and heir to the throne, in the Schismatic Church. The King of Bulgaria was promptly excommunicated by the Holy See, cut off as a rotten branch from the only Church founded by Christ. I need not remind Catholics that while excommunicated

Ferdinand I. dared not approach the Sacraments. Now that we are told that he has publicly done so, we may assume the king has complied with all that the Church would have him do under the circumstance—and hence we can say all is well.

### THE CHURCH FOR ENGLISH-SPEAKING CATHOLICS.

In a few days English-speaking Catholics living in Rome will gather in the Church of S. Silvestro in Capite at the Month's Mind of the late rector, Very Rev. John Dolan. And therefore this furnishes a favorable opportunity for relating how this good priest changed the church from being the mere English Church into a church for Catholics coming from English-speaking countries. This change was effected by Father Dolan on his transfer nearly seven years ago from the rectorship of our Lady of Mount Carmel, New York, to that of San Silvestro, Rome. 'Now,' he said, 'let me make this plain. S. Silvestro in Capite is for the Irish, the English, the Americans, the Australians, the New Zealanders, the South Africans, and the Canadians.' By these few words, strongly adhered to, Father Dolan did a good service to priests, wishing to celebrate Mass, and to Catholic tourists and residents in Rome who wished to be ministered to in their own tongue, and not to be forced to inquire their way through a great city for a priest to whom they could confess in English.

## Timaru Readers!

We beg to advise residents of Timaru that we have opened a branch in that town.

We are stocking a large range of Travelling Requisites and Fancy Leather Goods in our usual high quality.

In Saddlery, Harness, and Horse Covers, we can offer you an excellent selection at low prices.

## Triggs & Denton

89 Manchester Street : Christchurch  
And at - Stafford Street, Timaru

### SPECIAL No. 1.

30 dozen Ladies' Fine Embroidery Trimmed PRINCESS UNDERSKIRTS—bought by private tender. Worth 8/6. Post free, 5/11.

### SPECIAL No. 3.

50 doz. RED CROSS WHITE NURSE APRONS. Cut Wellington price—'The Nora,' 1/2; 'The Rosa,' 1/5½; 'The Nightingale,' 1/10. All full cut; round bib, and pocket. Post free to customers mentioning the *Tablet*.

### SPECIAL No. 2.

Ladies' PURE 'LLAMA' HOSE, embroidered. 'Indians' on each pair. Worth 1/11. At our cut price, post free, 1/7 pair.

### SPECIAL No. 4.

Our RUSTLESS HEALTH CORSETS, to fit any figure—latest shapes; medium or low over bust or over hips; guaranteed wear; grey or white—5/11, 6/6, 7/6, 8/11. Strong Working Corsets, 1/11



The Place for Bargains  
48-50 Manners Street  
WELLINGTON