

been raised. I cannot but convey to you the pleasure it has given me to have appointed to the Apostolic College eminent prelates whose piety, zeal, and knowledge are well known to me; prelates, who, in different offices, have rendered singular services to the Church, and all commendable for the enlightened devotion they profess towards this Apostolic See. I congratulate myself and you, beloved sons, not only on your acquisition of the sacred purple, but much more on the fresh merit you will gain in aiding the Vicar of Christ in the government of the Church amidst such great needs, which are felt more acutely than ever to-day owing to the conditions of the times and the incessant and furious attacks made on the Roman Pontificate by its enemies.

I am sure you are all aware that your new dignity will demand sacrifices from you. In this connection I need not repeat the reply which, as we read in to-day's Gospel, the Divine Redeemer gave to the two disciples of the Baptist who asked Him where He lived: 'Come and see,' for you know what are the wretched conditions under which the Vicar of Christ lives. I recall this not to excite your sympathy with me, but to remind you that especially in these days the sacred purple is

A Symbol of Sorrow, of Suffering, and of
Sacrifice,

carried when necessary, for the triumph of truth and justice, even to the shedding of blood. But be consoled, beloved sons, who have hitherto worked beside me, witnesses of my joys and of my sorrows, and accept from the hands of the Lord, to your and my great consolation, those expressions of gratification addressed to you by your fellow citizens and the friends and companions with whom you have been associated in the execution of the delicate duties entrusted to you, and rejoice in the thought of the reward that awaits you for the important services you will also render the Church in the future.

Be consoled, sons of England and of Holland, for in the holy joy shown by your compatriots on your elevation to the Cardinalate the lively faith by which the Catholics are animated is manifested. And so both into your hearts and mine enters the hope that their example will influence the happy return of all the others to the bosom of the Church.

This sweet hope smiles on you who come from distant America. The enthusiasm with which the news of your elevation to the sacred Purple was received, the demonstrations that were made by all classes of the citizens, the acclamations that were followed by benedictions, by good wishes, by affectionate salutations at your departure from New York and Boston, and, finally, the triumphal voyage on the ocean, protected by the Papal flag, give me not only the hope but the certainty that on your return the Lord will multiply the fruits of your apostolate, and that over the hospitable land where all peoples are received and where the welfare of all is guarded with a liberty well understood, God will reign and His glory will shine.

Suffering France.

What shall I say to you, dear sons of France, who groan under persecution? The people who made an alliance with God at the baptismal font of Rheims will penitently return to their vocation. The merits of so many children who preach the Gospel in almost the whole world, of the many who sealed it with their blood; the prayers of so many saints who yearn to have as companions in celestial glory the dear brethren of their fatherland; the generous piety of so many sons who, even with many sacrifices, maintain in due decorum the clergy and the splendour of Catholic worship; and, above all, the sighs of so many children who pour out their little souls before the tabernacle in words which God Himself placed upon their lips, will call down on that nation the Divine mercy. Sins will not go unpunished; but the daughter of so many sighs, so many tears, will never perish. A day will come, and let us hope it is not far distant, when France, like Saul on the way to Damascus, will be overwhelmed by a light from above and hear a voice saying: 'O daughter, why do you persecute Me?' And she will

respond: 'Who art Thou, Lord?' The voice will answer: 'It is hard for thee to kick against the goad, because your obstinacy ruins you.' And trembling and astonished, she will say: Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do? And He: 'Rise up. Wash off the uncleanness that disfigures you. Awake in your bosom dormant feelings and the terms of our alliance, and go, Eldest Daughter of the Church, predestined nation, vessel of election, and carry as in the past, My Name before all the nations and kings of the earth.'

And with this sweet wish I impart in the fullness of my heart the Apostolic Benediction to you all, beloved sons, to the clergy and people of your dioceses, to your religious communities, to the dear faithful who grace this ceremony with their presence, and to your and their relatives. And may this blessing be for all a fountain of the most choice graces and the sweetest consolations.

Imposing the Red Hat.

On Thursday morning the ceremony of imposing the red hat took place in the Hall of Beatification, in which the Public Consistory was held. At 9.30 the grand procession of the ecclesiastical, lay, and military dignitaries of the Papal Court moved towards the chamber, the Holy Father being borne last on the *Sedia Gestatoria*, while the Sistine Choir rendered the 'Tu es Petrus.' Having taken his seat upon the throne, the Holy Father received the obedience of the Cardinals. The Public Consistory then opened and lasted for the space of two hours, during which time Pius X. imposed the red hats upon the new Cardinals, opened and shut their mouths, as this traditional technicality of ordering silence is popularly termed, listened to the postulators in the causes of beatification of several servants of God, and to the postulation for the palliums for Liverpool, Birmingham, Philadelphia, Vienna, Sydney, Madras, and other archdioceses.

The Most Rev. Dr. Whiteside, Archbishop of Liverpool, postulated in person; his Eminence Cardinal Bisleti for Vienna; Right Rev. Mgr. Cronin, Vice-Rector of the English College, for Birmingham.

RETURNING TO THE FOLD

Almost twelve months ago—in February, 1911, to be precise—the Rev. Gordon Tidy, who, just prior to his conversion to the Catholic faith, was in charge of the Anglican Cathedral at Bathurst, was received into the Church (says the *Catholic Press*). Though his intention was known to his friends for months previous, its fulfilment was somewhat startling to the Anglican community of New South Wales. Mr. Tidy is now in Rome studying for the priesthood.

Now we have to record another conversion of an Anglican clergyman, the Rev. William John Geer, M.A., who had been assistant curate at All Saints' Church, Woollahra for nearly three years. On the morning of January 3 he was received into the Catholic Church by the Rev. Father Clarke, O.F.M., at St. Joseph's, Woollahra, and is at present living at Manly. The impression that he is at St. Patrick's Ecclesiastical College, conveyed by one of the morning papers, has no foundation. He is living privately as a Catholic layman, and so far has no plans as to the future.

'I Read Myself Out of Anglicanism.'

'For several years I have had the idea that I would eventually become a Catholic,' said Mr. Geer, in the course of a conversation with us. 'I distinctly remember being present at a Catholic mission in a country town in Victoria when I was a small boy. Even then I was impressed by the reverence of the congregation, and I made up my mind there and then that I would, when I grew up, read the best works on the Catholic side. Well, I did so. I have read nearly all the works of Cardinal Newman, and of that great Catholic controversialist of to-day, Monsignor Robert Hugh Benson, as well as many of the publications of the Catholic Truth Society. One pamphlet that impressed me very much was Monsignor Benson's *City Set on a Hill*, and among works that gave me great