

Royal Visitors to Rome

(By A. H. A., in the London *Catholic Times*.)

It is stated that early in the coming spring King George V. and Queen Mary will go to Rome, and that their stay there will include receptions both at the Vatican and the Quirinal. Until very recently it was impossible for a visitor to Rome to be received during the same visit by both Pope and King, but one of the last acts of the late Pope Benedict XV. was to decide that for the future a visit to the Quirinal should not be a bar to an audience at the Vatican.

King Canute and the People.

It is just 896 years since a reigning King of England went to Rome and was received in audience by the Sovereign Pontiff. The Pope was John XIX., and the King was Canute, the Danish ruler of Anglo-Saxon England. In the winter of 1026 he started on the journey to Rome, and made a long stay there in the opening months of 1027. Conrad the Salian, who had been elected Emperor of Germany, had come to Rome to be crowned, and Canute was present at his coronation on March 26. Besides visiting the sanctuaries of the Holy City, Canute discussed with the Pope the affairs of his kingdom. He represented to the Pope that when the Archbishops from England came to Rome to receive the pallium excessive dues had been demanded of them, and asked that this matter should be reformed. "A decree was passed to stop this grievance," he writes, on his return, to the Archbishop of Canterbury; and he adds: "Whatever I asked of the Pope for the good of my people was granted willingly, and confirmed by oath."

Visits of the Saxon Kings.

Many of the Saxon kings had visited Rome. Amongst these Royal pilgrims were Caedwalla, Ina, Offa of Mercia, and Ethelwulf. Caedwalla and Ina both resigned their crowns in order to spend the last years of their lives in Rome. When Ethelwulf went to Rome in 855, during the pontificate of Benedict III., he took with him his son and heir, a boy of six years of age. The boy lived to be the greatest of the Saxon kings, one of the best and most enlightened kings that ever occupied a throne—Alfred the Great.

St. Edward the Confessor's Vow.

St. Edward the Confessor made a vow to visit Rome, like so many of his predecessors, but it was represented to him that the times were too critical for him to be absent for many months from his kingdom. He, therefore, sent an ambassador to Rome to ask the Pope what he should do. The Pope dispensed him from his vow, but decided that, as he could not make his intended pilgrimage to the tombs of the Apostles, he should distribute among the poor of his kingdom alms to the amount of the probable expenses he would have incurred if he had gone to Rome; and, further, he was either to erect or to repair a monastery dedicated to St. Peter. The abbey church of St. Peter at Westminster, founded long before by King Sebort, was in a dilapidated condition. St. Edward rebuilt it on a larger scale, adding also new buildings to the monastery. He was thus the second founder of the church that still keeps his sacred relics, and Westminster Abbey is a monument of the devotion of old England to the Holy See.

A Stream of Pilgrims From England.

In Saxon times there was a constant stream of pilgrims from England to Rome, where they had a hospice specially maintained for them. After the Norman conquest there were no more Royal pilgrimages to Rome. But two of the exiled Stuarts died there, and their tombs in St. Peter's are inscribed with their titles as "Kings of England," in right of their claim to be the legitimate successors of their grandfather, James II. One is the tomb of "Charles III.," best known as the "Young Chevalier," Prince Charles Edward, the hero of 1745, the promise of whose early years was darkened by the miserable record of his later life.

The Last of the Stuarts.

The other tomb is that of "Henry IX.," his younger brother, and the last of the Stuart line. After the failure of his elder brother's efforts to win back the crown of England, Prince Henry ("Duke of York" in the exiled Jacobite Court) studied for the priesthood, was ordained and promoted to the See of Frascati and the Cardinalate. He was a model prelate, noted above all for the care of the

poor among his people. He survived until 1807. In his last years the old feud between the Houses of Stuart and Brunswick had become a thing of the past. George I. provided an annuity for the Stuart "Cardinal of York" when the French occupation of the Papal States deprived him of most of his revenues. In return the Cardinal bequeathed to the Prince of Wales (afterwards George IV.) crown jewels he had inherited from James. When he died the Government of George III. provided the cost of the monument erected to his memory in St. Peter's, the work of Canova.

Queen Alexandra's Audience.

In the latter years of the pontificate of Leo XIII. an English Queen was received in audience at the Vatican. She was Queen Alexandra, who was then making a tour in Italy. It is an interesting coincidence that the last of the Royal visitors from England to Rome in Catholic days was the Danish King of England, Canute, and the first in our own time was the Danish princess, Queen Consort of England. Her son, King George, will be the first reigning King of England since the Reformation to be received as an honored guest by the Father of Christendom.

BOOK NOTICES

London C.T.S. Publications: *His Further Greetings; Simple Meditations for Easter; Anglo-Catholics*, by Rev. P. H. Malden; *Father Tom Burke on the Confessional; Spiritual Reading*, by Bishop Vaughan; *Extreme Unction*, by J. B. Jaggard, S.J. Twopence each.

Melbourne C.T.S. Publications: *The Lady Evelyn*, by Miriam Agatha; *Christmas Mass at Sea*, by Father Lockington; *Race Suicide*, by M. P. Dowling, S.J.; *Some Noted Catholic Men of Science*, by Sir Bertram Windle. Twopence each.

John, Henry III., and Later Medieval Period (History of England Series), by Ernest Hull, S.J. Examiner Press, Bombay. Price 12 annas net.

In addition to his controversial work on general topics, Father Hull has undertaken the strenuous labor of providing Catholics with an antidote to British history as it is usually found in standard works and in school manuals. The Protestant tradition has distorted and colored so many important events that history has almost to be re-written in order to give readers the plain truth. Father Hull has already published three volumes which supply the antidote to the vitiated treatment of the periods and topics with which they deal. *That Arch-Liar Freude*, *The British and Anglo-Saxon Period*, and *The Norman and Early Medieval Period*, are books that have been received with high praise all over the Catholic world already. We now welcome another volume of this invaluable series: *John, Henry III., and Later Medieval Period*. It deals with the period which perhaps gives occasion to most historical controversies and provides much ammunition for the attacks on Rome. The fights between Church and State were all between Catholics and Catholics, but in the cause of Protestantism the truculence of Catholic kings and lords is made to appear as a revolt against the authority of the Pope and a proof of the independence of England of Roman supremacy. Students of controversy readily recognise what a field for research the author had when dealing with the subject of King John and the Interdict, with the Magna Charta, with Bishop Grosseteste, with the Anti-Papal Legislation before and after the end of the thirteenth century. All these topics and many others come within Father Hull's scope in the present volume, and all are treated in his usual masterly manner. It is a book for all Catholic students of English History. No Catholic teacher ought to be without it if he wants to do his work conscientiously.

Green-and-Gold: Jubilee Record of the Hibernian Society in Dunedin. Compiled and written by J. J. Wilson. N.Z. Tablet Office; 2/6 net.

We congratulate the Dunedin Hibernians on this Jubilee Souvenir of the Society in Dunedin. It is well done, printed on good paper, tastefully illustrated with numerous plates of prelates, priests, officials of the Society, and other subjects having some historical connection with the flourishing Dunedin branch.