

Catholic World

KING GEORGE'S VISIT TO ROME.

Catholic News Service, London, under date April 17, says:—

The left wing of extreme Protestantism, which has been moving heaven and earth to have the King's visit to the Pope cancelled and the British Legation to the Vatican recalled, has seen its efforts go for nothing. As a last card the United Protestant Council, which represents anybody and nobody, is holding a great demonstration in the Albert Hall in London.

Lord Gisborough, one of the peers of 1917, is placing himself at the head of the demonstration, which is to breathe out snottings and threatenings. But it can confidently be said that nothing will come of it. The press generally is dead against this sectarian injection into affairs of state, while the so-called indignation, which is fondly said to be agitating the national bosom, is a mere phantasm of the die-hard Protestant factionists.

The Royal visit to the Pope was decided on by the Cabinet, which is absolutely devoid of any papistry, so that the Albert Hall demonstration is robbed of its sting in advance.



AN IMPORTANT RULING.

Cardinal Bourne laid down an important ruling at the annual meeting of the Catholic Union, held at Archbishop's House, when Viscount Fitzalan was elected President in place of the Earl of Denbigh, resigned.

Speaking on the general subject of Catholic societies, the Cardinal said that each should have some person attached to it in the position of an ecclesiastical assistant, to advise on points of Catholic discipline and doctrine; one who would serve as a go-between between the Ordinary and the society in question. The second point laid down by Cardinal Bourne was that in taking any public action in which the interests of the Church might be involved, the society should consult with the ecclesiastical authority.

This means, of course, that Catholic societies will not pass resolutions on social and other matters, which while giving outsiders the impression that they are an expression of opinion from the Catholic body, are really nothing more than the opinion of a selected group of individuals. This sort of thing arose when a resolution was passed some time ago against Catholics having anything to do with the Labor Party—a course of action that has not been put forward officially by the Hierarchy, the natural medium for expressing the opinion of the Catholic body.



POPE BLESSES THE GOLDEN ROSE.

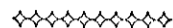
The blessing of the Golden Rose on mid-Lent Sunday, which aroused the imaginations of foreign journalists, took place in the private chapel of the papal apartments. The Holy Father was vested in the rose color vestments, which are peculiar to this Sunday and the mid-Advent Sunday. After the blessing and incensing of the Rose by the Pope himself, the jewel was placed on the altar where it remained during the celebration of Mass.

As the Golden Rose is destined for Queen Victoria of Spain the Spanish notabilities were in evidence at the ceremony. The Spanish Ambassador to the Holy See, with the members of the Embassy staff and of the ante-chamber of King Alfonso, was present, together with a representation from the Spanish College in Rome. The Cardinal Secretary of State was among the prelates present in the chapel.

Among the Pope's immediate attendants were the prelates, almoners, sacristans, and privy chamberlains, and Mgr. Respighi, Prefect of the Sacred Ceremonies.

Afterwards the Pope received the Spanish Ambassador and the members of his suite in the throne room. At present the Golden Rose is not completed; it is only the central part that has been blessed, the floriated goldsmith's work is yet to be added.

The last recipient of the Golden Rose was the late Queen of the Belgians, to whom it was sent in 1893 by Leo XIII. Quite a number of Spanish queens have received the Golden Rose at different times. The last English Sovereign to receive the jewel was Mary Tudor, to whom it was sent in 1555; but long before that time Pope Alexander III. sent the Golden Rose to William the Lion, King of Scotland.



PURGING THE PRESS.

Well-to-do financial magnates who have bought up newspapers merely as a profitable investment, will read with no pleasure the denunciations of the working journalists against the modern methods of so-called journalism which are fast bringing the profession into disrepute.

These are the actual words used at the annual conference of the National Union of Journalists at Portsmouth, when the president of the Union spoke out very plainly.

The worst offenders (said the speaker) are some of the London daily and Sunday papers, which are owned by men who know not journalism and its true aims. While deprecating a press censorship, the speaker, who is a practical journalist, said that something ought to be done to prevent certain newspaper proprietors from wallowing in the filthy details of divorce and criminal cases, and thus poisoning the minds of the young people of the country as effectively as retailers of cocaine poisoned the bodies.

This was pretty plain speaking from a working journalist, and it was followed by the wish that parliamentary action of some kind may be taken to check the prostitution of the British press to sensationalism of the most degrading and mischievous kind.



AVILA HONORS ITS SAINT.

Historic Avila has been the centre of the thoughts of all Spain during the recent Teresian celebration, which brought crowds to the city made famous by the great Carmelite, Saint Teresa.

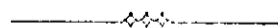
The commemoration lasted but a day, but into that one day a great deal was crowded. The exercises began with a solemn Mass in the Church of St. Teresa, at which the city authorities and the local members of Parliament were present. The Infanta Isabel, who has a great devotion to St. Teresa, was present at the Mass, afterwards visiting the Convent of St. Joseph which, as everyone knows, was founded by St. Teresa herself.

About mid-day Senor Antonio Maura, who is director of the Spanish Academy, reached the city, where he stayed as the guest of the Marquis de San Juan de Piedras Albas. It was in the palace of the Marquis that the official banquet was given, attended by many illustrious guests, among them the Bishop of Avila and his Vicar-General. This function was really a luncheon, and when it was over most of the guests, the Infanta Isabel among them, repaired to the famous Dominican Convent of St. Thomas in Avila.

The great public event of the day, however, was yet to come. That was the Teresian Contest (*Certamen Teresiano*) at which speeches were made in honor of St. Teresa. The Papal Nuncio was represented by the auditor of the Nunciature. The principal discourse was by Senor Maura, who spoke with eloquence in praise of the Saint of Avila. His speech was a remarkable piece of oratory, embroidered with all the flowers of rhetoric, in which the Spanish excel.

Prizes were awarded to 17 successful competitors, who had sent in essays on St. Teresa, and as the diplomas were presented there was much applause.

Truly Spain has not abated one jot in its love and admiration for the great Saint, who rests enshrined in Avila, which she has made a household word throughout the entire Catholic world.



Do not forecast or alarm yourself. Not half the things you look for will ever come to pass, and the other half will be light to bear, and God will bear both you and your crosses together. Cardinal Manning.

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