

IMPORTANT CATHOLIC DOCUMENT.

The following important document from Archbishop Manning was read by the clergy in the Catholic churches of the diocese of Westminster on Sunday Nov. 29.

DEAR CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST.—I. On Sunday, the 28th of August, 1870, the following letter from his Eminence Cardinal Antonelli was read by our order in all churches of this diocese:

ROME, August 11, 1870.

It has been made known to the Holy See that some among the faithful, and perhaps even among the bishops, are of opinion that the Apostolic Constitution, which was published in the session of the Oecumenical Council of the Vatican on the 18th day of the month of July, will not be of obligation until it has been solemnly published by some further act of the Holy See. How strange such a supposition is, any one may easily know. The said Constitution had the most solemn publication possible on the very day on which, in the Vatican Basilica, it had been solemnly confirmed and promulgated by the Sovereign Pontiff in the presence of more than five hundred bishops: for it was on that day, although there was no such necessity for the case, put up with the customary formalities in the usual places of Rome, so that, according to the well-known rule, it was made obligatory for the whole Catholic world without need of any further publication whatsoever. I have thought it my duty to communicate these brief observations to you, in order that they may be your guide in the event of any doubts that may from any quarter be brought before you.

† JAMES CARDINAL ANTONELLI.

I. This declaration was made by the Cardinal in answer to the objection of some persons who had thought that the Decrees of the Vatican Council, although they had been solemnly defined and confirmed by the Sovereign Pontiff in the Council itself, might require some further promulgation as a condition of their being regarded as publicly binding upon the whole Church.

II. Events which, unhappily, are notorious induce us to make known to the faithful, lest they should be misled by the words or examples of one or two who still profess to be Catholic, that whosoever does not in his heart receive and believe the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception, and the doctrine of the Infallibility of the Vicar of Jesus Christ as they have been defined by the supreme authority of the Church, does by that very fact cease to be a Catholic. The Encyclical *Ineffabilis Deus*, by which, on the 8th of December, 1854, the Sovereign Pontiff defined "that the most blessed Virgin Mary was, by a singular grace and privilege of Almighty God, and by reason of the merits of Jesus Christ the Saviour of mankind, preserved in the first moment of her conception free from all stain of original sin," contained these words:

Wherefore, if any persons, which God forbid, shall presume to think in their hearts otherwise than we have now defined, let them know that they are condemned by their own judgment, they have suffered shipwreck in faith, and have fallen away from the unity of the Church.

In like manner, the constitution of the Vatican Council which defined that "the Roman Pontiff, when he speaks *ex cathedra*—that is, when discharging the office of pastor and teacher of all Christians, he, by virtue of his supreme apostolic authority, defines a doctrine of faith or morals to be held by the universal Church"—is infallible, ended with these words:

And if any one, which God forbid, shall presume to contradict this our definition, let him be anathema."

III. It has come to our knowledge that some who openly refuse to believe the said doctrines, persist nevertheless in calling themselves Catholics, and give out that they go to confession and Holy Communion in the Catholic Church. We therefore hereby warn them that in so doing they deceive our clergy by concealing their unbelief; and that in every such Confession and Communion they commit a sacrilege to their own greater condemnation. We rejoice to know, dear children in Jesus Christ, that of such men there are but few indeed. But, lest their words or their example should seem to be tolerated by the Catholic Church, we make this declaration; and we make it with an earnest prayer that the Holy Spirit of God, against whom they are striving, may bring them to repentance.

May the grace of the Holy Ghost abundantly confirm you in His infallible guidance.

† HENRY EDWARD,
Archbishop of Westminster.

November 22, 1874.

EMIGRATION OF ICELANDERS.

THE New York correspondent of the Sydney 'Freeman's Journal' writes:—The Icelanders like the Irish are in want of a home. They have ceased to relish their native land, and they look to America for a change. It is not, however, through bad Government that the poor Icelanders leave their icy home. The climate of their country, which is gradually growing more severe, is the cause of their expatriation. It is now proposed that the whole population should emigrate to North America. Five hundred of them have already settled in Canada and Wisconsin, but the summer heats are too powerful for them. They have formally and officially represented their case to Government, and demanded a vessel to carry them to the peninsular of Alaska, the vast region ceded some short time since by Russia to America. The request has been complied with, and those Icelandic representatives have sailed in a sloop of war to inspect the Alaska territory. We may be prepared for this novel and extraordinary settlement at any moment.

GENERAL NEWS.

Four large gold medals only have been struck, by order of Marshal MacMahon, President of the French Republic, commemorative of the Franco-German war of 1870-71. One of these medals has been sent to Mr. Bernard C. Molloy (one of the candidates for the King's County and County Louth at the last election), who served as a staff-officer during the war, and took part in the disastrous campaign under General Bourbaki. The medal was conferred as a mark of the Marshal's esteem, and is a recompense for the services Mr. Molloy "rendered with courage and devotion during the war."

Recently the Paris police issued the following droll advertisement:—"There was found yesterday at mid-day, a bride, eighteen years of age, blue eyes, black hair. Can be obtained on application at the Police head-quarters." She was a country girl, who came to Paris with her betrothed to get married. They took a cab at the station. On their way to the church the bridegroom got out to make some purchase. The driver was tipsy, and instead of waiting dove on; so they were separated in the wilderness, and the police found the bride weeping in the cab.

The following anecdote is related in the now famous Greville Memoirs:—A certain bishop in the House of Lords rose to speak, and announced that he should divide what he had to say into twelve parts, when the Duke of Wharton interrupted him and begged he might be indulged in a few minutes, as he had a story to tell which he could only introduce at that moment. "A drunken fellow was passing by St. Paul's at night and heard the clock slowly chiming twelve. He counted the strokes, and when it had finished looked towards the clock and said, '—you, why couldn't you give us that all at once?'" There was an end of the Bishop's story.

Mr. Turnerelli writes to the 'Morning Post' as follows:—"The Hon. Mrs. Kinnaird, in presenting a Bible and an address to the Duchess of Edinburgh a day or two ago, alluded to 'her illustrious uncle and his love of the Bible.' It is quite true that the late Emperor Alexander, under the influencing dispositions of a lady—Madame de Krudner—consented to allow the Scriptures to be read and explained to his soldiers, but it is an equally historical truth that many of these same soldiers took the readings and the explanations so thoroughly to heart that they became Jews, and stuck to the Israelite non-Christian doctrines so persistently and disobediently that the Emperor had to send a whole caravan of these new converts to Siberia. This was a result by no means foreseen or wished by Alexander the Good; and it took many a year, and many a long, bitter persecution to eradicate the seed sown by the feminine zeal and advice of the above-named 'very devout' lady. The 7,572 subscribers may possibly desire to know this fact."

A preparation warranted to banish wrinkles is among the latest toilet delusions.

The Carlist chief, Lozano, has been executed at Albacete.

Professor Shief, of Florence, has discovered a method of quieting violent horses. It has been found that it is quite enough to touch the nostrils of a horse, simply passing the fingers along the sides of his nose, to stop the activity of his heart and respiration, and to stop consciousness in a measure. It is well known now that most of those men who succeed in quieting violent horses put their fingers on that part and sometimes on the nares. Merely touching these parts has the same effect; pressing hard has more effect. It is not that the application be made there as a pressure of the lip may do the same thing.

Paris possesses a new culinary wonder. It is "patent butter." It is not made from cream, but apparently from the ordinary fat of slaughtered animals. It is sold at half the price of real butter, and will keep sweet a year.

Mr. H. R. Horne, the author of "Orion," and who for some years was resident in New Zealand, and afterwards in Victoria, is about to publish in London a New Zealand tragedy in five acts, entitled "Te Aie Ya; or Maori Wives and Daughters."

A London paper says that such is the rage for London "advertising stations" that houses are purposely kept empty for this purpose, and a higher rent is obtained than if they were occupied. A beerhouse which formerly let at £60 a year produces £3 a week in this way.

With the exception of a few sketches and biographies the history of the Catholic Church in America is yet unwritten. Where can the intellect find a nobler theme? The planting of the Church in Canada, its wondrous growth in the States, its establishment in Mexico, would be an interesting work for the pen of some bright child of genius. Who is to undertake the work? The materials are abundant. Catholics discovered the country, Catholics explored it, Catholics opened it up and developed its resources, Catholics first taught religious toleration in Maryland, Catholic blood cemented the union. The fundamental laws of the land, the great charters of freedom, the *Habeas Corpus*, the main features of the Constitution, are Catholic. No nobler martyrs ever lived than the early Jesuits who lived and died amongst the Indians. Within the limits of the United States we have 10,000,000 of Catholics, seven Archbishops, 60 Bishops, 4516 priests, 5327 churches, besides hundreds of religious communities, schools, asylums, &c. And for all this, what have we as a history? Absolutely nothing.—Correspondent 'Sydney Freeman.'

THE FATHER OF SIR ROBERT PEEL.—Sir Robert Peel was the younger son of a merchant, his fortune was left to him in the house, and he was not to take it out. He gave up the fortune, and started in business without a shilling, but as the active partner in a concern with two other men—Yates, whose daughter he married, and another, who between them made up £6,000. From this beginning he left £250,000 a piece to his five sons, 60,000 each to his three daughters, and 22,000 a year in land with £450,000 in the funds to the inheritor of his title. In his lifetime he gave to his eldest son £12,000 a year, the others £3000, and spent £3000 a year himself.