

numbered over a hundred in a Lower House of 405 members. To-day they hold, it appears, the reins of power. The elections were brought out on the religious issue. And the result is a reeling blow to the faction of enemies of religion in the Spanish Cortes. Well, even Satan (says Milton)

'Gives not o'er, though desperate of success.'

But with the eloquent, learned, and pious Senor Maura (the most brilliant lawyer in Spain) at the head of the triumphant party, with the Dynastic Liberals at his side, and with the feelings of a great Catholic population at his back, we may safely predict that there is for many a year to come little to fear from the anti-religious animosities of the Republican faction there. Writing some weeks ago, the London 'Daily Graphic' shrewdly predicted that the popular reaction against the anti-clerical policy 'will probably end in a long tenure of office by the Conservatives.' Then, it adds:—

'This is an instructive object-lesson in the unwisdom of concluding too hastily from the attitude of the French people that the Church of Rome is a decadent force which only requires to be resolutely attacked in order to disappear altogether. That this is a delusion is shown not only by the attachment which the great bulk of the Spanish people still feel for the Church, but still more strikingly by the orthodoxy and solidarity of the more cultured German Catholics, as illustrated by the stand they have made during the recent elections in the Fatherland.'

It looks as if a chapter of Belgian history is about to be repeated further south. For the moral and material well-being of Spain, this is a consummation devoutly to be desired.

PIUS X. AND THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

A LETTER OF ENCOURAGEMENT

His Holiness Pope Pius X. (writes the special correspondent of the 'Catholic Times') has addressed the following letter to Cardinal Cassetta, Honorary President and Protector of the Society of St. Jerome for the diffusion of the Gospels.

Venerable Brother, Health and the Apostolic Benediction.

We who, when we were Patriarch of Venice, blessed the pious Society of St. Jerome and formed good wishes for it, looking at it now after a few years from the Supreme Chair of the Church, find satisfaction in seeing how it has made so much progress in a short time and has been the instrument of so many signal advantages. For the Society of St. Jerome has not only circulated its edition of the Gospels throughout Italy, founding in the Peninsula three centres of action in order to carry out its intention more effectively, but has penetrated America, sending its books wherever Italian is spoken and benefiting emigrants in a special manner. It must certainly be acknowledged that the fact of having published and circulated amongst the people, with fitting discretion, nearly five hundred thousand copies of the Gospels, constitutes a splendid proof of the extraordinary zeal displayed by the members in this undertaking and of the vast field of operations embraced by the Society. It is a fact which is manifestly worthy of admiration—all the more so inasmuch as the means at the disposal of the Society are very limited. It is also a consoling fact, and one of good augury, having regard to the object of the Association—to offer to all the opportunity and facilities for reading and meditating upon the Gospels, regard being had in particular to the special needs of our age, in which, as compared with other times, the avidity for reading is too great and not without loss to souls. It is likewise a most salutary fact, not only in itself as connected with a narrative possessing Divine force—that is to say, the account of the life of Jesus Christ, than which nothing can be conceived more eminently efficacious for leading us to sanctity—but it is also and chiefly most useful because it renders a notable service to the magisterium of the Church, since the reading of the Gospels prepares minds to welcome the announcement of the Divine Word, and when the sacred text is previously read the explanations

of the Gospel by the parish priests are better impressed on the memory and ripen more fully. We desire to add that in times such as these it is not the least of the advantages of such publications that it can be said that through their circulation and the reading of them subsequently the echo of the voice of God reaches even those unfortunate people who through despair, or hatred, or prejudice avoid all contact with the priest—an advantage which, in our eyes, is precious and most desirable, inasmuch as it affords the means of ensuring the salvation of souls, if not with the voice, at least through books, and of healing by the teachings associated with the life of Christ, the evils of society and of individuals. We know with what earnestness the Society of St. Jerome performs its work, and we therefore deem it superfluous to address to the members recommendations and exhortations to go forward with increasing alacrity in their undertaking. If it is desired that the Society should advance more profitably day by day, let this maxim be borne in mind—that of all undertakings none is more useful than that which is best suited to the times, and that when a work has proved so highly beneficial in the course of a few years it is necessary that exertions in its favor should be redoubled. Where, then, the Association has created amongst the people so much eagerness for the reading of the Gospels, it should foster and strengthen it by continually increasing the number of copies of the Gospels, convinced that the increase will have good results, not to speak of the advantage of disposing of the well-known prejudice that the Church does not wish to permit or hinder the reading of the Sacred Scriptures in the vulgar tongue. And as it is of the greatest moment not merely to keep in view the accomplishment of the object mentioned in preference to any other which may present itself to the zeal of the Society, but likewise to bring all the united forces to bear upon it, it will be well that the Society should regard as a sufficient field of labor the publication of the Gospels and of the Acts of the Apostles.

Be it yours then, Venerable Brother, to promote by the prestige of your authority and by the wisdom of your counsels the growth of a work which we have so much at heart, and it is for the members to continue to devote themselves to this work as they have been doing—that is, with the greatest diligence and the noblest enthusiasm. From the moment when we proposed to ourselves to restore everything in Christ Jesus, we could desire nothing better than the introduction amongst the Faithful of the custom of reading the Holy Gospels, not merely often but daily, as their reading shows and makes known clearly in what way the desired revival can and should be attained. As a presage of Heavenly graces and a pledge of our goodwill we impart the Apostolic Benediction in the Lord with all our heart to you, to the members, and to all who shall help the Society.

Given at Rome on the 21st January, 1907, the fourth year of our Pontificate.

PIUS X. POPE.

CATHOLIC SPAIN

(Concluded from last week.)

Sunny Spain is at her best in May and June. The Corpus Christi very seldom falls in May, so we naturally look for this great, grand festival in the sweet month of June. Days before the eventful Feast elaborate preparations are made for the due solemnity of the occasion. On the eve especially is observed the greatest of preparations, for on the following day is not the King of the Universe going to pass through the streets, blessing the multitude and their homes? The line of route, some two miles in circumference, is especially decorated. The streets are covered with sand, and every house is bedecked with bunting and rich tapestry. The morn of

Corpus Christi

dawns with everything perfect as regards atmospheric conditions. The military are alert everywhere, marching to the places assigned to them. The entire line of route is guarded by the different branches of the service. At ten o'clock the procession starts from the Cathedral amid a salvo of artillery. First come a strong mounted body of the Guardia Civil, followed by Dragoons. All church bells are rung and the massed bands strike up the National Anthem 'La Marcha Real.' Next come as on Good Friday the schools, sodalities, and confraternities all singing the 'Pange

WHENEVER you see a Smiling Woman, think of Hondai-Lanka Tea! It always gives pleasure.

"HONDEE Launka" is see so-much used tea of see family. Madam, she praise it—so eet is "tres bon"!