

## International Eucharistic Congress

The nineteenth International Eucharistic Congress, for which arrangements had been in progress for several months, was opened in London on Wednesday of last week. Among the members of the Sacred College present were Cardinals-Vincent Vannutelli (Papal Legate), Gibbons, Fischer, Logue, Lécot, and Mercier. The Albert Hall had been secured for the principal meetings on Thursday and Friday, in addition to which there was to be a monster meeting there on Saturday evening. When the last mail left Home there was no official notification that a public procession was to be held. Since then it is evident that it was decided to hold one, and that the Home Secretary and police authorities had given permission to do so. The decision seems to have stirred up the opposition of certain religious bodies.

A cable message received on Thursday stated that two Bishops met the Papal Legate at Dover, and that the Archbishop of Westminster (Most Rev. Dr. Bourne), the Bishop of Dunedin (Right Rev. Dr. Verdon), the Duke of Norfolk, and a large and enthusiastic gathering welcomed him at Charing Cross.

The delegates included eight Cardinals, fifteen Archbishops, seventy Bishops, twenty-eight Abbots, and many other Church dignitaries from all parts of the world.

Sectional meetings were held at the Horticultural, Caxton, and Buckingham Halls, at which papers on various aspects of the history and development of the Church were read.

The leading visitors were the guests of the Catholic peers. Eight thousand membership tickets were issued, and sold days before the opening of the Congress, there being many hundreds of fruitless applications.

The following is a list of the principal papers read at the Congress:—'The Holy Eucharist in Pre-Reformation Times,' by the Right Rev. Abbot Gasquet; 'The Reformation and the Mass,' by the Right Rev. Mgr. Canon Moyes; 'The Royal Declaration Against Transubstantiation,' by the Right-Hon. Lord Llandaff; 'Eucharistic Bequests,' by the Hon. Frank Russell, K.C.; 'The History of Daily Communion,' by the Very Rev. Canon T. B. Scannell, D.D.; 'The Recent Pontifical Decrees on Daily Communion,' by the Rev. H. Lucas, S.J.; 'The Orthodox Church and the Blessed Eucharist,' by the Rev. A. Fortescue, D.D.; 'The Teaching of St. John Chrysostom on the Blessed Eucharist,' by H.R.H. Prince Max of Saxony; 'Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament,' by the Rev. H. Thurston, S.J.; 'Eucharistic Literature,' by the Rev. V. McNab, O.P.

A solemn service in Westminster Cathedral on Wednesday evening inaugurated the Congress.

Cardinal Vannutelli was received in state by Archbishop Bourne at the door and was conducted, wearing a scarlet cappa magna, under a lofty canopy of white silk and gold, to the high altar. Apostolic letters appointing Cardinal Vannutelli as the Papal Legate were read wherein the Pope paid a tribute to the British Empire, which was famed for the liberty extended to its citizens and to whose authority and laws so many millions of Catholics rendered faithful and dutiful obedience.

The Legate then entered the pulpit. Speaking in Latin, he acknowledged Britain's hospitality, and offered an expression of respect to the wise ruler of her destinies, and his acknowledgments to those in authority. The Pope trusted that good results would follow the Congress, and that the Blessed Eucharist would be the ultimate means of uniting all in one faith.

The service, wherein music by modern English composers was played, concluded with the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

### The Papal Legate.

Cardinal Vincenzo Vannutelli, who represented the Holy Father at the Congress, is well known in the United Kingdom. He was the Papal Legate at the

re-opening of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh, which took place about four years ago. He must be distinguished from his elder brother, Cardinal Serafino Vannutelli. Born in 1836, the former, after a course at the Gregorian and Roman Universities in the Eternal City, was ordained priest in 1860. He was for some years Professor of Theology in the Vatican Seminary, after which he served in the Papal Nunciature both in Holland and Belgium. From 1867 to 1890 he became in succession Assistant Secretary of State, Apostolic Delegate to Constantinople, when he was consecrated Titular Archbishop of Sardi, Apostolic Delegate to Moscow, and Nuncio at Lisbon. In 1890, upon his return to Rome, he was proclaimed Cardinal Priest—he had been named 'in petto' the previous year—and ten years later he was made Cardinal-Bishop of Palestrina.

Viscount Llandaff read a paper, and the Duke of Norfolk, in the subsequent discussion, described the royal declaration in taking the coronation oath as an insult to the King and the good sense of the nation, besides being a travesty on the Catholic doctrine.

The announcement was made that the Congress in 1909 would be held at Lourdes, and in 1910 at Montreal.

Cardinal Vannutelli, the Archbishop of Melbourne, and the Duke of Norfolk were amongst the speakers at a crowded meeting in the Albert Hall.

Viscount Llandaff (Right Hon. Henry Matthews, P.C.), who read a paper on 'The Royal Declaration against Transubstantiation,' was Home Secretary from 1886 to 1892 in the Marquis of Salisbury's Cabinet. He was Conservative Member for Dungarvan from 1868 to 1874, and represented West Birmingham during the time he was in the Cabinet. He became a Bencher of Lincoln's Inn forty years ago, and had a distinguished career at the Bar. He paid a flying visit to New Zealand some years ago.

The following cable messages appeared in Monday's papers:—A voluntary guard of honor accompanied the Catholic procession of the Blessed Sacrament, numbering 12,000. Many small windows were let at 10 guineas each. There were 800 police on duty.

After two days' telegraphic negotiations between Mr. Asquith and Archbishop Bourne of Westminster, the Prime Minister deprecating the procession and Archbishop Bourne requiring Mr. Asquith to make a public request for its abandonment, the Prime Minister intimated that it would be better in the interests of order and good feeling that the ceremonial (of which he questioned the legality) should not take place. Archbishop Bourne decided that all ecclesiastical ceremonial should be eliminated from the procession, and that the Cardinals and Bishops should proceed to the Cathedral along the proposed route in full court dress, but the ceremonial procession would be held within the Cathedral, and the Legate's benediction bestowed from the balcony.

A cable message in Tuesday's papers states that the Catholics were intensely disappointed over the procession decision. Many special trainloads of visitors had arrived from all parts of the country.

Archbishop Bourne, amid a storm of howls and hissing, announced the alterations in the procession at a mass meeting held in the Albert Hall.

Fifteen thousand children met on the Victorian Embankment and marched to the Cathedral to receive Cardinal Vannutelli's blessing.

The *Daily Chronicle* remarks that Mr. Asquith wished to give the Catholics an opportunity to abandon the procession as if they were acting spontaneously. The paper says it is unconvinced that any Government action was necessary. It upholds the principles of liberty and toleration.

The *Daily Telegraph* condemns the Government's weakness, irresolution, susceptibility to pressure, and readiness to make concessions to a few extremists who clamor. It says the result will be to needlessly excite animosities. Mr. Asquith endeavored to induce Archbishop Bourne to act as if he had changed his mind and quailed before the Protestant Alliance.

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