

### CONVENT SCHOOL, INGLEWOOD

**G**RAND ART UNION, in aid of Convent School, Inglewood.—List of WINNING NUMBERS:—1, 6104; 2, 6493; 3, 6123; 4, 6596; 5, 1385; 6, 6407; 7, 10995; 8, 804; 9, 1797; 10, 5990; 11, 9437; 12, 6801; 13, 3049; 14, 9265; 15, 1077; 16, 10780; 17, 4407; 18, 10075; 19, 2271; 20, 1670; 21, 6063. Sincere thanks for your practical sympathy and generous assistance.—I remain, yours sincerely, JAS. F. MACMANUS.

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**T**HE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR Return their Most Sincere THANKS to all the Good Benefactors for their Kindness during the past year, and offer their best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

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The Seminary is under the patronage and direction of the Archbishop and Bishops of New Zealand, and under the immediate personal supervision of the Right Rev. Bishop of Dunedin.

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### MESSAGE OF POPE LEO XIII. TO THE N.Z. TABLET.

*Pergant Directores et Scriptores New Zealand Tablet, Apostolica Benedictione confortati, Religionis et Justitiæ causam promovere per vias Veritatis et Pacis.*

Die 4 Aprilis, 1900.

LEO XIII., P.M.

TRANSLATION.—Fortified by the Apostolic Blessing, let the Directors and Writers of the New Zealand Tablet continue to promote the cause of Religion and Justice by the ways of Truth and Peace.

April 4, 1900.

LEO XIII., Pope.



THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1909.

## THE ITALIAN EARTHQUAKES



**H**ERE is an element of good in physical evil—even (as seismologists assure us) in the wreck and havoc that earthquakes leave in their crumpled track. 'There is much,' says one authority, 'to deplore in earthquakes and eruptions, but these disturbances show that there is sufficient vital force left in our planet to support human life for thousands of years—say, at least, till the next glacial epoch, which is due in about twenty thousand years.' All this is, no doubt, very true. But it will take more than this sort of proverb to patch the grief of those who, as survivors or as active sympathisers, have witnessed the ruin and disaster that have fallen upon large urban and rural regions of Sicily and Calabria. For long ages the earth's springy and responsive shell has been cooling and creeping and shrinking and dipping and side-slipping on both sides of the Straits of Messina. The 'quaky' area was extensive, fertile, packed with towns and villages, and densely populated. The disaster that struck it so suddenly with crumbling earth and tidal wave has turned that beautiful and smiling region—including a part of 'the garden of Italy'—into a tangled heap of ruins, beneath which lie buried the piled-up remains of dead whose numbers have been estimated at from 100,000 to 200,000 and more. The panic of this great catastrophe may well excuse over-estimates of the toll of lives taken by wave and seismic shock. But even the most conservative accounts leave the Sicilian-Calabrian earthquake of the closing days of 1908 one of the direst calamities of the kind of which history bears a record. The long-drawn siege of Paris left the 'gay capital' with two hundred acres of ruins. A few strenuous seconds of earthquake and tidal wave wrought more ruin, and piled up a higher holocaust of slain, than many a big war. The earth-wave set up by the shock outside Messina shook and tore and crumpled towns far inland in Calabria and left a photographic record of its movements upon seismographs as far afield as the Commonwealth of Australia.

In the presence of this crowning calamity that makes all the world akin, one feels how puny is the cheap sarcasm which La Rochefoucauld flings at the lack of sympathy of our kind. Almost as swiftly as the earth-wave rode and the electric wire flashed the brief but terrible story, there swept back a swelling tide of practical help and sympathy from the ends of the earth to the afflicted people in the desolated regions of Sicily and Calabria. Such noble charity does honor to our race. And steam and the electric wire, and the medical art, and every varied form of organised Christian charity, and every section in Chamber and State, joined hands in minimising the effects of a calamity that in less happy days would have reached far greater proportions. Bay-crowns and heaven's jewels to the brave hearts of many nations and faiths who toiled so nobly, and amid such perils! And rest eternal to the souls of those who have gone to their account amidst such swift and overwhelming devastation!

The Sicilian-Calabrian earthquakes of 1908 take their place upon the great historical catastrophes of this kind. Except for those of the past fifty years, the figures of the

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