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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 Justitiae causam promovere per vias Veritatis et Facis.

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, MARCH 11, 1909.

M. LOISY'S APPOINTMENT



HE submarine cable conveyed to these ends of the earth during the past week the intimation that the French Government had appointed the Abbé Loisy—who was finally excommunicated by the Pope more than a year ago—to the Chair of History and Religion at the College of France. The cableman furthermore sent the additional announcement that 'the Roman Catholic world is perturbed' over the fact. The appointment is significant, for reasons which we shall presently mention; but there is nothing in it to excite surprise, much less 'perturbation,' amongst even the most timid-minded members of 'the Catholic world.' This addendum is, in fact, one of the 'gags' so often indulged in on his own account by the cable-man. The College of France is a purely State institution, and was specially designed 'to promote the more advanced tendencies of the time and to counteract the scholasticism of the University.' M. Loisy, by his rationalistic writings, expressly and definitely cut himself adrift from supernatural Christianity. And if an avowedly and even aggressively anti-religious Government now finds itself in a position to bestow its favors upon him, the man who has most cause to be 'perturbed' is the unhappy 'Abbé' himself. For Catholics the appointment is mainly significant as furnishing a fresh and vivid illustration of the now undoubted fact that it has become part of the settled and systematic policy of the Clemenceau Government to punish and penalise all servants of the State who show any respect or love for religion, and to heap preferment and promotion on those who are disloyal to the Christian faith. Whether it be in the army or in the navy, in the municipal departments or in the scholastic world, there is the same tale to tell: men have had to suffer because they were even suspected of being faithful to the practices of their religion, or they have been honored and rewarded because they have openly and blatantly flouted the ancient Faith.

It would be easy to multiply instances of the odious tyranny and determined intolerance with which this new 'Kulturkampf' of aggressive atheism is being worked out, but we content ourselves with quoting two or three of the most recent cases in point, which are at the same time absolutely typical. Let us take the army first. There is, to begin with, the affair at Laon, when, a few weeks ago, five officers were punished because, whilst attending Mass, they had heard the Bishop of Soissons preach a sermon on the text, 'The truth shall make you free.' The preacher made no reference to officials or to the Government, nor did he allude in any way to the law or the Republic. The Prefect, however, did not approve of the Bishop's use of the word 'liberty,' and of the five officers who had committed the 'crime' of being present, one (a colonel) was deprived of his command, and the other four

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