

# Catholic World

## AUSTRIA.—Peter's Pence.

On the occasion of the Papal Jubilee the Emperor Francis Joseph sent an autograph letter to his Holiness. The monarch has also empowered the Austrian-Hungarian ambassador to the Vatican to present to the Pope the sum of 100,000 francs as Peter's Pence.

## A Work of Charity

The Archbishop of Olmutz, Dr. Theodore Kohn, has declared that in honor of the Pope's jubilee he will devote 300,000 crowns (about £12,000)—all his property—to a work of charity. Eight thousand pounds are to be invested in an orphanage in the Moravian village of Breznitz, where his mother lived and died. The rest is for the endowment. If the Archbishop lives he hopes to save £2,400 more out of his income, to be added to the fund. If he dies before he can save so much, he wishes his personal property in books, furniture, and jewelry to be sold for that purpose.

## ENGLAND.—A Great Architect.

His Eminence Cardinal Vaughan, attended by Mgr. Moyes and Father Johnson, pontificated at the Requiem at the funeral of John Francis Bentley, architect, of Westminster Cathedral. The Cardinal paid an eloquent tribute to the piety and talents of the designer of the great structure now approaching completion.

## Church Progress.

Catholic buildings which will be erected this year in Sunderland, England, will cost about £50,000. The Little Sisters of the Poor lead in expenditure, closely followed by the new schools of St. Mary's and the magnificent home of the Young Men's Institute.

## The Westminster Cathedral.

The late Mr. Bentley, architect of Westminster Cathedral, has left behind him plans to enable the completion of the great building to be carried out according to the original designs.

## Lord Denbigh's Sister.

Lord Denbigh's sister, Lady Edith Mary Frances, who has hitherto resided in the Convent of the Sisters of Charity at Dunfermline, has become Lady Superior of St. Mary's Convent at Dover.

## A Bit of History.

The fact that Leo XIII. completed his 92nd year a few weeks ago, reminds a London paper that he is the only Pope who has walked down Piccadilly and occupied a seat in the Distinguished Strangers' Gallery in the British House of Commons, where he had had the pleasure of hearing a speech by Daniel O'Connell. The Pope has always been fond of recalling this experience when receiving Irish pilgrims and visitors. The Pope, then Archbishop Pecci,

spent the whole of February, 1846, in London, for the first few days as the guest of the Brazilian Ambassador, and afterwards in apartments off Piccadilly. He admired Regent Street, and spent several afternoons in Hyde Park. He was introduced to Lord Palmerston by the Austrian ambassador, and attended a reception at the Foreign Office. Queen Victoria, whom he had previously met when Papal Nuncio at Brussels, invited him to a State reception at Court, and he was present at 'a great ceremonial, in which the Queen took part.' Pope Leo at that time had a serviceable acquaintance with the English language, and conversed in it with Charles Lever, the Irish novelist, Lady Seymour, the Weld family, and Dr. Whately, the Protestant Archbishop of Dublin, with whom he established cordial relations. While in London the Pope officiated in two churches—the old Sardinian Chapel, still standing on the western side of Lincoln's Inn Fields, and St. Mary's, Moorfields, the old London Catholic Cathedral, recently demolished.

## FRANCE.—Official Bigotry.

The French Government seems bent on the extreme of perblind bigotry. It has just decided that rural post-offices must remain open on Sunday till noon—this with the expressed object of preventing the clerks from hearing Mass.

## ITALY.—Offering from Peasants.

The peasant women of Italy will make an offering to the Pope in honor of his jubilee. For this object a penny subscription has been instituted.

## Social Unrest.

While the glad jubilee opens in the Vatican (writes the Rome correspondent of the Sydney 'Freeman's Journal') the kingdom of Italy is in a welter. I have dwelt more than once in these columns upon the strange labor agitation which began with the new year 1902, and which still goes on. Side by side with this, during the last five or six months, there has been carried on a strenuous movement of Catholic agitation against the divorce Bill. Both movements, in my opinion, have overthrown the Cabinet. This occurred on the day after King Victor Emmanuel III. had with great pomp, inaugurated a session of Parliament and delivered a sententious speech from the Throne. A morning paper heads its account of the present phase of the labor agitation with the title 'On the way to Revolution.' Well, mayhap, but the way to the Revolution of 1898 was stopped everywhere by the means being used now. The railway system has been converted into a department of the national army. There are thousands of police and carabinieri and regular troops for the thousands of hungry and discontented. I think the storm may blow over, but I still think, and I have more than once said here, that the labor agitation cannot but in the end revolu-

tionise this country. Chances will decide whether this will be done suddenly and violently, or slowly but still swiftly, as it were.

## ROME.—A Special Medal.

A special medal is coined every year at the Vatican mint, commemorating some important act of the reigning Pontiff. This year's medal, which has just been issued, bears the Holy Father's effigy, with the words 'Leo XIII. Pont. Max. An. XXIV,' and on the reverse an accurate reproduction of the magnificent monument erected by the Sovereign Pontiff to the memory of his great predecessor Innocent III. in the Lateran Basilica.

## Congratulations.

Besides having despatched special embassies to Rome for the Papal jubilee a number of sovereigns sent telegrams of congratulation to the Holy Father. The Emperors of Austria-Hungary, Germany and Russia; the Queen Regent of Spain, the King of Portugal, the Queen of the Belgians, the Prince of Montenegro, the Count and Countess of Flanders, the Comte d'Eu, and the Presidents of the Republics of Switzerland, Brazil, Chili, and Venezuela were amongst those from whom such telegrams were received.

## Churches and Religious.

It has been erroneously stated that there are 365 churches in Rome, one for every day in the year. The exact number, according to the recent census, is 352 including the four great basilicas outside the walls. Besides these there are about 918 chapels connected with monasteries, convents, schools, and private palaces, and a large number of shrines erected by individuals in different parts of the city to fulfil vows or to show gratitude for deliverance from peril or sickness. There are 68 monastic establishments, 42 for monks and 26 for nuns. The number of inhabitants varies from time to time with the season, and averages about 4000.

## Bequests to the Pope.

It is stated that during the year 1901 the Pope figured as legatee in over 700 wills throughout the Catholic world, the aggregate amount thus left to him being £120,000. The largest single legacy left to his Holiness was £6000, bequeathed to him by a wealthy Italian manufacturer, and the second largest £4000.

## The Jubilee.

The Holy Father, apparently not in the least fatigued by the imposing ceremony which took place on March 3 (writes the Rome correspondent of the 'Catholic Times') opened on the following Wednesday the long series of diplomatic receptions which undoubtedly constitute the most important feature of the Jubilee celebrations, proving as they do that the whole civilised world honors and reveres the Catholic

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### MAORI TESTIMONIAL.

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