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Peculiar Nesting-places.

MR HINMAN, instructor of gunnery at Brightlingsea, states that while a 6in gun was being used there a few months ago, a starling's nest was discovered in its interior, right down at the breech. It was removed. On April 19 a captain's inspection took place, and a second time a nest was discovered, and again removed. On the 21st the bird had returned for the third time, evidently with the intention of staying, for it not only built a fresh nest but deposited one egg. A correspondent at Midhurst reports the case of a robin which has built a nest and laid five eggs in a clog which was hanging on the inside wall of his coachhouse. The eggs were laid in five days, and in twelve days four young ones were hatched.

Coronation of the Holy Father.

PAPAL coronations differ from those of temporal sovereigns, and as a quarter of a century has passed since Leo XIII. was crowned, and Catholics all the world over are now celebrating the silver jubilee of that coronation, a brief description of the ceremony may be of timely interest (says a writer in an exchange).

There seems to be a very general impression that Popes crown themselves, since by reason of their exalted rank no one is qualified to place the tiara on their head. This is not the case. For the Pope is crowned by a member of the Sacred College, who is not a Cardinal Bishop, nor even a Cardinal Priest, but merely a Cardinal Deacon. To Cardinal Macchi, now the senior of the Cardinal Deacons, will fall the lot of crowning the next occupant of the Chair of St. Peter. It remains to be seen whether the next coronation will take place in St. Peter's or in the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican. Much will depend upon the views and politics of the new Pope. If it is Cardinal Vanutelli, or one of the members of the Sacred College who are disposed to be friendly with the Italian Government, it is probable that the coronation will take place in St. Peter's, whereas, if the next Pope belongs to the Intransigent party, it will take place, like that of Leo XIII., in the Sistine Chapel.

The ceremony will take place in the morning, and will commence with a procession headed by the Swiss Guards, and ended by the new Pope, wearing a gold mitre, carried aloft on the Sedia Gestatoria, with a silver damask canopy borne above his head, flanked by the Flabelli, the great fans of ostrich and peacock feathers, and surrounded by the Noble Guards with drawn swords. As the Pope enters either the Sistine Chapel or St. Peter's—that is to say, the place where the coronation takes place—he is stopped three times by one of the clerks of the Chapel, who, kneeling, sets fire to some flax on the points of a three-pronged stick, exclaiming in a loud and mournful voice: 'Pater Sancte, sic transit gloria mundi' (Holy Father, thus passes away the glory of the world).

Having descended from the Sedia Gestatoria, the Pope proceeds to the altar, and after a brief prayer commences the Introit of the Mass, which on this occasion is celebrated by him. At the end of the confession he takes his places on the throne on the left side of the altar, while the first Cardinal Bishop recites the three customary prayers over him. Then the Pope returns to the altar, kneels on the step, and while the first Cardinal Deacon removes his gold mitre, the second Cardinal Deacon invests him with the Pontifical Pallium or band of white wool worn on the shoulders, with a short band extending downwards on the back and breast. This Pallium is adorned with three black silk embroidered crosses, and constitutes the most sacred and important symbol of his office.

As soon as the Pope is invested therewith he resumes his mitre, reascends his throne, and then receives the homage of the principal dignitaries present. The Cardinals come first and kiss in turn his foot and his hand, and are then embraced by him. Archbishops and Bishops kiss his foot and right knee, but receive no embrace, while minor dignitaries of the Church and laymen kiss his foot, or rather the cross on his slipper alone.

The Mass is then proceeded with, and after the collects the senior Cardinal Deacon, standing at the lowest step of the altar, cries three times, 'Long life to our lord, Leo XIV. (or whatever other title the new Pope may assume) the Bishop and universal Pontiff given to us by God,' and thereupon turning toward the Pope hands him the papal crozier, which is distinguished from those of all cardinals, archbishops, bishops, and abbots in that it is

surmounted by a cross instead of a shepherd's crook. This form of crozier is exclusively used by the Pontiff, and it is said that one of the reasons why the croziers of the other dignitaries of the Church have the upper end bent, and are surmounted by the crook, is as a symbol of the fact that their owners are compelled to bow to the will of the Supreme Pontiff.

Not until the conclusion of the Mass does the actual coronation take place. The Pope proceeds from the altar to his seat on the throne, and thereupon, while the senior Cardinal Deacon pronounces a prayer over him, the second Cardinal Deacon removes from the Pontiff's head the golden mitre which he has until that time worn. The first Cardinal Deacon then places the tiara upon the Pope's head, with the words—

'Take this tiara, adorned with three crowns, and know that thou art the father of all princes and sovereigns, the ruler of the globe, and on earth the vice-regent of Our Saviour, Jesus Christ, to Whom all honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.'

The Pope then rises, and, wearing the tiara, delivers that benediction which completes the ceremony of coronation, and which, until the reign of Leo XIII., was invariably given from the external balcony of St. Peter's to the faithful assembled in the vast square below.

The tiara, like the cross surmounted crozier above described, is an attribute which belongs to the Pope exclusively. It is, like many other symbols of religion and of royalty, of Oriental origin; for Herodotus describes the crown of the rulers of Persia as a 'tiara.' Nicholas I., who was the first pope to be crowned, and who occupied the Chair of St. Peter from 850 to 869, was crowned with an ordinary episcopal mitre surrounded by a single crown. In 1290 Pope Boniface VII. added a second crown to the mitre to indicate his sovereignty over things temporal as well as spiritual. This gave much offence to the German Emperor and to the rulers of France and England, and it was partly in consequence of this that Pope Clement V. added the third crown to indicate the spiritual supremacy of the Papacy over the then three known quarters of the globe; that is to say, Europe, Asia, and Africa.

There are several tiaras in the Papal treasury, the one given by Napoleon I. in 1805 to Pope Pius VII., covered with jewels and surmounted by the large-t emerald in existence, is so heavy that it cannot be worn, and the two usually used by Leo XIII. have been the tiara made by Gregory XVI. adorned with some 200 precious stones, and the one presented by Queen Isabella of Spain to Pius IX., weighing three pounds, and adorned with no less than 19,000 precious stones, of which 18,000 are diamonds. The Papal tiara, instead of being divided in the centre, as is the episcopal mitre, is perfectly closed.

The reign of a Pope, I may add in conclusion, dates from his coronation instead of from his election, although he is fully qualified to enjoy all the prerogatives of Pontiff even prior to his coronation.

THE *Timaru Herald's* Glenavy correspondent writes: 'The Waikakahi estate, comprising close on 50,000 acres, which was purchased from Mr Allen McLean some three years ago, has proved one of the most successful ventures the Government ever undertook. The estate extends from the Waitaki to the Waihao River, and is now closely settled by more than 100 families. The settlers almost to a man are well satisfied with their land, and are steadily improving their homes. The land varies greatly in quality, that near the Waitaki being well adapted for sheep, and the portions near the Waihao being more suitable for growing heavy crops of wheat and oats. The Government has been very fortunate in finding a good class of tenants, and, as time goes on, this district should become one of the most prosperous in South Canterbury.'

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