

Aglipay has practically made no change in the doctrine of Catholics beyond refusing to recognise the Pope. The future of the movement will probably be largely political.'

It is well that Catholics in New Zealand should know the facts of Aglipay's 'remarkable religious revival,' as serious misstatements concerning its nature and extent have been copied from certain non-Catholic Church publications into the columns of several of our New Zealand daily papers. The collapse of the idle stories about the alleged 'revolts from Rome' in Austria, France, and England, will be fresh in the minds of our readers. A Protestant correspondent writing a short time ago in the London 'Daily Chronicle' says of the puny leaders of those so-called 'revolts': 'These gentlemen can generally be classed under one or two headings: (1) Persons who afterwards become a credit to no one; and (2) persons who return sooner or later to the Roman obedience.'

THE HOLY FATHER'S JUBILEE

Twenty-five years ago to-day (writes the Rome correspondent of the Dublin 'Freeman's Journal' under date February 20) the Conclave which was summoned to elect a successor to the well-beloved Pontiff Pius IX.—whose death had taken place nineteen days previously—concluded its unusually brief session by the election of Cardinal Gioacchino Pecci, Archbishop of Perugia, to the See of St. Peter. The 20th of February of 1878 was, in Rome, a cold, raw day, with heavy clouds that seemed to threaten rain covering the sky. The people who had gathered in the Piazza of St. Peter's awaiting the result of the voting of the Cardinals, who were assembled in the Sistine Chapel—the place of the Conclave—had lost the hope of seeing the termination of the voting, by means of the smoke that issued from the tiny chimney that projected from the wall of the Sistine, and had for the most part retired. The Piazza was almost deserted, when half an hour later—that is to say, at one in the afternoon—the windows of the great 'loggia' above the central entrance to St. Peter's, were thrown open, and a Cardinal appeared at the balustrade of the 'loggia.' The Conclave was over: a new Pontiff was elected.

At four o'clock of the afternoon of the 18th the Cardinals entered into Conclave. At half-past 12 on the 20th Cardinal Pecci was elected with 44 out of 61 votes. Cardinal Caterini, Dean of the Order of Cardinal Deacons, preceded by the processional cross, and accompanied by the Pontifical Masters of Ceremonies and others, approached the 'loggia' whence the Popes were accustomed to give the Benediction to the city and the world. Weak with age and illness, with a voice that was tremulous, Cardinal Caterini approached and stammered out the words that announced the tidings of great joy, that a Pontiff had been elected: *Annuntio vobis gaudium magnum. 'Habemus Papam Eminentissimum et Reverendissimum Dominum Pecci qui sibi nomen imposuit Leo XIII.'*

The very few persons present in the Piazza when the windows of the 'loggia' were opened hurried forward to hear the news. A long cry of acclamation rose up from them, and this was soon followed by the ringing of the bells of St. Peter's in joyous tones. The church bells of the city were rung, and in a short time

The Joyous News

was conveyed from end to end of Rome, and the people began to flock to the vast basilica of St. Peter's. In the 'Calcografia,' or Governmental Department of Steel Engravings, a very fine portrait of Cardinal Pecci, beautifully engraved in steel, was exhibited, with the inscription, 'His Holiness Leo XIII., P.M.,' written in blue pencil beneath it; and in the immediate vicinity I remember meeting a little boy who was going home to tell the great news to his mother, and was repeating at intervals on the way, 'Leone Decimoterzo! Leone Decimoterzo!'

The great Church of St. Peter's was almost filled. The people turned their eyes to the door, for above it a great red drapery hung at the 'loggia' within the church which corresponds to that without. About four o'clock the great windows of the inner 'loggia' were thrown open, and after a short interval the people beheld the new Pontiff all in white, and pale as the robes he wore, appearing at the 'loggia,' and then they sent forth a great cry of joy. The new Pontiff raised his hand to enjoin silence on the crowd, and then in that majestic ringing voice which has been heard so frequently during this last quarter of a century by so many hundreds of thousands of people from all corners of the civilised world, he pronounced over the faithful people of Rome his first triple Benediction. Tears stood in the eyes of many, cries of joy were uttered by the lips of others, and the waving of handkerchiefs and the murmur of many thousands of voices in more or less articulate sounds, greeted the first Benediction in public of the new Pontiff.

This is the Event

which Christian Rome, and with it the whole Catholic world, commemorates to-day, twenty-five years after its occurrence. No one, least of all Leo XIII., then imagined that this was the beginning of a Pontificate unequalled in duration except by Pius IX., in the annals of the Church since St. Peter until the present day. To-day Leo XIII. begins the 26th year of his Pontificate. It was Cardinal Donnet, Archbishop of Bordeaux, that related how Cardinal Pecci, hearing his own name repeated so often during the voting, and perceiving that everything pointed to him as the successor of Pius IX., 'great tears rolled down his cheeks, and his hand shook so violently that the pen it held fell to the ground. I picked it up and gave it to him,' continued Cardinal Donnet, 'saying, "Courage! There is no question here of you; it is the Church and the future of the world that are in question." He made no reply, only lifting his eyes to heaven to implore the Divine assistance.'

To-day the chief point of attraction in Rome seems to be St. Peter's and the Vatican. Trams, omnibuses, cabs, and carriages, proceeded from all parts of the city to the Vatican. For the happy anniversary of the 25th year of his election to the Papacy Leo XIII. this morning was made the object of special manifestations of affection. In the Hall of Beatification which is above the vestibule of St. Peter's, the numerous pilgrims now in Rome—2500 came from Lombardy the day before yesterday—were received by him in audience this morning. On

This Joyous Anniversary

took place the presentation to the Pope of the very rich golden tiara, the gift of the Catholics of the whole world. It was presented by his Eminence Cardinal Respighi, Vicar of Rome, accompanied by all the bishops who are in Rome at the present moment, for this occasion. All the Cardinals of the Sacred College here assisted at the solemn ceremony, which was carried out with great solemnity. The Noble Guards, who accompanied the Pope, appeared to-day in their new uniforms of red, a color which they have not worn since the 20th of September, 1870. All the members of the Pontifical Court were arrayed in their most gorgeous uniforms

The Tiara.

which the Catholics of the world, on the initiative of the International Committee, presided over by Count Giovanni Acquederni, offer to-day to the Holy Father, has been executed by the illustrious Bolognese artist, the goldsmith Augusto Milani, whose former works have been much admired, such as the votive lamp offered by the Italian pilgrimage at the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes. The tiara is of fine silver bands, all wrought in relief, of oval form, somewhat pointed at the top, surmounted by the cross dominating a tiny globe representing the world, and this is fixed upon a curved, dome-like form which surmounts the pierced summit of the tiara, the piercings being in star-like forms suggesting the firmament. The silver oval is divided by three crowns of the purest gold placed one above the other. The two bands which run between the first and second and the second and third crowns are adorned with continuous reliefs, very choice in design, and very finely wrought, representing olive branches burdened with fruit, which, rising from the base, are exquisitely interwoven one with another, covering the silver ground work with leaves and fruit.

In the great Basilica of St. Peter this morning the pilasters and portions of the wall were draped in crimson damask, as for a festa. The bronze statue of St. Peter seated on the Throne with the symbolical keys in the left hand, and the right hand raised in benediction, was arrayed to-day in the great crimson cope which is usually only seen on the Feast of St. Peter, and on the head was the jewel-studded tiara. The Confession of St. Peter was beautifully adorned with an abundance of richest flowers, and the altar splendidly decorated. Behind it, towards the apse, a special altar had been erected, at which his Eminence Cardinal Rampolla, Secretary of State to his Holiness and Archbishop of the Basilica, celebrated Mass. At the altar of the Cattedra, above which rises St. Peter's Chair encased in a richly wrought covering of gilded bronze, many candles were lighted, so that the whole vast space had the appearance of a joyous festival. The Cardinal celebrated the Mass of Thanksgiving for the preservation of the life of the Pontiff.

This afternoon, as I write, thousands of people are hurrying over the Bridge of St. Angelo, and the other bridges which cross the Tiber to the great Church of St. Peter, where a Te Deum in thanksgiving to God is to be sung on the completion of Leo XIII.'s Silver Jubilee in the Pontificate.

A Rome correspondent, writing under date March 3, says:—To-day ends the silver jubilee celebrations of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the coronation of Pope Leo XIII., and ends the twenty-fifth year of the most illustrious pontificate of many centuries. While all the world is rejoicing that the Holy Father is spared to see his jubilee, Rome is in a state of excitement surpassing anything seen for a quarter of a century. Invitations of over 50,000 persons to witness the Pontifical Mass and ceremonies were issued. All last night's preparations went forward at St. Peter's and the decorations were completed early this morning. A heavy rain that lasted all night kept the people from spending the hours before the doors of St. Peter's, as is usual on such occasions in order to secure good positions. The rain aided the troops and police in maintaining order. But the vicinity