

Notes

Bishop Nevill

We continue to receive from representative non-Catholics very emphatic condemnations of the untimely and regrettable action of the Anglican Bishop of Dunedin in pouring a cataract of controversy over the remains of the good old Pontiff who has gone to his rest. The curious versions—or rather perversions—of early Christian history that appeared in his Lordship's reported utterances are being dissected in the secular press by the Very Rev. Dean Burke. Those who are acquainted with the great ability and wide learning of the pastor of Invercargill need not be reminded that the work could not be in better hands.

The Papal Tiaras

It was a striking moment in St. Peter's on Sunday when the Cardinal deacon (Cardinal Macchi), at the close of the solemn Papal Mass, placed the tiara or triple crown upon the head of Pius X. Of the several tiaras in the Papal treasury, that which was presented by the First Napoleon to Pius VII. in 1805, is a blazing mass of jewels. The jewelled cross upon its summit rests upon the largest emerald yet discovered. But it is so heavy as to be unwearable. The late Pope used two tiaras. One was the costly triple crown described on pp. 62-63 of the eighty-first volume of Moroni's 'Dizionario di Erudizione Storico-ecclesiastica.' It was made to the order of the last Venetian Pope, Gregory XVI. It is adorned with some 200 precious stones of great value, among them being the enormous emerald of Gregory XIII. During the revolution of 1831, this tiara and many other sacred and precious objects were placed in the hands of a trusted servant of the Vatican and by him buried in a safe and secret place. The damp earth, however, greatly damaged the tiara. Gregory XVI. had it remade in 1833. In 1855 it was remodelled by Pius IX. The other tiara used by the late Pontiff was presented to Pius IX. by Queen Isabella II. of Spain in 1855. It weighs three pounds and is described as 'a mountain of brilliants, all white and of the first water'—19,000 of the 20,000 precious stones which adorn it being diamonds. We may add that the reign of a Pope dates, not from his election, but from his coronation, although, of course, he enjoys all the prerogatives of Roman Pontiff from the moment that he acquiesces in the choice of the Cardinal-electors.

The Mass of Coronation

The Messa Papale, or solemn Papal Mass, to which unavoidably brief reference is made in this week's supplement, is a spectacle that is not easily forgotten. It was our privilege to assist at it on a few rare occasions, the most memorable of which was that of the canonisation of St. Joseph Labre, St. Lawrence of Brindisi, and St. Clare of Montefalco in 1882. The same general order is followed with the exceptions mentioned in our supplement, in the Papal Mass of Coronation. It is a noble ceremonial. At the solemn procession with which it opens the papal grand march is played on the silver trumpets, the three papal tiaras are borne in state—Napoleon's present to Pius VII., valued at nearly £10,000, that of Gregory XVI. (referred to elsewhere in this issue), and the most precious of all, that which Queen Isabella II. of Spain presented to Pius IX., and which is valued at £21,000. After the tiaras comes a picturesque crowd of minor officials; then, in due rank, Abbots, Bishops, Archbishops, Primates, Patriarchs, Cardinal Deacons, Cardinal Priests, and Cardinal Bishops, each the central figure of his own small court or retinue. Next come two Cardinal Deacons assistant, the Swiss and Noble Guard in their rich state uniforms, and then the Pope himself, raised aloft above the heads of all in his sedia gestatoria (or chair of state), which is carried along by twelve stalwart bearers in mediaeval costume. On each side of him are borne two great flabelle or fans made of intermingled ostrich plumes and peacock feathers. Other officers of state follow, Generals of Religious Orders, etc. The Pope descends at the

high altar on ordinary occasions, at the porch (as described elsewhere) on the occasion of his coronation, the tiara is laid aside, he ascends 'the throne of Terce' (which, at the coronation is in the chapel of St. Gregory), assumes the mitre, and receives the 'obedience' of the Cardinals, who go one by one to the throne and kiss his hand, which is covered for this ceremony with the cope. Then follows the 'obedience' of the Patriarchs, Archbishops, Bishops, and other dignitaries. Terce is then said. At its close the Holy Father is vested, he goes in solemn procession to celebrate Mass on the high altar over the tomb of St. Peter (which is reserved for the Pope alone), meeting, on his way thereto, the officials who perform the striking ceremony of burning the tow (described in our supplement). The music of the Mass is sung, as only Romans can sing, by the Papal Choir of male voices, without accompaniment, in the magnificent and soul-searching strains of Palestrina. The long lines of Cardinals and other dignitaries around, of the guards, etc., form a magnificent spectacle. Just previous to the offertory the bread and wine for the Sacrifice are tested by the Cardinal Deacon and the Sacristan. At the Consecration the Pope elevates the Sacred Host to the west, and then presents it successively to the east, north, and south. He does the same with the Chalice. It is the most impressive scene of the Papal Mass. The Choir is silent, the vast multitude kneeling in adoration, the troops also on their knees and presenting arms, and as the Supreme Pontiff stands alone slowly turning the Hidden Lord towards the four corners of the world, there fall from the great dome overhead the softest and sweetest harmonies of the famous silver trumpets. The memory of that moment dwells with us yet after the lapse of over twenty years. The Communion of the Pope's Solemn Mass follows closely that of the Greek rite. He takes the ablutions in a different chalice, and, on ordinary occasions, concludes Mass in the usual way with the Papal blessing. The conclusion of the Mass of Coronation is sufficiently indicated in our supplement.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

From a private source we learn that the health of the Right Rev. Mgr. Mackay was very unsatisfactory during the greater part of his trip Home. On arriving at Queenstown he broke his journey to Scotland by visiting the far-famed Lakes of Killarney, where he was when the last mail left.

In a private letter received by us from the Very Rev. Father A. A. Cherrier, pastor of the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Winnipeg, mention is made of a brief visit by the Right Rev. Mgr. Mackay, who, unfortunately, was not able to prolong his stay so as to take advantage of the Rev. Father Cherrier's offer to show him the points of interest in the city and surrounding country.

We have received from the Rev. D. P. Buckley, a souvenir of his ordination to the priesthood in the Lateran Basilica, Rome, by his Eminence Cardinal Respighi, on June 6, and of his first Mass offered at the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Succor, St. Alphonsus', on June 7. Father Buckley arrived in Sydney last week, and is expected in Dunedin in a few days.

Solemn Pontifical High Mass was celebrated in St. Joseph's Cathedral on Sunday in thanksgiving for the election of the new Pontiff, Pope Pius X. His Lordship Bishop Verdon was celebrant, Rev. Father Cleary assistant priest, Rev. Father Murphy deacon, and Rev. Father Howard sub-deacon. At the conclusion of the Mass the 'Te Deum' was sung. The Rev. Father Murphy referred to the character and ability of the new Pontiff, who, he said, would prove a worthy successor of the great Pontiff Leo XIII.

The members of the South Dunedin Catholic Literary and Social Club had a rare treat on Monday evening, when his Lordship Bishop Verdon delivered an illustrated lecture on 'Rome,' in the course of which he gave a description of the Vatican palace. His Lordship's remarks were rendered most interesting from the fact that, owing to his long residence in the Eternal City, he spoke from personal knowledge of, and intimate acquaintance with, his subject. His Lordship also gave portraits of the late and the new Pope. The lecture was greatly enjoyed by the audience. Last night in St. Joseph's Hall his Lordship gave a fine series of views of Rome to an audience composed of the Ladies' Club and the members of the women's Confraternities of the Cathedral parish.

The annual stocktaking sale at Ritchie's Staffordshire House, George street, Dunedin, is now on, and in order to reduce stock undeniable bargains in crockery, cutlery, ironmongery, etc., are offered....

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