

## ROME LETTER

(From our own correspondent.)

April 7.

### EASTER SUNDAY IN THE VATICAN.

From an early hour on Easter Sunday morning more than usual activity was in evidence in the Vatican. Carriages bearing those privileged to assist at the Holy Father's Mass rolled swiftly over the square of St. Peter's, the military corps of the palace wore their gala uniforms, prelates and functionaries hurried to the Sala Matilda to wait for the Pontiff, and by 7.30 Benedict XV. stood on the altar to offer up the Holy Sacrifice. Already the Swiss Guard had hung out their flags at the front and rear of the Vatican. And from the quarters of the Palatine Guard of Honor, the Pontifical Gendarmes, and the Swiss Guards, the colors peculiar to each corps floated in the breeze. Joy filled the air for the great Feast of the Resurrection. And later in the day crowds were permitted to enter the Court of St. Damasus where the band of the Papal Gendarmes—one of the finest in Rome—executed pieces from Verdi, Perosi, Morena, and other masters.

### THE POPE AND THE PRESS.

Not only in Italy, for which Benedict XV. has founded the work mentioned below, but throughout America, Australasia, and Europe, will this decree tell in favor of Catholic newspapers. In the letter written in the Pope's name by the Papal Secretary of State to Cardinal Mañi, Archbishop of Pisa, founding the national movement for a sound press, every parish of Italy's dioceses is required to put forth its energy. The appointment of Cardinal Mañi as honorary president, and Monsignor Faberi, Canon of St. Peter's, as acting-president, augurs well for the success of the undertaking. The following is the decree:—

Our Holy Lord Benedict XV., having received from various parts recommendations and petitions for the institution of a work having for its end the diffusion of sound literature in Italy by means of which an obstacle may be put to the baneful and deleterious propaganda that, through the medium of the anti-religious and sectarian press, continues to become more dangerous, and of the greatest detriment to religion and the morals of the people, and having given his sovereign consideration to the project of the *Opera Nazionale per la Buona Stampa*, (National movement for a sound press), which competent persons with filial confidence submitted to him, has been graciously pleased to approve of the constitution of this work.

The 'Opera' is to be directed and administered by a central council, composed of a president and ten councillors. The president is nominated by the Holy See, and remains in office according to the *hinc placitum* of the Holy See. The ten councillors are nominated by the president from a list previously approved of by the Holy See. They will remain in office for three years, and they are eligible for re-election. Among the councillors the president nominates a vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer.

### NOTES.

Many readers, who were the recipients of his kindness during their visits to Rome, will deeply regret the death of Very Rev. John Dolan, Rector of the Church of St. Silvestro in Capite. It was mainly due to him that St. Silvestro was converted from being a mere English church into one, as he used to put it, 'for all Catholics of the English-speaking countries—America, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, England, and Scotland.' Among those who visited this good Irish-American priest were their Eminences Cardinal Vincenzo Vannutelli and Cardinal Gasquet, and Bishop Kennedy, Rector of the American College. Her Majesty Queen Margherita on visiting St. Silvestro on Holy Thursday, expressed her deepest sympathy for him.

More sudden has been the death of Very Rev.

Father Chiandano, S.J., editor of the *Civiltà Cattolica*, the celebrated Roman bi-monthly. Only a couple of weeks ago the great priest-journalist, after a long conversation with the writer, presented him with his recently published work on Catholic journalism. His death will certainly be felt keenly in the journalistic world, in which he was a shining light.

## GARDENING NOTES

(By Mr. J. JOYCE, Landscape Gardener, Christchurch.)

As my last notes were on deciduous flowering trees, I will now confine my remarks to deciduous flowering shrubs. Shrubs are generally known as a species of trees, which usually grow bushy, and are usually divided into several stems from near the ground. They can be clipped and shaped in form so as never to fill a large space. They are never grown for their wood, as they very rarely form trunks. The deciduous magnolia is a very fine flowering shrub. It bears large cup-like blooms, which burst out before the leaves appear. No collection should be without some specimens, of which there are several kinds. Another beautiful shrub, which on no account should be omitted, is the exochordia, or spiraea grandiflora. This bears a mass of white flowers, and is also called the coral bush. Another very good shrub, which resembles the last mentioned, is the philadelphus grandiflorus, or mock orange. The flowers of this are also white, and are very beautiful. There are several varieties, but this is one of the best. The deutzias are a class of plants that deserve a place in every garden. The kind known as the pride of Rochester bears a mass of double white flowers, and should be in every list. Deutzia gracilis is a very early white flowering shrub. It is very suitable for pot culture, and on no account should be left out of a garden collection. The old pyrus japonica, planted against a fence in a sunny corner of the garden, with its red blossoms in the early spring, is always appreciated. There are several varieties. The different kinds of hydrangea, with their great balls of pink, and sometimes purple flowers are sure to occupy a suitable place in the border. The kerria japonica, with its yellow ball-like flowers, is another shrub which cannot be omitted from the list. Forsythias are another class of yellow flowering shrubs which look well in the spring. The old-fashioned flowering currant (*ribes sanguinea*) deserves to be largely planted in the shrubberies. Another useful plant is the weigelia, which bears pink flowers, and comes into bloom before the leaves appear. The azalea pontica and Ghent varieties are a fine class of plants, which on no account should be ignored. Their flowers are mostly yellow. They look well in clumps on a large border, where they will have room to grow. Daphne mazereum is a shrub with pink flowers, which appear before the leaves. Spiraea thunbergiana is a shrub that produces a mass of white blossoms early in the spring. The Chinese double flowering plums, pink and white, are very pretty. Then there is the old favorite lilac, of which there are several varieties. Its botanical name is syringa, though many people give this name to the mock orange. The snowball tree, or guelder rose (*viburnum opulus*), is a very fine, tall-growing shrub with large white flowers like snowballs—hence the name. I think this list of shrubs, with their varieties, ought to make a fair collection for any garden. All those should be planted in the front of the border alternately with evergreen shrubs, so that the border should not look too bare when the deciduous kinds lose their foliage in winter.

My next article will be on evergreen shrubs.

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