

ROME LETTER

(From our own correspondent.)

May 7.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE HOLY SEE.

The acceptance by the Holy See of a Legation to represent Holland at the Vatican brings us to consider the number of nations which have at present their ambassadors and ministers at the Vatican. Truly, the diplomatic corps to the Holy See covers a wide area—viz., Austria-Hungary, the Argentine, England, Bavaria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Chili, Columbia, Costa Rica, Dominique, Ecuador, Peru, Prussia, Spain, and several small republics. An interesting bit of modern history is recalled by Holland's request to have an ambassador representing her at the Vatican. It brings us back to the convocation of the international Peace Conference at the Hague in the days of Leo XIII., when the Italian Government vetoed the admission of this Pontiff to the gathering of nations, and Holland echoed the veto. Here was a country, which had a nuncio from the Vatican, voting for the exclusion of the Vicar of the Prince of Peace from a gathering of the world's leaders at a peace conference! Ever since then, diplomatic relations between Holland and the Holy See exist in little more than in name, for the Pope has kept no nuncio there.

THE INTERNATIONAL MEDIATOR IN HISTORY

Despite all its opposition, the world has fallen back upon the Pope as a mediator in almost every century since that day in 313, when Emperor Constantine led Pope Melchisedes from the Catacombs, after the defeat of pagandom. Here is the history of the Pope's successes as arbitrators, as furnished by the *Bullettino Salesiano*:

440-461 St. Leo I.: With Attila, King of the Huns, in favor of Italy.

590-604 St. Gregory I.: With Agilulfo, King of the Lombards, in favor of the Romans.

590-604 St. Gregory I.: Between the Emperors of the Orient and the Lombards.

745-731, 741-752 St. Gregory II.: With Liutprandus, King of the Lombards, in favor of the Romans.

1049-1054 St. Leo IX.: Between Emperor Henry III. and King Andrew of Hungary.

1055-1057 Victor II.: Between Emperor Henry III., Baldwin of Flanders, and Geoffrey of Lorraine.

1198-1215 Innocent III.: Between John of England and Philip Augustus of France.

1216-1227 Honorius III.: Between Louis VIII. of France and Henry III. of England.

1243-1254 Innocent IV.: Between the King of Portugal and his people.

1277-1280 Nicholas III.: Mediator several times between Emperor Rudolf of the Hapsburgs and Charles of Anjou, King of Naples.

1316-1334 John XXII.: Between King Edward of England and Robert of Scotland.

1334-1342 Benedict XII.: Between Edward Plantagenet of England and Philip of Valois, King of France.

1370-1378 Gregory XI.: Between the King of Portugal and the King of Castille.

1447-1455 Nicholas V.: Mediations in Germany, Hungary, and Italy.

1484-1492 Innocent VIII.: Mediations in Moscow, Austria, and England.

1492-1503 Alexander VI.: Between Spain and Portugal.

1623-1644 Urban VIII.: Mediations to allay the dissensions provoked by the succession to the Duchies of Mantua and Monferrato.

1572-1585 Gregory XIII.: Between the King of Poland and the Czar.

1878-1903—Leo XIII.: Between Germany and Spain.

1878-1903—Leo XIII.: Between the Republics of Hayti and San Domingo.

1915—Benedict XV.: Mediations between Germany, and Austria on the one part, and England, France, Belgium, Serbia, and Montenegro on the other, for the exchange of disabled prisoners and of interned civilians.

NOTES.

His Holiness the Pope declares that the following formula suffices for chaplains during this war when imparting the Apostolic Blessing to soldiers at the hour of death:—

'Benedicat vos Omnipotens Deus Pater, et Filius, et Spiritus Sanctus.'

Up to this the number of Italians, who have had to return to their native land by reason of the war, comes to a total of 287,360 men and 68,000 women. Not half these have found work as yet in Italy.

Lieutenant Claude Nicolai, of the 1st Battalion Royal Warwick Regiment, who was killed in action on April 25, near Ypres, was a native of Brighton. He was the son of Mrs. Nicolai, Rolvenden, Kent, and Major Adolfo Nicolai, of Viterbo, Rome, who is now serving with the Italian Army on the Austrian frontier. Lieutenant Nicolai was educated at St. Mary Magdalen's School, and at the Xaverian College, Mayfield, where he passed the Oxford Local Examinations.

The attention of those of our readers contemplating effecting insurance is directed to the advertisement of the South British Insurance Company, appearing elsewhere in this issue. As its name implies, the South British is an all British insurance company, with a capital of £2,000,000. The South British Insurance Company, which stands in the front rank of New Zealand-owned companies, offers to insurers sterling security, besides the unlimited security of its shareholders. The company has earned an enviable reputation for its promptitude and liberality in settling claims.

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TOOLS.

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