

put to a shameful death under judicial forms by those who feared to meet her with steel. Replying to a brilliant address read by the Bishop of Orleans, the Holy Father referred to his own anxiety to hasten the canonisation of one whose virtues had won the respect and admiration of his predecessors. He recalled to mind how he was present at the death-bed of Leo XIII.; how prayers were recited for the spiritual comfort of the old man in his last agony; and how he that is now Pope was deeply moved when invocations were addressed to the saints and the blessed who had been raised to the honors of the altar by the Pope then nearing his end: "It will be a source of great comfort to my soul," said Benedict XV., "if in the hour of my agony those around me can invoke in my favor the intercession of Joan of Arc because I shall have placed on her head the aureola of the Saints." In the course of his address, the Bishop of Orleans had pointed out certain moral affinities which appeared to him to exist between the Blessed Joan of Arc and the Pope. Referring to this the Holy Father went on to observe: "These moral affinities have been dwelt on in connection with the war that has wrought such dreadful devastation during the first years of our Pontificate. And truly it could not be unwelcome to us if the example of Joan of Arc before and during the war with the English is availed of to throw greater light on the fact that the attitude of the Holy See in the course of the recent struggle is precisely that which has constantly been maintained by the very saints who loved their country like Joan of Arc. This natural evocation of the patriotism of the Maid of Orleans invites us to pluck one other flower from the eminent patron of the cause of Joan of Arc; and it is the flower of the love of country which, just as it long ago inflamed the heart of Blessed Joan of Arc, so has it vibrated to-day in the heart of the illustrious orator. Far from being astonished at the words, we feel that from this point of view the Bishop of Orleans is the faithful spokesman of his fellow-countrymen, both here and at home. We have said that we are not surprised; we go further, and add that, seeing how properly the memory of Joan of Arc inflamed the love of Frenchmen for their country, we regret that we are only French at heart. But the sincerity with which we are French at heart is such that to-day we make our own the joy that is felt by born Frenchmen at the progress made towards the canonisation of Joan of Arc, thanks to the approbation of the two miracles attributed to her intercession. Born Frenchmen rejoice with good right at recognising in the truth of these two miracles a witness confirming the power of Joan of Arc before the heavenly throne. With good right too will they conclude that the more widespread diffusion of the veneration of Blessed Joan, such as is sure to result from her canonisation, will obtain still greater graces and blessings for their country. In this desire and in this hope the Frenchman at heart finds himself in complete harmony with the born Frenchman in wishing France an increase of glory and happiness. Let us be permitted, therefore, to say that the last flower attesting the love of the children of France for their cherished motherland gives forth a special perfume; and all we ask is that a share of it may be allowed to one who, though not born in France, desires to be called France's friend." The eloquent and touching words of the Pope have served but to confirm a rumor current here for some time to the effect that steps are being taken at the present moment to restore the former friendly relations which were so ruthlessly swept aside by the bigotry or greed of French statesmen some dozen years ago. Much should depend on the next few weeks: all that can be said at present is that the outlook is not rendered brighter by the spirit now prevailing at Paris, where, as someone has wittily remarked, peace has broken out and is now raging with the utmost intensity. The authentication of the miracles of the Blessed Joan of Arc is the last official step that has to be taken. All that now remains is to fix the day for the canonisation ceremony. Under ordinary circumstances this would take place within the next few weeks, but obviously there are many difficulties of a

practical nature in the way, particularly in the matter of travelling, to prevent people from coming to Rome either now or in the immediate future. This being so, it is more than probable that the ceremony must be postponed till early next year, when it may be expected to take place, if nothing unforeseen occurs in the meanwhile. One of the unforeseen things would be the death of the Pope, and the election of a successor with other views on the subject. But apart from this unlikely contingency the chances are that before next Easter the faithful all over the world will be enabled to address the Maid of Orleans as St. Joan of Arc. About the same time, possibly the same day, probably the same week, and almost certainly the same month, will be held the Beatification ceremony of the Venerable Oliver Plunkett. Those who love to speak of Empire cardinals, and Empire bishops, and Empire priests, and Empire students, will have doubtless special interest in both ceremonies; for both will concern Empire martyrs.

FIGHTING THE INFLUENZA IN BRISBANE.

Though the female conscriptionist brigade has not responded to the appeals for workers to fight the influenza and nurse the infected, it is gratifying to know that the sober-minded ladies of the community have risen to the occasion (writes the Brisbane correspondent of the *Catholic Press*). His Grace Archbishop Duhig has early taken action, and he placed at the disposal of the Government St. Laurence's magnificent school as a hospital, whilst the Christian Brothers vacated their residential quarters in favor of the nursing staff. An organised body of Catholic ladies are hard at work, nobly doing their duty in attending to the wants of the sick, and St. Stephen's Schoolroom has been a hive of industry lately, voluntary workers preparing food and sick comforts for afflicted families, regardless of color or religion. It is indeed splendid and heartening to witness the whole-hearted co-operation of these ladies, and the willingness to be of service in brightening the lot of those who are stricken and unable to help themselves. The Sisters from the Mater Misericordie Hospital have taken over full charge of St. Laurence's Hospital, and have done splendid service already in relieving the congestion which has taken place in the other public institutions. The equipment and furnishing of St. Laurence's is on the most modern lines, and is in keeping with the well-ordered and scientific efficiency of the nursing Sisters of Mercy.

COLLECT OLD STAMPS.

At present there is a great demand for old postage stamps, and a good deal of money can be derived from these small bits of waste paper. In several countries charitable persons deal with this business and send the money either directly or indirectly to good works; orphanages, asylums, or to the missionaries in foreign countries. To collect stamps is to promote *God's Glory*, if done with a right intention. Stamps will be gratefully received by Rev. Charles Schoonjans, S.J., Collège Saint-Servais, Liège (Belgium), who will also care that senders are recommended in the Holy Sacrifices and prayers specially said for their intention every month.

Mr. J. J. Clancy, M.P. for North Sligo, has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment by a Crimes Court in Sligo, on a charge of "unlawful assembly." The "crime" was that Mr. Clancy, the Sinn Féin member for Sligo, made a speech at a public meeting in his constituency.

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