

Apropos of the Protestant Church of Prussia: 'It is a very imperfect human work that interiorly and exteriorly has thrown away its religious and Christian character in order to assume a character of official bureaucracy. . . . It suffices to glance at Sacred Scripture and to recall the part that bishops and priests are called on to play, in order to recognise that the Supreme Pontiff and the ecclesiastical authorities of the national Protestant Church of Prussia have nothing, absolutely nothing in common with Christianity. It is not merely the natural dependence of the Protestant Church of Prussia on the State, which is anti-Christian and anti-religious; it is further the deplorable dependence of the Church on the Court. . . . God, religion, and Christianity often serve only to hide vanity and egoism. . . . Such a Church cannot inspire love, not even respect.' (Quoted in the *People's Gazette* of Cologne, 18th July, 1910.)

INVESTITURE OF THE NEW CARDINALS

There were forceful reminders of the ceremonial splendors of the old days of the Rome of the Popes in the details that accompanied the final scenes of the creation of the new Cardinals on November 29 and 30 (says *America*).

On the afternoon of November 29 the Pope ascended his throne in the Consistorial Hall of the Vatican, and, as the master of ceremonies called their names, the three new American Cardinals, Archbishop Falconio, Archbishop Farley, and Archbishop O'Connell, and ten of their associates, knelt before his Holiness and received from him the red mozetta and biretta, the minor insignia of their new rank in the Church.

After they had been thus invested they took their seats on benches around the throne. Cardinal Falconio, as the dean of the new members, then arose and, in Italian, said he felt honored at being selected to express to the Pope on behalf of himself and his most eminent colleagues their thanks and homage. They were all fully convinced that their merits were not in proportion to the high rank bestowed upon them, but their elevation was a proof of the Pontiff's benevolence.

The Cardinals, he said, were deeply grateful and were happy to reciprocate by offering the Pope their work and placing themselves at his entire disposal. They fully realised the responsibility of the Holy Father, especially in the present troubled times, when society was threatened by anti-religious attempts to demolish the Church of Christ. It was owing to the Pope's energetic and constant defence of the Church since his elevation to the chair of Peter that the devastating torrent had stopped.

The Cardinals would fervidly pray the Almighty to continue to aid the Pope in his struggle against the spirit of evil, and they were convinced of his final triumph.

He assured the Pope of the co-operation of himself and his colleagues, and offered him homage from the bottom of their hearts.

The Pope replied in a clear, strong voice, thanking the Cardinals for their assurances, and expressed his gratification at the fact that men who were already well known for their piety, zeal, and wisdom, and who had already served the Church with unlimited devotion, had now been added to the Sacred College. He congratulated them on the honor which had been bestowed on them, which, he said, was fully deserved, and which would enable them to aid him in the government of the Church.

In these unhappy times, said the Pontiff, when the Pope was furiously attacked by his enemies, the Cardinalate exacted a sacrifice owing to the unfortunate condition of Christ's Vicar, which he did not mention for the purpose of exciting pity, but to point out that the purple nowadays symbolized sorrow, pain, and sacrifice toward the triumph of truth and justice. He recalled the Scriptural warnings in regard to the persecution of the Church, which is inevitable, but he declared the Church will last to the end of the world and, even during its tribulations, consolations were not

lacking. Thus the new Cardinals would share the Pope's sorrows and happinesses and would strive with him to serve the Church.

Alluding to England and Holland, the Pope referred to the rejoicings in those countries over the elevation of Cardinals Bourne and Van Rossum, which, he said, filled him with the hope that the non-Catholics in those countries would return to the true faith. Then in a voice which was broken with emotion the Pope said:—

'This hope is increased when I think of you who come from distant America, of the enthusiasm there over the news of your elevation to the Cardinalate, of the demonstrations of all classes of citizens, of the acclamations accompanied by blessings and affectionate greetings on your departures from New York and Boston and your triumphal journey across the ocean. Protected by the Papal blessing, I hope that your return will multiply the fruits of your apostolic mission and that they will spread over your hospitable country, which welcomes the peoples of the world. Where well intended freedom contributes to the universal welfare there surely God will reign.'

Addressing the French Cardinals, he recalled the persecutions under which the Church was groaning in that country, and said he felt assured that with the piety and sacrifices of the clergy and the prayers of Catholics God's mercy would descend on France, which, he hoped, would again become the eldest daughter of the Church.

The Pope then blessed the Cardinals, the clergy, and the people of their dioceses, all those present and their families.

On November 30 the public Consistory brought to the Hall of Beatification a concourse of some 10,000 ecclesiastics and laymen to witness the final ceremony of the bestowal of the red hats, rings, and titles on the new Cardinals. In reply to the felicitations of Monsignor Caccia, the master of the wardrobe, who carried the red hats to them, Cardinal Falconio replied on behalf of himself and his colleagues, whose selection, he said, had proved the love of his Holiness for America. In that country he (Cardinal Falconio) had learned to admire the wonderful Constitution, which, besides respecting, he declared, encourages religious sentiments in the people, thereby contributing to the welfare of the country. The freedom of America, said Cardinal Falconio, made possible the wonderful development of Catholicism under the zeal of the bishops, the clergy, and the people.

Cardinal Falconio recalled the happy coincidence that the public consistory was being held on Thanksgiving Day, when the people of America thank the Almighty for the benefits they have received during the year, an example of the religious sentiment of that nation, which, he thought, would be well for other countries to follow.

The Pope was carried to the hall in the gestatorial chair, and after taking his throne, each of the new Cardinals approached and received from him his hat and ring. His Holiness read the formula of the ritual in a loud voice, and seemed to go through the long and fatiguing ceremony without much physical discomfort. His vigorous appearance impressed all.

Cardinal Giuseppe Maria Cos y Macho, Archbishop of Valladolid, Spain; Cardinal Bauer, Archbishop of Olmutz, Austria; Cardinal Nagl, Archbishop of Vienna; Cardinal Enriquez Almaraz y Santos, Archbishop of Seville, Spain; and Cardinal Vico, of Madrid, will receive the red birettas from their respective sovereigns.

The ablegates left Rome at once to bear the cap and documents authorising the investiture of these Cardinals, who will go to Rome within a year to receive their red hats from the Pope. The next Consistory probably will be at Easter time.

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