

the only one left of the ten you nursed, and I've got money to make you happy and comfortable. Come out of this with me quick, for no matter what color I am, or what size I am, it's Michael and no man else that is talking to you.'

At last she believed and understood and wept for joy. And when his face was all smiles to see her so happy, then she cried out that she knew her boy of sixteen in the smile of the man of thirty-six.

'And it would do your heart good,' said a friend, 'to see the home he has given her. A lovely cottage with a garden, and a servant to wait on her, and all on his own farm, where he is living now with the young wife he married a year ago.'

THE GERMAN CATHOLIC CONGRESS

GREAT GATHERING AT METZ

The sixtieth General Congress of the Catholics of Germany was opened on Sunday, August 17, at Metz under the most auspicious circumstances (writes the special correspondent of the *Catholic Times*). The people of the city worked heart and soul to ensure its success. The Municipal Council voted a subsidy of 15,000 francs, and the streets were handsomely decorated. A great hall which accommodates ten thousand persons was built on the site of the old railway station as a temporary meeting place, and everything possible was done to provide for the comfort of the numerous delegates who arrived from all parts of Germany and from many other lands.

Address to the Holy Father.

The local committee sent the Holy Father an address, signed by its leading members, in which his Apostolic Blessing was asked for the Congress. It was intended, the address stated, that the gathering should be specially devoted to the commemoration of the famous Edict of Milan, by which, sixteen hundred years ago, the Emperor Constantine the Great granted freedom to the Church—a commemoration so strongly recommended to the faithful throughout the world as a proof of gratitude for that great event. From the struggle of that period their thoughts would turn to the beloved Father and Shepherd of their souls, and they would unanimously demand that liberty suited to the sacredness of the office entrusted by Christ to His Vicar on earth, and to the needs of Christianity, might be obtained for him who, to the great grief of all well-meaning people, had to suffer imprisonment in the Vatican, and that he might be able to guide the Church without hindrance and to rule the faithful in independence as a good shepherd. They would thank God for having heard all their prayers and vouchsafed him recovery from the illness which had lately caused so much anxiety to Catholics. Further, the Congress would consider the condition of the religious Orders and Congregations who were bound by many fetters, which obstructed the free and unrestrained exercise of their fruitful activity in the vineyard of the Lord and in securing a rich harvest of souls. They would call for the removal of these fetters. A firm attitude would be taken up with regard to the rights of the Church in the public schools, from which godless men would banish religious teaching.

Letter From the Pope.

His Holiness replied to the address in the following letter:—

To his beloved sons President Kintzinger and Messrs. Ernest and Federspil and Secretary Cuny, of the Metz local committee for preparing for the German Catholic Congress, Pope Pius X. sends greeting and the Apostolic Benediction. We thank you from our heart, beloved sons, for having in your own name and on behalf of the others addressed to us a report which has given us great joy. Indeed, we were well aware how devoted you are to your holy religion and to the Apostolic See. Still your promise that you will open your meetings with a public profession of your

faith in Christ, the Divine Saviour, and of obedience to Christ's Vicar, affords us great satisfaction. As jubilee fetes are now being held throughout the world to celebrate the peace and freedom which were given to the Church by Divine Providence through Constantine, it is not surprising, considering your love for the Church, our Mother, that that memorable event should awaken an enthusiastic interest at your meetings. Justly do you desire that this commemoration should not only be an occasion for thanksgiving, but that it should lead your thoughts from the past to the present and stimulate your zeal in working for the welfare of the Church. As, with all other Catholics, you deeply regret that the supreme Shepherd of your souls still finds himself in a position that is not befitting, you are determined to demand again impressively that to the Roman Pontiff shall at last be granted that complete freedom which is required by his high dignity and his office as the father of Catholic peoples. It is, too, in consonance with your manly feeling that you should strive to free the Church from the fetters that bind her. We are especially pleased at your assurance that you will endeavor to procure for the religious Orders and Congregations, to the advantage of the Christian people, legal freedom to found houses and develop their activity, and that you will strive to prevent the violation of the natural and inalienable rights of the Church in the public schools. The banishment of religion from the schools in which the tender souls of the children of the Church are trained betrays a desperate and destructive heartlessness which must be firmly resisted. But not only on this point but in all other respects do we see you resolved to fight bravely for religion, for you are anxious that it should not suffer at home, and that abroad its influence should be extended more and more through the work of the missions. For the rest, we trust that your Congress will bear the richest fruit for the Catholics of Germany owing to the love you all feel for the Church, the experience and wisdom of the earnest men who serve you and all the Catholics of Germany as leaders, and also owing to the zeal of the pious city in which the Congress is to take place, for the faith and piety of your citizens no one can forget who remembers the Metz Eucharistic Congress. We pray God to grant you wisdom from on high and to assist you with the treasures of His graces. As an assurance of this and a pledge of our paternal good will we impart to you all, beloved sons, with cordial affection, the Apostolic Benediction.

Given at St. Peter's, Rome, on the 25th July, 1913, in the tenth year of our Pontificate.

PIUS X. POPE.

The Arrangements.

Special trains brought delegates on Sunday from all parts of Alsace-Lorraine, the Rhine province, the Grand Duchy of Baden, and from France and Belgium. Amongst the French visitors were a number of deputies. It was evident from the outset that the arrangement for the use of the French language as well as of German, gave much satisfaction. The episcopate was well represented at the Congress. Amongst those present, besides Bishop Benzler, of Metz, were the Bishops of Strasburg, Speyer, Treves, and Luxemburg, the Assistant Bishop of Paderborn, Bishop Streiter, the Vicar-Apostolic of Daressalam, Bishop Allgeyer, of Zanzibar, and many other prelates.

One of the most notable features of the Congresses is the public procession on the opening day, and Metz certainly distinguished itself by the magnificence of the display. The working men's societies were splendidly in evidence. The procession started at two o'clock, and then one could hardly move in the streets owing to the vast array. Masses of sightseers looked on the ranks of the processionists with wonder and admiration. There were over thirty thousand persons, including the members of four hundred associations, on the line of march. They presented a glorious spectacle. Needless to say that delegates from towns near and far vied with each other in making a brave show. The processionists took three hours in passing the spot where the bishops and other leaders were seated.

Ken. Mayo

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