

THE OPENING OF THE HOLY YEAR

(From our own correspondent.)

Rome, December 28.

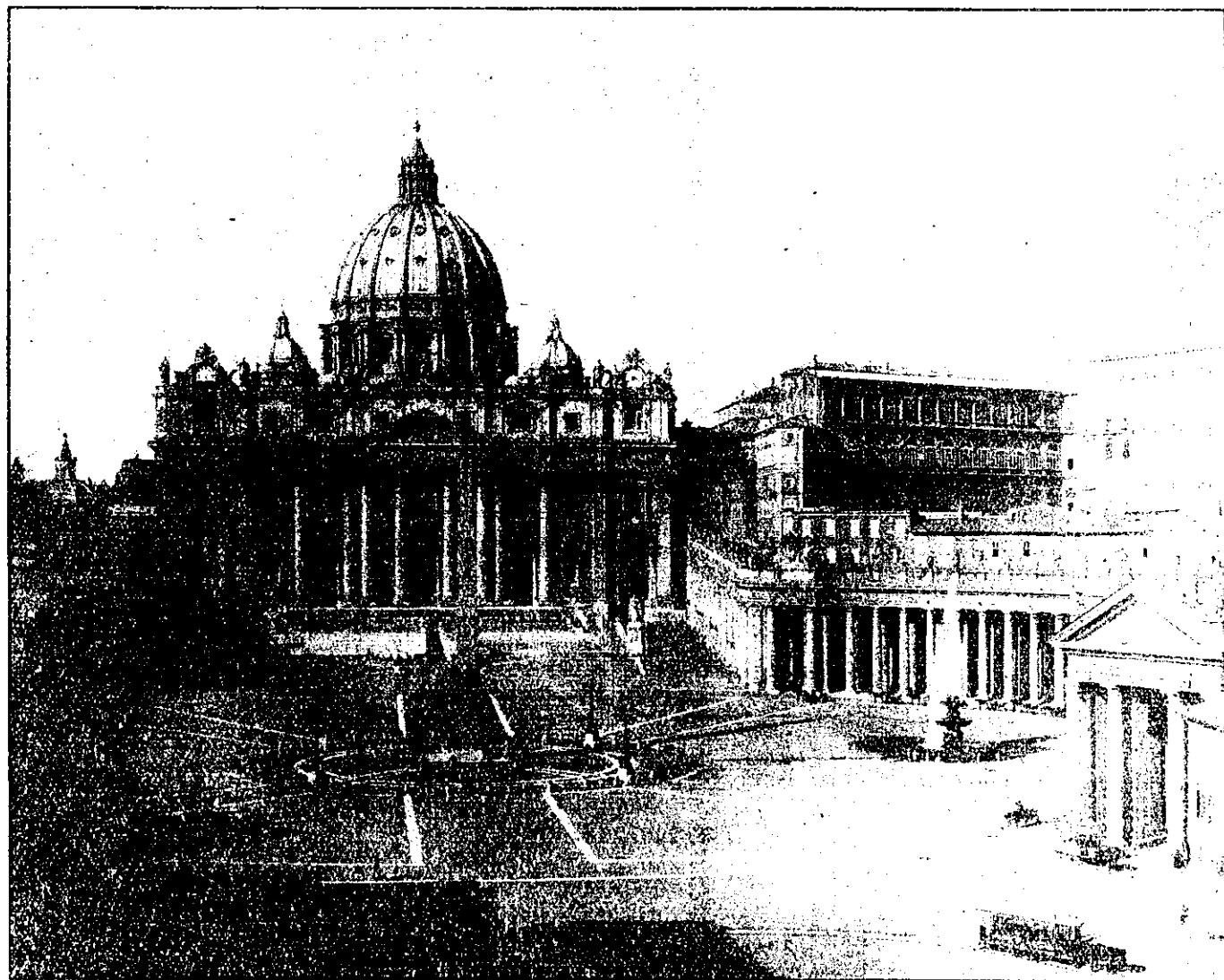
The ceremony of inaugurating the Holy Year, by opening the Holy Door, was performed with great solemnity by the Pope on Christmas Eve, in the presence of numerous Cardinals, Patriarchs, Archbishops, and Bishops, and all the Diplomatic representatives accredited to the Holy See.

The whole Catholic world may be said to have looked forward with mystic faith and

faithful, and its beginning is marked by the great religious ceremony in Rome, consisting of the solemn opening of the doors of St. Peter's, previously closed and walled up, and a similar ceremony in three other ancient basilicas in Rome, St. John Lateran, Santa Maria Maggiore, and St. Paul's.

Thousands of the faithful crowded to St. Peter's early in the morning, and by ten o'clock the vast square was filled. The front

The Atrium had been converted into a ceremonial hall. At one end was the Papal throne, with smaller thrones for the two assistant cardinals; on the right and left were seats for the cardinals, archbishops, and the Papal Court, for the Italian Royal family, for foreign princes and diplomatic envoys, and for a select number of pilgrims. The Swiss Guards and Papal noble guards were on service, as on grand occasions.



ST. PETER'S, ROME, WITH THE VATICAN TO THE RIGHT.

devotion to this ceremony, which inaugurates a year of special prayers, indulgences, and religious practices. Since the twelfth century it has been the practice of the Papacy and the Catholic Church to set aside every twenty-five years one year of special and intense religious exercises, to pray for peace among contending nations, for Divine mercy on mankind, for an end to wars and strifes, for the return of the reign of justice, and for indulgence and remission of sins. The Holy Year is, therefore, one of the highest importance to the Catholic clergy and the

of St. Peter's was closed, and the sacred doors were waiting to be opened after three calls from the Supreme Pontiff. The golden hammer with which he was to strike the central door three times during the ceremony was an artistic work, and was presented by the bishops of the entire Catholic world. At 10.30 the Pope put on the sacred mitre and vestments, and the procession started from his private rooms in the Vatican, proceeding to the Sistine Chapel and thence to the Atrium of St. Peter's, where a throne was waiting for the Pontiff.

Among leading foreign personages present were Queen Olga of Greece, Prince Christopher of Greece with his daughters, Princesses Alice, Irene, Marguerite, and Theodora, and Princesses Josephine and Stephanie of Belgium.

Opening of the Door.

As the Pope entered the Atrium, the hymn "Veni, Creator," was sung, and among the surprises was the presence again of the celebrated Maestro Perosi, the director of the Sistine Choir, who directed the responses.

Remember

If we please you tell others, if we do not please tell us.

The House for honest value in Groceries, Crockery, Brushware, Household Hardware, Produce. Quality unsurpassed.

MAIN STREET,
TAIHAPE.

F. Read & Co.

Send along a trial order.