

NOTES OF TRAVEL

IV—THE ETERNAL CITY.

(By J.K.)

All roads lead to Rome, and already pilgrims from all quarters are pouring in for the Holy Year. To gain the Plenary Indulgence Romans must visit twenty times the

themselves. It goes without saying that those most concerned are very anxious that no trouble shall come to disturb the Holy Year, and certainly those of us who are en-

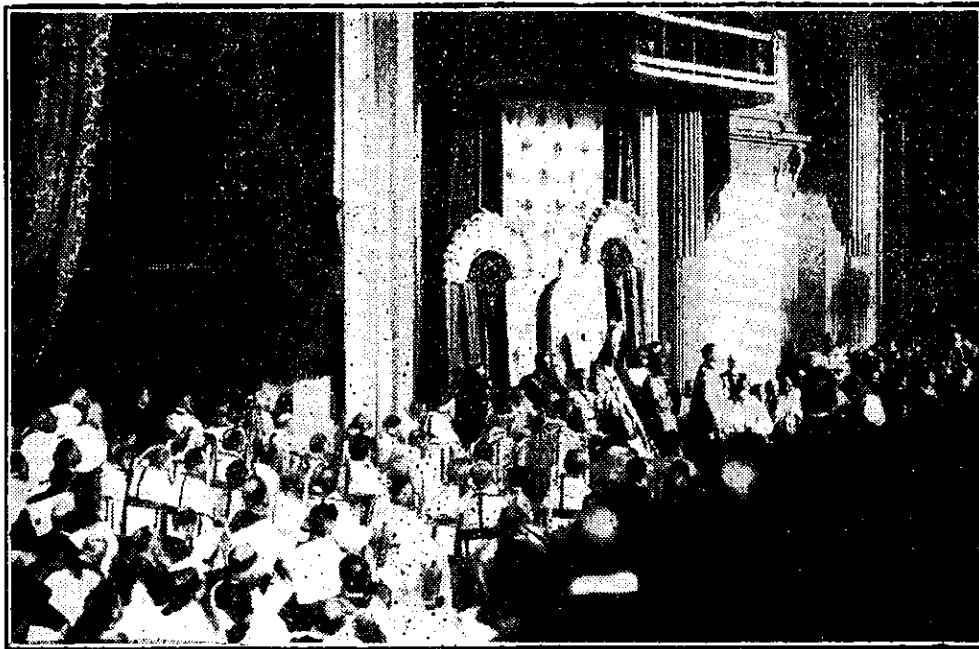
joying a visit to Italy do not want to be banished.

* * *

On January the fifth I had my first audience with the Holy Father. Physically, he is well-built and active, but he has the eyes of a weary man, even though his face beams with good nature and kindness when he smiles. His voice is deep and musical even if it lacks the thrilling vibrations of the voice of Leo XIII. The present Pope maintains all the old ceremonial observances that befit the Court of the Ruler of Christ's children all over the globe. The Swiss Guards are there, in their picturesque uniform, designed by Michelangelo. Papal gens d'armes abound about the Vatican. And the princes of Italy delight to take their place in the ranks of the Noble Guard.

* * *

The interest of Rome never wanes. Everywhere you go there is something to see—a church, a work of art, or a relic of the days of the Caesars. In these notes I have no intention of trying to tell the readers of the *Tablet* about all the interesting people, places, and things, I see day by day. I can do no more than hint at them.



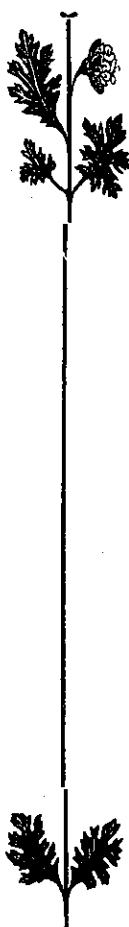
OPENING OF THE HOLY DOOR AT ST. PETER'S, ROME.

four basilicas of St. Peter, St. Paul, St. John Lateran, and St. Mary Major. For strangers ten visits are prescribed. All four to be taken in in each of the twenty or ten days.

Special trams are provided by the municipal authorities, and as one goes the rounds one hears English, German, and French spoken almost as often as Italian. St. Peter's stands alone in its colossal magnificence, but St. Paul's is a singularly beautiful church, with its shining marble floor and walls, and its rich altar of malachite, and its alabaster columns. St. John's, venerable and devotional, proud of its title of Mother Church of the Catholic World, now contains the tomb of Pope Leo XIII, whose bones lie in a noble monument erected to his memory by his own cardinals. St. Mary Major's contains the hallowed relics of the Crib, and it has a beauty all its own, with its Greek entablatures.

* * *

The political atmosphere is charged with electricity at the present moment. All Mussolini's enemies have united in an attempt to overthrow him, making the confession of di Rossi their chief weapon. The Prime Minister faced his foes on Saturday and created a sensation by delivering the boldest speech ever made by a politician. It was a speech of defiance in which he frankly assumed responsibility for the policy of the Fascisti and declared that he would stand by his ideals to the last even if force were necessary to solve the difficulties. Many people fear a revolution, but others are hopeful that things will gradually readjust



THE POPE IN HIS STUDY.

Miss E. T. McAteer

DRESSMAKER and
COSTUMIERE

Guarantee Quality and Expert Needlework.

Cr. STAFFORD and WOOLCOMBE STS

Telephone 691.

Only Experienced Hands Employed.

Timaru