

organisation, as believe that he gave a personal gift to President Wilson. Has Mr. Howard Elliott ever heard of Mr. Wilson's record as Governor of New Jersey? No man, as your intelligent readers know full well, has done more in one day to put down corruption in politics than the ex-President. To suggest that he could be bribed by the Pope is a public scandal of the most intolerable kind.

Mr. Elliott makes great play with an article against the League of Nations written by a Mr. E. P. Hewitt, K.C., an English barrister, whom he calls a legal and constitutional expert. I, too, am an English barrister. For the last twelve years I have been in and out of the Temple in London almost every day, and I never heard of Mr. E. P. Hewitt. Certainly, to call him a legal and constitutional expert is to play with words. The *National Review*, in which the article appeared, is the organ of the most reactionary and militaristic party (fortunately a very small party) in England. I attach no weight to any article on the League of Nations coming from such a quarter. As all lawyers and jurists know, there is one outstanding constitutional and legal expert in England to-day. I mean Sir Frederick Pollock, K.C., whose writings and opinions are regarded with deference all over the world. I advise Mr. Howard Elliott to read his book on the League of Nations. Let him study, ponder, and reflect on one of Sir Frederick's concluding sentences: "And if they" (i.e., the people of England and of the world) "are cast down by the failure of the covenant to satisfy the whole world at once, or to realise in a few months the completion of tasks that former generations did not find it possible even to begin, let them take heart from the saying of Colbert, a great French man of affairs: '*Il ne faut jamais se mettre dans l'esprit que ce que l'on fait est parfait. Mais il faut toujours chercher à avancer pour approcher de la perfection, qu'on ne trouve jamais.*'"

One other point. Mr. Elliott complains that I distorted his meaning when I said that he denounced the League of Nations because in it we shall sit cheek by jowl with the representatives of Catholic States. Well, his exact words in this article are these: "It is a fact that the Vatican controls the league as at present constituted, since of the 41 members 24 at least are directly under the tutelage of the Papacy." I simply put these words before your readers, and ask them: "Did I do Mr. Elliott the smallest injustice when I said what I did in my speech?"

There are many other misrepresentations in this article which I could expose. But I am content to submit myself to the judgment of the public. Mr. Elliott is no doubt, as Mr. Knowles Kempton has suggested, a sincere man. So was James II. of England. So was Philip II. of Spain. But a man must have other qualities besides sincerity before he can become a safe guide or a real leader of public opinion. He must be a candid and careful controversialist: he must be broad-minded and statesmanlike in his utterances; he must sift his facts and be large-hearted and understand the point of view of his opponents. Judged by these and similar tests, Mr. Howard Elliott fails, and fails miserably.—I am, etc.,

—W. HENDERSON PRINGLE.

The University of Otago, August 15.

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During the present month we are offering the following Books at cost price to *Tablet* readers:—"Life of St. Francis" (Shane Leslie); "St. Patrick's Purgatory" (Petrovits); "Devotion to the Sacred Heart" (Bainville); "Salvation Outside the Church" (Bainville); "From the Land of Dreams"; "Ireland, France, and Prussia" (Mitchel); "The Ways of War" (Kettle); "Constitutional History of Ireland" (McNeill); "The Threshold of Quiet"; "The Glamour of Dublin"; "Literature in Ireland"; "An Impeached Nation" (Right Rev. H. W. Cleary, D.D.); "The Church in New Zealand"; "Man's Great Concern: The Management of Life" (Hull); "That Arch-Liar Froude" (Hull); "The Spanish Armada" (Hull). Prices on application to the Manager, N.Z. *Tablet* Co., Dunedin.

DANTE ALIGHIERI CENTENARY

The following is the text of the Encyclical letter on Dante, addressed by the Pope "to Our beloved sons, professors and pupils of all Catholic Institutes of learning on the occasion of the sixth centenary of the death of Dante Alighieri."

"Beloved Sons: Greetings and Apostolic Benediction.

"Among the many and illustrious and talented men who are the pride of the Catholic Faith and who, besides in other fields, left particularly in that of literature and art the immortal fruits of their genius well deserving of recognition by religion and civilisation, supreme arises Dante Alighieri, of whose death the sixth centenary is on the eve of being celebrated. His singular greatness never was put in so strong a light as it is to-day when not only Italy, justly proud to have given birth to him, but all civilised nations, by means of special committees of learned men, prepare themselves to solemnise his memory, so that his sublime figure, the honor and glory of humanity, may be exalted by the whole world.

"We, therefore, in this universal concert of good men, must absolutely not fail to take part, but rather preside over it, because to the Church especially belongs the right to call Alighieri her own.

"And as, on the beginning of Our Pontificate, in a letter directed to the Archbishop of Ravenna, We made Ourselves the promoter of repairs to the temple near which the Poet's remains are resting, so now, almost as an inauguration of the cycle of the centenary festivities, We have deemed it opportune to address Our word to you all, beloved sons, who cultivate literature under the maternal vigilance of the Church to demonstrate even more clearly the close union of Dante with this Chair of Peter, and how the praises bestowed upon so distinguished a name, must necessarily in no small part, redound to the honor of the Catholic Church.

"And first of all, since the divine Poet, during his whole life, professed and exemplified the Catholic religion, We may say that it is according to his wishes, that this solemn commemoration be made, as it will be made, under the auspices of religion. As it will end in St. Francis in Ravenna, so let it begin in Florence, in his beautiful San Giovanni, to which, with intense nostalgia, the thoughts of the exile went back in the last years of his life when he desired to be crowned poet of this city of his baptism.

Disciple of St. Thomas Aquinas.

"Living in an age, which, collecting as an heritage from the ancients the most splendid fruits of doctrine and of philosophical and theological speculation, handed them down to posterity with the impression of the rigorous scholastic method, Dante, amidst the many currents of thought, which even then were diffused among the learned, became the disciple of that Prince of Schools, so illustrious for the angelic temper of his intellect, St. Thomas of Aquino. From him he drew almost all his philosophical and theological opinions, and while he neglected no branch of human knowledge, he drank eagerly at the sources of Holy Scripture and of the Fathers.

"Having thus learnt almost all the science of his time and being particularly nourished with Christian knowledge, when he prepared to write, he took from the very field of religion the immense and vital theme which he wanted to sing in verse. In this, if one must admire the prodigious scope and acuteness of his intellect, one must also recognise that he received from the divine Faith the strong impulse of inspiration, and that he could thus embellish his immortal poem with many gems of revealed truth, no less than with all the splendors of art. In fact, his Comedy, which deservedly was called Divine, even in its various symbolic fictions and in the remembrances of the life of mortals on earth, has the sole object of glorifying the justice and the providence of God who rules the world in time and in eternity, and chastises and rewards the actions of individuals and of human society.

"Therefore, in accordance with the divine revelation, in this poem shines the majesty of God One and Triune, the redemption of mankind effected by the Word of God made Man, the immense mercy and liberality of Mary

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