

Victor Immanuel and Leo XIII.

There were prophecies before the death of King Humbert that the accession of his son would lead to a great change in the relations between the Quirinal and the Vatican, to the advantage of the latter. But there are already signs that Victor Immanuel III has no intention of yielding any of the ground acquired by his father and his grandfather.

His utterances at his inauguration plainly showed his determination to "maintain the traditions of his house," and to "preserve intact our conquests and our unity." This clearly means the continuation of the policy of a "united Italy, and of a civil independence from papal authority. An indication that no reconciliation with the Quirinal is anticipated by Pope Leo XIII is given in a circular letter issued by him to the Catholic powers the last of August, in which he appeals to them to relieve him from a situation that is intolerable, and that has grown steadily worse since 1870. He refuses to recognize Victor Immanuel as King of Italy, considering him to be only king of Sardinia, and declares definitely that none of the Papal rights over Rome and the provinces which composed the patrimony of St. Peter are renounced."

Pope Leo XIII in his first encyclical says: "We shall never cease to contend for our restoration to that condition of things in which the provident design of Divine Wisdom had formerly placed the Roman Pontiffs." Leo will never cease to contend, notwithstanding that the "Divine Wisdom" of Science is leading into a better path.—Current History.

What is Sacred.

We need a new understanding of what is sacred. Men and women have regarded old sticks, old rags, old iron, as holy, and approached these rusty, ragged relics with their brains abased and their minds bowed down. All of this kind of reverence is more than foolish. Buildings have been made sacred by pronouncing the word "God" over them, and human beings have looked upon churches as holier than their own children, than their own fathers and mothers. Who has made such things sacred? The priest. What for? For the enlightenment of man? No. For the enslavement of man. Man today is the slave of so-called holy things.

The true today is holy, the good, the beautiful. An angel may be a respectable person. We do not know. But whoever will teach children to reverence angels more

than their parents is doing a dishonorable deed.

That country will have poor homes where the young are taught to honor and respect priests more than their own fathers; nuns and sisters of charity more than their own mothers. The line of sacredness is not drawn around the altar, but around the heartstone; not around the church, but around the house which human love has made holy.

All that is human should be sacred. All that is angelic and divine we can do without.—[Investigator.

False Instruction.

Most of our religious instruction is based upon the idea that man is incapable of saving himself. We believe that man can keep the law of his own being, that he can obey the commandments written in his nature. We believe that he can walk through life physically and morally whole. We have faith in MAN, faith in Man's power and Man's nature, and that what he wills to do he can do.

Religions have all been built on human weakness, and so they all foster and encourage a low idea of man. Let the chains of priestly authority be struck from human limbs and let the whole world be free. Religious tyranny in the name of God has kept mankind enslaved to creed and church. Let freedom be our privilege, and a better humanity will be our future.—[Ex.

The Century In a Nutshell.

This century received from its predecessors the horse; we bequeath the bicycle, the locomotive and the motor car.

We received the goosequill and bequeath the typewriter.

We received the scythe and bequeath the mowing-machine.

We received the hand printing press; we bequeath the cylinder press.

We received the painted canvas; we bequeath the photograph and colored photograph.

We received the hand loom; we bequeath the cotton and wollen factory.

We received the gunpowder; we bequeath the lyddite.

We received the tallow dip; we bequeath the electric lamp.

We received the flint-lock; we bequeath the Maxims.

We received the sailing ship; we bequeath the steamship.

We received the beacon signal fire; we bequeath the telephone and wireless telegraph.

We received ordinary light; we bequeath Roentgen rays.—[London Answers.

Reflected Rays.

Theology is a course in ignorance. Its purpose is to teach what is positively known to be false.—E. W. Howe.

Who can tell what the world loses in the bright intellects, who cower before popular prejudice?—J. S. Mill.

It is certain that the discoveries of universal law have reduced prayer among us to an anachronism. It makes no difference whether the prayer be for a moral or an intellectual, or a physical benefit.—Conway.

Perhaps I do not know what I was made for; but one thing I certainly never was made for, and that is to put principles on and off at the dictation of a party, as a lackey changes his livery at his master's command.—[Horace Mann.

Christianity has had the world by the throat for about sixteen hundred years. For one thousand years she had not a rival; and as a result, all history records that period as the darkest and bloodiest in the annals of humanity. Suppose we try Secularism—meaning humanity instead of churchanity—say, for a couple of hundred years or so, just for a change. The world must win; it cannot possibly lose.—[Examiner.

Under the old dispensation there was no Jesus Christ, no heaven, no hell, no devil, no immortal soul. Under the new dispensation, all these things and much more, have been introduced—plagiarized bodily from Paganism. The reason that everybody does not know this is because preachers receive food, raiment and shelter for eternally advising people not to investigate; meaning, of course that the credulity of their flocks constitutes their bread and dinner, while doubt will tetotally ruin their business.—[Examiner.

While the orthodox Christian world upholds as inspired the command to use the rod upon children, more enlightened sentiment is driving corporal punishment from the home and school and imposing the penalties of the law upon the excessive use of the whip. In Trenton, N. J., Robert Scott was a few days ago held in 400 dollar bail for whipping his children. His defence was the biblical one. He quoted passages of scripture, and even declared that he acted under the direct command of God, and, as he went to his cell to await the action of the grand jury, he muttered a prayer and exclaimed, "Lord, I but did thy bidding." While such belief is held children will remain slaves of pious and brutal

parents. It is only in Bible-dominated countries that children are beaten as a religious duty.—Truthseeker, New York.

Ghosts never appear to sceptics, but only to believers. Moreover, if you ask about a ghost in a house which is said to be haunted, the residents laugh at you. Inquire in the next street, and the people shake their heads and say there is certainly something very strange. Go half a mile away, and you hear that the ghost has been seen frequently. Go double the distance, and you will learn the precise time when you may see it yourself. The farther off the better for the ghost. Distance lends enchantment to the view.—[Freethinker.

We hold it to be an exercise of reason to explore the meaning of a univeree to which we stand in this relation, and the work we have accomplished is the proper commentary on the methods we have pursued. Before these methods were adopted the unbridled imagination roamed through nature putting in the place of the law the figments of superstitious dread. For thousands of years witchcraft, magic, miracles, and special providence and Mr. Moseley's "distinctive reason of man" had the world to themselves. They made worse than nothing of it; worse, I say, because they let and hindered those who might have made something of it.—[Tyndall.

I learn from the New York Truthseeker that an American Theosophical journal contains this choice morsel:—"On January 19, 1900, Martin Bergen shot and killed his wife and two children, and then shot himself. The law of Karma explains that the wife and two children, murderers in former incarnations, have now reaped exactly what they had sown; also that Bergen will be sent out of three future incarnations by violence as karma for his awful act." Is it any wonder lunatic asylums are so full when stuff of this kind is sown broadcast over the world? Karma must be a sharp fellow, mustn't he, to make so sure of his victims. Pity he can't prevent crime instead of punishing it. It is an awful pity Theosophists haven't something rational to think about.—[Liberator.

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