

ECUMENICAL COUNCIL.

parts, repair to this Ecumenical Council, convoked by us, to attend this effect we have exhorted and admonished them, both in virtue of the oath they have taken to us and this Holy See, and of holy obedience, and under the penalties by law or custom decreed against those who fail to appear at the councils. We rigorously ordain and prescribe that they shall be bound to attend this sacred council, unless withheld by some just impediment, which, however, must in all cases be proved to the synod by the intermediary of legitimate proxies.

To that figure must be added the mitted abbots, the generals of the religious orders, the theologians summoned by the Holy Father, and who will take their places in the council, and a total arrived at of more than 3000 members of the clergy specially attached to this solemn assembly. We do not reckon here those whom curiosity and interest may bring, and who will probably be as many more. In fine, the Eternal City, which possesses about 215,000 inhabitants, among whom are nearly 15,000 ecclesiastics, will see within its walls about 25,000 members of the clergy.

The following Fathers of the Church have been in Rome for some time past, awaiting the opening of the council:— Cardinal Bishops.—Marius Mattei, Bishop of Ostia and Velletri, Dean of the Sacred College, Constantine Patrizi, Bishop of Porto and Sta. Rufina, Sub-Dean, Vicar-General of his Holiness the Pope. Louis de S. Filippo e Sorsio, Bishop of Pastre, Vice-Chancellor of the Church. Nicholas Chetani, Paracleti, Bishop of Frascati, Secretary of the Papal Bulls and Grand Chancellor of the Orders of Knighthood. Camillo di Pietro, Bishop of Albano, President of the Censur.

The Protestant Churches is the incorporation by Rome in the Catholic creed of doctrines, which they regard as contrary to the Scriptures, and to the belief of the primitive Church. Replies of this character have been prepared by the Bishops of the Church of England, by the Supreme Ecclesiastical Board of the State Church of Prussia, by the Dutch University of Groningen, and other bodies. In our country the General Council of the Protestant Episcopal Church, the two Presbyterian Assemblies and other Protestant bodies appointed committees to reply to the Papal letter.

On Monday, May 31, 1869, a great assembly of about 30,000 people was held in Worms, to reply to the Pope, in the name of the German people. The meeting had been called by the heads of the Liberal or Rationalistic party, the invitation to it having been signed by men like Professor Schenkel, and Professor Buntschill of Heidelberg, and many other leaders of the party. The assembly issued a declaration against the letter of the Pope, and against recent "ultramontane attacks and encroachments," and in favor of a change of the several Protestant State Churches into a National German People's Church.

It is said that the Hungarian Government is firmly resolved, in case the Court of Rome is unable or unwilling to furnish certain guarantees required as to the spirit and tendency of the approaching council, to strictly and absolutely forbid the members of the Hungarian Episcopate to attend it. It is self-evident that if such a resolution be taken in Hungary, it may be initiated in the other half of the monarchy. The Portuguese Episcopate openly opposes itself to the designs of the Court of Rome, and nearly all its members have refused to attend the council. A large number of bishops in different countries have expressed disapprobation of the mode in which the preparative commissions have drawn up a priori digests of the decrees and questions to be brought before the council, declaring that this proceeding is an infringement of their rights, and an attempt of the Roman Curia to impose its ideas and principles on an assembly which should be left to originate its own resolutions. The Belgian bishops are leagued on a very small point. During the religious wars in that country the Holy Sacrament was kept for safety in a sort of tower, and the custom has been handed down to the present time. Late in the year 1868, Monsignor Bartolini, sacristan to the congregation of the Rota, who reported it to the Pope, and the Belgian bishops were ordered to abandon the usage, and keep the Host, according to the universal practice, in a pyx. The order was followed by a decree from the Rota, but neither order nor decree has been obeyed, and the bishops have determined to bring the matter before the Church.

Continued from the First Page. Preparations for the Event. The preparations, which, as already stated, were begun in 1867, soon after the announcement of the Pope's intention to convolve the council, have been actively continued ever since. The Supreme Directive Congregation is composed of seven cardinals, six of whom are Italians and one a German. To them are joined, as consultants, several bishops and learned priests, among whom are four Italians, one Englishman (Mgr. Fabet), one Professor of the University of Louvain in Belgium, and Professor Hofelo, of the University of Tubingen, in Germany. The latter is the author of by far the best history of the "Councils of the Christian Church," a work of solid and profound learning, and valued by Protestants as highly as by Catholics. Under the direction of this congregation, special commissions prepare the matters to be discussed and decided upon by the bishops. There is a commission of ceremonies, a politico-eclesiastical commission, a commission for Eastern affairs, one on the religious orders and congregations, one of dogmatic theology, one of ecclesiastical discipline. Italy has, of course, a larger share in the selection of the members of these commissions than any other nation; next to Italy, Catholic Germany has furnished the largest number. The United States are represented by Dr. Corcoran, of Charleston, England, by Mgr. Talbot and Mgr. Howard. Dr. Newman was invited to assist, but declined on account of infirm health. Dr. Dollinger, the great church historian of Munich, has also been invited, but has declined the invitation. For the first time in the history of the Ecumenical Councils, thanks to the art of stenography, a literal account of the entire proceedings will be taken, and the provisions of this kind have been completed. An Austrian bishop of note, Dr. Fessler, of St. Polten, has received the appointment of Secretary of the Council.