

RESCRIPT OF JULY 6, 1883
CLIFTONIEN ET ALIARUM

ON THE DEROGATION OF BULLS
AND
THE REFORM OF THE CONSTITUTIONS
(*of the English Congregation*)

In a Special Congregation of the Most Eminent and Reverend Cardinals Ferrieri, Martinelli Ponente, Simeoni, Bartolini, and Angelo Jacobini, held in the Apostolic Palace of the Vatican on the 6th day of July 1883, the Illustrious and Right Rev. Mgr Masotti being Secretary, the Most Eminent and Reverend Fathers decided the following questions:—

- 1 Whether, and in what manner, the Bull *Plantata* of Urban VIII, of the 4th [12th] of July 1633, relating to the English Benedictine Congregation, should be modified in the present case?

Ans. Negative, et ad mentem: Their opinion, after consultation with his Holiness, is that General Chapter be deprived of the unlimited power conferred upon it by the paragraph commencing ‘Denique’, of the said Bull *Plantata*.

- 2 Whether, and how, the missions, and the regular course of studies are to be provided for; and whether a single novitiate is to be maintained or not?

Ans. Affirmative: To wit, that no new missions be taken without permission of the Holy See, and that those sent to the Missions be subjects advanced in learning and in regular observance; that the President, Definitors, and Provincials reside in the monasteries; that the course of studies be regulated according to Chap. 17 of the Constitutions, with an exhortation that the more distinguished students be sent to a hospice in Rome to perfect their studies; that a single novitiate be maintained; and that the General Chapter be composed only of ‘Titolari’,

- 3 Whether, and how, the regulation of Benedict XIV relating to the return of Missioners to the Monasteries every sixth year is to be enforced?

Ans. Affirmative in omnibus: All power of dispensing being withdrawn.

- 4 Whether, and how, provision is to be made for the administration of funds and offerings?

Ans. The Constitution *Romanos Pontifices* of His Holiness Pope Leo XIII, 8 May 1881, is to be kept, and they must not enter into speculative business.

- 5 Whether, and how, the English Benedictine Constitutions ought to be reformed by introducing certain modifications?

Ans. Affirmative et ad mentem: Their opinion is that a Commission be deputed,

composed of the President General, who shall have the direction of it, and four monks of the English Benedictine Congregation, with the task of drawing up a plan for the reform of the Constitutions, yet preserving their substance; wherein attention must be paid to the solution of the doubts proposed above, to the recent decrees *super statu Regularium* concerning the admission and profession of novices, and to the changed political-religious condition in England, with the intent, that the said Congregation, although it retain the character of a mission, shall not lose, but on the contrary shall maintain with greater earnestness, the spirit of the monastic Rule of St Benedict.

And a report of the foregoing having been presented to our Most Holy Lord Pope Leo XIII, in an audience had by the undersigned Secretary on the same day, His Holiness, having first derogated the paragraph of the Bull *Plantata* beginning 'Denique', was pleased to approve and confirm in all things the resolutions of the aforesaid Special Congregation.

I. Card. Ferrieri *Prefect*

I. Masotti *Secretary*.

a L.S.