

The World's Greatest Ex Cathedra Newspaper.

I.

Pigafetta, in his Journal of Magellan's Voyage, tells of a race of people one cubit high, whose broad ears reached to the ground. These diminutive souseaislanders were in the habit of rolling up one ear for a pillow and using the other for a blanket when they sought repose.

II.

Vincent Sheean, the Chicago Tribune's Roman correspondent, has both ears to the ground. Mooching around the Roman cafes where the absinthe glows sea-green, he has discovered that "Pope Pius XI., against the opposition, open or tacit, of more than half of the cardinals, is determined to bring about the proclamation of a new dogma raising Virgin Mary even higher in the Catholic Heaven. The dogma will be called the 'personal corporeal presence of Virgin Mary in heaven,' and declares the Mother of God is present on the throne of the queen of heaven, actually and physically and physically, and on the same basis as God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost."

III.

~~Cardinal Sheean makes some more startling disclosures:~~

1. In Germany hundreds of priests and bishops broke away from the Church rather than accept the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception.
2. The "deification" of the Blessed Virgin will arouse an international dispute that will make the "fundamental modernist" fight look pale. The Latin countries, having practically deified the Blessed Virgin for many centuries, will accept readily.
3. Pius XI considers Leo XIII and PIUS X lacked courage in not proclaiming the doctrine.
4. Cardinal Merry del Val is one of those who is reckless enough to oppose the proclamation.

IV.

The grain of truth is that the doctrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin's body into heaven, which is commemorated by the whole Church on August 15 of each year, is already a matter of faith by the common consent of the whole Church, and will become a matter of definition whenever it is seriously attacked. That is the most common practice in the definition of doctrines.

V.

Pigafetta had the good grace to state that he had never seen these little people himself but that he had received his account from a moor. Shoals about their island prevented his going there to investigate. There are shoals about the Vatican. Absotively, Mr. Sheean!

Rev. John F. O'Hara, C.S.C.,
Prefect of Religion.