

time and may devote it profitably to a better preparation of his classes. There are a few disadvantages in this method. The most serious one would seem to consist in this that the pupil will not endeavour to keep up his past work. But, as was mentioned before, the student who prepares his work well is not likely to forget it as some seem to suppose.

Having considered briefly the objections, advantages and disadvantages of the two systems, does it not seem that the class-work system is the more suitable method, and the more just gauge of a pupil's knowledge ?

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### THE NEW PAPAL STATE

James MacInnis, '41

The prominence of Italy's Il Duce in world politics for more than a decade has been such as to arouse great interest on the part of all nations concerning political Rome. Catholics have always regarded Rome and still think of it as the center of Christendom, the see of St. Peter, the Seat of St. Peter's and The Vatican. It is not surprising then that many questions may arise regarding the relationship that may exist between the Holy Father and Il Duce. Is the Pope subject to the civil enactments of political Rome ? Such a question obviously arises from the fact that many identify the Vatican City with the City of Rome. This, of course, is a serious error for Vatican City is an independent state. By the Lateran Treaty of February 11, 1929, a part of Rome was cut off and made the exclusive dominion of the Pope. Over this territory, called Vatican City or Vatican State, the Holy See has sovereign jurisdiction; it is in no way subject to interference by the Italian Government.

The Vatican State covers an area of over one hundred acres, one eighth of which is taken up by the Vatican palaces with their courts and numerous state rooms. The population is the smallest of any independent kingdom in the world. At present there are about one thousand residents, most of whom are of Italian origin and who are employed in Vatican City.

Like all other kingdoms the Papal State has armed forces. The Swiss Guard, formed in 1505, present a very



striking appearance. The Pontifical Gendarmery were created by Pope Pius VII in 1816 for the maintenance of public order. The Palatine Guard, formed in 1850, is the largest armed force in the state.

Vatican City possesses a railway station and special papal trains. Papal money is in circulation and is as acceptable in Italy as Italian money—just as U. S. dollars are acceptable in Canada. Vatican City has its own postal department and their postal rates to foreign countries are the same as those in Rome. Likewise it possesses its own telegraph and telephone offices and its own famous Marconi radio station. The State has its own civil governor who takes the oath of allegiance to the Holy Father. His office is to see to the maintenance of public order, the safety and protection of its citizens and their property, and all that concerns public health and morality. It has a civil court to deal with legal cases arising in the State.

Besides residences, stores, offices and the like, Vatican City possesses the greatest of the world's masterpieces of architecture. In this small territory stands the greatest temple ever raised by human hands to the worship of God, St. Peter's Basilica, to which belongs Bernini's incomparable colonnade with its two hundred and eighty-four columns and one hundred and sixty-four marble statues, Michaelangelo's famous Dome of St. Peter's, the priceless treasures of painting and sculpture found in the Basilica, the tombs of many of the Popes including that of the Prince of the Apostles. Here too is found the Apostolic Palace, residence of the Popes, whose erection was begun by Pope Nicholas V in 1450, and in which almost every Pope since that time has left some record of his pontificate by embellishments which make it the most magnificent residence in the world. Again there is the Picture Gallery of the Vatican which contains many of the world's greatest masterpieces, including works of such masters as Raphael, Leonardo da Vinci and Domenichino. The Museum rooms are chiefly devoted to Greek and Roman sculpture. The Vatican Library is famous as containing the most precious collection in existence. The present Pontiff was formerly Librarian of the Vatican and has done a great deal in the way of improving it.

An adequate description of Vatican is absolutely impossible in the small space at our disposal. Perhaps the following statement of the Holy Father will serve as a



fitting conclusion to these few thoughts about Vatican City: "While it is quite true," said His Holiness, "that the territory we have received is materially small, yet it is great, the greatest in the world from whatever point of view you regard it. For what territory can compare with the colonnade of Bernini, the Dome of Michaelangelo, the treasures of art and science contained in the libraries, museums, and the galleries? What of this territory which covers and guards the Prince of the Apostles? Have we not the right to affirm that there is no territory in the world that is so grand and precious?"

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### BARBER'S BOOZE BROUGHT BRILLIANTINE

Joseph Mahar, '40

One bright Thursday afternoon I went strolling to town, merrily whistling one of the popular tunes. The Liberals had gained a decisive victory over the Conservatives during the week. I found, as I had expected, many people celebrating. The Liberals in various postures were toasting their leader, while the disconsolate Conservatives were drowning their sorrow—and not indeed in salt water. I felt my hair tickling my neck as I shook my head with laughter, so I decided to get a haircut.

The barber's chair was occupied when I arrived. An elderly gentleman was getting a shave. In a few minutes he was dismissed. I noticed there was something odd about the old gentleman, but I forgot about it until I took my place in the chair.

The barber put the cloth around my neck. The clippers buzzed up and down the back of my head. I felt there was something out of order. I glanced at the barber and sniffed his breath. Immediately my mind turned back to the old gentleman. Now I remember quite clearly that when he hurriedly left the shop he was rather pale, and gave little evidence of having been shaved. The barber must have been a Conservative as there was a scowl on his face. He too had drowned his sorrow—perhaps in Bay Rum.

I seized the chair tightly as perspiration began trickling down my back. Every moment I expected the clippers to start cutting my skin. At one time the clippers