

The True Witness

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TV WILL.—Matter intended for
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Correspondence intended for publica-
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mark of good faith, otherwise it will not
be published.
ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST SOL-
ICITED.

**IN vain will you build churches,
give missions, found schools—
all your works, all your efforts will
be destroyed if you are not able to
wield the defensive and offensive
weapon of a loyal and sincere Cath-
olic press.**

—Pope Pius X.

Episcopal Approbation.

If the English Speaking Catholics of
Montreal and of this Province consider
their best interests, they would soon
make of the TRUE WITNESS one of
the most prosperous and powerful
Catholic papers in this country.

I heartily bless those who encourage
this excellent work.

PAUL,
Archbishop of Montreal.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1909.

ARE THE SCHOOLS OF FRANCE
GODLESS?

Mr. Wilfrid Gascon, an employee of
the House of Commons at Ottawa,
recently wrote to L'Action Sociale,
of Quebec, to ask what they meant
by calling the schools of France
Godless, and asking whether teach-
ing based on the Ten Command-
ments of God and embracing the in-
struction of children on their duties
towards God can be called Godless
or atheistic teaching. He further
asks whether there is any text of
law in France forbidding the teach-
ing of the belief in God in the
schools.

Mr. Godfroi Langlois, M.L.A., in
his position of editor of Le Canada
the chief government organ in Mon-
treal, airs the questions of the
friend Mr. Gascon, who, like the
member for St. Louis, is an advo-
cate of the system now in vogue in
France of laicisation of the schools
and the banishment of all dogmatic
religious teaching. He reproduces a
portion of the answer written by
Mr. Omer Heroux, of L'Action So-
ciale, giving a definition by Mgr.
Delamare of Godless schools and
the declaration of Mr. Heroux that
when he referred to the schools of
France as atheistic and Godless he
referred to the general spirit of the
system in vogue and not to the text
of the law. The balance of the an-
swer in which Mr. Heroux gave ex-
amples of the teaching imparted to
the youth of France was carefully
left out of the extract published by
Le Canada, in accordance with the
universal practice of the opponents
of Catholicity to publish only such
portions of an argument as they
believe can help their case.

We place before our readers to-
day a document which shows that
Mr. Heroux, when he calls the
schools of France atheistic and God-
less, was using only mild terms.
They are, moreover, schools of anti-
patriotism and their nefarious teach-
ing is supported by the government
in power. The schools have been
perverted from sources of light and
good citizenship into places where
belief in God is denounced as non-
sense and patriotism is dubbed stu-
pid. Parents have, up to the pre-
sent, had the right to protest, but
now even that poor right is to be
denied them, and only the school
authorities will have the right to
take action against a teacher of-
fending the views of the parents.
That the authorities will do nothing
of the kind is shown by their action
in the Morizot case.

The government now in power in
France is bound to stamp out all
trace of religion. As shown in the
course of the lecture by Father Fal-
lon, of which the beginning is print-
ed in these columns, to-day, M. Vi-

viani, at that time Minister of La-
bor, and M. Briand, Minister of Pub-
lic Worship, addressing the school
teachers at Amiens, made declara-
tions showing that their object was
to stamp out all religious belief.

M. Combes went far with his work
by suppressing the religious schools,
and the work is now being carried
on by his successors. The decision
of the courts in the Morizot case
has led M. Doumergue to bring in
bills to limit the authority of pa-
rents with regard to their children.
In the Morizot case, which has been
referred to at length in the True
Witness, an appeal to the law
against offending teachers was de-
clared to be within the competence
of aggrieved parents. But before
judgment was delivered the Govern-
ment determined to crush this grow-
ing movement, which had for its ob-
ject the safeguarding of the very neu-
trality of the schools, the observance
of which it was the duty of the
Government to enforce. M. Dou-
mergue in quick succession tabled
two bills in the Chamber. The first
was directed against parents and
guardians who should prevent their
children from attending certain
classes, or using certain school-
books prescribed by the education
authorities. By the second the re-
sponsibility of the State is substi-
tuted for that of the scholastic of-
ficial, who is removed from the ju-
risdiction of the ordinary courts
and placed under the university tri-
bunals for nearly all offences con-
cerned with the execution of his duty
as a teacher. What this means is
painfully clear. It is, as the Bi-
shops have declared, the expropria-
tion of the family and the confiscation
of its children.

There were some who thought that
these measures would never be al-
lowed to pass into law. The Bills
were roundly condemned by respon-
sible Republican journals like the
Temps and the Journal des Débats,
as needless, if the education authori-
ties did but do their duty in com-
pelling the observance by the teach-
ers of the neutrality decreed by the
law. But, in default of such ac-
tion, they were mere measures of re-
pression which, at the same time,
offered no guarantee in addition to
those the insufficiency of which had
been proved by sad experience. We
must confess that we are not of the
number of those who shared in these
hopes—that the bills would fail: The
one class measure which has an as-
surance of an easy passage through
the Chambers to the table of the
President of the Republic for signa-
ture is that which is directed against
the Catholic religion. Upon what
will repress the influence of Catholic-
ism, the groups of the Left, divided
in all else, are agreed and ready to
act as one man. The latest illustra-
tion of this is seen in the adop-
tion last week, after a long discus-
sion, of the final text of these two
bills by the Parliamentary Commis-
sion on Education. Nor have the
Commission been content to leave
the draft of the bills as presented by
M. Doumergue. They have amended
it, in a characteristic anti-Clerical
way, not in the direction of leniency
or liberty, but of greater stringency
and repression. At first, it is true,
there seemed to be an inclination to
refuse to see any obstacle to public
education in the free exercise of a
parent's right to forbid his children
to read books which he regarded as
dangerous or vicious. But, on se-
cond thoughts, the Commission pro-
ceeded to set up an obstacle to the
exercise of this very right by insert-
ing a provision that to prevent the
use in class of books mentioned in
the departmental list shall render a
parent liable to the penalties set
forth in the law. The Commission
have still further aggravated the
bill by rendering liable to the pen-
alties of fine and imprisonment those
who shall have provoked an offence
against it by threats and "incite-
ments." Incitements is a wide word
and can be made to include almost
anything. Take the case of a
speaker, journalist, or priest who
points out to parents the danger
that will threaten their children, and
who urges them to take the only
effective means to avert it; such a
one immediately lays himself open
to a fine and imprisonment. As for
parents anxious about the upbringing
of their children, can anything
be more melancholy or unjust than
the position in which they are plac-
ed. The departmental list of school
books is to be sacrosanct, though it
is drawn up under men openly com-
bating religion, and yet the pa-
rent is to have no protection for
his children, but an appeal to the
education authorities, who, as is
acknowledged on all hands, have re-
fused to take action on such com-
plaints in the past. There need be
no wonder, then, that a paper like
the Journal des Débats, which still
has the courage to speak out in de-
fence of genuine Republican princi-

ples, should reiterate its criticisms
of the Bills as unduly restrictive of
parental rights.

But it may be objected that the
Bills leave parents and guardians
ample guarantees for the protection
of their children in the appeals that
are allowed to the education authori-
ties. But as a matter of fact Mo-
rizot's doings were brought to the
notice of his official superiors, who
did nothing but attempt to cover
him; and when M. Girodet took the
case to court, Morizot was actually
removed and promoted, though at
the trial the Advocate-General who
defended him allowed that Morizot
was "a miserable creature whose
place, is not in the ranks of the teach-
ers." Is such action as this on
the part of the education authorities
likely to create confidence in the
parents that their righteous com-
plaints will be listened to and their
proved grievances redressed by men
who in the past have been notori-
ously remiss in the performance of
this duty? And what makes it less
likely than ever that any effective
action will or can be taken is the
fact that the teachers have rallied
round Morizot, first by protesting
against the prosecution of which he
has been the object, and now, since
the trial, by undertaking to pay
the expenses of it and the damages
which he was condemned to pay. By
this resolution, passed last week by
the teachers of the Côte-d'Or dis-
trict, the teachers would seem to
have made his case their own; to
have declared their solidarity with
him and his teaching; and to have
given notice to all, that even when
a teacher is convicted of having
cast discredit upon sacred beliefs and
the necessary sentiments of patriot-
ism, and disturbed the modesty of
his pupils by drawing their imagina-
tions "to subjects which a teacher
worthy of the name ought always
by ceaseless care to be watchful to
keep away," those who proceed
against him will have to
reckon with the whole teaching
profession. Thus, then, if these
bills pass, as doubtless they will,
parents in France, the minds of
whose children are being poisoned in
State schools, will be placed in a
position of painful difficulty. On the
one hand, they will be urged by in-
stinct and duty to take action in
defence of their children's innocence;
on the other, they will be confronted
by the State in the person of the
Prefect and behind him of the whole
body of the teachers, ready to support
their offending colleague with their
fund. It is a battle against tre-
mendous odds, but the signs are
multiplying day by day that it will
be fought to a finish.

HONOR FOR FATHER LAMBERT.

On the occasion of the golden jubi-
lee of his ordination to the priest-
hood, the Holy Father, through Mgr.
Bisleti, has cabled to Father Louis
A. Lambert, editor of the New York
Freeman's Journal, the Apostolic be-
nediction and his congratulations.
This signal honor is well deserved
by the venerable priest, who as a
writer confounded by his fearless and
logical reasoning the great agnostic
Ingersoll, and has for many years
fought the battles of the faith in the
New York Freeman's Journal.

Father Lambert has lately been the
victim of a severe illness, but we
note with pleasure that he has once
more resumed his place as the lead-
er in the field of Catholic journal-
ism, and rejoice that his pen has lost
none of its trenchant power, nor his
brain that clear, logical form of rea-
soning which defies all the sophistry
which the opponents of the Church
use in their endeavors to overturn
the immutable rock of truth. May
Father Lambert long be spared to
blaze the way in Catholic journalism
and to defend the doctrines of the
Church and her practices against all
the powers of disbelief.

THE NAME "CATHOLIC."

Of late years there has been a ten-
dency in certain portions of the
Church of England in Canada to
assume the title of Catholic. For-
merly all Anglicans rejoiced in the
appellation Protestant, and even to-
day in the communities where the
ritualistic spirit has not entered the
Anglicans would be offended that
anyone should refer to them as Cath-
olics. The more modern section,
however, claim to be a branch of
the Catholic Church, which is abom-
inated by the old-fashioned sec-
tion. It is not in Canada alone,
however, that this question has
aroused dispute. In England a de-
bate has been proceeding in the Sa-
turday Review, and the following re-
marks of the Catholic Times of Li-
verpool sum up the Catholic attitude
on the question:

We shall probably have discussions
at all times about the title "Cath-

olic," but their interest is and will
remain merely academic. We are in
possession of the title, and attempts
by Protestants and others to rob us
of it prove, and will prove, failures.
The learned Jesuit, Father Thurston,
in a letter to the Saturday Review,
urges that, seeing it is our name
and not theirs, Protestants should
not be so churlish as to deny it to
us. All over the Continent of Eu-
rope, he says, the use of this name
has been conceded to us for centuries
past without dispute. It is the
term, and the only term, which we
habitually use in conversation
amongst ourselves. The case might
be different if the name were one
that we had adopted in England for
the purpose of Anglican polemics.
But seeing that we always call, and
have called ourselves Catholics, there
appears to be a certain unfriendliness
in the persistent insertion by Angli-
cans of a qualifying prefix. To which
the editor of the Saturday Review
replies in a foot-note that inasmuch
as the members of the Roman com-
munion make the claim—which other
Christians cannot admit—that they
are the only true Catholics, it is im-
possible for the members of any
other communion to allow them the
title. But, as a matter of fact, the
members of other communions do
allow the title. Ask any "man in
the street" in England or America,
where is the nearest Catholic church,
and he will not direct you to the
building in which the Anglican or
the Methodist minister officiates, but
to that in which the priest who is
under the jurisdiction of the Pope
celebrates Mass.

SLANDERING THOSE WHO HELPED HIM.

William J. Bryan's paper, the Com-
moner, ever since the election, has
been printing letters from its read-
ers giving their opinions as to the
reasons why he was beaten at the
polls. Week after week these letters
have contained the meanest and most
bigoted flings at the Catholics of the
United States, asserting over and
over again in hundreds of these mis-
sives that Catholics at the com-
mand of their priests and prelates
threw their votes and influence
against him and for the meanest of
reasons, pelf. All the stale calum-
nies of the A.P.A. era are furnished
up and used. They are printed with-
out a word of dissent or disapproval
by The Commoner, which by its si-
lence thus acquiesces in this crusade
of vilification. It is only another
instance of what a shiftless charlatan
in politics its owner is, and how
wisely the people have so emphati-
cally rejected him at the polls. As
one of his erstwhile vociferous friends
has been forced to admit: "Boiled
down to a narrower but still logical
conclusion to be drawn from these
false premises, the Catholic, in the
words of the state old calumny, has
divided allegiance." The Commoner
does not say so in its editorial
columns, but it prints statements
of correspondents and extracts from
newspapers that propagate this false
impression, while it suppresses the
arguments that maintain a contrary
opinion.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

It is sometimes safer to back down
than to get your back up.

Conceit may puff a man up, but
never props him up.

The truth is the worst you can
say about some people.

It's a good plan to believe only
half you hear, and then forget the
most of that.

The man ever loaded with an ex-
cuse seldom gets there.

Faith is the silken garment of the
soul; disbelief the rag and tatters.

Dress modestly, but not fine, un-
less the world knows you can af-
ford it.

Correspondence.

WHY TRY TO ABOLISH FRENCH?
To the Editor, True Witness:

Dear Sir,—Our French-Canadian
friends are often up in arms over
matters pertaining to the conserva-
tion of their language, and it is
hard to blame them on the score.
It may happen that, at times, there
is more misunderstanding, more
thoughtlessness, than malice or ill-
will, on the part of those who cause
them to complain. But, all things
considered, I think that there is no
special reason existing why those
(or anyone) of Irish blood should
prove such zealous apostles of
Anglo-Saxonism as some of us.

Assuredly it is not in the columns
of the True Witness that our French
brethren will find matter antagonis-
tic to their aims and ideals; but
what is true of your esteemed paper
is not true of all the utterances or
sentences coming from English-speak-
ing sources, even Catholic.

God alone knows what a battle
royal the Irish put up against
swords and pickaxes in trying to
preserve their native tongue. To-
day we deplore a loss for which we
are in no sense responsible, and so,
it but poorly behooves men with
Irish names, especially beyond the
border, to try to sacrifice the beau-
tiful French language on the same
fire-pile as that which practically
destroyed the tongue, the glorious
classic tongue of our own ancestors.

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Application to Parliament.

Notice is hereby given that an ap-
plication will be made to the Par-
liament of Canada at its next ses-
sion by the Cedars Rapids Manu-
facturing and Power Company for an
Act extending the time granted by
its charter Chapter 65 of the Sta-
tutes of 1904, (Section 12) for the
expropriation of lands, and for
other purposes.

C. DESSAULLES,

Solicitor for Applicant.

Dated at Montreal this eighteenth
day of January, 1909.

Again, I shall admit that there
is exaggeration in French papers
at times; the Irish especially are
cheaply singled out for re-
proach and correction. Those papers
seemingly forget that all the Irish
tentative abolishment of French
can boast of is very often summed
up in the spelling of a name that
shows evolution in the family tree.
These people are simply Anglo-Sax-
on Irishmen, and "God Save Ire-
land" is as foreign to their hearts
as common sense is to their brains.
That an Englishman may want his
tongue spread all over the world,
civilized and uncivilized, is only na-
tural; but that men of Irish blood
(were they even less in number than
they are now), should want to see
French sacrificed for the sake of
English is a problem I want others
to solve.

PADRAIG.

The Preacher Who Will Never Lack
Hearers.

(From the Ave Maria.)

The Inter-Ocean is moved to com-
mend the Rev. Dr. Munhall, of Phil-
adelphia, for his views on the still
opportune subject of non-attendance
at church. Says Dr. Munhall:

"People don't care two raps for
the preacher's opinions. What they
want is to hear the voice of God
speaking to discouraged hearts and
grief-burdened souls. It is God's mes-
sage and not the preacher's that the
people want to hear. Give them that
message and there will be no
lack of hearers."

The Chicago journal fully endorses
that opinion, and, after condemning
the preacher's seeking to speak with
authority on matters foreign to his
calling, adds:

"When the preacher speaks of what
he does know—of what he must be
assumed to know, else is his office
an inhuman mockery, and his pres-
ence in it a blasphemy—when, with
the faith that knows no wavering,
and with the fear of God that is the
beginning of wisdom, he delivers
God's message—he speaks as one
having authority, and he is heard
gladly, and will never lack hearers,
because to discouraged hearts and
grief-burdened souls his voice comes
as the voice of God."

Not discrediting reading to find on
the editorial page of one of our lead-
ing secular journals.

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system, no child can be healthy. Mo-
ther Graves' Worm Exterminator is
the best medicine extant to destroy
worms.

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Graph

Reminiscence

I stood by
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THE MECCA

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THE STATUE

This old sta-
cathedral. A
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ration of Dub-
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scription: "Th-
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WALKER