



LESSONS OF ST. JEAN BAPTISTE.

Elaborate were the preparations this year for the celebration of the French Canadian national festival of St. Jean Baptiste, and the success of the monster demonstration was all that could be desired. While Thursday, the 22nd June, was the day selected for the grand procession, this day is the actual feast of St. John the Baptist. As in the case of our own patron saint, the occasion is one of religious as well as of national importance; consequently we will take occasion as Catholics, to refer in a special manner to the religious aspect of this great day, and, as Canadians, we will dwell upon the claims to honor, respect, and consideration on the part of our fellow-countrymen of French origin.

Take that other John—the Beloved Disciple—St. John the Baptist was one of those pre-eminently favored beings called upon to play a most important part in the great drama of the world's salvation. He was "the voice crying out in the wilderness, make straight the way of the Lord." He was the especially appointed precursor of the Messiah; he was chosen to become the herald of the King of kings, he walked in advance of the One whose advent had been anticipated during four thousand years. And when the appointed time for the accomplishment of his wonderful mission was at hand, he retired from the haunts of men, clothed himself in a garb of camel hair, and went forth into the desert to hold secret communion with the Most High. In imagination we can see that beautiful but worn figure, leaning upon a projecting rock, gazing down upon the fast-flowing Jordan, and patiently awaiting the approach of some One greater than himself, some One whose sandals-cords he, privileged as he might have been, was unworthy to loosen, some One before whose presence he was to march back into the world of men, even as the symbolic sword that was ever seen to advance before the great rulers of Israel, and to announce to the multitude the approach of the Lord's anointed.

Then, once his mission was commenced, he was the first to inaugurate the sacramental powers of the new dispensation, he was the first priest of God to perform the mystic and cleansing ceremony of baptism; and the One on whom he poured the regenerating waters was the one who had descended to regenerate the human race. The solemnity of the Baptist's mission was such that only one termination could have been proportionate to the wonderful importance of his career—and that ending was martyrdom. Again, even in his death, he was the preacher of most salutary lessons. His head was the price of a forfeit on the part of the infidel ruler Herod, and the object was to reward the fantastic attractions of a common dancing girl. Herod—like millions since his time—was carried away by a vile and babbling sentiment that found its source in the voluptuousness of the abandoned and frivolous; that girl, even as millions of others in after years, acrobated heartlessness with wantonness; and the result was that the body, the pure, the great, the one of whose very virtues and he were a standing reproach to the iniquitous

of earth, fell the victim that was needed to satisfy the lust of one and the cruelty of another sinner.

It is but natural, then, that the Church of Christ, should honor in a special manner the great saint who was so especially honored by Christ himself. And in selecting John the Baptist as their patron saint, the French Canadian people have happily chosen one whose very life is symbolized in the mission granted to and fulfilled by their race in Canada.

Over three centuries ago, like unto the wilderness into which the Baptist retired, this vast country was an immense, unknown, apparently limitless waste, a very desert, in its primeval solitude and grandeur. The aboriginal inhabitants were sunken in the depths of paganism and barbarism. A sailor, from St. Malo, crossed the vastness of Atlantic, reached the banks of the St. Lawrence, and in front of the future City of Quebec, and to the murmuring sound of Montmorency's cataract, Jacques Cartier unfurled the standard of the cross and beside it planted the banner of France. In his person—and in those of his companions and successors—the French race became the precursor of Christianity and civilization in this new land. Its spirit walked abroad over the freshly acquired dominion, and its voice was like unto that one of old, "crying in the wilderness, make straight the ways of the Lord." By the hands of their early missionaries, the first waters of baptism were made to fall upon the brow of the ignorant and pagan savage. Whosoever they went they performed a mission similar in many senses to that of their patron saint. Even to the martyrdom that closed and crowned his life, they laid the foundations of the religious and national institutions of the land with the hand of sacrifice and ennobled the stones of these sacred edifices with the sweat of the colonist's brow and blood of the martyr's veins.

It is most appropriate, therefore, that the great St. John the Baptist should be chosen as the patron of this pioneering this civilizing and Christianizing people. And it is meet that their attachment to their institutions, language and laws should find eternal expression in demonstrations such as the one Montreal has witnessed this year. In congratulating them upon their patriotism and their devotion to the Faith of Ages, we can heartily salute their honor, and express the hope that it may long wave, free and untrammelled in this land of a future greatness. We salute those laws, which have come down through the centuries from the days of the early Romans and that are the bedrock of French-Canadian autonomy in our Dominion; we salute that tongue which is universally acknowledged to be the diplomatic language of the civilized world, the language of science, poetry and eloquence, and that of some of the greatest minds that have ever held communion with the generations of men; we salute those institutions and to a great extent, in them we participate, for we enjoy the blessing of the same faith and of all the boons, both spiritual and otherwise, that it guarantees us; wherefore, we say to those institutions, in the language of a classic orator, "Esto Perpetua!"

actly copied as possible on tracing paper, and then return it to the spy to be replaced at the Foreign Embassy. It was practically the handwriting of Dreyfus on the tracing paper edition, though there may also be traces of the handwriting of the copyist hand. This explains why the bordereau at the general staff is to-day on tracing paper.

"People do not write their original letters on tracing paper. This also explains why Generals Mercier and Roget, in the name of the general staff, warned the Cassation judges that 'even were it proved that the handwriting of the tracing paper bordereau differed from that of Dreyfus it was none the less certain that the secrets it mentioned only came from him to the Foreign Embassy in question.' So much for the tracing paper bordereau, and all the row which imbeciles and traitors make about it. But there are traitors of a deeper dye who know very well that the French Government cannot explain in public that they got a Foreign Embassy robbed in order to protect the military secrets which are the protection of France."

Very pathetic was the brief speech made by the great African explorer Major Marchand, in reply to the address of welcome read to him at Toulon. "Two memories," he said, weighed heavily on our hearts, and twice filled our minds with sadness in the course of the African Mission which the Government of the Republic did us the honor to entrust to us. Twice the

head of the Mission was afraid; twice he felt his heart drawn with anguish; twice, as he thought of his country, he felt his sobs choking him, twice, on the banks of the white Nile, under the walls of Fashoda. We had arrived at our goal, and we were happy simply in the thought that we were about to get news from our Mother Country. With what anxiety did we learn in what anguish she was living in respect to an affair of which I have not to speak, but we guessed that France could no longer give the proud and heroic reply that ten centuries had taught her, and we, too, at that moment felt all our cherished hopes falling to the ground with our tears just as we had attained our end. But of what use is it to recall our regrets now that all is over? Let us think of it no more, and let us look straight into the future."

The second sad memory, he explained was the arrival of the warship to take him and his followers back to France. Major Marchand concluded by expressing a hope in which every friend of France will join—that her sons may soon be united and therefore strong.

The difficulty in the way of forming a cabinet to succeed that of M. Dupuy bodes ill for the future of France. It is caused by the disinclination of statesmen of ability to place their services at the disposal of their country—a bad sign in a nation like France. When will Frenchmen learn that the violence of their political passions, and the disunion and bitterness to which this violence gives rise, is a source of national weakness?

Notes From American Centres.

At the recent convention of the American Medical Association, held in Columbus, Ohio, an Irish Catholic scientist, Dr. J. B. Murphy, of Chicago—has scored a triumph in his profession that will prove both beneficial to the world at large and a credit and honor to himself and all his fellow-countrymen and co-religionists. For over a year Dr. Murphy has been experimenting in cases of consumption, after a system which is the result of a life long study. Out of one hundred cases treated by him last year, not one failed, and many were very advanced when he undertook to effect cures. His associate Dr. Lemke read Dr. Murphy's paper before the Association, the latter being too modest to do so in person, and even to meddle to claim any special credit for himself in the wording of that document. We quote from his paper, as read by his associate—a paper not intended for the public, but merely for the members of the association:—

"The method of treatment," explained Dr. Lemke, "is mechanical, not chemical. Nature herself is called upon not only to assist but to bear the heaviest part of the burden."

Briefly the method is the following:—

Dr. Murphy had noticed that tubercular lungs that had been debilitated by natural causes had been cured, although they were in advanced stages of consumption before they had become compressed.

He then conceived the idea of deflating lungs by compression artificially; of putting them out of action for a while by the injection of nitrogen gas between the pleura and the lung, thus giving the lung a rest that it might need.

To illustrate what he was saying Dr. Lemke passed around for inspection at the convention, a human lung. It was that of a man who was in the advanced stages of consumption, so far advanced that the lung contained cavities produced by the tubercle bacilli. By reason of some other ailment suffered the lung had become compressed so that its walls were flattened together. It was in that condition when the autopsy was made and the cavities were found to be entirely healed.

"What was done in that case by natural causes," said Dr. Lemke, as the other doctors crowded around the exhibit, "is exactly what is sought to be done by the use of nitrogen gas, according to the Murphy treatment."

The report of the proceedings is as follows:—

"The successful demonstration of his method of treating tuberculosis of the lungs has easily given Dr. Murphy the first honors in this convention of doctors, which is the largest ever held in America and the one in which the subject of tuberculosis has been given the most consideration."

burn. She will be taken there next week.

A date for Mrs. Barrow's trial will be set on Monday.

Barrow was hopeful to the last. But when fifteen minutes after the jury had retired they filed into court he realized that he need expect no mercy.

"There is no doubt that you are guilty of this crime," said Justice Fursman to Barrow. "You are the man who originated it and who induced these women to steal this little girl. There should be an example made in your case. The sentence of the court is that you be confined in State prison at hard labor for a period of fourteen years and ten months."

"I am satisfied," said Justice Fursman, "as regards the course, that this girl was not the originator of the scheme; that she was persuaded, and because of the friendship Mrs. Barrow had shown for her when she was sick willingly aided them in kidnapping the child."

Justice Fursman then sentenced her to four years in the State prison for women at A. hour.

There is an attempt now going on in New York to construct a religion without any particular faith. It is a movement for Christian unity but not Protestant unity.

The "Sun" referring to it says:— "The Roman Catholic Church is excluded, though manifestly there can be no real Christian unity unless the majority of Christendom, which renders spiritual allegiance to the Pope is brought into it. The great division is between Catholicism and Protestantism. In the first there is already complete unity, so far, at least, as against Protestantism; but Protestantism is divided into numerous denominations as a necessity of its genius."

"The movement for Protestant unity, therefore, is not for 'immediate organic unity.' That is dismissed as impossible. It is simply for 'reciprocal cooperation' and 'interreligious co-operation.' The circular announcing the project asks: 'Has not the hour now come when the churches should join hands in a new brotherhood?' With that end in view a 'State Conference' is to be held in New York, and like conferences are to be in other States."

As this is a subject that opens a very wide scope for editorial comment we will reserve for another column, in another issue, our special views concerning this characteristic movement.

It appears that according to a recent police census Chicago has over two million inhabitants. As far as we are concerned it is not very clear whether this means the city proper, or the city and all the farming country within a given radius around it. Anyway the report says:—

"Sergt. A. T. De Long, who has charge of the Police Bureau of Records, admits that his figures are largely based on estimates and may be 100,000 or 200,000 out of the way, but counting the entire 2,000,000 square miles of territory, extending from the Indiana State line half way to the Wisconsin boundary, he thinks Chicago has fully 2,000,000 inhabitants."

What seems to a stranger very peculiar is that the census should cover the 200 square miles, from the State of Indiana half way to that of Wisconsin. We would find it very funny were we to have a police census of the city of Montreal, including all the island from the St. Lawrence River to Lake Laballe.

SPAIN'S ACTUAL CONDITION.

There is something noble, and truly Catholic in the sentiment expressed some days ago by the Duc d'Acros, the new Spanish Minister to Washington. In conversation with a New York Herald reporter he said:—

"Let bygones be bygones." The war is ended. A treaty of peace has been signed and friendly relations have been re-established. It will be my duty and my pleasure to restore the good feeling between Spain and the United States which existed before hostilities began."

The principle and sentiment contained in those few words should suffice to silence forever the narrow-mindedness that has been vulgarly existing over Spain's recent defeat. Because a nation is less perfectly equipped than another by no means indicates any inferiority as far as the grand and lasting characteristics of the greatness are concerned. If such were the case the Irish would be infinitely inferior to the English, the Poles to the Russians, the French-Canadians to the British—and every nation that ever suffered reverses in the conflicts for power, some other remarks made by the Spanish Minister, in his speech to the President, on the occasion of his being presented will be of interest, and certainly most instructive. Amongst other things the Duc d'Acros said:—

"I am sure, from my own observation and from what I have learned, that Americans are very friendly to Spain, and with both countries working toward a common end it ought not to be very long before the most cordial relations are resumed by them."

Then referring to Spain, in a subsequent public statement he said:—

"Speaking of commerce, a strong movement is on foot in my country having as its object the extension of Spanish trade. The loss of Cuba, Porto Rico, the Philippines, Carolines and Ladrones has deprived Spanish goods of markets in which they had an advantage over the imports of other nations, but I am confident that the

agitation in favor of the extension of Spanish commerce will result favorably to our trade. The financial question, of course, is the one which appears to be most difficult of solution. We are now engaged in settling all the expenses of the war, including the debts of Cuba and the Philippines, which are enormous. But Spain is naturally very rich. Her resources are many, and with the continuance of peace and quiet I am confident that in the course of a few years the financial problem will have been solved. The colonies were a great drain upon Spain. The money, therefore, that was a year ago expended for the maintenance of Spanish sovereignty therein can now be used for the internal development of the country."

After speaking of the colonies still possessed by Spain, which are more numerous than generally imagined, the Minister remarked:—

"In relation to the liberation of Spanish soldiers and subjects held prisoners by the Filipinos, I only can say that I am sure that the American Government will do everything in its power to secure their release, in accordance with a clause of the treaty of peace; and as it has given to that end proper instructions to Major General Otis, I am hopeful that their freedom will soon be an accomplished fact."

"You ask me about the political conditions in my country? I see no danger at this time of a political uprising, though it may have existed before and during the war, up to the time of the signing of treaty of peace. Fears were entertained during the negotiation of the treaty that the Carlists would attempt to overthrow the present Government, but it is now apparent that this is impossible. The Carlists' faction is losing strength every day, and the political future seems to be as bright as could be desired. The Queen is much loved and respected, and I hope for many years of tranquil reign by the present family."

The Situation in Cuba.

In reality, the great difficulty that the United States has to face, regarding Cuba, is contained in the problem how to govern in a satisfactory and successful manner the Island. It is one thing to conquer a country, and another thing to govern it. The New York Herald commenting on this, says:—

"The officers and men in Cuba are doing the best they can, but in the nature of things they are not fitted for the delicate work in hand. If we want to the Cubans as conquerors rather than as friends it would be different. We have gone as friends, yet we are in the position of holding the island as conquerors. This has had the effect of arousing resentment. That resentment has been fostered by the Spaniards, who want to make our task as difficult as possible. It has been fanned by Cuban politicians and agitators, who hope to advance their own selfish ends. Instead of preparing the Cuban mind for annexation it is putting the Cuban mind in the position of combating annexation. Irritations incident to military administration have done the cause great injury. Little things, done by military order, that have aroused a storm would have attracted no attention if done by civil authority. General Ludlow's military order stopping smoking in street cars was looked upon as a blow at Cuban rights. General Wilson's order searching all the passengers on a train to discover a stolen watch created a great hubbub. General Ludlow, at a sweep, turns upside down all criminal law. General Wilson, at another sweep, changes the police system of a province just as the inhabitants were becoming used to the system in force."

"Now I have no criticism to make of General Brooke. He is doing his duty loyally and conscientiously. It is the system I would examine. The people of Cuba have been held under the iron heel of militarism for centuries. They always had military rule."

"What I would suggest to President McKinley is this:—If he does not plan to follow his military administration of the Island by seizure in the name of the United States, let him give Cuba a civil governor. If he must keep General Brooke there, then let him rapidly displace the military governors of the provinces with civilians, and, above all, let him reduce the force of troops in Cuba. Nothing would please the people so much as to have a civil governor and feel that at last military rule in Cuba is at an end. The United States has plenty of such men, skilled in statecraft, in diplomacy, law and executive work, and such a man is needed in Cuba now."

"It seems to me that now is the time to begin. It was this military rule that Cuba fought against. It is the thing that has caused trouble in Germany. It is that which is the chief danger in France to-day. Why should the United States, that leads in everything, continue a system in Cuba that is bound to prolong the period of uncertainty and may end badly for us all?"

CRISPI'S EUROPEAN REPUBLIC.

Predicting a leading roll for the American Republic in the world's affairs, and declaring international disarmament to be practically impossible, Francesco Crispi, Italy's great statesman, has given vent to the same very emphatic opinions concerning the Peace Conference at The Hague. Quoting Gambetta and Bismarck he leaves us, in his statement, some very interesting reminiscences:—

"If they are of no greater value. Having described the enthusiasm in France over Russia, and in Russia over France, at the time of the Cronstadt banquet of August, 1897, he says:—

"Little more than a year has elapsed, and the Czar has already tired of his special friendliness, and instead of aiding France to regain her lost territory, Count Muravieff was instructed to issue the appeal for international disarmament."

"More than twenty years ago I conversed with two of the greatest

statesmen of the age on this very subject. On August 30th, 1877, I had a conference with M. Gambetta in Paris. We were deliberating on grave questions and considering the international politics of that epoch, which proved difficult and critical for France. Marshal MacMahon was then the man of the hour, and a coup d'etat was momentarily expected. To my remark that both the army and the clergy were a menace to the welfare of the state, Gambetta replied that he saw no better remedy for the existing evils than that the nations would come together and agree to universal disarmament."

"A year later I met Prince Bismarck at Gastein. I told him what Gambetta had said about international disarmament. This was the characteristic remark of the Iron Chancellor, which I wrote also in my memoirs:—

"International disarmament is practically impossible."

Notes From the French Capital.

The judgment of the Court of Cassation—which is the Supreme Court of France, and corresponds to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in England—ordering a new trial by court martial of Captain Dreyfus, has caused considerable excitement in the French capital. And those who know what the temperament of the population of Paris is will feel inclined to think that the sentiment will be increased by the result of the new trial, no matter what it may be.

Major Esterhazy has again come to the front. This time he confesses that it was he who wrote the famous "bordereau," which was part of the evidence on which Captain Dreyfus was convicted. The confession is given in the form of an interview with a correspondent of the London Times.

"The day when I was placed on the retired list by most illegal means," said Esterhazy, "I was free, and wanted to make a clean breast of matters; but the most fervent prayers and entreaties from all quarters, including Deputies, friends of the Major induced me to keep silence. Yes, here are the proofs," said Major Esterhazy handed me a packet of letters from a big portfolio. I looked through them, and they were of a nature which would, he said, if made public, convulse Europe and absolutely sap the famous honor of certain generals in France for whose army the honor and interest were invoked, "in favor of which," said Esterhazy, "I have sacrificed mine, and in return for which sacrifice I have received nothing but insult and outrage." And he continued, "I sacrificed myself still for those superiors who had unworthily abandoned me, remembering still that they were the epaulettes of general officers which my own family has worn for so many generations, which my father, who was decorated with your English Order of the Bath, wore when fighting side by side with your troops in the Crimea. Now, however, the measure is filled, and I shall

speaking. Yes, sir," he said very deliberately, though a gleam of fire shone in his dark eyes. "It is I who received an order from Colonel Sandherr to write the bordereau. What I admit, the proofs of the treason of an officer belonging, beyond any possible doubt, however, to the Ministry of War were obvious months before that. It was absolutely necessary to find the guilty person—and hence the bordereau."

The most sensational statement of all, however, is one made by Mr. Frank Hugh O'Donnell, the distinguished journalist, who was formerly an Irish Nationalist member of Parliament, and who has always been a close student of European affairs, having occupied for years the position of editorial writer on "Continental" matters in the London Morning Post. Mr. O'Donnell writes as follows to the "Dublin Nation":—

"Though the Cassation Court can only decide points of law, the judges have presumed to matters of fact. For instance, they allege that Dreyfus was condemned on the Bordereau, the famous list, and that the Bordereau was written by Esterhazy. How do they know what evidence convinced the court-martial? There were seven and twenty witnesses against Dreyfus. How do the judges know which or what evidence convinced the court-martial? But there is much more behind which goes to the very heart of the 'Secret involving danger of war,' of which so much has been heard."

"Dreyfus had long been watched and his guilt was certain to his colleagues. The most daring spies in the French service were introduced into the Embassies, with which he was suspected of communication. The Bordereau written on letter paper by Dreyfus was stolen for a few hours from the most secret archives of a foreign embassy. The French general staff had only time to have it as ex-

Some time ago we gave our readers a lengthy report of the New York Kidnapping case of little Marion Clarke, and we drew several lessons from the events connected therewith, for the benefit of our friends in general. It may be well to now briefly state the final outcome of the whole case. A New York contemporary, of last week, says:—

"George Beaugard Barrow, who originated the scheme to kidnap little Marion Clarke, was convicted of that crime before Justice Fursman in the criminal branch of the Supreme Court yesterday. He was sentenced to fourteen years and ten months in State prison. Less than three hours after sentence had been passed he had donned the stripes of Sing Sing Prison."

Bella Anderson, alias Carrie Jones, who actually kidnapped the child, and who appeared as witness against Barrow, was sentenced to four years in the State prison for women at Au-