

The True Witness

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE
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NOTE WELL.—Matter intended for publication should reach us not later than 5 o'clock Wednesday afternoon.

CORRESPONDENCE and items of local Catholic interest solicited.



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1906.

RELIGIOUS TEACHERS IN ONTARIO.

The Privy Council judgment of last week settles all question of the position of the religious orders teaching in the Catholic Separate Schools of Ontario. The provincial teacher's certificate is necessary in their case; and it goes beyond saying that compliance with this requirement of the law will be demanded. There is no grievance to the Catholic body in the strict interpretation of the law. The grievance is that up to the present time the school law had practically been otherwise interpreted; and in the Catholic schools the religious teachers had been going on doing excellent work upon the standard demanded by the Orders both of men and women engaged in the Catholic schools of Ontario—Brothers of the Christian Schools, the Community of St. Joseph and the Institute of the Blessed Virgin, principally.

It is to the credit of these orders and tells enough of the standard they have made for themselves, that their pupils when presented passed the examinations for the High Schools and University in as large or larger proportion than the pupils of the non-Catholic schools. Indeed the quality of the teaching in schools controlled by the religious orders was never at any stage of the discussion seriously or intelligently in question. Fanatics, like Dr. Sproule, occasionally rose—as did that remarkable member of the House of Commons this week—to say that Separate Schools were "the devil," and that Protestantism should combine to suppress them. But the Protestant opinion of Ontario has never condemned or disparaged because it never had reason to condemn the quality of the secular teaching in the Catholic Separate Schools of the neighboring province. The question was raised in the courts primarily as the grievance of a lay Catholic teacher, who has proved himself competent to inflict more injury upon the Catholic teaching orders in one year than the Orange organization could work in a century.

Leaving all personal and minor interests aside now, the religious orders must meet the government at Toronto and obtain reasonable time and conditions of compliance with the ruling of the Privy Council. A teacher's certificate may mean much or little. To our mind teaching experience and the religious vocation are the essential things; but since the State must have a standard and there is nothing in that standard to debar Catholic teachers in the religious orders from presenting themselves for the certificate, we do not foresee any disruption of the Ontario system to follow from the legal decision which has been confirmed upon appeal. No government can impose conditions of such a peremptory nature as would involve the disruption of a school system that has worked well in the public interest, and good may in the end

follow from the troublesome legal battle, because criticism among Catholics at least will be stilled when Catholic teachers have the same pedagogical qualification as the teachers working in non-Catholic schools.

A JUST TRIBUTE TO SPAIN.

According to the Mexican Herald, Judge Taft's tribute to Spain as "a tremendous force in civilization and progress" will not be questioned by students of Spanish-American history. In Spain's golden age of conquest, administration of new countries, and literary efflorescence, her work was laid down on vast and imperial lines. "The King of Spain has the sun for his hat" was the poet's hyperbolic way of stating the immensity of the Spanish dominions overseas.

It is common in Anglo-Saxon countries for writers of the present day to decry Spain's achievements. The conquistadores, who marched through life as if to martial music unheard except by themselves, were fierce soldiers, and had the sixteenth century thirst for gold; but often they became great civil administrators, and gave their encouragement to the arts and sciences, and were as zealous in founding institutions of learning in their new possessions as they had been valiant in warfare.

The home government in Spain sent out teachers, and even scientific expeditions, the gentle botanists not being omitted. It was a notable age of splendid achievement. Mexico was a lure to many a man of cultivated mind. Cervantes, the author of the immortal "Don Quixote," sighed for an appointment to a government office in this land of new Spain; Montaigne, the celebrated French essayist, a man of broad culture and wide human sympathies, once looked longingly across the seas to Mexico.

In all her great American colonies Spain wrought and built as soon as she had conquered, and noble monuments of architecture exist to attest the taste and wealth of the early Spaniards in the new world.

Though Spain has lost her American possessions, her daughter nations remain, with language, traditions and religion persistent. And we must not forget that Spain's new world dominions were ruled in peace for three hundred years. That mere fact stamps Spain as a powerful civilizing force.

Judge Taft did well to pay tribute to the influence of Spain in her days of might and dominion.

PARNELL MONUMENT.

The artistic work connected with the Parnell monument, to be erected in Dublin, is now practically complete. Augustus St. Gaudens, the great sculptor, is the creator of the beautiful memorial. Mr. St. Gaudens resides in New York, but was born in Dublin.

His cast of the central figure of the monument of Mr. Parnell is at present on its way to Italy, to be cast in bronze, and, with certain trifling exceptions, the other ornamental work of the monument has also been completed.

The monument promises to be one of the most magnificent of its kind to be seen either in Dublin or any other capital of Europe. The design consists of a slightly tapered triangular shaft, standing on a circular platform, 26 feet in diameter. The width of the base will be 13 feet, and the total length from the ground to the top of the tripod, which will surmount the shaft, will be 65 feet.

In the pavement of the circular platform is represented by green granite a large conventionalized outline of the shamrock, within which is symmetrically placed the triangular shaft. Around the carved base the counties and provinces of Ireland are represented, the former by thirty-two bronze panels, or tablets, surrounded by an inlaid bronze ornament of shamrocks, and the latter by four bronze laurel wreaths on the face of the pedestal which carries the statue of Parnell. On the angles of

the base are inserted large bronze torches.

Since the statue of Parnell is the most important part of the monument, it is necessary that the shaft should form such a background as will least detract the eye from the statue itself, and the plain surface against which the statue will be outlined on the proposed form of the shaft, will attain this. In front of the shaft, on an extension of the base, as a pedestal, will stand a bronze statue of Parnell, eight feet in height. The attitude of the figure is striking, the facial resemblance is perfect, and great care has been taken to render all the minor details faithful to the surroundings of the chief in life. On the face of the shaft, just over the head of the figure, a large harp is incised, and also an inscription including an extract from the famous speech delivered at Cork, on the 21st of January, 1885.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Osservatore Romano has published a semi-official article saying that the French Cabinet is preparing to attack the Vatican at the reopening of the Chambers by accusing it of engaging in a conspiracy with the monarchists to overthrow the republic, and giving the following statements as proof of its charges:

That the Royalist press, which opposed the late Pope Leo XIII., approves of Pope Pius X. That the Royalist leaders urge the Pope to support the religious movement in France. That the Pope granted an interview to the Royalist organ, the Gaulois.

The Osservatore Romano answers these allegations by stating that Pope Pius, like Pope Leo, loyally accepts the republic, as the former has repeatedly affirmed, confirming his statement in his recent encyclical on the Church and State separation law, and challenges anybody to quote a word uttered by the Pope or to adduce a fact showing the Pope to be an enemy of the republic.

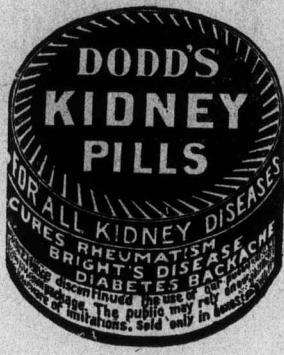
The proofs to be referred to by the French Government, the Osservatore Romano adds, are not serious. The Royalists support the Pope either as good Catholics or for political aims. In the latter case it is not the Holy See's fault, "the responsibility resting on the republic and resulting from the anti-religious measures adopted in oppressing the Church under the guise of carrying out republican ideals."

To have the courage of one's convictions is indeed noble; and to be able to boldly assert these same at a time when the world looking on is ready to sneer at what it pleases to call mock righteousness is heroic. Such we deem the incident which took place at a theatre in Rome, where the latest drama of d'Annunzio, "More than Love," was hissed by the audience, who would not stand for the breaking of all sorts of laws in order to reach the ideal which was the tone throughout. We have not yet heard that such a thing has occurred in Montreal, where too frequently our theatres have put on their boards plays reeking with muck; on the contrary, we have reason to believe that those demoralizing dramas which have come to our city have always played to crowded houses. Why is this?

The Conferences of the Catholic Truth Society in England, Ireland and Scotland have each had their own distinctive character. In the proceedings of the Irish conference, there was a genial harmony racy of the soil. The two vital questions of Christian education and labor were treated of fully and ably. Bishop Clancy, in his paper on "Secularism in Education," lucidly set forth guiding principles, and by references to historical and contemporary events, proved that Secularism is a danger to the welfare of States as well as to Christianity. A notable feature of Dr. McCaffrey's paper on Socialism, and the discussion on

the subject which followed, was the sympathy expressed for social reformers who do not include in their programmes attacks on religion. Father Hickey, O.P., a priest whose opinion carries much weight with all to whom he is known, whilst deprecating excess, powerfully pleaded for amity between the Catholic Church and advocates of social reform, and the plea was cordially received by those present. Evidently the feeling of the conference was that schemes of social amelioration are still to a large extent in a tentative stage, and, therefore, that so long as religion is not interfered with, their promoters should enjoy the largest measure of liberty.

For services as nurse during the Civil War, the Pension Office has acted favorably on the application of Sister Anastasia, of St. Agnes' College, Baltimore County, Maryland, for pension. Dating from September 29 last she will be allowed a pension at the rate of \$12 per month, and in addition will receive \$1220 in back pay.



Struggling Infant Mission

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Best outside help is, evidently, necessary. Will it be forthcoming? I have noticed how willingly the CLIENTS of ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA readily come to the assistance of poor, struggling Priests. May I not hope that they will, too, cast a sympathetic and pitying eye upon me in my struggle to establish an outpost of the Catholic Faith in this so far as the Catholic Faith is concerned—barren region? May I not hope, good reader, that you, in your zeal for the progress of that Faith, will extend a helping hand to me? I cry to you with all earnestness to come to my assistance. You may not be able to do much; but you CAN DO LITTLE. Do that little which is your power, for God's sake, and with the other "littles" that are done I shall be able to establish this new Mission firmly. DON'T TURN A DEAF EAR TO MY URGENT APPEAL.

"May God bless and prosper your endeavors in establishing a Mission at Fakenham."

ARTHUR,

Bishop of Northampton.
Address—Father H.W. Gray, Hampton Road, Fakenham, Norfolk, England.

P.S.—I will gratefully and promptly acknowledge the smallest donation, and send with my acknowledgment a beautiful picture of the Sacred Heart.

This new Mission will be dedicated to St. Anthony of Padua.

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