

The Catholic Register

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TORONTO, AUG. 6TH, 1908. THE TURKISH CRISIS.

Thinkest thou there is no tyranny but that Of blood and chains? The despotism Of vice— The weakness and the wick-edness of luxury—

The negligence, the apathy, the evils Of sensual sloth, produce tea thous- and tyrants Whose delegated cruelty surpasses The worst acts of one energetic mas- ter, However harsh and hard in his own bearing.

Byron's Sardanapalus. If there is any region under the sun where exists the aggregation of tyrannies described by the great English poet, the weakness and wick- edness of luxury, the negligence, apathy and sensuality of sloth, it is in the palace and court of the Ottoman Empire that they will be found to- day, and they are not of to-day's growth, but are the product of at least twelve centuries of accumulated vices.

Our readers in general are well aware of the divers atrocities against Christians which within the limit of our own memories have been perpetrated by the Moslem races, under the instigation of the successive Turk- ish Sultans themselves with the hearty co-operation of their respective governments, and the approval of the highest religious authorities of the Empire who have indeed the sanction of the Koran in pronouncing that it is lawful and meritorious to plun- der, oppress, and even murder Chris- tians, who are stigmatized as infid- els, or Gaiours, that is unbelievers in the Moslem creed.

It was owing to such cruelties that Greece fought for independence, which was achieved in 1822, that Bulgaria, Servia, Montenegro and Crete were also delivered from Turkish rule, and that Macedonia has been seeking for similar independence.

Within the last few weeks events have taken a new and unexpected turn. It has been known for some years that the mere intellectual part of the population, even including the Moslems, have become more and more dissatisfied with the despotism of one man's absolute rule, and as Abdul Hamid II. is, besides inherently a tyrant, the Young Turks' party has become convinced that the people, at least in Macedonia and Albania, should have a voice in the government and within the past two weeks they have made upon the Sultan a deter- mined demand that a Parliament and a constitution be granted them. They assert that thus only will corrupt and oppressive government, excessive tax- ation, and official stupidity and ven- eality be brought to an end, and the army be properly paid.

The Sultan has hitherto been led to believe that his army and the Al- banians would enable him to crush out any demands for such reforms as are now demanded, but to his dis- gust, he has made the discovery that the army is now mutinying against him, that the Albanians have joined with the Young Turks, and that the reforms are demanded by Christians and Mahometans alike. To the army long arrears of pay are due and the Albanians have discovered that the government is totally incompetent to protect the people against brigands and other murderers by profession, and to preserve law and order.

The malcontents, in sending their ultimatum to the Government, de- clared that they do not wish to have reforms imposed upon them by the other powers of Europe, but if what they demand be not peaceably grant- ed, they will declare themselves inde- pendent and establish a Parliamen- tary Government of their own at Monastir.

The Sultan manifested great anger when these demands were made, and he called his Ministers traitors be- cause they advised him to grant what was asked. Finally, however, he yielded to the demands made and he has called a Parliament to meet in November. The crisis, however, is not over yet, as it is suspected that the Sultan will not keep his promises when the Young Turks now under arms dis- perse to their homes. Just such a trick as this the same Abdul Hamid played upon his deluded subjects thirty years ago. It was proved in 1876 by the report of Mr. Baring, the British Commissioner in Bulgaria,

"that a ferocious Mussulman soldiery in revenge for a feeble and abortive insurrection, were let loose on the inhabitants of that large province; that the population were barbarously mas- saced, men, women and children in- cluded, and that during the storm of savage fury crimes of all descriptions and outrages unmentionable were per- petrated on the inhabitants."

Such was the summary of the Com- missioner's report as given in the London Times, and yet at this time the Sultan agreed to call a Parlia- ment, which was opened in March, 1877, just on the eve of the Russo- Turkish war, which was chiefly the result of the Bulgarian outrages re- ferred to above. In 1878 this Parli- ament was dissolved by the Sultan, who found he had troubles enough arising out of the war with Russia, the demands of his troops for pay- ment of what was due to them, and the open rebellion of the Balkan provinces, which took occasion from the war to demand independence, and openly sided with Russia that such independence might be assured.

Many of our readers will remember that after several battles in which success was sometimes on the side of Russia, and at other times with the Turks, Russia at last by pushing the war vigorously, was finally uni- formly successful and marched her forces to within sight of Constantinople, which city would without doubt have fallen into her hands only for the intervention of Great Britain at this moment. The British fleet passed through the Dardanelles into the Sea of Marmora without leave asked or given by the Turkish Government. This was, of course, a broad hint to Russia that she should check her ad- vance, and so the war was brought to an end. A treaty of peace was signed at San Stefano, but was much modified by the later treaty of Ber- lin in which the great powers of Europe took part. The objection of the British Government to Russia's ad- vance was founded upon the ground that Russia was acting alone, against the concert of the powers.

The constitution granted by the Sultan in 1876 ceased on the disso- lution of Parliament in 1878, as no second session of that body was ever held. It remains to be seen whether the Sultan's grant of a constitution now will be seriously carried out. It is said, indeed, that the Sultan told his cabinet that it was an easy mat- ter to grant a constitution, and then to withdraw it when the danger of the present uprising should have passed away. It remains to be seen whether or not the reforms sought will be carried out. In our estimation there is little confidence to be placed in the promises of the Sultan and his Government, and there will be but illusory amelioration until Europe is entirely freed from the rule of the Turks.

LORD LOVAT.

The announced visit of Lord Lovat to Toronto makes his personality of interest at this moment. If plans have carried he has already been the guest of the Catholic people of Hal- lax, Antigonish and other eastern points, where not alone the Highland societies, but the C.M.B.A. and others, joined to do him honor. Celtic sports and other appropriate pas- times are on the programme, and To- ronto will probably not be behind- hand. The address which Lord Lovat bears from the Frasers of Scot- land to their clansmen in Canada, will be found elsewhere in this issue.

At Quebec Lord Lovat, whose man- ly set-up quite upholds the traditions of his race and clan, was a conspicu- ous figure always appraised in the picturesque kilt of his ancestors, the Fraser tartan making a bright spot wherever he appeared.

Like the Irish who never lost the Faith, certain branches of the Frasers have ever stood true to the teachings of Catholicity, thus we see the chief of this powerful clan one of the most prominent Catholics known to the British Isles. Speaking of the public life of Lord Lovat, the Antigonish Casket says: Lord Lovat, though still young, under forty years, has added fresh lustre to a name already illustrious in the history of Scotland and of Great Britain. Except Lord Strathcona he was the only citizen of the British Empire, who at his own expense raised and equipped a troop of cavalry known as "Lovat's Scouts," for ser- vice in Africa during the Boer War. As became a chief of the powerful Fraser clan, he led them on the field of battle himself, and his name ap- peared repeatedly in military despatches from the seat of war. The Home Government fittingly recogniz- ed and requited his conspicuous ser- vices by conferring on him such titles as fall only to the lot of the few whose names and fame merit in the interests of the Empire acquire a national character.

His Lordship is accompanied by his pipers, but the pipers of the different towns in which he appears, as well as the people generally, honor his coming by extending the warm, old-fashioned "Hieland welcome." At the reunion of the clans when the Chief of the Frasers comes to Toronto on the 10th inst., it is ex- pected that representatives from New York, Detroit, Chicago, Montreal and other points will be present. The Catholic Union will give a luncheon on the same date.

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THE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION. Once again the children of the Se- parate schools of the city have stood the test of the "Entrance" examina- tion, and once again have they come off with credit to themselves and their teachers. This has happened in every instance during the last few years in which the children of our schools have taken the work of the Entrance examination under exactly the same circumstances as do the children of the Public schools. The pity is that this action was not taken years ago, and that the efficient work of our schools might have been demonstrated publicly sooner, thus giving the contradiction to all, both within and without the gates, who would have had us believe that our schools were behind hand and by no means up to the mark. Catholics, and unfortunately there are some few to whom this ap- plies, who have spoken about their schools in a half-apologetic tone, may now change their attitude, and while boasting is never in place, a respectable self-confidence is always helpful, and to be commended. Some have striven to show that the superiority in numbers of the Se- parate school pupils who passed is to be accounted for by an advantage in the ages of those pupils. In an interview with the Globe of Saturday, Inspec- tor W. F. Chapman refutes this argu- ment. He stated that the number of pupils from the Public schools of To- ronto who wrote was 1,555 and that 957 or 61.54 per cent., passed. Whilst quoting those who wrote at De La Salle, Mr. Chapman states that 78 per cent. of the girls who wrote and 73 per cent. of the boys were success- ful. As to the matter of age, while no computation of all who wrote has been attempted, an investigation of the ages of those who were successful has been made with the following re- sults; average age of those who wrote at De La Salle 13.6; at Harbord Col- legiate, where the great bulk of the candidates wrote, 13.8; at Jameson avenue, 13.8; at Riverdale High School, 13.8, and at Jarvis Street Collegiate, girls 14.2 and boys 13.8, averaging about an even 14 years. These figures speak for themselves, no comment is necessary. To account for the disparity and the success of the children of our schools, over those of the Public schools, In- spector Chapman suggests that the pupils of the latter schools are pro- moted too rapidly. Perhaps so, but this brings our children still further to the front, for as their average age at Entrance is less than that of the Public school pupil, so it is to be in- ferred their average age at pro- motion at previous examinations. Mr. Chapman is to be thanked for his fair presentation of things which has helped to place matters in their just light before the public. The suggestion of Dr. Hawke that parents are to blame for insisting on sending children to write in opposi- tion to the judgment of their teach- ers, has much in it that may not appeal to the parent, but is, in the opinion of educators, substantially correct. Parents, no matter how well informed, are not technically in touch with the workings of the schools and examinations. They are not capable of judging of the all- round knowledge and capability of the children in as far as it meets the requirements of the curriculum. No one knows this, generally speaking, except the teacher in charge. A word here to Catholics who sometimes seek to insist that their child is just as well prepared for First Commu- nion or Confirmation as is the child of someone else. This is all wrong, the priest and teachers here are the only judges, as are the teachers in the case of the Entrance examination. In seeking a reason for the success of the pupils of our schools, might we suggest something that has seem- ingly not entered into the calcula- tions brought about by figures. Granting the teachers in both classes of schools capable and painstaking, might not an esprit de corps amongst our Catholic children have some- thing to do with their success? The little ones know that for the past few years the eyes of the public are on them. They work for best re- sults. Their best endeavor is put forth. Not only do they apply them- selves hand and brain, but they seek assistance, in this for them import- ant work, where their religion teach- ers them assistance is to be found. In many cases they go to Mass every morning for weeks for this intention. They make novenas and receive Holy Communion that they may be successful. Who will say that their

prayers have not been answered? To non-Catholics this might not be un- derstandable. To the Catholic it is easy of understanding and belief. Our school-teachers and pupils are to be congratulated. The duty and pleasure of extending congratulations we willingly perform. While, as we asserted previously, boasting is never in taste, acknowledgment of merit is allowable according to every code of ethics. The present standing of our primary schools as gauged by the En- trance examination, is good; it is more, it is excellent. Let this en- courage all to even further endeavor. Education in all grades is one of the things that can never receive its full- est complement. There is always room for more. To try to perform the impossible is the ideal of the student. His effort is always the attainment of something new. His motto is ever "onward and upward." So with our schools; content and satisfaction as to present conditions is ever the forerunner of a retrograde movement. The banner to fly from every school in the land should bear the life-stirring motto "Excelsior."

WOMEN SHOPLIFTERS. While perhaps it is difficult for those not similarly tempted to enter into the impulse which prompts women to steal, for no other reason seemingly, than that their stock of finery may be increased, a moment's meditation on the judgment of Judge Morgan in the case of two women lately brought before him for shoplifting, that their action was the result of an "inordi- nate desire for attire" is worthy of a moment's reflection. To steal from necessity, real or supposed, to steal from pure viciousness, is comprehen- sible, but to steal as in the case of these two women, for the sole pur- pose of an unnecessary acquisition to their wardrobe, is something which makes the opinion of the judge of value as a warning to others. The women in the present case are said to have been supplied with ample money for dress in the average judg- ment. This did not suffice. Some- what singular, too, the culprits were Jewish women. Now, unless we are much mistaken the Hebrew women of our city are seldom public offenders, therefore the present instance is somewhat glaring. If, as Judge Morgan asserts, "the inordinate desire for attire is an ab- solute curse of modern society and applies to rich and poor, young and old," it is time to cry halt. We do not think that the menace is quite as threatening as depicted, but that there is a certain amount of truth, and therefore danger to society, in the statement of the learned judge, is borne out by the fact that the wo- men in the present instance had no normal ground for their act, and that only the cause ascribed seems to present itself. If society of all ranks is running in- to extremes in the matter of dress to the point of making thieves of its members, then it is certainly time to put on the brakes at some points at least.

Death of Rev. Mother Mary Bap- tiste Ursuline Convent, Chatham, Ontario. The Ursuline Convent, Chatham, Ont., has lost one of its best known members by the death of Mother Mary Baptiste, which occurred on Tuesday morning, July 21st, at about eleven o'clock. The event was not unexpected, as Mother Mary Baptiste had been in failing health for some time, and about six months ago was stricken with paralysis. Every means that medical skill could devise to avert the blow had been long employed, and every remedy to check the malady was resorted to with persistent and loving solicitude. But in vain. God called His faithful servant home, and human skill was powerless to prevent her soul in its eager flight to the Heart of its Mas- ter.

The deceased, whose former name was Jane Frances O'Grady, was a native of Troy, N.Y., where she was educated at the Catholic school, an afterwards graduated from the Emma Willard Seminary of that city. Her education completed, she prepared to obey the divine summons that was calling her to embrace the religious state, and it only remained to decide where she should go to fulfil her great vocation. Many flourishing convents in her native country desired to claim her, but from far-off Canada there came to her word of the little com- munity of Ursulines at Chatham, struggling amid all the difficulties and hardships of a new foundation, and anxiously in need of help. Her choice was quickly made. She would go where the voice of her Divine Lord surely called her, to follow Him through poverty and privation in a strange land. It was in 1862 Mother Mary Bap-

tried to save Alia As might have been expected, the Franciscan Fathers of St. Elizabeth's Church, Denver, made a last effort to obtain mercy for Giuseppe Alia, the murderer of their beloved confrere, Father Leo Heinrichs. From the Den- ver "Catholic Register" we learn that Alia expressed no repentance for his act, but, on the contrary, heaped malediction on the Catholic priest- hood. Father Wulstan, O.F.M., of St. Elizabeth's, was sent to make a last attempt to soften the prisoner's heart, but as the execution took place Wednesday night, whereas it had been given out that it would take place Thursday or Friday night, he arriv- ed too late. Father Bernard, O.F.M., Father Leo's successor as pastor of St. Elizabeth's, learning that Father Wulstan would fail to reach the penitentiary in time, at once sent a representative to personally plead with Governor Harper for a commu- tation of the sentence to life impris- onment, or a suspension of sentence until further effort could be made to reclaim the condemned man. The Governor refused to grant the peti- tion. "We bore no ill will toward Alia," said Father Bernard in a statement to the press. "We mourn Father Leo as a lovable man and a good companion, but we did not seek re- venge for his death. Had the Governor seen fit to pardon Alia, we should have offered no objection. On the other hand, neither the Gov- ernor, the judge nor the jury has made a mistake, according to the evi- dence. I believe Alia was sane. I believe, also, that he was a danger- ous criminal, as was proven by his thrice-repeated attempts to injure his guards. We are not opposed to capital punishment, nor are we an- xious to see a condemned murderer die. The dignity of the law must be upheld. "I should have been pleased to see Alia converted, and with this end in view I sent Father Wulstan to Can- yon City to extend to him our full pardon for the wrong he has done us. We did not seek Alia's life because he killed one of our priests, but we asked his punishment because he had vio- lated one of the most sacred laws of the State when he took the life of a fellow-being. "We hope Alia has met a merciful God."

Prelates Sail for Rome A distinguished party of Catholic clergymen, headed by Cardinal Gibbons of Baltimore, and Archbishop John M. Farley of New York, have sailed for the Mediterranean on the North German Lloyd liner, Konig Albert. There are about fifty clergymen in the party. Archbishop Farley is taking to Rome the Peter's Pence, which is said to be the largest contribution ever sent to Rome from the Diocese of New York. In addition to the Pence the Archbishop will convey many messages to the Pontiff from the Catholic Church in America. He will also present to the Pope a handsome copy of the book written on the recent Catholic centenary.

The Mission house at Chippewan, on Lake Athabasca, was totally destroy- ed by fire recently.

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