The Catholic Record Prim al Subscription—\$1.40 per engan Duited States & Burges—\$1.40 "

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LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1915

AUSTRIA AND THE POLES

"Austria is a rich land in a com paratively peaceful state of dissolution, where there are many kinds of but no Austrians."

So wrote a travelled and scholarly Dane some years before the War. In the Dual Monarchy there are Germans and Poles and Slovaks and Magyars and Czechs and Croats and Serbs and many other nationalities but there are no Austrians in the sense that one is naturally predisposed to attach to that term. no Austrian language, nor is there a Hungarian language. Poles and Czechs and Croats and Magyars and Germans and Roumanians and Italians and all the rest have their own languages. The flood of immigration the United States has brought all these peoples and many more, so languages of Europe and some of Asia are there spoker difference between the United States of America and Austria-Hungary Out of the welter of nationalities in the States is emerging inevitably, irresistibly, a homogeneous national ity unified by common political ideals and speaking the same language. In the Dual Monarchy, the various onalities are not intermingled but segregated in national groups divided from the dominant groups and from each other by diverse languages, national ideals and aspire . In Hungary the Magyars maintain with iron hand their dominance of the other races. In Austria the dominant group is German despite the fact that it is inferior numerically to the others combined. The uniting force appears to be loyalty to the aged Emperor King Francis Joseph, and we have long been told that at his death the heterogeneous Empire would

apart.

But we are concerned just with the Austrian Poles. ancient Kingdom of Poland looms large in this War. Not only because back and forth over unhappy Poland has the tide of battle surged, leaving millions homeless amid the wreck age of their country; not only because is is the tragic fate of millions of Poles to find themselves fighting brother against brother in the ranks of the armies of their despoilers but because the battle-cry of one side in the gigantic struggle is " The Rights of Small Nationalities." Ringthrough the world goes th cry that right not might must govthe relations of nations as well as individuals and the heart of the civilized world beats in sympathy. But there arises the spectre of Poland dismembered and despoiled by three mighty neighbors. Might, not right, was the determining factor in that great episode in the history of Europe. A century has not destroyed but rather intensified the living fact of Polish nationality. And in this great crisis the ghost of Poland will not down. Russia proclaims that after the War Poland shall be self governing if not independent; Germany too promises ation of the ancient Kingdom to which Europe owes so much. But it is not in the promises of Czar or Kaiser that the hope of Poland must rest but on the awakened conscience of the civilized world. And great as the cost may be the War will not have been in vain if in the Peace Conference the principles now so loudly proclaimed are then given conscientious consideration.

Professor Squair gives, in the Toronto Daily News, a translation of an Italian article on "The Three Polands" from which we clip the fol-

lowing interesting extracts : "The Polish question has always been a great factor in European poli-tics and it is not unuatural that even in the very moment when Germany and Austria are confident of victory and Austria are connect of victory and of having secured definite pos-session of the regions now occupied by them, apprehensions and mutual mistrast should be manifested in

Just as, more than once, in form times, there were outbursts of bad temper between Berlin and Petro-grad, which were soon restrained,

alliance has had diffic

embers in the Re Polish members in the Reichstein four hundred and twenty member have always been the ones who have stood most firmly behind the Government in times of difficulty. Ofter indeed, as happend with Goluchowal and Badeni, to mention only tho and Badeni, to mention only those whose names rise first in one's memory, the men who had the direction of Imperial affairs were Poles. The Government of Vienna, in exchange for this constant support, has allowed Galicia a large measure of autonomy and has respected national feeling in that Province. The Galician local Parliament conducts its pariness in the Polish language. business in the Polish language.
Polish is the official language of the
law courts, and it is the language of
instruction in the universities of

"In the thought of a part of the oliticians of the Dual Monarchy and politicians of the Dual Monacoly and particularly in that of the assassin-shed Archduke Ferdinand, Russian Poland, united with Galicia, was to have been after a prosperous war, the third state of the Empire, instead

"But, still more than Russia Austria's ally, Germany, has often showed her fear of this policy, and has not dissimulated her dislike of

And the reason is not far to seek :

"The Prussian Poles have lived for long years under the harshest and most cruel oppression one can imagine. The work of denationalization has been most tenaciously carried on by Prussia. The Polish The postman does not deliver letters whose address is written in Polish. The people are not allowed to use The people are not allowed to use their own language in public meetings. And, as if this were not enough, the notorious law regarding expropriation was promulgated, and a fund of a billion france established for the purpose of evicting the Poles from their own lands and of giving them to Germans. A really systematic form of spoliation it is, an outrage on all sense of law and right, in the carrying out of which all the to the greatest have vied with each other, Von Buelow being the most pitiless of them all."

The Italian writer does not say much more of the Russian Poles than that they can have no confidence in Germany. George Brandes, the Danish author above quoted, who has made a sympathetic study of Polish life and literature, writes :

"The Russian rule is not like th "The Russian rule is not like the Prussian, prudent and uniform; it is incoherent, absurd, and often entrasted to clumsy hands. The pressure upon Russian Poland is so great that it could not be borne for a month if many of the regulations were not chaotic and meaningless, others too trivial to be executed. others entrusted to instruments others entrusted to instruments or so little keenness that their effect is destroyed, and others, again, to such intelligent, cultivated men that they are not put into practice."

This writer considers even German treatment of the Poles humane than the Russian.

It will be seen, then, that Austria alone of the great powers who partitioned Poland amongst them has treated the subject Poles without harshness, and even with just regard for their national and individnal rights.

Just thirty years ago Brandes wrote these words which at the present time take on a deep significance :

"The future fate of Poland wholly dependent on that of Europe for if the idea of the right of the people to independence, and the right of every nation to full political freedom continually freedom continually gains ground in the world, then the hour is drawing near when the resurrection of Poland shall be something more than s hope."

RRADING THE BIBLE

In this country our Roman Catho-lic friends cannot bear to be told that they are opposed to the reading of the Bible, and they stoutly insist that the reverse is true. Recently the Catholic Record, discussing the matter, declared that what the Church objected to was the "Protes-tant" Bible, and it says: "As every honest man knows, the reading of the true Bible is encouraged and blessed by the Church. And if it come to a test; we will hazard the assertion that, man for man, the Catholics of Italy, or of Spain, or of Canada, have a truer knowledge of and greater familiarity with the essentials of the Scriptures than the general run of their Protestant neighbors." But if that be true, then the colporteur who is trying to sell "Catholic" Bibles should have the blessing of the priest in whose parish he works. The truth is that there is no book whose free circulation the Church of Rome dreads more than the Bible, whether the Douay version

The truth is that the Christ Guardian writer is not honest and ot well-informed. "Protestant" in uotation marks may pass for sar-asm with his readers; but the wellnformed know that there is an esential difference between the estant" and the "Cetholic versions, whether we put them in

gets the Bible from? What guarantee has it to offer that the books rejected in the Protestant and reined in the Catholic version are not the Word of God? What right have fallible men to decide in the

Does the Guardian not know that the colporteur who is trying to sell "Catholic" Bibles is guilty of fraud and hypocrisy when he offers a translation of the Bible bearing the Imprim atur of a Catholic Archbishop with the books which the Protestants presumptuously reject left out?

Finally is the Guardian forgettu of the fact that the Superintendent of Education in Ontario said a year or so ago that the ignorance of the Bible in Ontario is phenomenal And that a Public School Inspec amended the verdict by saying that phenomenal" is not the word appalling" is more appropriate?

Is there not work to do at home There is a principle at issue be ween Protestants and Catholics in this matter. And we cannot allow the Guardian or the colporteur or the Bible Society to usurp the func tions of the Church of God in s matter so vital as the determination of what constitutes the Bible.

We would sak the Guardian d further question: Would the reading of the "Catholic" (with or with out quotation marks) version of the Bible be acceptable in the Public Schools of Ontario ?

INDULGRNCES

Some of our people no doubt have wendered what a Roman Catholi "indulgence" really means. The Av Maria essays to tell us. It says the mortal sin implies three things: (1)
The affront to Almighty God; (2)
the eternal punishment merited by
every such sin; (3) the debt of tempunishment which still reduce even after the guilt and the everlasting punishment have been remitted. The editor says: "This temporary punishment must be expatiated either in this life by sickness, trials, adversity, temptations, persecution and voluntary works of penance, or in the fires of purga-tory." Now the indulgence means "the remission or pardoning, through the merits of Jesus Christ, of the whole or part of the debt of temporal punishment due to those mortal sins whose guilt and everlasting punishment have already been fo given in the Sacrament of Penance."
This is not very clear, but it seems to
mean that after our sins have been mean that after our sins have been forgiven by God we still need a few years of suffering or purgatory; but from these sufferings the indulgence will save us, and it can be had over in Spain for shout fitteen cents. This is surely cheap enough. wonder, though, that the Apostles had not heard of this easy road.—The Christian Guardian.

"Some of our people" no doubt have wondered. Intelligent people, not blinded by self-sufficient conceit and pharisaic self - righteousness would try to find out what " a Roman Catholic 'indulgence'" really means

The Ave Maria gives very succinctly the Catholic doctrine on the matter Expatiated," of course, should be expiated." It is not very clear to the arrogant self-sufficiency of the Guardian. Of course not. After our sins are forgiven we still have some temporal punishment to undergo either in this life or the next. That is all, but it seems quite absurd to the Guardian writer, and the fact goes to prove the justice of Dr. Seath's remark about the ignorance in Ontario of the Scriptures.

In II. Samuel XII. we read that Nathan accused David of the great sin of murder and adultery.

" And David said unto have sinned against the Lord. And Nathan said unto David, the Lord hath taken away thy sin ; thou shalt not die."

Following the humble acknowledgment of David, Nathan assures him of the forgiveness of his sin, but mark what follows :

"Howbeit, because of this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also that is born to thee shall surely die."

This may or may not be clear to the Guardian. We have quoted from the Revised Version. In the Dousy Bible the reference is II. Kings XII. One thing is very clear, namely, that after God had forgiven David's

sin there was still a temporal punish ment that David had to suffer. "It (an indulgence) can be had ove n Spain for about fifteen cents."

Is this crass ignorance or wilful

"We wonder, though, that the Apor les had not heard of this easy road. Setting saids for the moment th pitiful misrepresentation in the erms used, we can again point out o our Evangelical friend scriptural warrant for indulgences that was quite familiar to the Apostles :

"And Jesus answered and unto him, Blessed art thou Simo Bar-Jonah; for flesh and blood ha Bar-Jonah; for fiesh and blood hath not revealed it to thee but my father which is in heaven. And I also say unto thee, that thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. I will give to thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound also in heaven; and whatsoever thou shall loose on earth shall be loosed also in heaven."- Bevised Version.

At that time from the lips of Jesus the apostles heard all that the Cath olic Church believes and practices with regard to indulgences.

Let the Guardian search the Sc tures, and not worry so much about the mote in its Catholic neighbor's

MB. RIDDIFORD'S "GLORIOUS

"What we need in Canada to was we need in Canada to-day is not Separate schools but national schools, where everyone can sit down together and be unified into a glor-ious whole. Let us teach religion in the home and in the church, but leave the Public school, as represent ing the state, to do its part in the nation building untrammeled with nation building untrammeled with the necessity of laying awake at nights in an effort to split theologi-cal hairs." Such was the statement made at this morning's opening session of the East Middlesex Teacher's Association at the county buildings by Rev. W. C. Riddisord, pastor of Egerton Street Baptist Church, in an address on "The Con-tribution of the Public school to the State and the Church."-The Free

Wall, we have Separate Schools we are satisfied with them and we are going to keep them. If, how ever, the Separate Schools should ever accept Mr. Riddiford's standards of taste and English their days would be numbered.

It is an excellent thing that teach ers should meet and discuss ways and means of more effectively ful. filling their important mission; it is not a bad idea to have them addressed by a clergyman. But it might be well if teachers' associa tions would suggest to the privileged clergyman that if he has nothing to "when everyone sits down together to be unified into one glorious whole" he might at least try to say it gracefully and without offense against good taste and good English

"RECAUSE THE SALARY IS POOR"

Before us is a newspaper article stating (with startling headlines, of withdraws from a church because the salary is too meagre justify him in incurring the expenses incident to the serv "Such a starvation policy," the minister is reported to have said can only be ruinous to the church. The whole article seems to indicate unworthy and mercenary considera-

tions on the part of the minister. A prominent Methodist minister of London" informed the Free Press that "never in his history had he heard of a similar case." Apparently the "prominent minister" is shocked. Doubtless the question of stipend does not bother him. If the prominent minister had the moral courage to say that the Rev. Mr McKibbin treated the mean and mercenary crowd of cheap Methodists as they well deserved we should have a more robust respect for Methodism. If the reporter had not shown a sneaking delight in pillorying the olergyman as governed by sordid considerations we should have more re-

spect for the press. Why should those Methodists ex pect the service of a minister while too mean to guarantee him a living salary? "The laborer is worthy of his hire." The clergyman tells us that he should have to incur the expense of keeping a horse "which is about \$100 a year." Well he can keep a horse cheaper than the writer

ever did. No, we are not very much conserned about the support of Methodist clergymen. But there are Cath olics, not a few, who are meaner in the matter of the support of their pastors than any Methodists we ever knew or heard of.

to this expense without some promise of support. If I bought hay or oats from any of you I have no reason to believe that you would be willing to take chances on the collections for

Do Catholics not expect syment also ?

Catholics as a rule are just if no generous in the support of their astors. Methodists, we believe, in keeping with their means and num ber are even more so. But we refuse to draw the conclusion suggested by the article in question that clergymen, whether Protestant or Catholic are governed by sordid motives while we know that there are laymen, Protestant and Catholic, whose record in the matter of financial support is one that should make them rather redden with shame than sneer at the mercenary motives of their pastors.

THE ROSARY AND HOME LIFE

As the October shadows lengthen we have visions of a land far over the seas where, in lowly white washed cottage and spacious mansion, the Rosaries are being taken down, and all kneel together to "tell the beads." Much of the charm of Ireland centres around its home life and this beautiful custom of family prayer explains much of the charm of that home life. It is the strong est link in the chain that draws the thoughts of the absent ones back across the years. And when the ways of the wicked world lure to sin, there is a light that burns in the window of memory that warns against the pitfalls, and the urgings of the tempter are drowned in the swelling chorus of "Aves heard in Irish homes" in the long ago.

We hear much about the decay of ome life amongst ourselves. The young people, whilst yet in their eens, desert the family circle for the streets, the theatres, and the dance halls. And when, afterwards, their wings are pruned for flight afar, they soon learn to forget the aching hearts whose every thought centres in them. Does not the knowledge of this in cline us to the belief that there must be "something rotten in the state of Denmark?" Perhaps the reason lies in this neglect of family prayer? If we make the home simply a place to eat and sleep in why should it ap peal to us any more than any num ber of similar places where we eat and sleep ?

The home should be a sanctuary And whether it be great or small grand or lowly, it will then appeal to us as no place else in all this wide world ever can. Love it is that sanctifies, and love thrives best in an atmosphere of faith. Nazareth was only a lowly cottage. And yet who will say that Jesus did not often look back to that lowly home with yearn ing love during those weary years when He had not so much as a place to lay His head? If we would forge a strong chain of home memories let us not omit the link of family prayer-It is the one memory that will sur-Let us begin now in this sweet month of the Rosary by gathering together at our Mother's feet to "tell the beads." COLUMBA.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

A REVIEWER of Mr. A. C. Benson's affecting memoir "Hugh: Memoirs of a Brother," in the Canadian Churchman, ventures the assertion that Robert Hugh Benson "would never have been heard of if he had not been the son of an Archbishop of Canterbury and had gone over to Rome." This may or may not be true, but it is hard to imagine the author of "The Light Invisible" or The King's Achievement " - both written in his Anglican days-remaining forever in obscurity. In the estimation of competent judges Mgr. Benson was much the most gifted of the three brothers, and while it is quite true that in the light of the Catholic ideal fame has no essential bearing upon real eminence and mere publicity was not the goal at which Hugh Benson aimed, the plaint of the Canadian Churchman's reviewer is, looked at from any point of view the merest cavil. Circumstances give to it also more than a suspicion of sour grapes.

THAT WAR has had no unifying influence upon the Lodges in Ireland is evident from a somewhat belated paragraph in an Old Country contemporary. While the Nationalists have put aside old antipathies in the presence of a common enemy the brethren seem to have taken new grip upon their heritage of hate and intolerance. At Greystones they

ated the twelfth of July by allying forth at night and bree the windows in the convent of tening the inmates by shouting were bombarding the town. It is to pessimistic view of the progress of be regretted that the scope of Lord the altied offensive: be regretted that the scope of Lord Bryce's Commission was not extend ed to take in North East Ulster. It might then have demonstrated that Belginm is not the only land that has felt the heel of the oppressor.

IT IS NOW four weeks since the Canadian public were informed through the press that Sir Edward arson had cabled the Minister of Militia of the "successful review' the Ulster Volunteers had had before the King and Lord Kitchener. They were both very complimentary ran the cablegram, "the weather was fine, and the work and the appearance of our troops was all that could be desired." What the message failed to convey, however, was that the Volunteers, after thirteen months of war, are still in Ireland, whence according to the best informe bservers, there is no intention they should depart. The Empire may fight and win the war but Carson's troops prefer the review.

A PRESBYTERIAN pastor in New Jersey has devised a new expedient for stimulating church going in his parish. The Rev. Dr. Herring of Plainfield, confronted with a fallin attendance in his congregation, set out to ascertain the cause. Church officials were asked to take note of the young married couples with children who strolled past the church on Sunday, and to enquire the reason for their not entering. Restless children who could not sit quietly through the service was the principal excuse advanced, and the resourceful pastor, putting on his thinking cap, was not long in contriving a remedy. Why not entertain the children? he asked himself. On the following Sunday, therefore, the announcement was made from the pulpit that thereafter each family pew would be supplied with toys, so that while the pastor preached or the parents sang, the children might play at jumping jack, dress dolls or otherwise amuse themselves. A rather unkindly critic asks that since grown people too grow weary sometimes, why not provide lemon ade and ice cream for the women in the hot weather and cigars and mint julens for the men? Religion with some people is scarcely more serious a matter than that in these go-asvou please days.

OUR DIGNIFIED East Indian contem porary, The Catholic Watchman of Madras, is responsible for this :

"One morning a well-known woman of town while shopping thoughtlessly picked up an umbrella belonging to nother woman and started to walk off with it. The owner stopped her, and the absent-minded one, with many apologies, returned the mbrella

"This little incident served to rewere needed in her family, so she bought two for her daughters and one for herself. As it was the holione for nerself. As it was the acti-day season, she gave the articles to her servant to take along with her, instead of ordering their delivery.

"As she entered a tram with the

servant and the three umbrellas, she chanced to observe that exactly opposite her sat the very woman with whom she had the unfortunate experience but a short while before.

"The second woman stared at the three umbrellas very hard for severa minutes. Then, with a significant smile, she leaned across and said in an icy tone, 'I see you've had a suc cessful morning.'

ON THE BATTLE LINE

VICTORY ON THE WESTERN FRONT

The monotonous and discouraging marking time on the western front has been during the past week broken and justified.

The smashing gains by the British and French were made possible only by the accumulation of munitions for the terrific bombardment which destroyed the earthwork fortresses of the enemy and demoralized his men. Then with the field artillery dropping a flery iron curtain between the advanced trenches and the supports the allied infantry made their irresistible charge advancing in some places as far as five miles along a twenty-mile tront

Both British and German papers consider that on the success or failare of the great drive may depend the issue of the war.

Already the enemy defensive has hardened but the allied gains have been held and consolidated.

John Buchan, the official War His rian and military expert of the Times, utters a word of warn the Sisters of the Holy Faith, and ing which it may be well to bear in mind lest the inevitable, delays and that the Germans had arrived and reverses should beget an unduly

"The great movement in Che The great movement in Champague has an immense strategic significance obvious to any one who
looks carefully at a map of the western front. I believe the full story of
the British fighting will be one of the
great pages of their military annals,
especially as it will give new divisions a record of which the most
veterans of regiments may be proped.

veterans of regiments may be proud.
"A word of caution may be spoken to those who look for too spe to those who look for too speedy results. A great strategic plan takes time for working out. It was three months from Mackensen's first assault till Warsaw fell. These three months included temporary reverses such as those on the Dneister, at Wieprz and at Lublin.

"The great movement of the allies in the beginning, but at best must have slow hours. They not only have to win victories but to follow them up. This will need tremen.

them up. This will need tremen deus sustained effort. Large num bers of men will be required to supply the wastage, and a steady

Yet this description of the balanced strength and coordination of the various services is encouraging in the extreme. There is every reason to believe that henceforth this condition so essential to success will be maintained .

"One of the most significant features about the allied effort is the complete co-ordination of the different services. The great artillery bom-bardment was a performance which no man here ever will forget.

The Germans boast of their motor

The Germans boast or taser moser transport, but the British is better. The whole business of moving troops and supplies and bringing back wounded was admirably managed. There never was a moment gestion, though it was by far the iggest movement the British ever undertook. As usual, the work of the airmen was brilliant in courage and efficiency.

IN THE EAST

The offensive movement of the Germans in the region between the Baltic and the Pripet marshes has been arrested, according to despatches from Petrograd. The enemy are now being forced back to the Vilna-Dvinsk railway, and the Russians are straightening out their front south of Dvinek and west of Vileika. The German official report admits that the Russians are attack-ing near Smorgen, which is only 40 miles east of Vilna, but claim that the attack broke down with heavy losses. The total of Russian prison-ers taken by the German troops dur-ing September is stated at 421 ing September is stated at 421 officers and 95,464 men, together 87 cannon, 298 machine guns and 1 aeroplane. The period em-braced in this return was that in which Grodno and Vilna were avacu.

In Galicia the Austrians in Lutsk region claim the capture of 10 officers and 2 400 men in two days. They have been greatly reinforced but are making little progress, and at Novo Alexinec, some fifteen miles north of Tarnopol, are still under Russian attacks. The autumn advance upon Kiev is now a vanished

THE BALKANS

Affairs in the Balkans have become suddenly serious. Sir Edward Grey's announcement that Austrian and German officers are arriving in Bulgaria to direct the Bulgarian army proves that Czar Ferdinand's talk about armed neutrality was intended to deceive the Allies until the Bulgars were ready to strike in conjunction with the Austro-German army on the Danube. Athens from Sofia the Bulgarian capital, state that German influence is gaining ground daily, and that the chances of maintaining peace in the Balkans is remote. The Serbs are concentrating an army on the borders of Macedonia to resist a Bulgarian at tack, and the patrons of the hostile forces are already coming into conflict.—Globe Summary, Oct. 2.

THE OLD QUESTION

At the annual convention last month in Toledo of the American Federation of Catholic Societies the Committee on Public Morals reported

among other things that:
"The divorce mills still grind steadily in all the states except South Carolina. The supply of grist seems to be inexhaustible. our judges recently stated in court that the cheapest thing in the market is a divorce. From what I read in the newspapers the swapping of wives is not a rare incident. Legalized prostitution is growing. Polygamy in Utah is denounced by many good people, while nearby, in Nevada polygamy by law is handed out for the asking."

"Polygamy by law," is a phrase that should not find justification by fact in a Christian country. But is America Christian? We are cen-America Christian? cerned, and rightly with the pagans at home, what of them? Have they no souls to be saved.—N. Y. Freeman's