

As regards Chili there is no doubt hostility in that country to the United States, but this hostility is general throughout the Latin states of Central and South America. The spoliation of Mexico in 1848 has not been forgotten, nor is it likely to be for many years to come. Then, the American "missionary" in various parts of these countries has by his impudence, vulgarity and blasphemous swagger, made himself and his people odious. If Americans could but keep their zealous at home, and fill their consular service in South America with men of some delicacy of feeling, some small measure of refinement and a great deal less of impertinent meddlesomeness, American interests in that vast and wealthy region would be largely and speedily promoted. From closer commercial relations would spring kinder feelings of international regard. We can assure the Americans that no English influence in Chili is strong enough to bring about a separation of Church and State. The Masonic sectaries themselves have never dared propose such a step, however much they desire it. Their object is for the present to acquire control of the Church so as to make it odious to the mass of the people to whom its teachings and practices are still most dear. The Church is offering strenuous resistance to their schemes and machinations, and will never desert from the struggle till victory crowns her efforts. Meanwhile as long as the Masonic body continues in its present course, there will be disorder, if not anarchy, in South America. We have hopes, however, that a better day is at hand, the day that shall mark the triumph of Christian principles and the emancipation of the peoples of South America from the thralldom of Masonic despotism.

WHAT FORM SHALL IT TAKE?

It is now conceded that the concession of some form of home government to Ireland is a certainty. The fact is, that Britain has recognized the truth, that with a peaceful, contented and prosperous Ireland she could defy the world. Ireland is to England more valuable and important than India, Australia, Canada, and all the colonies put together. Without these she could still be great, but without Ireland, or with Ireland as a rival and antagonistic state, she would sink to the level of Belgium or Portugal. The pacification of Ireland has become a veritable necessity in British politics and as that pacification cannot be secured but by the concession of home government in some adequate measure, home government must be given to Ireland. The words of Mr. Herbert Gladstone, son of the late Premier, on this subject, will bear repetition as reflecting current thought in Britain: "Let them," he said, "then end the mockery of what is called constitutional government in Ireland and let them form a system of government based entirely upon popular wishes and popular sentiment. His experience of what twenty or thirty determined Irishmen could do in the House of Commons showed him that eighty could make our present system practically unworkable. If that system became unworkable it became so to the harm of the British empire. This must be taken into consideration, and they must either satisfy the reasonable demands of the Irish people, or must eject them from the House, and govern the country by martial law. If, then, the Irish nation desired a Parliament on a federal basis, if the Irish leaders agreed that they could formulate and work a proper scheme—and he believed they could—and if they loyally accepted the supremacy of the Crown and of the Imperial Parliament, then, in God's name, give them a Parliament in College Green."

One of the first and principal duties of the new Parliament, provided, of course, that the electoral campaign is, by moderation, judgment and discretion, combined with determination, brought to a successful issue in Ireland—provided that then no divisions or dissensions, no bickerings or jealousies, or divided leadership paralyze the energies of the people, provided, in a word, that Ireland send to the next Parliament eighty or eighty-five trusted, tried and true men to stand by and sustain without question or hesitation the chosen leader of the people, Charles Stewart Parnell—the first duty of the new Parliament will be the devising of some scheme to satisfy Ireland's legitimate demands in respect of Home Rule. Granting that all these conditions or provisions are duly observed and that the Irish party numbers at the opening of Parliament next spring, seventy-five or eighty, or eighty-five members, and that, as now appears evident, British statesmen must then decide on some scheme of Home Rule for Ireland, what form will that scheme take? Mr. Parnell assured his constituents last January that nothing could satisfy the Irish people but the restoration of Grattan's Parliament with its extensive privileges and far-reaching constitution—in other words, that Ireland must have, as it had before the Union, its own Sovereign, its Lords and its Commons.

This brings us to the consideration of an article in the Boston Pilot, of the 5th of August last, entitled, "Suggestions for Home Rule." Denouncing the future government of Ireland, the writer declared

that that government should be modelled as closely as possible on that of an American state, with such modifications as the different circumstances of the case might demand. It should, he affirms, consist of an Executive, a Legislature and a Judiciary. He illustrates his proposition thus: "As New York and Ireland are nearly equal in population, any citation of an American system to illustrate what should be done in Ireland may here be confined to the New York plan, which, it is needless to say, is substantially the same as that of all other American states. The Legislature should have the same power to enact or repeal all laws relating exclusively to home affairs that is possessed by our American Legislature." This is indeed very well said and clearly enough stated from the writer's standpoint. But he seems to forget that Mr. Parnell will not be satisfied with less than the restoration of Grattan's Parliament, and that Grattan's Parliament was invested with greater powers and larger attributes than any State Legislature, not excepting that of New York, in the neighboring Union. He seems likewise to forget that under the British system there is no such division of powers as that of an Executive, a Legislature and a Judiciary. Under the British system Parliament is supreme and Parliament consists of the King or Queen, the Lords and the Commons. It cannot be expected that in the formation of a new Government for Ireland the fundamental principles of the British constitution will be departed from; nor is it reasonable to expect any such departure. We are ourselves of opinion that any form of Parliamentary Government conceded by Britain to Ireland will be, as it ought, gladly accepted by the latter country. An Irish Parliament, even with limited privileges, would be a great boon, and however restricted its powers, would confer on Ireland benefits to which for nearly a century she has been a stranger. It is also worthy of remark that the tendency of representative bodies is to enlarge their powers. If, therefore, the Irish Parliament in future finds itself hampered by undue restrictions it will not be very difficult for such a body, with a united nation at its back, to secure the removal of these restrictions. It must also be borne in mind that any proposed system which will not give the Protestant minority fixed guarantees against dreaded encroachments will ever pass the Parliament of Britain. History and common-sense both go to show that the Protestants of Ireland have nothing to fear from an Irish Catholic Parliament. This is not, however, the view that the Protestants of Ireland take of the matter, and their prejudices must in some measure be gratified. Under the system proposed by the writer in the Pilot this much-desired end could not be reached. He says, for instance, that the Legislature should consist of a Senate and an Assembly, both elected by the people, and that the Executive, whatever his title, should be a representative of the people.

In other words, Ireland, though remaining an integral portion of the British empire, must be herself transformed into a republic. Now, a republic, needless to state, cannot form part of a monarchy nor a monarchy part of a republic. One or other system must prevail. In any new system of Irish government that may be devised, the sovereign of the three kingdoms will be represented in Ireland by a person of his or her own choice, and there will likely be an Irish House of Lords to specially protect the landed and Protestant interest, and an Irish Commons elected by the people.

We should ourselves prefer an Irish Legislature consisting of but one Chamber, elected by the people, with satisfactory constitutional guarantees to the Protestant minority. The main thing now, however, is to get a Parliament of some kind. An Irish Parliament once secured, it would assert its right to all the privileges necessary for the good government of Ireland. As these privileges could not be denied or long withheld we would soon witness the realization of Mr. Parnell's wish for the restoration of Grattan's Parliament with its far-reaching constitution.

FROM ST. MARY'S.

It was lately my privilege to pay a brief visit to the town of St. Mary's. The Catholics of that beautifully situated burg are blessed with a very fine Separate School in which the good pastor, Rev. Father Brennan, takes deep interest. Father Brennan has lately had several improvements made to the school house, a commodious stone edifice as substantial and well equipped as any in the Province. Under the charge of Miss Ballantyne, an industrious and accomplished teacher, this was one of the most efficient of our Catholic schools and will no doubt continue so under her successor. I cannot but congratulate Father Brennan and his good people on their good fortune in having in their midst a Catholic school of such a sound record and good promise.

The annual parish picnic will take place on the 8th of September and will, there is no room for question, be very largely attended.

PERSONAL.

Mr. Daniel Dwyer, of Boston, Mass., who had been the guest of his aunt, Mrs. Thomas Marshall, of Maidstone St., for the past few weeks, returns home this week.

BY-LAW NO. 224.

On Wednesday next, the citizens of London will be called upon to cast their votes for either one of four properties as the site for new Exhibition Grounds, or new Exhibition and Military Grounds. The by-law No. 224, passed on the 17th inst., thus enumerates the properties upon which the votes of the citizens are invited:

(a) The racecourse property in the Township of London, being that part of the south half of lot 9, concession C. south of the Grand Trunk Railway, about forty-five (45) acres, at one hundred and fifty dollars per acre, together with about 24 acres of the south half of lot 10, in the same concession, lying south of the said railway, at the price of \$8,200.

(b) The Queen's Park.

(c) The Carling farm in the town of London East, 109 acres, at the price of \$75,000, subject to the exchange of a portion of the said lands with the Dominion Government for military grounds in the city, as per agreement to that effect entered into.

(d) The Monserrat farm, in the township of London, being part of lot 15 in the third concession, containing 40 acres, at \$200 per acre.

Our readers will recollect that we have more than once before dealt with this question. On the 9th of May last, speaking of the choice of new grounds, we said: "It does seem to us, the question of park accommodation, on which we have very fixed opinions, not coming into consideration—that the place which should be chosen is one that offers the best location for Fair Grounds, a Military School, Camp Grounds, and Driving Park all combined. It does seem to us that the site should not be far removed from the city, and accessible only by railway, and that the buildings should not be in case of fire be left without adequate protection. As the whole subject will, no doubt, be submitted to a popular vote, we will, in due time, lay before the public our views on the matter."

Then on the 30th of May we wrote: "That in the general interests of the city, to be secured by reason of the advantages it offers over all other sites proposed, the Carling farm is that for which we invite the vote of our fellow-citizens. In every one of the respects mentioned by us on the 9th of May, it is certainly not only the most eligible place proposed but the most eligible place available."

We have not since seen any cause to change our mind on this subject. There was last spring an attempt made by a certain number of aldermen to gag the citizens of London on this question. That attempt resulted in a most ignominious failure. Now that we have freedom of choice in the matter, we trust that all will rise above merely personal or partisan considerations, and cast their suffrages in the true interests of the city of London, which has everything to lose and nothing to gain by the acceptance of any one of the properties above mentioned save the Carling Farm. The figure set upon this property to some may seem high, but when its advantages are considered fully, fairly and impartially, there is no other property in the category that gives anything like the promise of such real and substantial benefits to the city, benefits that will be, in our estimation, cheaply purchased for \$75,000. We once more, then, invite the vote and support of our fellow-citizens for the adoption of the Carling farm for Exhibition and Military grounds.

In Memoriam.

MR. GEO. MURPHY, WHO DIED AT GUELPH, JUNE 25TH, 1885.

When the dark tide of sorrow has swept o'er our soul,
As wave after wave o'er the bright strand
And each fair budding hope is engulfed in its sea,
Then Mary, my Mother, we call upon thee.

When the Angel of Death has claimed as his own
Our joy and our treasure, our dear only one,
When the cold grave encloses our hope and our life,
Then Mary, my Mother, on thee we call.

Thou knowest our sorrow! Oh Mother, most mild,
Who stood by the cross of thine only loved child,
The soul's deepest anguish thy pure heart can know,
For thou hast sounded the depths of the bitterest woe.

When life's ray of sunshine all seems to have fled,
And we long for repose with the loved quiet dead,
When hope's beautiful vision is hidden from view,
Save our weeping eyes turn to the bright vault of blue.

When memory recalleth the joys of the past,
That like summer's light glories faded so fast,
The virtues that graced the sweet life that is done,
But in the crown that in Heaven he's won.

Then Mary, my Mother, we turn us to thee,
Thou Virgin most merciful! Star of the Sea!
Thou art my sorrow, Thou art my light,
Till our loved one we meet in Heaven's bright day.

PUPIL OF LORETO.

Correspondence of the Catholic Record.

FROM PARKHILL.

The annual Catholic picnic in the parish of Parkhill will take place on Tuesday, September 1st, 1885, in Nell Monck's grove, 14th concession West Williams. There will be a programme of Caledonian games in connection with the picnic, for which a large sum of money will be given in prizes. There will be pipers and fiddlers galore, and undoubtedly there will be an immense crowd present. We hope this picnic will be a grand success.

At a meeting at Longford, Ireland, Mr. Davitt declared his allegiance to Mr. Parnell, but said it was mainly to argue different views fairly.

NOTRE DAME DU SACRE CŒUR, OTTAWA, ONT.

The mid-summer vacation, fast drawing to a close, invites us to bring the educational question upon the tapis. Although the theme may be termed one of perennial interest, still the June closing and September opening in a special manner justify our calling attention to the merits of our various institutions. The glowing tributes rendered by both Canadian and American press go far towards proving that education, in the fullest sense of the word, is keeping pace with the progressive spirit of the age. Canada has long deserved the testimony given by most impartial critics of the neighboring republic of possessing first-class schools of every grade. That as far as private institutions are concerned, colleges and convents may compete for any such testimony from observers, not at all imbued with national egotism, has been fully acknowledged. We have had splendid opportunities of comparing many establishments for young ladies. A casual visitor to any of our convents American, or Canadian, would, no doubt, be able to render glowing homage to nearly all, judging merely from the beauty of location and simple elegance of buildings; but when one has the opportunity of becoming acquainted with the ladies who devote themselves to this glorious work of the formation of true womanhood, he must feel what a debt is due by the country at large to these ladies. The convent that has in a special manner led us to those remarks is well-known throughout the Dominion—not by empty claims but by its decidedly successful work—"Notre Dame du Sacre Cœur," Ottawa, in charge of the Grey Nuns, a recent visit to this interesting institute has but confirmed impressions made long ago that here we find realized the much-sought ideal of a school, combining the refinements and tranquility of home with the busy and systematic life of school. The young ladies are at ease with their teachers, while the latter, in every sense of the word, gentle, dignified and motherly. We readily comprehend the secret of this institution's prosperity. Nor do we wonder that daughters and grand-daughters of former pupils are in so many cases entered on the rolls of this school. As for the literary and musical training given here, the large number of medals from distinguished patrons, won every year, may be taken as a certain extent, taken as proof of its superiority. The course of Christian doctrine has been, by competent judges, declared most satisfactory; medals for excellence in this course are annually given by His Lordship the Rt. Rev. J. T. Duhamel, and the Rev. Father Pallier. The only way to feel sure that they are secured here would be to converse with these ladies who assume the responsible mission of making real the ideal woman.

A new year's work begins on the 1st of Sept. in the convent of Notre Dame du Sacre Cœur. It is comforting to know that many of our young ladies will soon again have returned to this institution, there to avail themselves of the precious opportunities offered them for the formation of that strong Christian character, wherewith they may enter the world and becomingly acquit themselves of the duties marked out by Divine Providence.

"AN AMERICAN VISITOR."

FROM ORILLIA.

DEAR SIR.—It having been announced by the Rev. Father Campbell that Mr. W. J. Macdonald, the president of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, of Toronto, had visited our town with the intention of organizing a branch of the Society here, a considerable number of Catholics in sympathy with the objects proposed, assembled at the Church on the afternoon of Sunday, the 16th. The Rev. Father Campbell having taken the chair, and the objects of the society having been explained by Mr. Macdonald, the meeting unanimously expressed itself in favor of the formation of a society to be known as "The Conference of the Angels Guardian." The following officers were elected by acclamation, viz., Dr. A. B. McDonnell, president, R. A. Lynch, vice-president, and M. J. Clifford, secretary treasurer. We feel no doubt as to the success of our Conference, as about forty persons became members immediately, and many others will be added within a short time.

Much credit is due to our worthy pastor, Father Campbell, who has for some time past, been exceedingly anxious to see a St. Vincent de Paul Society established in our town, and finally has the happiness of seeing his efforts crowned with success.

We have also reason to feel much indebted to Mr. Macdonald, the worthy President of the Toronto Conference, who, in his efforts to establish a branch of the society here, has only acted with that zeal and unselfishness which characterizes all his labors in connection with works of charity.

Thanking you in advance for your kindness in inserting this communication,
Orillia, August 18, 1885. Secretary.

VERY SUCCESSFUL PIC-NIC AT MAIDSTONE.

A brilliant and successful picnic was held in Mr. Chas. Little's Grove, just east of the Catholic Church, at Maidstone Cross, on Thursday last, August 20th, under the able management of Rev. Jno. O'Connor, the proceeds of which were to be devoted to the reduction of the debt upon the church.

Seven hundred dollars, above all expenses, were realized, and will be applied to that purpose. The day was exceedingly fine and the attendance large. Brass bands from Comber, Woodlee, and Essex Centre, vied with each other in furnishing their best music; and the parishioners generally, did their best to contribute to the general success, by unstinted donations of provisions, money and personal assistance. Where all did their best it would be unfair to particularize, except as to two young ladies who entered into a contest for a first prize of a twenty dol-

lar gold piece, and a second prize of a ten dollar gold piece, for selling the largest and second largest number of tickets for an elegant china tea set, which was raffled, and fell to the lot of Mr. Quinn.

Miss M. A. Costigan, of Maidstone, sold one thousand and sixty-eight tickets, and received the \$20 piece. Sandwich East, sold eight hundred and twelve tickets, and received the \$10 piece. Four hundred and seventy dollars were realized by the untiring energy and perseverance of these two young ladies.

Nothing occurred to mar the pleasures of the day, and all went away at dusk feeling well pleased with the day's proceedings.
H. W. D.
Essex Centre, Aug. 22nd, 1885.

OBITUARY.

AGNES FLORENCE LANIGAN.

The death, on the 19th inst., is announced from Ottawa of Miss Agnes Florence Lanigan, at the early age of twenty-two years. The deceased lady, a daughter of the late Daniel Lanigan, Esq., in his life-time a most respected citizen of Ottawa, had for some months been ailing, but her friends had, till the last, hoped for her recovery. The disease, however, a pulmonary complaint, made such rapid progress that she had at length reluctantly to be abandoned. Miss Lanigan was one of those model Catholic young ladies whose lives are a living proof of the saving and exalting power of the Church of God. Pious, amiable, and exemplary, she was loved and esteemed in the circles in which she moved. Her death was most truly happy and edifying. Fortified by the last rites of Holy Church, she yielded without a murmur, her pure spirit into the hands of her Creator. Peace to her soul.

WM. J. McCANN.

On Friday the 21st inst., in this city, at the age of twenty-nine years, took place the death of Mr. Wm. J. McCann, second son of the late Philip McCann. The funeral took place from the family residence, 128 Maple Street, on Monday the 24th inst., and was very largely attended. The Stratford Branch of the C. M. B. A., of which the deceased was a member, and the London Branch, were largely represented at the funeral. The Rev. Father Tiernan sang the Requiem High Mass at 10 a.m. and preached the funeral sermon. We extend a very sincere expression of condolence to the mother and friends of the deceased young gentleman, who was universally esteemed by all who knew him. May he rest in peace.

GEORGE BARBER, ESQ.

It is with feelings of hearty regret that we this week announce the death of Mr. George Barber, which occurred on the 8th inst., at Rathmines, Dublin, Ireland. The deceased gentleman was in his seventy-sixth year. He was, during his whole life-time an exemplary Catholic, of a most correct and consistent advocate of total abstinence. He was father of the Rev. D. H. Barber, the well-known Oblate missionary, so highly esteemed in this country and the United States.

SISTER URSULA.

The death of Sister Ursula, which took place last week at Mount Hope, though not unexpected, has caused a feeling of genuine grief amongst her many friends, and especially her former pupils. The deceased lady entered religion in 1862, and came to London in 1868. For many years she occupied the position of teacher of the senior pupils in St. Peter's school, in this city. She subsequently taught in St. Thomas. Sister Ursula had been ailing for the past year, and peacefully departed this life after a most edifying preparation, on the 13th inst., in the fortieth year of her age.

Her funeral took place on Saturday. Rev. Father Walsh sang High Mass, Rev. Fathers Flannery, Dunphy, and Kennedy assisted in the sanctuary. The Right Rev. Mgr. Bruyere, at the close of Mass, delivered a sermon appropriate to the occasion.

MR. WM. SLATTERY.

The sudden death of Mr. Wm. Slattery, of Ottawa, at Caledonia Springs, on Thursday the 13th, has produced a profound feeling of regret amongst his many friends in the Dominion capital.

Mr. Slattery had for some years suffered from an asthmatic affection, and had gone to the springs to seek some relief for this distressing complaint. The deceased gentleman, who was at the time of his death sixty-five years of age, was a native of the county Limerick, Ireland. He came to Ottawa in 1848, and was highly respected and esteemed throughout the Ottawa country. He leaves a family of four sons and five daughters to whom we extend hearty sympathy in their sad affliction.

Correspondence of the Catholic Record.

FUNERAL OF CONDUCTOR M. J. MURTY.

MURTY.

The remains of Conductor Murty, who was killed by a collision on the Credit Valley Railway on the morning of the 5th inst., were brought to Paris, where his mother and sisters reside, and there interred with the rites of the Church on the 7th inst. His funeral was attended by a large concourse of friends who had known him from his childhood and who entertained the most sincere sympathy for the afflicted family. At the church of the Sacred Heart, after solemn requiem mass had been celebrated, Very Rev. Father Dowling, seeing that a large number of Protestants were present, explained that it was not usual with Catholics to preach but rather to pray for the dead, and gave a brief explanation of the Catholic doctrine on that subject and on the meaning of the Mass and the prayers and ceremonies that followed. He took occasion from the suddenness of the call to exhort all under his charge, and especially the young men, to be faithful in the discharge of their religious duties and thus to be found prepared when our Lord was pleased to summon them to their account. The young man who had been so suddenly removed from their midst, it was consoling to his friends and relations to know, had been always attentive

to the commands of the Church, had assisted regularly at Mass and had devoutly received his Easter Communion. It was from his hands, when a child, he had received in this church his First Communion; it was here he was confirmed, and it was natural that it was here his body should be brought (the day) to receive the last blessing of the Church, before being committed to the grave. He was glad to know that he died at his post and that the Inspector who reported on the accident, said of him: "That a more correct or competent man they had not in their employment."

Referring to the late conductor, M. J. Murty, the Brantford Telegram says:—"He was well known in Brantford, having filled the position of night operator at the Grand Trunk Station. About three years since he threw up the position and engaged with the Union Pacific Railway company. The change of climate impaired his health to such an extent that he returned to Canada and accepted a position with the Canadian Pacific Co., with whom he remained until his death. The deceased was a general favorite with his acquaintances in this city, and the news of his untimely death was received with profound regret."

NEWS NOTES.

Rioting has been renewed at Lough, Ireland, and several arrests have been made. The police of Dunganen were refused the use of the cars by Orangemen and were obliged to walk from Dunganen to the scene of the disturbance.

The Nationalist electoral campaign has opened with a banquet to Parnell in Dublin. Several conferences will be held during the week. Parnell will preside over a meeting of the National League immediately after the conferences, and will make important statements.

Mr. Parnell has entertained the Dublin municipal council at Arklow-on-the-Avoca. In his address he said it would be impossible to revive the natural industries of Ireland without a free elective national assembly possessing power of control over all political and economic affairs of the country. He hoped that a few years would bring back to Irish people the right to govern Ireland at home and banish English misrule forever from the land.

Clifford Lloyd has published an elaborate statement of what he designates "Ireland's Needs." Among these he places, first, local self-government, which he advocates. He also avers the establishment of elective county boards and transfer of power of initiating improvement and financial arrangements from Government appointees to direct representatives of the Irish people, whom he describes as the "Recipients of benefits and the supporters of the burdens of local legislation." The abolition of the whole system of Irish bureaucracy is strongly commended, and Mr. Lloyd thinks that Ireland should be incorporated as an integral part of the United Kingdom, "from which the present Vice-Royalty excludes it."

CATHOLIC PRESS.

Catholic Mirror.

We have no unkindly feeling for Miss Cleveland, although she has stricken that which is dearer to us than our own self—our Spiritual Mother. But we do most gravely think that the publication of this book, at this particular juncture, is a most unfortunate thing. Had it been printed two years ago, it would have fallen still-born from the press; just now it is being spread broadcast over the country, its popularity being derived from the circumstances already indicated; and everywhere it is carrying a profound misconception of the Catholic Church. We might go on to speak of the literary corruption it will produce by its stilted, unnatural style, coupled with shallow thinking, and a morbid optimism in human nature. But the lesser evils are swallowed in the greater one—the gratuitous insult which Miss Cleveland, the lady of the White House, offers the Catholic Church.

Liverpool Times.

The conversion of Leo Taxil has caused much comment in Continental papers. Naturally some of these have doubted the sincerity of the repentance of the author of so many impious works. The Voltaire declares that his lying exaggeration and inventive faculty has produced a reaction, and that domestic troubles have done the rest. On the highest authority we may state that Mr. Taxil gives every evidence of sincerity and good faith. He is employed by a large Catholic publishing firm, and it is to be hoped that he will have some chance of repairing the terrible evil he has done. The announcement of Leo Taxil's conversion in the press is taken as a sufficient retraction of his works. It is not improbable, too, that Mr. Taxil may soon publish a small brochure, entitled, "Reparation."

Christian Marriage.

The basis of the Christian home is Christian marriage; that is, marriage entered into according to religion and cemented by God's blessing. So great is the importance of marriage to the temporal and eternal welfare of mankind, that, as it had God for its Founder in the Old Law, so in the New Law it was raised by Our Divine Lord to the dignity of a sacrament of the Christian religion. Natural likings and instincts have their own value and weight, but they ought not by themselves to be a decisive motive in so important a step as Christian marriage; nor are they a safe guarantee for the proper fulfillment of the high aims for which marriage was ordained. That Christian hearts and lives may be wisely and rightly joined, God must join them and religion sanctify the union; and though the Church sometimes permits the contraction of mixed marriages, she never does so without regret and without a feeling of anxiety for the future happiness of that union and for the eternal salvation of its offspring.—Pastoral Third, Baltimore Council.