

LETTRE DE SA GRANDEUR MGR MacDONALD

Evêque de Victoria

Victoria, B. C., le 28 décembre 1909.

My dear Lord Archbishop.

You ask me for an expression of my views upon the Eucharistic Congress. That gathering will surely mark an epoch in the history of the Church in Canada. The object of it is implied in the title. It is to be a grand rally of Catholics from all parts of the world around their Eucharistic Lord. As I write it is Christmastide, and the words of the herald angels are still in my ears : « Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will » so runs the glad refrain. To give God glory and men peace, this was the purpose for which the Son of God became man. This too is the purpose of the Holy Eucharist, which is the sequel of the Incarnation and the means by which the work of our Redemption is carried on. *First* to God glory, and *after this* peace to men ; for peace is « broad-based on justice », and justice gives each one his due. Do away with injustice, do away with wrong, and you do away with war. What is it that breeds war but the rankling sense of wrong not righted, of grievance not redressed ? Now sin is the primal injustice, the great and aboriginal wrong. It is rebellion against the Most High ; it robs God of what is due Him on so many counts, service, love, homage. Therefore till justice is done, till wrong is righted, till sin is taken away, there can be no peace between God and man. And so we read that when the Saviour was born into the world, « justice and peace kissed », for He came to blot out with His blood the hand-writing of the decree that was against us, and to take it out of the way, fastening it to the cross. This He did once for