

THE RELIGIOUS CRISIS.

That a crisis in the history of religion is upon the world at present no one who reads can mistake. The appeal of conscientious clergymen, first of one sect then of another for an abolition of dogma, the numerous and meaningless trials for heresy, the tendency to regard Scripture as a book of fairy tales, all are evidence enough that Protestantism has run its course. This conviction forces itself upon us when we reflect that the "Encyclopedia Biblica," in which the resurrection of Christ is recorded as a mere vision was edited by a renowned Canon of the Anglican Church and professor of theology at Oxford University.

We are not to suppose, however, as some would have it, that the current of modern thought is towards infidelity. At any other period of the world's history such a perhaps might have been the sad outcome of the religious doubt that now is playing havoc with the human race. In our own day, however, men are too intelligent to take a backward step in civilization. While they would willingly accept a substitute for God if such were forthcoming they will not blind themselves to the folly of worshipping idols, be they in the shape of wooden images or in the form of empty ideas. The necessity of an objective morality is too clear to be overlooked and must ultimately be the ruin of every philosophy that eliminates the personal God who is the beginning and end of all transitory beings.

The great factor that will insure a happy result of the present crisis is that men are really seeking for the truth, and that they are dead earnest about it. True it is that many are hoping the truth will appear to them otherwise than it is; for the truth often has an unpleasant countenance when seen afar off. But that will not stay the hand of destiny. The truth is mighty and will prevail. Move that that it is lovable and lovable for its own sake.

To him who draws wisdom from what he sees and hears, who reasons from experience, the present crisis offers no difficulty. Indeed, it is only what we might expect from the great revolution of the sixteenth century. As the world is an objective world, not a mere conglomeration of meaningless phenomena, and what it is, it follows that it is not cannot long endure even though it appears to be endowed with all the attributes of perennial life. When the reformers broke away from the ancient moorings there was no anorage for them save in error and falsehood. The world trusted them as long as it was possible. But at last it became evident that whether the reformers were sincere or not they were not dependable pilots. The world then began to shift for itself. And it has been shifting to this day.

At present both courses are possible both already tried and both known thoroughly. The one leads to nothingness, to desolation, to misery in the present life and no hope of redemption in the future. We live and suffer and die and go back to the emptiness from which we sprang. No authority stands up to guide us. No power looms up on the horizon to give sanction to our laws. The course leads on to the end of the world and lies itself in anarchy and disorder.

The other course leads to the solution of all the difficulties that confront the world to day. We live and perform our duty because we know that a reward is treasured up for us in heaven. We die only to rise again and to endure forever. We have the Sun of Justice to light our footsteps in this valley of tears and to clothe us with immortality in the life to come. Our laws have binding force and become worthy of respect. Society flourishes and is safe-guarded by the almighty arm of a personal God.

Were these courses unknown, had they never been tried before, it might be difficult to know the future. But the world is too old now to be led astray by any new chimera.—Providence Vist.

PAVED WITH FLOWERS.

The festival of the Corpus Christi is celebrated with great splendor throughout Spain and her colonies, but nowhere else is the day observed in such a picturesque fashion as in Orotava, in the island of Tenerife, which lies under the shadow of the peak in a valley declared by the great traveller Humboldt to be the most beautiful in the world. In addition to the beauty of its natural position, the valley is celebrated for its wealth of lovely flowers and blossoming trees, and it is these that the inhabitants lay under contribution for the decoration of their town on the occasion of the Corpus Christi festival.

All the streets through which the procession passes are then paved with blossoms—roses, carnations, hyacinths, magnolias and other flowers in a background of foliage of olive trees, orange trees and ferns. Rich and poor, young and old, all help to decorate the streets, each person having allotted to him a certain position of a street or square. They commence their task early in the morning of the festival and before the hour of the procession arrives the streets are covered with carpets of flowers arranged in different designs, many of them executed with great taste and ability.

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES.

Academy of the Sacred Heart London Ontario, June 22, 1905. HONOR AND GLORY TO GOD ALONE. HONORARY DISTINCTIONS. The first gold medal and ribbon of merit were awarded by the votes of the pupils, assisted by those of the mistresses, to Miss Elizabeth Sheridan.

PRIZES OF SUPERIOR ORDER. Prizes presented by His Lordship, Right Rev. Bishop McEvoy for Christian Doctrine, presented by Rev. Father O'Neil for French, presented by Rev. Father Forster, merited by Miss Elizabeth Sheridan.

DIVISIONS OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE. Prizes in the first division presented by Rev. Father Van Antwerp, merited by Miss Vivian Wright.

PRIZES FOR DILIGENCE. Superior class—Prizes presented by Rev. Father O'Neil, merited by Miss Margaret Blackwell.

FIRST ENGLISH CLASS. Miss Elizabeth Sheridan has merited the prizes presented by Rev. Father Forster for composition, also prizes for French, Italian, order and mathematics.

SECOND ENGLISH CLASS. Miss Ruth Harrison has merited the prizes presented by Dr. Amyot for logic, also prizes in English history and recitation.

THIRD ENGLISH CLASS. Miss Kathleen Pocock has merited the prizes presented by Dr. Amyot for logic, also prizes in English history and recitation.

FOURTH ENGLISH CLASS. Miss Olivia Lyons has merited prizes for grammar, geography, recitation and mathematics.

FIFTH ENGLISH CLASS. Miss Gertrude Walsh has merited prizes for grammar, geography, history and recitation.

SIXTH ENGLISH CLASS. Miss Angela Fitzgerald, prizes for composition and French, access to prize for improvement in penmanship, access to prize for recitation.

EIGHTH ENGLISH CLASS. Miss Angela McPhillips, prize for encouragement to French.

ELEMENTARY CLASS. Prizes for encouragement to Misses Dorothy O'Connell, Eleanor McPhillips and Pauline Cooke.

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DEATH OF REV. PATRICK KIERNAN.

Rev. Patrick Kiernan, parish priest, Toronto Gore, died at his place on Saturday, June 17th 1905 in his sixty-first year. His death although somewhat sudden, was not unexpected, as he had several strokes of paralysis during the past year, which left him in a very weak condition. He was a learned and pious priest and labored hard in different fields of the Archdiocese of Toronto.

The solemn Mass of Requiem was said by Rev. W. A. McCann, assisted by Rev. Father J. McGinnis and Rev. Father Caherty as subdeacon. Rev. Father O'Leary was master of ceremonies, and the service was presided by Rev. Father Williams who was in charge of the parish priest.

The following priests assisted at the ceremony: Rev. Father Williams, Rev. Father McGinnis, Rev. Father Caherty, Rev. Father O'Leary, Rev. Father Williams, Rev. Father McGinnis, Rev. Father Caherty, Rev. Father O'Leary, Rev. Father Williams, Rev. Father McGinnis, Rev. Father Caherty, Rev. Father O'Leary.

KEEWATIN-ST. LOUIS' CHURCH.

On Sunday, June 11, His Grace Monseigneur Langens, Archbishop of Saint Boniface, conferred the sacrament of confirmation on thirty-six children.

At 5:30 in the afternoon the church bell announced the arrival of His Grace, a Keewatin gentleman of the parish who escorted His Grace to Keewatin. On his arrival Monseigneur and the priests who accompanied him, viz. the parish priest of Keewatin, Rev. Father Dumoulin, Rev. Father Gaudin, D. M. St. Louis, Rev. Father Gaudin, D. M. St. Louis, Rev. Father Gaudin, D. M. St. Louis.

There were many Protestants in the church on this occasion, and on the sermon the Archbishop preached in French "On Confirmation," as the opening of the sacrament is a social and marked improvement that had taken place since January last.

After these sermons the Confirmation took place—two of the parishioners, Mr. Blasen and Madame Gosselin, acting as sponsors.

The Dublin Picnic. A grand picnic will be held on 1st July at McDonnell's Grove, Dublin, in aid of St. Patrick's church. Judging by the civility and earnestness of the committee in charge, it will be a most successful affair.

CATHOLIC LITERATURE. The Catholic Truth Society of Brooklyn, N. Y., will be glad to receive Catholic literature, such as newspapers, magazines, etc., from those who have no further use for them.

MARRIED. HANLON-HOWE—At St. Peter's Cathedral, London, Ont., on Tuesday, 20th of June, by Rev. Thos. Hanlon, P. P. of St. Augustin's and brother of the groom, Mr. Thomas Hanlon to Miss Helena Howe, daughter of Mrs. Margaret Howe.

DIED. SMITH—At St. Joseph's hospital, London, on Wednesday morning, 21st June, 1905, Mrs. W. R. Smith (nee Mary Martin) aged thirty years. May she rest in peace!

Art in the Drug Stores. Some attention is being attracted lately to a series of etchings in the leading drug stores, issued by the Abbey Effervescent Salt Company.

Souvenir Post Cards. On receipt of Fifty Cents in money or money order, we will forward you, charges prepaid.

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TEACHERS WANTED.

TEACHER WANTED FOR THE R. C. Separate School at Woodville, Ont. State qualification of certificate and salary required. Experience and other references desired. Duties to commence August 1st. Address all communications to F. E. Karn, Sec. St. Augustin's, Woodville, Ont.

TEACHER WANTED FOR R. CATHOLIC Separate School No. 10 West Williams, Ont. Must have second class certificate, State salary and experience with testimonials. Duties to commence Aug. 1st. Address A. A. Marriech, Sec., Parkhill, Ont.

WANTED FOR ST. AUGUSTINE SEPARATE SCHOOL, state teacher, having second class certificate, State salary, (export fee and references). Duties to commence after summer vacations. Address D. Donovan, Sec. St. Augustin's, Woodville, Ont.

FOR THE R. C. SEPARATE SCHOOL DOUGLAS, Ont. second class teacher, exp. in teaching a continuation class. Duties to commence 21st August, 1905. Apply, stating salary and experience, to John McSweeney, Woodville, Ont.

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FOR SCHOOL SECTION NO. 3, ADMONTOUR, Ontario, to commence after vacation. Apply stating salary, qualifications, experience and references, to J. A. French, P. O. Box 133, Killaloe Station, Ont.

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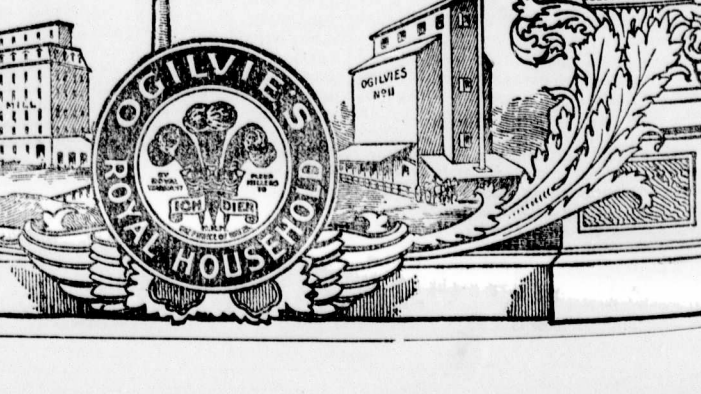
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