

The Catholic Record

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LETTER FROM HIS LORDSHIP BISHOP WALSH.

LONDON, Ont., May 23, 1879.
DEAR MR. COFFEY:—As you have become proprietor and publisher of the CATHOLIC RECORD, I deem it my duty to announce to its subscribers and patrons that the change of proprietorship will work no change in its one and principles; that it will remain, what it has been, thoroughly Catholic, entirely independent of political parties, and exclusively devoted to the cause of the Church and to the promotion of Catholic interests. I am confident that under your experienced management the RECORD will improve in usefulness and efficiency; and I therefore earnestly commend it to the patronage and encouragement of the clergy and laity of the diocese. Believe me,
Yours very sincerely,
J. WALSH, Bishop of London.

MR. THOMAS COFFEY,
Office of the "Catholic Record,"
FROM HIS GRACE, ARCHBISHOP HANNAH.

St. Mary's, Halifax, Nov. 9, 1881.
I have had opportunities during the last two years or more of reading copies of the CATHOLIC RECORD, published in London, Ontario, and approved of by His Lordship the Right Rev. Mr. Walsh, the Bishop of that See. I beg to recommend that paper to all the faithful of this diocese.
+ MICHAEL HANNAH,
Archbishop of Halifax.

Catholic Record.

LONDON, FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 1882.

DIVORCE

A paragraph in one of the most respectable of our exchanges, the *American* demands attention. Our contemporary states:

Last year, the French Chamber of Deputies threw out the bill to legalize divorce in France. This year the chamber adopts it by a considerable majority. The former vote was more surprising than the latter. It was a remnant of the influence of the canon law, which so long determined French ideas. The principle of divorce for just cause is one which commands itself to every impartial mind. It is sanctioned expressly in the New Testament as well as the Old. The absence of divorce is no guarantee of a high regard for the marriage relation, as any one may see by comparing France with Connecticut. Paris abounds in men and women who were married, but now are living apart, too often in illicit relations with other men and women. A law which should sunder their nominal connection by marriage, and permit at least the innocent of the two to re-marry, would be a gain to social morality. A law which forbids it, gives a respectability to illicit relations which nothing else could give them.

The writer has in this one paragraph fallen into several very grave errors. The principle of divorce for just cause does indeed, as he states, commend itself to every impartial mind, but not divorce in his sense of the term. The only divorce allowable in the interests of society is that which permits separation *a mensa et thoro*, but forbids the marriage of either party to another person. It is hardly necessary for us to point out the consequences of that system of divorce prevalent in the United States, which severs the very tie of matrimony itself and permits subsequent marriage. Such a system acts as an incentive to crime and conjugal infidelity. Let the husband tire of his wife; let him form an affection for another, and he has but to commit some irregularity in order to free himself from his obligations to her and contract another marriage. So it is also with the wife, who, through attachment for another, conceives an aversion for her lawful husband. If she become guilty of infidelity, the path to divorce and remarriage is made smooth and easy. When statistics show that there is a divorce granted for one in every eight marriages contracted in certain states, it is plain to see that the greatest disorders must arise from the continuance of such a pernicious system. The writer in the *American* seeks to institute a comparison between France and Connecticut, and adds that "Paris abounds in men and women who were married, but are now living apart, too often in illicit relations with other women and men." This statement may unfortunately be true enough, but what is here alleged of Paris may be said of any large city in the United States, notwithstanding that recourse may be had in the American republic to divorce courts. The great cause of marital infidelity in France is that matrimony is very frequently entered into there merely as a civil contract. Civil marriage, devoid, as it is, of the solemnity and binding force of religious ceremonial, is never looked upon by the contracting parties, especially if they be Catholics, as having the awful significance of the religious rite of matrimony. Had civil marriage not been introduced into France these social disorders

which prevail in certain of the large towns of that country could never have assumed their present magnitude. But France can, at any time, compare very favorably in point of morality with New England or any other portion of the United States. It is not divorce that it requires for its moral regeneration, but a return to that spirit of religious loyalty and subordination in its national life which made it, in times gone by, the greatest of European states.

THE BELGIAN ELECTIONS.

The Belgian elections, held on Tuesday, the 13th inst., resulted, contrary to our expectations, in a liberal victory. As we stated last week, one-half of the seats in the Senate and a like number in the Lower Chamber had to be filled. The Belgian Senate consists of 66 members, of whom, previous to the elections, 35 were liberals and 31 Catholics. From what we can learn of the result of the voting for Senators or the 13th, no very material change is made in the political complexion of the Upper Chamber. The number of members in the Chamber of Deputies was increased by an act of the last legislature from 132 to 138. In the last chamber, the liberals had a majority of 14; they have now 18. This result is indeed a very serious disappointment to the Catholic party, and is, we fear, greatly to be attributed to the negligence and apathy of Catholic electors. We have often declared that until the Catholics of continental Europe learn the power of organization, they will, however unwilling, be ever at the mercy of an active and unscrupulous minority. The issues before the Belgian people in the late contest were of vital consequence to Catholic interests. The maintenance of the present tyrannous school system, and the restriction of provincial and municipal independence so dear to every patriotic Belgian, made up what in America we would call the 'platform' of the liberal party, and upon it they have achieved a decisive political triumph. We cannot, however, believe that the elections of the 13th of June are a true indication of the real state of feeling in Belgium on this important subject. If Catholics were to bring the same activity, organization and discipline as the liberals do to bear on election contests, the results of these contests would, not only in Belgium, but throughout Europe, be far different from what they have been for years.

The late defeat in Belgium, while momentarily dispiriting, should, and we believe will, have the effect of consolidating the political strength of the Catholics of that kingdom, and bring about that unity and activity, which, together with effective and complete organization, ever ensure victory in electoral struggles.

THE SLAV MOVEMENT.

A pamphlet bearing the title "Nihilism the Revolution," has lately made its appearance in Russia, and caused something of a sensation, especially as its utterances are supposed to have been inspired by Count Ignatieff, now first minister of the Czar. The Russian minister is well known to hold very decided opinions in regard to the extension of the Czar's dominions in the direction of Constantinople. On this subject the pamphlet states that there remains to be fulfilled by the successors of Alexander II. a task whose accomplishment must shape the destinies not only of Russia, but of all civilized Europe and the various nations of the East. To the fulfillment of this task Nicholas I. and Alexander II. devoted themselves. Faithful to the will of the great Catherine, it was ever towards Constantinople, that they, throughout their reign, turned their eyes. If upon more than one occasion, by the intrigues of diplomacy or by armed intervention, their victorious armies were arrested on their course to the Bosphorus, we may be at least permitted to believe that this arrestation of a fixed purpose is but temporary, and that sooner or later the eagle of Russia will replace the crescent of the Turkoman on the towers of St. Sophia. What gives significance to this language, bold and unmistakable in tone, is that it represents the voices of the vast majority of the Russian people, who have always entertained the heartiest detestation of Islamic rule in Europe, and a steady determination to extend, if possible, the domination of the Slav race to the shores of the Bosphorus. The present internal convulsions which distract the Russian empire have, instead of subduing this

feeling on the part of the masses of the people, tended rather to intensify it, and we consider ourselves safe in saying that no change that may take place in the Russian constitution will lessen the desire of the Slav population for an increase of territorial possessions. The pamphlet goes on to say: "General Ignatieff is a Slav, and an enemy not only of the Musulman, but of foreign influence in Russia and all other Slav nations. He cannot allow these nations to escape one tyranny to fall into another, to be delivered from the despotism of the Turk to yield to the sway of another power, whether Austrian or German. He can discern better than any other the propitious moment to arouse throughout the empire that national feeling which will summon eighty millions of Slavs to the aid of their oppressed brethren. Many throughout Europe now speak in terror of the movement known as Pan-Slavism. Russia looks on in silence, and may to a certain extent, according to the necessities of the times, deny that this movement coincides with its policy, but that it so coincides there can be no doubt. There is no other course open for her. The Slav race must before long engage in combat with the worn out peoples of Central Europe and assert its position as one of the leading factors in continental politics." These sentiments are the echo of those to which Gen. Skobeleff some time ago gave most emphatic utterance. That they are entertained by the multitude in Russia bodes no good to European power.

THE CHINAMAN IN CANADA.

The information just received from British Columbia that 40,000 Chinamen will have acquired homes in that Province by the first of October next, will not be comforting news to the artisans and laboring classes in any portion in Canada. For, if the Chinese once obtain a firm foothold in British Columbia, they will soon be found in every Province of the Dominion, to the very grave detriment of all classes of Canadian workmen. There is at this moment a very strong feeling on the subject of Chinese immigration amongst the white population of the Pacific Provinces, and we think it is greatly to their credit that that feeling has not manifested itself in deeds of violence. The last census—that of 1881—gives to British Columbia a total population of 49,459, of whom 25,661 are Indians, 4,350 Chinese, and 274 Negroes, leaving a total white population of but 19,174. If we add the 40,000 Chinamen expected by the beginning of October to the present Chinese population of British Columbia, we shall have a Chinese population in that Province more than doubling the number of all the whites in British Columbia, leaving the Caucasian race, as compared with all others in the wretched proportion of two to seven. Unless, then, some active measures be at once taken, Columbia will in a few months become a Chinese province, to which no white laborer, mechanic or agriculturist will care to emigrate. Is this, we ask, a state of things that will meet with the approval of the Canadian people? We think not. The people of Canada have made enormous sacrifices for British Columbia. That province with its salubrious climate and fertile valleys, its majestic rivers and inexhaustible stores of mineral and timber wealth, they earnestly and honestly expected to make the homes of happy freemen. Such it can never become if it be abandoned to the Mongolians. The importation to Canada of Chinese cheap labor can have but one effect, that is, the pauperization of our artisan classes. These classes of our population it is the duty of government to protect against undue foreign competition. Much has been said about the exclusion of Chinamen from the United States as being contrary to the fundamental principles of international law. There is no principle of international law which binds one state to give homes to the people of another, particularly if the presence of large bodies of subjects of this foreign state be prejudicial to the best interests of the home population. The first duty a state owes its citizens is protection. When that duty is fulfilled then consideration may be taken of the interests of the actual or coming foreign population. If the continued incoming of a foreign people interferes with the true interests of the home population, that incoming must be prohibited. This is, to our mind, the solution of the Chinese difficulty. It has been

satisfactorily proved to Congress that the continued influx of Chinese should end in grave social disorder, and to the detriment of the white working classes throughout the Union. Congress therefore, by large majorities, in both houses, passed an act providing, amongst other things:

1. That the master of any vessel who shall knowingly bring within the United States on such vessel, and land or permit to be landed, any Chinese laborer, from any foreign port or place, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars for each and every such Chinese laborer so brought, and may be also imprisoned for a term not exceeding one year.
2. That every vessel whose master shall knowingly violate any provisions of this act shall be deemed forfeited to the United States, and shall be liable to seizure and condemnation in any district of the United States into which such vessel may enter or in which she may be found.
3. That any person who shall knowingly bring or cause to be brought into the United States by land, or who shall knowingly aid or abet the same, or aid or abet the landing in the United States from any vessel of any Chinese person not lawfully entitled to enter the United States, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall on conviction thereof, be fined in a sum not exceeding one thousand dollars, and imprisoned for a term not exceeding one year.

These provisions are, we admit, trenchant and severe, but no provisions other than trenchant and severe could be applied with any prospect of successfully accomplishing the object in view. We regret to see a journal so eminently respectable and judicious as the *Scientific American* institute in its discussion of this matter a comparison between negro servitude and Chinese exclusion. We can see no analogy whatever between the enslavement of a race with four millions of representatives within the republic and the exclusion of a people the presence of whose comparatively much fewer representatives in the country experience has shown to be deleterious to American society. Southern society thrives, as our contemporary states, notwithstanding the presence of the negroes. But will not our contemporary admit that Southern society and American society as a whole were better without than with the negroes? If the writer in the *Scientific American* have such a horror of slavery as his article would indicate, he should deprecate as strongly as we do the introduction into America of a class of labor that would necessarily drive the white laborers into practical servitude. The Chinese question is now a live one for Canadians. All good citizens owe it to themselves and to country to take a firm stand in behalf of the rights of the workmen. Our readers are well acquainted with our attitude on this question and may expect us to maintain it to the end.

THE JEWS IN RUSSIA.

The persecution of the Jewish population in various parts of the Russian empire has directed a large measure of public attention to the status of the Semitic race in that country. In many portions of European Russia, particularly in Poland, the Jews are very numerous and possess all the influence which the acquisition of wealth added to social and religious solidarity is ever apt to ensure. It is to the very possession of this influence that the present anti-Semitic movement is largely to be attributed. The Jewish population has in many places its inordinate greed of gain and studied alienation from sympathetic intercourse with their Christian neighbors to blame for their present unfortunate position in Russia. In fact, the Russian masses look upon them as enemies that no Christian government or people ought to tolerate. According to statistics published in 1872, the total population of Russian Poland amounted to 6,200,000, of whom 820,000 were Jews. In the city of Warsaw alone there were 87,000 Jews as against 270,000 Christians. In connection with the growth of the Jewish race in Poland, statisticians have discovered the very remarkable fact that while the Jewish population has doubled itself in twenty years it has taken fifty-six years for the Christian population to augment in a like proportion. In one hundred and twenty-five towns of Russian Poland the Jews outnumber the Christians in some places, the latter being very few in number, and rapidly disappearing. A well known journal, the *Gazette d'Augustburg*, in view of the

growth of the Jewish population in Poland, predicts that in 130 years it will, if the present ratio of relative increase be maintained, equal the Christian population of that country. Nearly the entire trade, internal and external, is in the hands of Jews; so also with almost all the monetary institutions of the country. The Christian population, mainly composed of agriculturists and artisans, thus find themselves very often at the mercy of the Jews, who generally deal in no lenient spirit with those whom pecuniary embarrassment place under their control. One bitter feeling of antagonism between the races has on this account mainly sprung up, and it is not likely to be removed till much suffering has been endured by the Jews, and their ranks greatly attenuated by emigration. There can be no palliation offered for the wrongs and cruelties inflicted on the Jews in many parts of Russia, but the Russian government is itself largely to blame for permitting the iniquitous practice of usury in all its hideous forms, by any class of the population. That it has been practised to an alarming extent is evident from the violent outbreak of popular passion which has culminated in so much cruelty and bloodshed.

THE BISHOPS' LETTER.

We published last week a telegraphic summary of a joint letter addressed by the Bishops of Ireland to their people. This letter is a pronouncement of no ordinary character, and must already have produced a profound impression in Ireland, and lead to beneficial results. The bishops take strong but just ground against secret societies and deprecate the employment of illegal means to secure the concession of just rights. Secret societies, though never long lived in Ireland, have, whenever they did take root, inflicted very grave evils on the Irish people. Apart from the demoralizing and unchristian tendencies of such associations, they never possess or control those true elements of strength, vitality and success that lead to successful achievement of the objects they profess to have in view. The Irish prelates, as might be expected, condemn in most vigorous terms, the late horrible crimes that have brought such sorrow to all true friends of Ireland. But they justly stigmatize the cruel persistence of the landed interest, in continuing the evictions of helpless tenants, as the cause of much of the lawlessness prevailing in many parts of the island. On this subject we may be permitted to say, that while certain inhuman outrages have been perpetrated by misguided men, believed to be acting in the interests of the tenantry, there has been much exaggeration in the reports transmitted to this side of the Atlantic, as to the number and circumstances of outrages charged upon the Irish people. It has been in fact established beyond contradiction that in some cases landlords and landlords' agents themselves planned and carried into effect, seeming acts of intimidation and lawlessness in order to prejudice public opinion in Great Britain and elsewhere against the unfortunate Irish tenantry. The Irish prelates lay down two principles which throughout the whole discussion of the Irish land question, we have in these columns upheld: (1) that it is the indisputable right of the people to live on their own soil, and (2) that it is the right and duty of those oppressed, either by the state or by individuals, to seek redress by legitimate means. Adherence to these principles is the only mode whereby the Irish people can attain the object of the present agitation. The leaders of the land movement have constantly endeavored to keep all their followers within the bounds of lawful agitation, to accomplish the emancipation of the agricultural population of Ireland from the thralldom and cruelty of landlordism. And in the main they have succeeded. They have been, however, unable to control that class of Irishmen misled by the specious doctrines of secret society agents, and the active members of such associations who, on both sides of the Atlantic, profess disregard for the precepts of religion and the

teachings of sound morality. To men of this class, not to the earnest and honest Irishmen, banded together to achieve, by means entirely legitimate, the liberation of Ireland's soil from the despotic sway of an alien landlordism, with all its rapacious exactions and inhuman pretensions, are crimes such as the murder of Cavendish and Burke and others to be attributed. The Irish bishops rightly denounce such men as the very worst enemies of the Irish cause. The sympathetic and earnest assurance of the continued co-operation of the clergy with the people in all lawful means employed to advance the national cause, will prove of immense benefit to that cause itself, and give much needed encouragement to the people to persevere in the noble work of national amelioration they have undertaken. Upon the question of evictions, the prelates of Ireland speak with no uncertain sound. They go so far as to state that in their belief the recent outrages had never occurred, had not the people in many cases been driven to despair by eviction, "a fatal and permanent provocation of crime," which the government should at once remove. The government, according to a recent declaration of the Premier, is not prepared to accede to the suggestion on this subject of the Irish bishops, than whom no body of men is as well qualified to pronounce opinion on the Irish land question. The determination of the government in this respect is deeply to be deplored. We feel, however, confident that the words of wisdom that have been addressed to their people by the Irish episcopate, will bring about a diminution, if not the entire disappearance, of crime from the land. The episcopal address must, at all events, tighten the bonds of loyalty and love, binding together the Irish clergy and people as no other people on the face of the earth are bound.

NEW BISHOPS' PRELATES.

We learn from the London Tablet, that Mgr. Jamot, Bishop of Sarepta, and Vicar Apostolic of Northern Canada, has been nominated to the newly-erected episcopal see of Peterboro', in the Province of Ontario. We beg to offer His Lordship our hearty congratulations on his appointment, and feel assured that his administration will be characterized by unflinching energy and activity and crowned with success. We also learn from the same source that a new Vicariate Apostolic, to be called Pontiac, has been formed from the North-Western portions of the Diocese of Ottawa, of which Mgr. Zephyrin Larain is named titular; also a Prefecture Apostolic in the lower St. Lawrence region, to which Abbe Bosse has been appointed.

THE PICNIC AT MOUNT HOPE.

We feel much pleasure in directing the attention of our readers to the fact that it is this year again proposed to hold a picnic on Dominion day in aid of the orphans of Mount Hope, on the grounds of that institution. The celebration of the national anniversary is year after year growing in public favor, and will, no doubt, this year prove an occasion for the people of London to give hearty expression to their patriotism and loyalty to Canada. As the first of July is a statutory holiday, and all business will be consequently suspended, the people of London will, for the most part, spend it in enjoyment of well-earned relaxation from toil and much-needed recreation. We know of no more enjoyable, more profitable or meritorious way of celebrating Canada's natal day, than by attending the picnic at Mount Hope on the 1st. Of the attractions of the picnic we need not speak. We may merely mention that everything that can be done will be done to meet the most ardent expectations of pleasure seekers. We earnestly trust that all our readers will this year give vent to their patriotism by liberal patronage of the Orphan's picnic and render it the most successful ever yet held for the deserving object in view.

Avoid argument with persons who are set in their opinions as you are yourself. You will accomplish nothing by your efforts as they have made up their minds not to believe as you have to convince. Angry words and bitter feelings are often the outgrowth of such contests, and they are safer who keep aloof from them.