

The Catholic Record.

Published Weekly at 424 and 426 Richmond street, London, Ontario.

Price of subscription—\$2.00 per annum.

Advertisements—Ten cents per line each insertion, agents measurement.

Approved and recommended by the Archbishops of Toronto, Kingston, Ottawa, and St. Boniface, and the Bishops of Hamilton and Peterboro, and the clergy throughout the Dominion.

Correspondence intended for publication, as well as that having reference to business, should be directed to the proprietor, and must reach London not later than Tuesday morning.

Arrears must be paid in full before the paper can be stopped.

London, Saturday, March 20, 1897.

THE PAPAL ABLGATE.

There have been several contradictory rumors, since the visits of the Hon. Chas. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Gus van Driest to Rome, to the effect that an Apostolic Delegate is to be sent immediately to Canada with similar authority to that which was so ably exercised in the United States by His Eminence Cardinal Satolli, who is now succeeded by Mgr. Martinelli.

We have already alluded in our columns to these reports, giving them for what they were worth, but it is now stated, apparently on better authority than heretofore, that Mgr. Raffaele Merry del Val has been appointed to this high office of Representative of the Pope in the Dominion of Canada.

Mgr. Merry del Val is about thirty-five years of age. He is the eldest son of Don Merry del Val, and was born in England while his father was Spanish Ambassador to Great Britain. He was educated in England, and spent nine years in an English University, so that English may be regarded as his native tongue, though he is of Spanish origin. It is presumed that he was appointed Delegate to Canada partly because of his complete knowledge of the English language. If it be true that the appointment has been made the new Apostolic Delegate will be warmly welcomed to Canada.

There has been much speculation in the press regarding the reasons which have influenced the Holy Father to appoint a delegate to the Dominion, and it is generally assumed that the official and semi-official missions which have recently been sent to Rome on behalf of Mr. Laurier's Government, with special reference to the proposed settlement of the school question of Manitoba, have been the reason for the establishment of the new office. We do not doubt that these missions have precipitated the appointment, as they have shown that there are complications arising out of the relations between the civil and ecclesiastical authorities, especially in the Province of Quebec, and it is not at all unlikely that the Pope desires to settle, and if possible to make these difficulties disappear. This can be done most effectively through the presence of an Apostolic Delegate on the spot. We are convinced, however, that those Quebec and Ontario journals which have taken it for granted that the appointment of an Apostolic delegate means that Mr. Laurier's policy with regard to the Manitoba schools is to be approved by the Pope will find themselves to be greatly mistaken.

It has been, and it is the aim of the Catholic Church to establish really Catholic schools wherever Catholics have sufficient means to maintain them; and this policy has been adhered to even under the most trying difficulties, and where it was necessary to make great sacrifices. Pope Leo XIII. has constantly urged this course upon Catholics, both in this country and the United States, and his predecessor, Pius IX., has done likewise. It cannot be supposed for a moment that to please Canadian politicians, who care little for Catholic education but much for their personal interests, this policy of the Church is to be reversed.

Mgr. Satolli during his tenure of the position of Papal Alegate in the United States assuredly did not condemn or disapprove in any way the efforts of the Catholics of the country to maintain their parochial schools. On the contrary he praised their zeal in so doing, though there was no expectation that any Government aid would be extended to them. But where it is a fixed fact, as it is in Canada, that Catholic schools have been guaranteed by a solemn compact which forms part of the Constitution, that they shall be maintained as an essential feature of the National or at least the Provincial school systems, it is not to be expected that the Papal Alegate will discourage in any way the efforts of faithful Catholics to maintain their rights as set

forth in the Constitution of the country. There are sufficient reasons for the presence of a Papal Alegate in Canada, without our imagining one so unlikely as that which some of our contemporaries have invented, that the intention is that an anti-Catholic school policy will be inculcated or maintained by him.

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE.

In the Michigan Legislature there is at present only one Catholic, so that the views of members thereof afford a fair criterion of the notions prevalent among Protestants on the questions of the sacredness of the marriage tie and the advisability of affording facilities for divorce on easy terms.

It has been maintained by some bold controversialists that Protestantism has great regard for the sanctity of marriage, and, indeed, some synods of Protestant churches have sustained the indissolubility of marriage in accord with Catholic doctrine on this subject; but these pronouncements have been so local in character that they afford no index to the prevalent Protestant opinion on the subject.

There have been declarations on this subject from time to time by Anglican general synods at Lambeth, and even by the Presbyterian General Assembly of Canada, but there has been nothing to show that Protestants generally, or a majority of them in any denomination, regard marriage as anything more sacred than a civil contract such as one for cutting lumber in the bush, and which may be cancelled any time that the parties immediately concerned may think it proper to change their arrangements.

The whole question of divorce was entered into in the Michigan Legislature on Friday, the 12th inst. when Representative Sawyer introduced a bill to limit the cases in which divorce may be granted, for in that State they have been hitherto obtained on such frivolous reasons that divorced men and women, and children without legal fathers or mothers, are to be found in every hamlet, to the great scandal and moral detriment of the whole community.

Representative Sawyer's bill was a well meant though weak effort to meet this terrible state of affairs, and the single Catholic member of the Legislature offered a couple of amendments to improve it, but the consequence was a heated discussion, and Representative Edgar appealed to the Protestantism of the House to maintain the existing laws in all their beautiful laxity, because, as he said, there are "only certain religious bodies that do not approve of liberal divorce laws, and civilization requires easier ways for the divorce of incompatible natures who could live happier by contracting other marriages."

Several members advocated the restriction of causes of divorce, but the appeal to Protestant sentiment and modern civilization prevailed, and the upshot is that divorce is to be encouraged more than ever in Michigan, which has already the unenviable reputation of coming next only to Illinois and Oklahoma in its disregard for the permanency of the marriage tie.

THE MANITOBA SCHOOL LAW AMENDMENTS.

Over two weeks ago the Government of Manitoba introduced its measure into the Legislature to amend the School Acts in accordance with the arrangement made between the Hon. Messrs. Laurier and Greenway for the settlement of the school question in that Province.

For some cause which is unknown, the second reading was delayed from day to day until Thursday, the 11th inst., and there were rumors to the effect that Mr. Greenway proposed so to modify the measure as to give satisfaction to the Catholic minority. It was even stated by the Winnipeg "Nor-Wester" that such was the intention of the Government, but telegrams to Winnipeg failed to show that any such intention was entertained.

Attorney General Cameron introduced the Bill for a second reading, and made the statement that it would once for all settle the vexed and burning question.

The provisions of the bill are those which were agreed to by the two parties, and which are known to our readers. Instead of proposing to re-establish separate schools as they existed before 1890, the present Bill merely allows Trustees to arrange hours for the clergy of various religious beliefs to teach religion to the pupils on certain days of each week, and makes provision for the selection of a Catholic teacher where there is an average attendance of twenty-five Catholic children in any rural school, or forty in the towns and cities, if the parents demand this.

Mr. Cameron said he believed that the terms of the settlement are satisfactory to

nearly all the people of Canada, and that the question of Separate schools for Manitoba will, in his belief, be not heard of again, after the enactment of the proposed settlement.

Mr. Roblin, leader of the Opposition, characterized the Bill as a "hydra-headed illegitimate offspring of political duplicity and dishonesty, and he accused Messrs. Laurier and Tarte with willfully deceiving the electors of Quebec by proposing such a settlement after having made promises to maintain the rights of the Catholic minority." He also declared that "It is humiliating and exasperating that as a result of this settlement ambassadors have been going to and fro between Ottawa and the Vatican, and that the Dominion has a paid solicitor at the feet of Rome."

While we cannot approve of allusions by Mr. Roblin which have the concealed object to excite Orange fanaticism, we admit the justice of his statement to the effect that the Bill is the result of double-dealing and broken promises. But Mr. Cameron will find himself mistaken in his assertion that the alleged settlement will prove satisfactory. The Catholics of Manitoba have their school system still in full operation, and it will not be abandoned for the sake of the miserable concessions offered by the Provincial Government, and the agitation for justice will not cease until it is obtained in accordance with the terms on which Manitoba became part of the Dominion.

GODLESS AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION.

The statistics of France published not long ago made the fact clear that the abolition of religious teaching in the Public schools has had the effect which might have been expected, that the rate of increase of crime among children had become alarmingly great since the revolution put at the head of affairs an anti-religious Government.

The statistics showed that wherever the godless Public schools were used to a considerable extent the number of children who were convicted of crimes was very largely increased; and in localities where the attendance at these schools, and those which were under control of Catholic religious orders, was about equal, about 90 per cent. of the youthful criminals were pupils of the godless schools, and only ten per cent. of the Christian schools.

Other statistics have recently been published in Italy and Germany which lead without the possibility of doubt to the same conclusion. Signor Costa, the keeper of the Great Seal of Italy, was recently questioned in the Senate on the frightful fact that youthful crimes are on the increase in that country, and being unable to deny it he endeavored to evade the issue by saying that serious crimes, such as murder and wounding with murderous intent, have diminished, but it was pointed out that this was not really the fact, but that sanguinary crimes have been put under headings in the official reports in such a way that their number is not now easily estimated so as to be compared with the number in former years. But the gravity of the situation has been acknowledged even by the organs of the Government. The *Opinione* of Rome has said that year after year the attention of the Government has been called by the tribunals to the frightful increase in juvenile crimes, and even the cause of this increase has been admitted by the same journal to be the want of a moral teaching founded on a stable basis. Baron Garofalo, also, a Councillor of the Court of Appeal, delivered an address a year ago in the Roman College in presence of the Queen of Italy and a distinguished audience in which he speaks most positively on the subject of deliberate homicide. He states that there are in the criminal courts every year four thousand charges of this crime as attempted or committed, and adds a quotation from a statesman who said in regard to these figures:

"What lost battle can produce such figures as these? Let us analyze it. Four thousand victims a year! That is more than ten per day, which means that a man is either barbarously slain, or escapes being murdered by a mere chance in this country where St. Francis of Assisi preached the religion of love and forgiveness!"

The Baron's address has been issued in pamphlet form to call the attention of Government to the facts, so that a remedy to the evil may be found and applied.

The Baron further shows that adult crime is not diminishing, as Signor Costa maintained, for serious crimes have nearly doubled from 1862 to 1895; nor yet is it attributable to want of education, as the theory is with those who maintain the sufficiency of a secular education to improve morality. The attendance at school has actually

increased in Italy in almost the same ratio with the number of serious crimes, having also nearly doubled during a period of about the same length as that during which the crimes referred to increased in the same proportion.

It is not in Italy and France alone that the increase in the number of juvenile criminals is observed in proportion to the exclusion of religion from the schools. The same thing has been noticed in Germany, and the Berlin newspapers within the last few weeks have been calling attention to the matter. It has been shown that in 1883 there were 500 youthful criminals throughout Germany for every 100,000 young persons; whereas in 1893, which is the last year for which the Government has furnished statistics on this point, the number of youthful criminals was 680; and it is remarkable that, while this number has thus increased, the number of adult criminals has actually diminished. For such a fact there is no reasonable explanation except that the system of education pursued is responsible, and as the period during which the increase of juvenile depravity has been so greatly augmented corresponds with the period when the authorities have endeavored to exclude religious and moral teaching from the schools, the result cannot readily be attributed to any other cause than this.

It might be hoped that the bringing home of these results to the defect of religious teaching would lead statesmen to restore it, but such does not seem to be the remedy they wish to apply in most of the cases. It is true that in France we have seen some instances where this was the conclusion arrived at, but the majority of the statesmen draw a very different conclusion from the facts, and both in France and Italy it has actually been proposed to teach a system of morals independently of Christianity. It is needless for us to add that such a proposal is delusive. The Catholic Church has maintained in all these countries, as she maintains in Canada and the United States, that it is only by the teaching of positive religion in the schools that morality can be inculcated on the youthful mind. Results of teaching without religion have everywhere vindicated the wisdom of the Church's contention, and, as the education of youth is the basis on which will be formed the character of future generations, it is easy to see that wherever religion is excluded from the schools the results will be just as deplorable as they have been in Italy, France and Germany.

A NEW A. P. A. MOVE.

H. A. Thompson, of St. Louis, a member of the Advisory Board of the A. P. A., has announced that the Board has found out that it has been pursuing a wrong policy in opposing the nomination of individual Catholics to office, and that from this forward it will oppose wrong principles instead of waging war upon individuals. He says: "The A. P. A. has expended its energies in the wrong direction. Our policy has been to defeat any member of the Roman Catholic Church who was a candidate for office, regardless of his personal merits or demerits. Now, there are hundreds of thousands of Catholics in the United States who are as truly and genuinely loyal to this country and its institutions as I am, and when we have antagonized such men we have committed a grave error."

This alleged retreat of the notorious proscription society from its absurd position does not arise out of a return to commonsense, but is merely a consequence of the shame it feels on account of the many rebuffs it has met of late, the most notable of which is the appointment of Judge McKenna, a Catholic, as President McKinley's Attorney General, in spite of hundreds of A. P. A. letters sent to the President protesting against the promotion of a Catholic to this important position.

No one will imagine for a moment that the bigots or fanatics who have strained every nerve for years to ostracize Catholics from every office, whether municipal or national, are induced by a spirit of toleration to take this new attitude, and we cannot for a moment suppose that they are urged to make the present announcement by the reason that they have ceased to be bigots, but they have seen that their bigotry did not succeed, and that they only brought upon themselves the contempt of the American people generally by their intolerance and misrepresentations and calumnies. For this reason the principal A. P. A. sheets died off for want of support, and the leaders of the organization are now ashamed of the despicable position they have occupied. We have no doubt that the leaders will continue to be really as

bigoted and intolerant in the future as they have been in the past, but we may accept their declaration of tolerance simply as an indication that they will deal covertly in the future, whereas they hitherto openly proclaimed their intolerance.

President McKinley deserves high praise for his refusal to yield to A. P. A. influences in the matter of choosing his Attorney General.

TWO WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

In the Presbyterian conferences and synods it has been a matter of course that strong resolutions should be passed in condemnation of Catholic education, and even the Government has been threatened with the opposition of those bodies if it should accede to the demands of Catholics to have their school rights restored in Manitoba, of which they have been unjustly deprived since 1890.

The Presbyterian press have taken the same view on this matter, and have declared with one accord that the rightful demands of Catholics should not be conceded.

We have several times pointed out that notwithstanding the professed love of the Presbyterian synods for the principle of equal rights to all, it is through hostility to Catholics, and to the Catholic Church, that they have taken this stand, and the resolutions adopted by the Montreal Presbytery on the 10th inst. fully bear out our contention. One of these resolutions is:

"That societies be recommended to give support to the schemes of the Church in preference to all others, and to study to be well informed regarding the work which our Church is doing."

We do not object to the principle here laid down, so far as it merely signifies that the good works undertaken by the Presbyterian, or any other Church, should be supported in preference by those who conscientiously believe the particular Church to which they adhere is the true Church; but when it is understood that they are also to oppose the good works in which others who are not Presbyterians are engaged, we maintain that it is a selfish, dog-in-the-manger policy; and this is exactly the case in the present instance.

It might be said, and there would be some plausibility in the contention, in the eyes of those who do not know all the circumstances of the case, that the matter of denominational or religious education is not referred to here, as Presbyterians have no denominational schools. But they have such schools in Quebec Province, and some of these are schools of a peculiarly objectionable character, as they are avowedly of a proselytizing nature, in connection with the cause of "French evangelization," which is regularly and strongly recommended by the General Assembly to all the Presbyterians of the Dominion for their support. The above resolution, therefore, demands that Presbyterians should earnestly maintain their proselytizing and other denominational schools of the Province of Quebec, while they are to strain every nerve to oppose Catholic education in all the Provinces. This is contrary to the professions of friendship and good fellowship which they are so lavish in making on other occasions.

We may add that this is very different from the course followed by Catholics. If we maintain our freedom to educate our children in accordance with our conscientious convictions it is a matter which does not in any way affect the rights of those who differ from us in belief. We leave it to themselves to judge whether they want religious education in the schools to which they choose to send their children. If in Ontario they do not want this, we do not desire to force it on them, but we wish to be free in the education of our own children, and it is just on this point that Presbyterians have made a special effort to interfere with us.

But in Quebec Protestants of all denominations desire and actually have their Separate schools, and the Catholic majority afford them every facility to make them efficient, through fair school laws.

The objection we make to the resolution of the Montreal Presbytery is that all Presbyterian societies are recommended to encourage the Presbyterian schools of that Province, while by other resolutions of the same religious body all adherents are called upon to oppose Catholic schools by means fair or foul, even to the extent of employing what political influence they possess to injure us.

On Tuesday, Feb. 16th, an imposing function took place in the chapel of the Catechumens' Institute, in Rome. His Eminence, Cardinal Parocchi, Vicar-General to the Holy Father, conferred the sacrament of baptism on no fewer than ten Jews.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

ONE of the most disreputable papers published in the United States, and the one, too, that is likely to do the most harm, is the *New York World*. It claims to have a circulation of half a million daily. For the honor of the American nation, we hope this statement is not true. What will be thought of our neighbors if, abroad, it becomes known that half a million people subscribe for and read such a publication! Truly, Pallitzer is the madman of American journalism. There appears, however, to be method in his madness, which is employed in piling up riches. What cares he for the consequences? Is it not time that our Postmaster General rated this nasty sheet along with the *Police Gazette* and the *Boys of New York*, and exclude it from mail privileges? We feel assured he would do so were he to take a glance at the paper for a few weeks. Those are other New York papers which should be treated likewise. By all means keep them out. As well might he allow bundles of rags containing the germs of cholera or small-pox to enter our homes.

THE six great powers are still engaged in attempting to scare off Greece from persisting in the occupation of Crete. It is now believed that Greece is weakening in her defiance of them, as Mr. Zaimi, the President of the Greek Chamber, telegraphed to London on Saturday that he is personally disposed to accept the proposal of the powers that autonomy be granted to the Cretans, as this is a step toward the annexation of the island to Greece. Hitherto the attitude of the Greeks has been ostensibly very courageous. The king, Prince George, the Greek Admiral, and Colonel Vassos who has command of the Greek troops in Crete, declared with one voice that Greece will persevere in the occupation, even if the whole power of Europe be arrayed against them, but on Saturday a Greek warship which had taken up a position off Canea very quietly left on being threatened by the Italian Admiral Canevaro, who is at present in command of the combined European fleets. Russia is particularly opposed to the Greek occupation, and propose that each of the six powers send 2,000 men to compel the Greeks to withdraw. The powers are considering the proposal, as well as another proposition of Russia, that the Cretan and Greek ports be at once blockaded to put an end to the Greek efforts to annex Crete.

THOUGH it now appears probable that the powers will carry this point, the people of England, France and Italy are certainly not in accord with the attitude of their respective governments and are holding numerous meetings to denounce the course which their Governments have taken to interfere with a weak Christian nation which has the courage to take steps to rescue from Turkish tyranny a Christian people who have been long suffering under similar outrageous treatment to that which has been accorded to the Armenians. The fiasco of the naval display of the powers when they made a futile show of attempting to frighten the Sultan into treating the Armenians humanely becomes more disgraceful to Christian Europe, followed as it is now by active interference to prevent Greece from coming to the aid of another Christian population which is under the intolerable Ottoman yoke. It appears to be certain, however, that there will be one good result from the present complications, namely, that Crete will, at all events, be practically freed from the rule of the Turk, even if for a time the Turkish suzerainty be kept up nominally.

A CABLE despatch announced on the 1st March that the great monastery of St. Bernard on the Alps had been partly destroyed by an avalanche. Further details of the accident show that the left wing of the building has been demolished by the great masses of snow and ice which fell upon it from the heights above. No lives were lost, but the monks were nearly all badly frostbitten, as they had to make a tunnel through the snow, through which they crawled in order to make a communication with the outer world. The monastery is 8,000 feet above the sea level and contains about 40 monks, whose occupation is to rescue travellers who are in danger as they cross the Alps between Switzerland and Italy. There have been sometimes as many as five or six hundred travellers at a time accommodated in the building, and every year about 20,000 travellers find a refuge therein from the Alpine storms, but no payment is exacted

from them, though it are expected would be obliged board if they hotel. The fact are trained in taught to carry and wine for the distress who perishing in the monastery has 900 years.

THE annual Indian Departmenting June 30th, sued, and it contains information concerning occupiers of 96,027 Indians of whom 17,660 in Quebec, 25,944 in Manitoba, North-western 340 are so gling. The throughout fines and La census shows 24,498 Protestants, 12,263 of unks schools 9,714 ance during the attendance of is said to be a augment the

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