

The Catholic Record

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LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Thomas Coffey: Ottawa, June 13th, 1905. My Dear Sir—Since coming to Canada I have been a reader of your paper. I have noted with satisfaction that it is directed with intelligence and ability, and above all, that it is imbued with a strong Catholic spirit.

Mr. Thomas Coffey: Dear Sir—For some time past I have read your estimable paper The Catholic Record, and congratulate you upon the manner in which it is published.

LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 1914

"ROBBED OF THEIR RELIGION"

It has often been stated in extenuation of England's defection from Catholic unity that the English did not apostatize, but were robbed of their religion. That there is a large measure of truth in the statement is substantiated by recent historical research.

Of course the traditional Protestant view is the very antithesis of this. Bishop Creighton calls the Reformation "a great national revolution which found expression in the resolute assertion on the part of England of its national independence."

Here we have the traditional Protestant view of the Reformation stated without reservation or equivocation by a very recent historian whose scholarly attainments received official recognition.

And he further adds, "there never was a time in England when papal authority was not resented, and really the final act of repudiation of that authority followed quite naturally as the result of a long series of similar acts which had taken place from the earliest times."

What, then, was the true nature of that struggle between papal and secular authority which Bishop Creighton would have us regard as a struggle for national independence?

Dr. Gairdner lived and died as loyal to the Church as by Law established in England as Bishop Creighton himself. But as an historian he was compelled to reject the traditional Protestant view of the Reformation as unfounded in fact and untenable in the light which the letters and state papers of the period throw upon the history of the period.

History, however, is ridding itself of traditional Protestant prejudice; and the history of Reformation and pre-Reformation times is deeply indebted to Dr. James Gairdner, who died about a year ago.

We consider this the first lesson of the history of pre-Reformation England that Catholics should learn and we commend it especially to our high school boys and girls.

OFFENSIVE LOCAL PAPERS

We are in receipt of a copy of a local newspaper from a subscriber in Chatham, N.B., who complains that it is often offensive to Catholics. One prominent feature is a sermon, one of a series, by a Methodist minister.

This rubbish is not likely to affect any well-instructed Catholic. Nor indeed anything else that may be said by an ignoramus posing as an exponent of modern religious thought.

Under this heading The Globe comments editorially on the sale of the Montreal Herald which will be merged with The Telegraph. Some months ago, in answer to a correspondent who compared the size and price of the RECORD with certain weekly reprints of great dailies, we pointed out certain facts in explanation of the apparent anomaly that prompted the complaint.

THE MAKING OF NEWSPAPERS

The public do not quite realize yet that the daily newspaper is obtained by the reader for less than cost, and that the advertiser has to make up the subscription deficit and pay whatever profits are reaped from the enterprise.

When a paper does not pay as a straight business proposition a condition obtains that makes it comparatively easy for political interests, money interests and others, the success of whose schemes depends in great measure on favorable public opinion, to get temporary or permanent control of such a newspaper.

One of two criticisms of the position taken by us on this vitally important question deserve consideration. The first is based on the misunderstanding that we advocated the undue pressing forward of pupils regardless of their ability or industry.

Public opinion would not be so easily influenced in favor of projects if it were known that those directly and financially interested controlled the newspapers promoting the projects.

Why have we not a larger number of boys studying for the priesthood? For the professions? In the scientific and engineering courses? In the Agricultural College? Or anywhere above the elementary school?

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

With, presumably, better schools, and, certainly, greater school facilities will the next generation of Catholics be as well off as the present or the last in the matter of representation in the higher walks of life and positions in the front rank of all other occupations?

These and similar questions are often seriously discussed by serious Catholics. Fault-finding is not our forte. If we have nothing useful to say in the way of constructive criticism we prefer to remain silent.

To show that our conviction is shared by those who have given the most serious consideration to the subject may be useful in convincing others of the injury inflicted on our whole population by the needlessly prolonged period which under present conditions our boys and girls are practically compelled to spend in the elementary school.

LAY CO-OPERATION

It was our privilege recently to assist at the initiation ceremonies of the Orillia Council, Knights of Columbus, and to listen to a very impressive sermon on the above subject delivered by the Rev. M. F. Fitzpatrick, the able and respected parish priest of Ennismore, Ont.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

THERE IS a certain type of science-worshipper (we will not say scientist, for the term is too big for him) who is fond of pointing the finger of scorn at the Holy Bible, and branding as "childish fables" many of the incidents related in its sacred pages.

WE ARE NOT concerned here to enter upon any justification of the sacred narrative or refutation of its shallow-minded traducers. There can be no real contradiction between revealed truth, and science properly so-called, for the same God that has revealed Himself to men through His prophets and apostles is also the Creator of the physical universe and all that it pertains.

BUT EVEN as it is Scripture finds striking corroboration in the secrets which mother earth uncovers from time to time to her children. One such instance has recently occurred in France in the discovery of a prehistoric cemetery, wherein upwards of a thousand skeletons were uncovered which bear upon the passage in Genesis we have referred to.

THE DISCOVERY referred to is related in detail in a late number of the French newspaper, L'Humanité. The world will doubtless hear more of it after science has had its say. Meantime a few details may not be uninteresting to our readers. It appears that an agriculturist, Ernest Andre by name, living at Nant, in the Cevennes, was rabbiting in the hills, and put a ferret into a hole into which his dogs had chased a rabbit.

world to which we must transmit the treasures of truth and grace commended to us. If we did but realize how enormous is the value of every soul, of every act, thought, and word that help to shape the destinies of such a soul?

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AND as neither ferret or rabbit reappeared, he stopped the hole and went home for the night. Returning next day with a comrade, he started to dig out the ferret and the two soon worked their way to an extensive cave filled with skeletons. Several professional men of the district, including an anatomist, were summoned, who, after a full examination, pronounced upon the nature of the find as already related.

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