

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 subscribers and patrons that the change of proprietorship will work no change in its one and principle: that it will remain, what 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.

LETTER FROM BISHOP CLEARY.

Bishop's Palace, Kingston, 18th Nov., 1882. DEAR SIR,—I am happy to be asked for a word of commendation to the Rev. Clergy and faithful laity of my diocese in behalf of the CATHOLIC RECORD, published in London with the warm approval of His Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Walsh. I am a subscriber to the journal and am much pleased with its excellent literary and religious character.

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LONDON, FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 1883.

THE NEXT GOVERNOR GENERAL.

If any of our readers doubt the wisdom of the position taken by us on the appointment of the Marquis of Lansdowne to the Governor-Generalship of Canada, we refer them to Mr. Charles Russell's letters on the condition of the Irish tenantry published at Mr. Gladstone's special request in 1880. In these letters Mr. Russell was particularly but justly severe on the management of the Kerry estates of the Marquis of Lansdowne. But it may be asked who is Mr. Russell? Mr. Russell is one of the leaders of the English bar, and represents his native borough, Dundalk, in the Imperial Commons. He is one of the ablest men in the present Parliament, a strong personal friend and devoted political follower of Mr. Gladstone.

THE CZAR AND THE NIHILISTS.

Now that the Czar has succeeded, at great expense and with much idle ceremony, in having himself crowned ruler of all the Russias, he must at once devote himself to the task of giving his subjects the benefits of good government. Ages of misgovernment brought Nihilism into being, and nothing can kill that nefarious organization but the inauguration of an entirely new state of things whereby the scandalous abuses and disgraceful tyranny that have hitherto been in vogue in Russia may be finally obliterated.

were at the coronation officials and others under orders of the Nihilists and near enough to the Czar to have struck him on the brow if the word had been given. It was even feared that some too zealous parties might throw a grenade at the Czar. This may be all mere bravado, but it is quite certain that if the Nihilist leaders are gifted with any political sagacity they must see that time is on their side. The Czar will experience a vast amount of difficulty in carrying into effect those schemes of reform admittedly necessary to secure the perpetuation of monarchical rule in Russia.

SIR FRANCIS HINCKS.

The views of a statesman of such well-merited and universally acknowledged prominence as Sir Francis Hincks are always certain to command attention and respect. Hence the speech of that venerable politician on the occasion of the dinner lately given him in Montreal has been read with deep and general interest. The speech of Sir Francis Hincks must prove a valuable guide to the student of Canadian history, and illustrates in the most striking manner the rapid and marvellous progress of Canada since he first took office in 1842 as a Minister of the Crown for Canada.

There was at that time no record of how the public debt was disposed of. There were no books kept, and I suggested that a regular statement should be got, and a system of double-entry book-keeping be established, and that we should go to work and put the whole accounts of the whole Province in proper shape. What we had to do was to find out the indebtedness and discover the best way we could, honestly, how that money had been expended. The system suggested by me was adopted, and being found satisfactory, it has been ever since followed. Sir Francis in his speech also defended himself against the charge of personal gain made on account of his acceptance of office under Sir John Macdonald in 1869.

office, he did so. No man, whatever his party predilections, looking back to Sir Francis Hincks' tenure of office as Minister of Finance, can deny that his policy was crowned with success, and that the sound financial standing of this country today is due to his enlightened statesmanship.

Sir Francis gave clear and unanswerable expression to his opinions on the subject of party government, clearly showing that party under our system is a necessity.

But perhaps the most remarkable portion of Sir Francis' speech and that most specially deserving our readers' attention, was his reference to the question of Canadian independence. He gives it as his fixed opinion that such a revolution as Canadian independence can never be achieved by peaceful means.

"Many will say on this question of independence that Great Britain won't interfere to prevent our independence. It is not a question of interfering. It is a question of the Canadian people themselves. You won't get the people to be unanimous in preferring a republican form of government. If a man is voluntarily prejudiced in favour of a republic, he has nothing to do but quietly go to the other side of the lines, and he will do that rather than fight at the risk of life and property and everything. My firm conviction is, and I know of no case in history where a change of political institutions has been effected without a revolution and bloodshed."

Upon this opinion of Sir Francis we desire to express no comment, leaving at least for the present each of our readers to exercise independently of any view of ours his own judgment thereon.

THE LICENSE LAW.

The Dominion Parliament at its last session passed a new license act applying almost uniformly to the whole Dominion. Heretofore the Provinces had regulated the sale of liquor within their limits, but constitutional doubts having arisen as to their power to do so, the Dominion Parliament stepped in to set matters right by enacting a law applying to every Province in the Union. It is not our purpose to discuss the objections raised on constitutional grounds to the interference of the Federal Parliament in such a matter, but if we have any opinion on the matter it is that the Legislature which passed the Scott act is entitled to pass a License law for the entire Dominion.

What we particularly desire to draw attention to is the duty incumbent on all true friends of temperance in the Dominion to assist in the exact enforcement of whatever license law may be in legal existence in their respective Provinces or the whole country. Complaint is often made of the strength of the liquor interest and the difficulty of overcoming its influence in the promotion of temperance. Complaint might with more justice be made against the so-called advocates of temperance for neglect in the enforcing of laws that must, if properly administered, be strong deterrents of intemperance. There are men sincerely devoted to the cause of temperance who fail of their duty in two regards, (1) by omitting to do that which they should in assisting in the exact enforcement of the laws regulating the liquor traffic, and (2) by not driving from their midst those hypocritical advocates of temperance who inflict the worst injury on that sacred cause. There are sybarites who have the effrontery to preach temperance, but their lives and the evil example thereof are too well known to excite any other feeling but disgust, which is unfortunately too often extended to the good cause itself that they falsely champion. Let hypocrites, and let the fine-lined sybarites be banished the ranks, let every effort be made to enforce the laws on the sub-

ject of the liquor traffic, and the cause of temperance will reap material benefit from such honest measures.

ANOTHER RETREAT.

Bismarck has suffered another humiliation on the religious question. Having made vain attempts to deceive the Vatican he has been forced to come down with a new bill dealing with the differences between the government and the church. This bill is prefaced by the very misleading statement that the government being anxious to serve the interests of the Prussian Catholics by providing for regular services in the vacant parishes, and the Vatican having declined to accept the proposals which Prussia had offered, the government deems it its duty to grant, without awaiting the result of further negotiations with Rome, those concessions which were announced in the government's note to the Vatican of May 5, and which do not impair the authority of the state.

This statement is, we repeat, misleading, and purposely so. Through it the government desires to convey that it has it more at heart than the Vatican to serve the interests of the Prussian Catholics, that the Vatican was guilty of injustice to that body by declining to accept the proposals of Prussia, and finally that the Holy Father had sought for concessions at variance with the rights of the state. Through subterfuge such as this Bismarck seeks to escape the confession of his own humiliation. Humiliated, however, he stands before the world. The Liberal papers very justly consider that the bill shows a fresh retreat on the part of the Government, and that the concessions which it makes exceed those announced in the note of May 5. The Germania, the clerical organ, also believes that the concessions provided for in the bill are larger and better than those heretofore offered. It also says the bill is the first step towards a more thorough revision of the May laws.

Then comes the National Zeitung with the testimony that the Kulturkampf is ended, and Prussia has laid down her arms. The Centre party, it says, has been repaid for voting in favor of the arbitrary power conferred on the police by the Trade Regulation bill. The people at the next election must avert the danger threatened by the church policy of the Government.

FRANCE AND CHINA.

France and China have lately become involved in a certain diplomatic trouble by reason of the unwarranted interference of the latter power in matters solely of French concern in Tonquin. France has interests in Tonquin that it is its bounden duty to protect; and that duty it is honorably seeking to fulfill. The great difficulty experienced by European powers with Oriental nations is the total absence of good faith on the part of these latter in regard of treaty obligations. To give the French government its due it must be conceded that it has ever in its negotiations with these nations made provision for the protection of the Catholic missionaries carrying the light of the gospel to the heathen. To many of the fanatical natives—and the fanatical amongst them are indeed numerous—the missionary is an object of hatred of the most deadly character. And the governments of the East, like all despotic governments, being more or less at the mercy of the fanaticism of their subjects, frequently fail to prevent the infliction of gross outrages on the missionaries. The superstitious people vent their cruelty on these devoted men very often without let or hindrance from the native authorities, who can never be impelled except by threats from abroad to do their duty in carrying out treaty obligations. France does well to act with such promptitude and energy in Tonquin, and all men anxious for the promotion of true civilization must hail its military successes there with delight. As Catholics we must ever feel pleased to note the triumph of French arms in the East, for with that triumph is closely associated the advancement of Christianity. The policy of France in these distant re-

gions in respect of Catholic interests is strangely at variance with its domestic policy in the same direction. May we not hope that the justice of its course in the far East will merit for the French nation a return to better ways at home?

REFINED CRUELTY.

The course of the British government in its wholesale deportation of Irish families to America is characterized by a cruelty and heartlessness for which we can find no words strong enough to reprobate. As one of many instances of its fearful results we may mention the following: A family of fifteen Irish emigrants recently shipped from Boston to North Adams, Mass., all unable to speak English, and with just money enough to pay their fare, were, some days after their arrival in that town, discovered on the verge of starvation in a miserable tenement totally destitute of furniture. The mere recital of this one fact clearly proves the existence on the part of the British authorities of a refined cruelty and heartlessness deserving the execration of mankind. Why send these poor people as so many beasts of burden to America to meet with a starvation and a misery more trying and intense than those which unfortunately constitute their lot at home in Ireland? But one answer can be made to this question—and it is that there exists on the part of Britain a fixed purpose to render the Irish banished to America unfit for the enjoyment of those blessings of civilization which will, however, be theirs in spite of British malignity, no matter what its form. America should nevertheless enter an earnest protest against the disgraceful conduct of the British authorities in landing papers on its shores. Perhaps the most effectual mode of making Britain feel and admit its wrong would be to deport from this side of the Atlantic a legion of tramps.

CANADIAN FIELDS FOR IMMIGRATION.

Besides the great wheat growing regions of the North West, Canada offers to the immigrant other fields blessed with resources of value incalculable and simply awaiting development at the hands of honest sons of toil from abroad, or of her own hardy children seeking new homes in their own country. We have the Eastern Townships, capable of sustaining a population of three or four millions, the valley of the St. Maurice an equally large population and also the vast and favored country watered by the Ottawa—besides the rich territory known as North Western Ontario.

The extensive territory watered by the Ottawa, though better known than other portions of the country, has not as yet attracted that share of attention its incalculable resources in timber, minerals, and agriculture justly demand. Of the Ottawa country, Mr. Norman, in 1859, reported: "In glancing over the map of this fine country, the mind becomes strongly impressed with what may be its future, with its mineral resources as yet but partially developed, but known to be of great extent and value; unequalled by any country in the world for its luxuriant growth of timber, especially of red and white pine; having its grand river, with tributaries surpassing in volume the largest rivers of Europe, and the advantages of unlimited water power which they do not possess; an extent of agricultural country capable, on careful examination, of supporting a population of eight millions of inhabitants."

If the Eastern Townships be capable, as we know they are, of sustaining a population of three or four millions, and the Saint Maurice district as many more—if the Ottawa Valley in itself has resources sufficient to meet the wants of eight millions—and North Western Ontario, so long considered unfit for settlement, offer sustenance to a population of at least three millions, ought not some more determined effort be made in the direction of attracting emigration to these different territories? Should we not in particular make an effort to keep within our limits at least those of our people in quest of new homes, and who, from their

knowledge of the country, should prove the best pioneers of the unsettled portions of the older Provinces.

A comparatively unknown but valuable and important portion of Canadian territory is that in the neighborhood of Rainy River, in the disputed territory. The country immediately to the north and west of Lake Superior has been so often represented as valueless that the repeated efforts of the government of Ontario to extend its boundaries in this direction did not, till recently, evoke, to any large extent, public interest or approval. But the prejudices, begotten of want of knowledge of this valuable territory, are now giving way to a just appreciation of its capabilities and resources, and when the present unfortunate dispute touching the ownership of that country is settled, we may expect to see a large volume of emigration, foreign and domestic, directed towards the Rainy River country. That and other districts we have mentioned offer as good fields for the immigrant as even the North West itself. The latter has indeed advantages which they do not possess, but it has also counterbalancing disadvantages unknown in these regions we speak of, and whose merits should, we think, be placed more frequently before the eyes of the people.

PILGRIMAGES.

The form of devotion known as pilgrimages is very old, and is, in fact, an outcome of man's natural feelings. All nations have had consecrated places which they felt an obligation of visiting at certain commemorative epochs, that their minds might be imbued with a more lively sense of God's goodness by visiting the places consecrated by his presence or his miracles. Whenever, says Lacordaire, God, always preoccupied with man's eternal salvation, designs something great, he predestines some particular man and some particular place, the man to be the instrument of his action, the place to be its theater. Thus were predestined Adam and the Garden of Eden, Abraham and the Holy Land, Moses and Mount Sinai, David and Sion, Saint Peter and Rome, Saint Anthony and the desert of Thebais, Saint Francis of Assisium and the mountains of Umbria, men and places that answer each other as the echoes of history, and lead each other, by the correlations of their fame, a mutual poetic lustre. There is nothing that so much excites devotion as presence in a sacred place. What heart, however hardened, would not be moved by a visit to Nazareth where the son of God was conceived, to Bethlehem where he was born, to Jerusalem where he suffered. The memories associated with these places revive faith in the most lively manner. A man may, indeed, sanctify himself anywhere, but God wishes to add this incentive to devotion to aid us in our weakness. Hence the true Christian goes forth with joy to the various shrines honored by pilgrims' visits. He prays by the roadside, contemplates the greatness of God in traversing mountains, his immensity on the beach of the sea, his goodness on the fertile plains over which he proceeds. In the ages of faith, pilgrimages were very popular, and even in the present evil time, when expeditious means of locomotion place the most famous shrines within comparatively easy reach, multitudes of the faithful hasten to visit them. If the places consecrated to the Blessed Virgin, to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to St. Joseph and other great Saints are very numerous in Europe, Canada, though a young country, has nothing in this regard for which to envy the world. In this country we have the venerable shrine of St. Anne de Beaupre, those of Calvary of the Lake of Two Mountains, Notre Dame de Bonsecours, Montreal, the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the church of the Gesu, Montreal, Notre Dame de Lourdes, Montreal, St. Anne de Valanec, etc. These sanctuaries are every year visited by many pilgrims who come either to seek grace or to return thanks for favors received, or to find or re-ignite faith in their souls. All these find consolation, all feel their piety strengthened and increased, all in fine return home better and firmer Christians. We cannot, therefore, too highly recommend these pilgrimages to the piety of the faithful. It is not, says a pious and learned writer, that we may not anywhere and everywhere pray to the Blessed Virgin, or that the saints cannot in any quarter of the globe hear the prayers addressed to them, but that there is in a pilgrimage made in a christian manner, a special grace that cannot otherwise be found. The memory of so many christians of strong faith, who have knelt where we kneel, the thought of so many signal graces they received, the example of those who accompany us, all inspire confidence and produce in the soul new and fecund impressions that make us pray with a better heart, for man, not being a pure intelligence, requires external helps such as these. The Holy Virgin and the saints, on the other hand, show by the miracles operated through their intercession, that they look with a kindly regard on assemblages of the faithful at certain shrines. Moreover, besides the special and individual grace thereby acquired, pilgrimages exercise a happy public influence, for these religious manifestations are a reproach to the indifferent, a stimulus to the lukewarm, and a subject of edification for all. Pilgrimages, we may well say, are a good and holy practice.

Mr. Errington, which he has placed the Holy Trinity to the Irish people, but His Catholic adventurers stone to place self. The step so evidently purpose that to Mr. Errington value to be placed did not, it is said a papal instrument applied to the Holy condemnation League, was supplied by the all taken from working in the landlordism to the Irish readers the full York, which was deserving, to credence as of to come from Irish question. The Herald's. This evening with Cardinal day had an int course of was considered ole point of had first obtained pope, made a statement. The letter to political aim o in the interest only. Mr. P. the mind of the genda when the hind Mr. P. m prestige of his Irish and Ame moral and rev discussions betw a breach between very morning. The Irish lay priests, and the ed in Ireland father said: "T surely subsidiz paganda is bei by the bishops willfully seal sion with all w I feel now, an the deepest sy ple, and espec So long as the ity, take mora mits of advan I should neve letter was not reproach to th intended as a them into a wh by some, who subscription see sibly murder, tion and in liberty. The letter of the agitation at pu priests from a meetings, so l speeches, but a the angry pa gatherings. T applies to all nationality: cricans, Austr profit. The cardin bishops had but on no pol ing having co been discussi fied by Mr. S and promise notice of the We are firm closely the E more certainly ain has egregi misled the s course hostil and humanity can rob the H Ireland.

THE MAR... Lansdowne is in Britain. I have been so comp the reprobat Labouchere, that "there is Lord Lanslow er-run of G through goin mistake that title to poli tion, should a fat Govern

A priest in edifying insta which so man of old, are wa "A poor ser bringing me for the bene wished to ch seemed to m her conditio such as to pu "Father, I h ceiving a Chr school, and I my debt of g More than the United S