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THE HERALD'S CRUSADE

Is it a Plea for a System of Godless Schools?

THE Montreal Herald, following the lead of the defunct and un-savory Canada-Review, and of its successor, Le Reveil, has for the past six months been publishing a number of editorial articles in which, under the pretense of endeavoring to bring about an improvement in the present system of education in the Province of Quebec, it has been making ludicrous efforts to increase its very limited circulation by ignorantly attacking the Catholic Church, sometimes openly, but more frequently by vulgar innuendo.

Washington in his famous farewell address, "to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."

But the vast majority of the people of this province, who are Catholic to the core, will not permit any insignificant clique of non Catholics, self-seeking or otherwise, to banish religion from their schools. While they recognize to the full the usefulness, efficiency, and necessity of secular instruction, they are unalterably attached to the principle of true and sound education, of which religious teaching is an essential element.

The Herald's "education" articles bristle with absurdities. When a man is well "educated," the sapient "doctor" tells us, he becomes perfect: his life is one of beauty and delight; he is a model of law and order; his joys are the pure joys of the intellect; and so forth.

The ignorance of the Herald's writer is shown by the fact that he does not understand the meaning of the word education at all. He imagines, as his articles prove, that education means simply mental training; whereas education as the derivation of the word plainly demonstrates, signifies the drawing out, or development, of all of man's faculties, mental, moral and spiritual.

ments; education is the right of the people, and in the school all must be regarded as equal. There is no loophole by which any autocrat, who loves to read history backwards, can defraud even the poorest of his right.

The comparisons he makes, and the statistics he figures out from the last census, and which he calls the "Herald's tables," are ridiculous where they are not pointless. He harps upon the high percentage of illiteracy to be found in the Province of Quebec amongst children under the age of ten, not knowing that this is a province in which there are more numerous families, and consequently more young children in proportion to adults, than in any of the other provinces; and that therefore a comparison with those other provinces is ridiculous.

"In the town of Hull, England, there were 5,512 children on the schools registers, with an average attendance of 5,920, in the year 1870. In 1894 there were 40,530, with an average attendance of 35,311. In twenty-five years the average attendance has increased nearly six times. No more striking example can be found of the marvellous strides made, in matters educational, since the passing of the Act of 1870.

Now, what do these figures demonstrate? Simply that in twenty-five years the number of children of school age in Hull, England, had increased nearly five times, and the average attendance at school had increased nearly six times, this slightly larger ratio of attendance being due to the enforcement of the law rendering attendance at school compulsory. Montreal, with its average attendance of 18,701 out of 22,989 school children, and with no law making attendance at school compulsory, compares very favorably indeed with the England city, with its attendance of 35,311 out of 40,530, and with its compulsory attendance law. In Montreal, where there is no compulsory law, nine out of every eleven children on the school register attend; in Hull, where there is such a law, fourteen out of every sixteen on the register attend. It is not an unwarrantable assumption that, were there no compulsory school attendance law in Hull, the average attendance there would be lower than that in Montreal.

To the comparison sought to be instituted between the percentage of illiteracy in England and Wales and that in the Province of Quebec, somewhat analogous considerations apply. In addition to the factor supplied by the compulsory school attendance law in force in those countries, there are those of length of settlement, extent of area in proportion to population, and, above all, climatic conditions in winter. To neglect to take these important factors into account is to evince either ignorance or bad faith, or both.

The Province of Quebec has, as the census and other statistics show, made great progress in matters educational during the past twenty-five years and is maintaining a steady pace of advancement. If its system of primary instruction still leaves anything to be desired, it is certainly not the fault of the authorities of the Catholic Church. On this point it will suffice to quote our contemporary, Le Monde, which takes a deep and an intelligent interest in the subject. "It is time," it said recently, "to recommend a little modesty to those who claim, in good faith or not, that they are the first to desire and demand more sacrifices in favor of education for our young Catholics. All our bishops, turn by turn, have insisted upon the great importance of education. The pastoral solicitude of our spiritual guides has never for an instant lost sight of the interests of the children; by far the most interesting portion of their flock. Our clergy has always responded with the greatest de-

tion to the direction of the bishops, and, as we have said, and repeat, it is to them, and to them alone, that we owe the fine colleges, boarding schools and convents, which cover our province, and in which our young people obtain a good and solid education. If our primary schools still leave anything to be desired to-day, it is because—we say it again—we have counted too much on the clergy to do all; it is because we have not followed with sufficient generosity the lessons of devotion which they have given us: it is because we did not make the necessary sacrifices to secure good schools, which would be an honor to our religion and to our nationality."

ENGLISH PROTESTANTS

Interview the Ontario Government Regarding Religious Instruction in the Schools

A despatch from Toronto says:—A deputation, composed of members of the clergy and laity of the English Church, waited on the Provincial Government last week and urged that the subject of religious instruction be placed on the curriculum of the public school. The contention of the deputation was that the Bible should be made a regular text book in the schools; that portions of it be read regularly every day and explained to the children, and verses committed to memory by the children. They desired, too, that this should become part of the regular routine of the school day and that it should be made obligatory on the teacher to see that it was carried out. This religious instruction the deputation desired shall be given by the ministers of the Gospel or by their representatives, and that each minister shall, during the time set aside by the regulation, they are seeking to have included in the school system, have charge of and shall instruct the children of his own communion. As it is now, clergymen are privileged, if the school trustees to allow, to give half an hour's instruction each day after the regular school hours are over, and the teacher is authorized to read a portion of the Scriptures, but to do so "without note or comment." This last clause, "without note or comment," it is also sought to have eliminated.

After hearing the speeches of several members of the deputation, Premier Hardy, on behalf of the Government, assured the visitors that the matter would be taken into the consideration of the Government.

The Pope and the Irish Race Convention.

Two of the Canadian delegates to the recent Irish Race Convention—namely, Lieutenant-Colonel McShane and Rev. William Foley, D.D., Halifax, have just returned from Rome, where they have had the great privilege of an audience with the Holy Father, who manifested the greatest interest in their mission to Ireland and in the proceedings of the Convention. His Holiness inquired particularly regarding the spirit of peace and unanimity evinced by the great assemblage, and on being assured on this head of the remarkable success of the historic gathering displayed the warmest satisfaction at such a result. The Pope gave evidence in the most unmistakable manner of the importance he attached to the Convention and its results.

Chairman Dillon's Appeal.

The London Universe says:—"The appeal to Irishmen to respond to John Dillon's call for funds to the Irish cause has resulted in £250 on the first day. But of this sum £100 was contributed by Mr. William O'Brien, the amount of a legacy which had been left him by an exiled countryman named Mooney, who died recently in Samoa, where Robert Louis Stevenson established his household in the far south seas. This Irishman abroad had never lost his faith in the land of his youth, or his hope in its future. He never knew Mr. O'Brien or had met him, but he admired his love for the motherland, and believed in it, and presumably left him this little money to be applied for its benefit. It was intended as a tribute of admiration for Mr. O'Brien's services to the national cause."

National Reunion.

The desire for a genuine reunion of the Irish National forces, is daily growing stronger, and everything points to its accomplishment at an early date. "United Ireland," of which Mr. T. Harrington, M.P., is proprietor, contains in its last issue a vigorous and outspoken article in favour of unity, which has been read with sincere pleasure on all sides. The sine qua non to reunion in Mr. Harrington's opinion is independence of all English parties. To this no true Irish Nationalist can object. It is a point on which there is practical unanimity.

That nothing can be gained without a thoroughly united and thoroughly independent party is patent to all. Day by day the cause of Ireland recedes into the background, and all because of the absence of such a party. Mr. Harrington's article is most encouraging, and shows the way to speedy reunion. The "Freeman" alone questions whether it is seriously meant, and accuses the hon. member of not having the courage of his convictions. What ever else Mr. Harrington may be fairly charged with it is not this. Indeed, to many it would appear that the very antithesis is the strongest trait of his character. When unity is again established the cause of Ireland will advance rapidly. Day will certainly be detrimental.

A NARROW ESCAPE.

Mrs. Dickenson Recovered as the Casket Was Being Closed.

Friday, October 23, Mrs. Dickenson, a woman well known in that community, after suffering from a severe illness, was supposed to have died.

The woman was a member of the Catholic Church, and as her supposed dissolution approached the last rites of her Church were administered by Father Dominick, and to all present she apparently died in the full fruition of Christian hope. Announcement of the funeral had been made for Sunday, October 25, to take place at the Catholic Church at Mount Argyle. Friends of the woman were assembled at the church. Father Dominick in his full robes and the acolytes in cassock and surplice were on hand waiting patiently for the arrival of the funeral cortege escorting the body of the dead woman to the church.

There seemed some unseemly delay in the proceedings and the priest sent a messenger to the Dickenson home urging haste. There was abundant good reason for the delay. After the home services the undertaker in charge, in placing the lid on the casket, had his attention attracted to the body in a peculiar way. Whether it was caused by the effort to replace the lid, or in some manner by a light jar of the casket, at any rate it proved sufficient to break the spell, for Mrs. Dickenson suddenly came to life, awakening as it were, from a trance, and the house of mourning was quickly transformed into a household of joy.

The woman was speedily removed from the narrow confines of the casket, within which she narrowly escaped being immured alive, and to day is enjoying comparatively good health, with every prospect of living for years to come. The fortunate escape of Mrs. Dickenson from the horrible fate of being buried alive is most remarkable. Had she remained in a comatose state but a few minutes longer, fully conscious but unable to speak or move, she would have heard the benedictions paid to her memory, and, utterly helpless, learned with horror that she was to be consigned alive to the grave.

Preached Against a Theatre.

The Rev. Francis Ludcke, assistant rector of St. Vincent de Paul's Church in North Sixth street, Williamsburgh, began on Sunday a crusade on the alleged immorality in a low theatre near his church. He spoke of the obscene pictures and posters placed upon the bill boards and in show windows, and declared that it was an outrage that such an exhibition of immorality was allowed to exist. He warned his congregation against attending any of the performances, and urged upon those who had children to keep a careful watch over them.

The priest said that from his own observation mostly boys and young men comprised the audiences of the theatre he referred to. The priest told a reporter that he was astonished that the police had not made any effort to put a stop to the distribution of obscene lithographs and to the immoral performances in that theatre.

Rt. Rev. Patrick Duggan, bishop of Clonfert, Ireland, who died recently has been succeeded by Most Rev. Dr. Healy, author of "Irish Saints and Scholars," and the history of Maynooth College, which was published on the occasion of the centenary celebration.

The theory that Mr. Parnell is still living has again cropped up. A gentleman who is writing a biography of the late leader went to Ireland sometime ago to interview the relatives, and found they were in the belief that Mr. Parnell is not dead. David Blakely, manager of Sousa's Band, died suddenly in his office, in the Carnegie Music Hall building, New York, last week. Apoplexy was the cause of his death. Mr. Blakely was alone at the time, his typewriter having left the office on an errand. When she returned fifteen minutes later Mr. Blakely was lying on the floor dead. He was passing from one room to another when he fell. Mr. Blakely was 65 years old, and besides managing Sousa's Band he was the President of the Blakely Printing Company of Chicago.

A CLEVER IRISHWOMAN.

Miss Mary Ryan, of Cork, Captured the Prize.

Success has crowned the academical career of a young Cork lady, Miss Mary Ryan, a pupil of St. Angela's, Patrick Hill, who has distinguished herself in the carrying off at the recent examinations of the Royal University of the Studentship in Modern Languages, First Studentship, which is value for £300, is one of the most prized in the gift of the Senate, and the percentage necessary to secure the coveted distinction is extremely high. Both in the Intermediate and University curricula the record of the young lady has been singularly successful. In the Intermediate examinations she secured the following distinctions: Junior Grade—120 Exhibition, first place in an 18-land, beating all previous records, gold medal, medals for Latin, Natural Philosophy and Drawing, Middle Grade—120 Exhibition, first place in all Ireland, gold medal, medals in Latin and Natural Philosophy. Senior Grade—120 Exhibition, second place in all Ireland, taking first place in Latin and Music. In the Royal University her success was still more remarkable. First Arts—First Class Exhibition, 65 honors in French, Latin, English and Physics; first place in French in all Ireland. Second Arts—First Class Exhibition, 63 honors: Latin, English, Irish, Natural Philosophy, Logic, B. A. Modern Languages—First Class Exhibition, 64 Irish honors in all subjects, beating all previous records.

BELFAST CATHOLICS ORGANIZE.

A Scheme to Secure Representation on Public Boards.

The Dublin correspondent of the Liverpool Catholic Times says:—

A magnificent assemblage of the Catholic citizens of Belfast filled St. Mary's Hall to overflowing on Sunday to hear the report of the Committee of the Catholic Representation Association and to consider a scheme intended to secure representation for Catholic interests on all the public boards of the city. A meeting of equal importance to the Catholics of the northern metropolis never before assembled. For long ages they have been deprived of all civic rights. They were good enough to pay taxes, but to take any part in the municipal government of the city they were unfit in the estimation of the enlightened Orangemen who formed the majority. The Catholic Emancipation Act was almost a dead letter to them. All this is now about to be changed. By the tact and ability with which they presented their case, they last year succeeded in securing the co-operation of members of Parliament of all shades of opinion, and as the Most Rev. Dr. Henry, who presided at Sunday's meeting said, although they have not obtained the full measure of representation to which they are entitled by their numbers and influence, the Catholics of Belfast have at least been recognized by Parliament as having civic rights. The city is now divided into fifteen wards, two of which have been delimited with a view to securing Catholic representation. To retain these two wards and to make their influence felt in the remaining thirteen is the duty of the Catholics of Belfast. The Most Rev. Dr. Henry on Sunday laid before the meeting a scheme for developing and organizing the Catholic vote. His Lordship's proposal met with a hearty acceptance. Aided by the Catholic Representation Association, the indefatigable efforts of Bishop Henry to promote Catholic interests cannot fail to succeed, so that in the near future the "Outlanders" of Belfast may be admitted to equal rights and privileges with their fellow-citizens.

Resolutions of Condolence.

At the regular monthly meeting of St. Gabriel's T.A. & B. Society, it was moved by Mr. Patrick Polan, seconded by Mr. James Burns, and unanimously adopted, Whereas,—It has pleased Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom, to remove from this earth our beloved brother Mr. William Murphy, be it therefore

Resolved,—That the members of St. Gabriel's T.A. & B. Society tender their sympathy and condolence to the wife and family of our late brother Mr. Wm. Murphy, and pray that God may grant them courage in their sad bereavement; and be it further

Resolved,—That these resolutions be inserted in the Minutes and that a copy be sent to the wife and family of our late brother Mr. William Murphy and to the TRUE WITNESS.

(Signed), WILLIAM FORD, Sec.

The native tongue is rapidly decaying in Ireland, and a recent traveller, a Mr. Dixon, says it will be extinct, except on the ocean's fringe, in fifteen years. Unless teachers are compelled to know Irish well, and fair fees are given to all classes, and their enthusiasm raised, it will be impossible to bring back the quickly-fading vernacular. Father Hickey, of the diocese of Waterford, has been appointed to the Celtic chair at Maynooth in place of Father O'Grady, who resigned through ill-health. The beloved ancient tongue should be cherished by every true Irishman.