

The Catholic Record.

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Approved and recommended by the Arch-Bishops of Toronto, Kingston, Ottawa, and St. Boniface, the Bishops of Hamilton, Peterborough, and Oshawa, N. Y., and the clergy throughout the Dominion.

London, Saturday, February 19, 1898.

STEPS TOWARDS UNION.

We notice with pleasure that the three factions of the Irish Nationalist Parliamentary party are said to have agreed upon a common course of action in reference to the Catholic University Bill which the Government has promised to bring forward during the session of Parliament which has now commenced.

DRINK IN COLD WEATHER.

It is a delusion to suppose that intoxicating beverages are beneficial to the human system in cold weather or in cold climates. The Tartars in Russia number 640,000, according to a recent official census, and the mortality among them is 21 per thousand.

NESTORIANS JOIN THE CHURCH.

The Roman correspondent of the Pilot gives the interesting and pleasing intelligence that Benjamin, the chief of a tribe in Kurdistan, arrived recently in Rome for the purpose of making arrangements for the admission of his whole tribe into the Catholic Church.

MORMON MISSIONARIES.

The New York Missionary, edited by the Paulist Fathers of that city, says that the Mormons of Utah, relying much on the disintegration of Protestantism, have determined to place Mormon missionaries in every county of the Southern States for the purpose of obtaining converts to their sect.

to the work, and in the spring two hundred more will be engaged. These men will preach in school-houses and elsewhere, and will distribute Mormon literature to the people from the centres of intelligence.

THE CENTENARY OF 1798.

From the preparations which are being made by Irishmen in America to celebrate the centenary of the Irish insurrection of 1798, there appears to be little doubt that several thousand Irish men and sons of Irishmen will cross the Atlantic in order to take part in the commemoration of that patriotic effort to put an end to the persecutions under which the people of Ireland were suffering at the time of that revolt.

UNEXPECTED PROTECTION TO CATHOLIC MISSIONARIES.

The world was astonished when the Emperor of Germany so suddenly ordered a fleet to sail for Kiaochow in China to take possession of that port and the fortresses which protect it, and still more so at the readiness with which the Chinese retired without firing a shot in defense of their territory. It was on account of the murder of two German missionaries by the Chinese, who have hitherto indulged freely in their hatred of Christianity, and who imagined that they might with impunity destroy the property and take away the lives of missionaries.

THE PAPAL DIGNITY OFFICE.

"Nemo" writes objecting to the answer given by Rev. Joseph V. Nor, in the Philadelphia Catholic and Times, to the question "Can laymen be elected Pope?"

THE CHURCH AS A WHOLE.

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they allowed to go abroad to receive the education which was forbidden them at home. It was to put an end to such laws as these that the rebellion of 1798 took place, and the dissenters, who objected equally with Catholics to the support of a State Church in which they did not believe, were quite as much in earnest to throw off the tyrannical yoke under which they suffered.

Such were some of the causes of the Irish rebellion of 1798, and though it was chiefly confined to a few counties, and in the end to two—Wexford and Wicklow—it was very nearly successful in its objects, though the peasants engaged in it were without the means of carrying on a successful warfare. They were armed for the most part only with home-made pikes, yet it took an army of 70,000 soldiers, under the most skillful generals of England, to subdue them.

The insurrection was unsuccessful, but its principles lived, and it was owing to them that the laws which had been its direct cause were for the most part repealed soon after. It is no wonder, therefore, that Irishmen today entertain the highest admiration and affection for those who took part in the struggle of 1798, and that they are now about to commemorate the event.

The Kaiser determined to teach the Chinese that they must respect, at least, the lives and property of German subjects, and by the reception accorded the German soldiers who were sent to Kiaochow, the Chinese have shown that though a mob of them are brave enough to destroy unprotected property, and to kill defenceless and unarmed men, women and children, they are in moral dread of the power of Europeans when full satisfaction is demanded by an armed force.

But Protestant and Catholic missionaries have been among those whom the Chinese maimed or killed during recent years, but those missionaries whose murder was the immediate cause of the recent invasion were German Jesuits, which order has had missionary stations throughout China long before foreigners were allowed into the country.

This has been said especially in regard to many of the lately enfranchised Indians of some localities. There may be some excuse for these untutored aborigines who do not understand the value of honest government, for talking in this way, but we sincerely hope that there is not a Catholic voter in the province who is so dead to all sense of honor, and duty, and manliness, as to expect or to wait for a bribe to induce him to vote for [one party] for the other in the coming contest.

With this last act of the Emperor William, just as we would have been pleased if the European "concert" had obliged the Turkish assassin Sultan to atone for the Armenian massacres. Germany has shown more respect for the rights of its subjects than the whole of Europe has shown for those of the Christians of Armenia.

The Kaiser may be considered now as having made atonement for the persecution to which his grandfather subjected the Catholic Church at the dictation of Bismarck and his murderous subordinate, Dr. Falk.

We repeat, we cannot but be pleased with this last act of the Emperor William, just as we would have been pleased if the European "concert" had obliged the Turkish assassin Sultan to atone for the Armenian massacres. Germany has shown more respect for the rights of its subjects than the whole of Europe has shown for those of the Christians of Armenia.

THE DUTIES OF ELECTORS.

As we announced already in these columns, the general elections for the Legislative Assembly of Ontario will take place in a few days. The nominations will be on Tuesday, the 22nd inst., and where there are two or more candidates, the polling will take place over the whole province on March 1.

The importance of honest government cannot be over-estimated, and it is a serious obligation for all to aid in securing it, as far as their position in life imposes this obligation upon them; and as with us every citizen has a voice in the government of the country, it behooves every one to use that voice and vote, not for any private interest, not from any hope of gain or remuneration, but for the general good.

The Bishop declares that the imperial tablets to be placed upon the three Churches which are to be erected will be of very great value, as no Chinaman dares to bring upon himself the imperial displeasure by disregarding a protection thus accorded. The privilege of having such a protection as this is very rarely given, and there is no doubt the respect of the population for the Catholic missionaries will be greatly increased by such a mark of the Emperor's regard for them.

It is promised also by the Chinese Government that an edict will be issued that German missions shall be under special imperial protection. This edict will be in favor of German Protestants as well as Catholics, if at any future time the Protestants of Germany see fit to send out missionaries.

The Kaiser informed Bishop Anzer during a recent audience that it is the intention of the Government to give through German Government to the territory of Kiaochow, and as China has given a lease of it for ninety-nine years, it will be an additional protection to the missionaries, one more efficacious than even the Chinese imperial protection, that German war ships and German soldiers will be within call, if any more outrages are perpetrated.

Baron von Bulow said that he has no doubt that all these conditions will be a guarantee of future Chinese good conduct. It is, perhaps, to be expected that the Chinese will chafe some under the circumstances, and even since that treaty was made one of the German sailors has actually been murdered; but the fact will make the garrison more cautious, and probably Germany will demand further guarantees on account of this new outrage.

At all events, time will accustom the Celestials to the feeling that they must show more regard to the rights of Europeans, and all the European powers will profit by the transaction.

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The duties of electors on so important an occasion as this have been so frequently pointed out that it might at first sight seem unnecessary to remind our readers of them. But when it is borne in mind that on every occasion when the electors have been called upon to exercise the right of franchise, there has been abundance of evidence proving that many voters are forgetful of the importance of the duty they have to perform, it will be understood that it is very necessary to remind our readers of them, especially when the time is at hand when they should be fulfilled.

The importance of honest government cannot be over-estimated, and it is a serious obligation for all to aid in securing it, as far as their position in life imposes this obligation upon them; and as with us every citizen has a voice in the government of the country, it behooves every one to use that voice and vote, not for any private interest, not from any hope of gain or remuneration, but for the general good.

It was formerly the peculiar privilege of the wealthy, especially of kings and the nobility, to take part in the government of the country, but as centuries lapsed the people asserted their claim to a share in this duty, and it has now come to the issue that good or bad government is in the hands of the people. It, therefore, devolves upon every citizen to perform his duty faithfully.

In every constituency the importance of thus acting conscientiously were impressed upon the voters, good government would certainly be secured, for then only men would be elected who have at heart the interests of the whole community, or at least those who are generally supposed to be influenced by the best of motives and intentions, but unfortunately, amid the diversity of existing interests it frequently occurs that the honest voters are pretty equally divided between opposing candidates, and [the balance of power remains with those electors who can be influenced by a bribe in money, or by promise of an office, or even by a glass or two of bad whisky.

Yet it may occur in many of these instances that a few incorruptible voters, men who cannot be thus bought, may prevent the disgrace and misfortune of electing dishonest legislators from being consummated; we, therefore, exhort all our friends and readers to vote honestly, conscientiously, and disinterestedly for the best candidates, namely, for those who may be relied upon to maintain the best principles by their votes in the Legislature.

We have heard it said recently of some voters in certain constituencies that when they were asked to support certain candidates, they demanded directly, what benefits will I get by voting for these men? How much will they give me for my vote?

This has been said especially in regard to many of the lately enfranchised Indians of some localities. There may be some excuse for these untutored aborigines who do not understand the value of honest government, for talking in this way, but we sincerely hope that there is not a Catholic voter in the province who is so dead to all sense of honor, and duty, and manliness, as to expect or to wait for a bribe to induce him to vote for [one party] for the other in the coming contest.

Unfortunately there is known to have been much corruption, especially by bribery, in past elections in this province, and in our own city of London. The protested election trials before the courts have proved this to be the case, and the revelations made on these occasions have brought disgrace upon the names of many who would not have been suspected of being amenable to the influence of a paltry bribe.

When bribes are given and taken, the bribers and the bribed often think their crime will be forever unknown, but there is no secrecy in this matter, and disgrace is sure to follow. The election committees, at least, know who are those who can be so influenced, and the names are freely spoken of among the members of these committees, and then become public property, so that the guilty cannot escape the disgrace, and much less can they smother the voice of conscience reproaching them for their wrong doing.

Besides exhorting our readers to accept no bribes, we also ask them to do their part in the present contest with due consideration for the opinions of others, and with temperance. The drunken orgies which are so frequently a concomitant of election contests are productive of many evils, and are frequently the cause of many persons falling into habits of dissipation. Such gatherings should be carefully shunned by all who have any self respect.

CHURCH AUTHORITY WITH REGARD TO DIVORCE.

The Church Evangelist (Anglican) is very much shocked at the number of divorces which were granted in San Francisco last year, namely, six hundred and forty one. As there were two thousand marriages, there was very nearly one divorce to every three marriages.

The record is certainly a very shocking and disgraceful one, but in a state of society where marriage is looked upon as a civil contract, and as nothing more, it is not to be wondered at. It is hopeless to look for a remedy until the Church as a whole sets her face definitely in the direction of the absolute sacredness of the marriage tie.

We may well ask what Church is expected to make this decree sufficiently strong to be respected. The Catholic Church declares the marriage tie to be sacred and inviolable; but Protestantism repudiated her authority three and a half centuries ago.

It amounts to the adoption of Catholic doctrine on marriage; this will be of no avail unless divine authority of the Catholic Church be also admitted at the time. The fact is not to be disputed that Protestantism as a system cannot regard marriage as a mere civil contract, and the Evangelist admits that the necessary result is a shocking state of morality which deplors. The system must be discarded if a remedy is to be found.

"Nemo" writes objecting to the answer given by Rev. Joseph V. Nor, in the Philadelphia Catholic and Times, to the question "Can laymen be elected Pope?" O'Connor's answer appeared in the CATHOLIC RECORD of 29th Jan. He says: "Yes, the Papal primacy is part of the sacrament of Holy Orders, and it is an office of supreme jurisdiction."

To Father O'Connor's proof from the election of Adrian V. says: "Adrian was elected in 1261, and died thirty-seven after, not eighty-nine days." The Church historian, the Darrais, states that Adrian was elected 4th July 1261 and died August of the same year. This his pontifical reign forty-six days. Adrian was a Cardinal when Pope, and according to the usage of the Church at that period, as we have seen, he must have

ligation in conscience to obey these rules. In fact most of the sects admit readily that this is the position they occupy.

It is probable that in speaking of "the Church as a whole," the Evangelist means the Church of England. There is a special absurdity in the thought that the Church of England might make any such decree as to proclaim "the absolute sacredness of the marriage tie."

Beside the impossibility of enforcing such a belief as the Evangelist desires, it would be entirely in gross for the Church of England which as a mere State Church repudiates its doctrines and articles of Faith to the State, to make any doctrine itself, especially on the subject of marriage, as the law requires that churches be open to any divorced persons who wish to be married in the future.

It is clear from what we have seen that the mode suggested by the Evangelist for putting an end to divorce evil is entirely impracticable. It amounts to the adoption of Catholic doctrine on marriage; this will be of no avail unless divine authority of the Catholic Church be also admitted at the time.

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