

The Catholic Record

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THOS. COFFEY,
Catholic Record,
London, Ont.

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 its subscribers and patrons that the change of proprietorship will work no change in its tone and principles; that it will remain what it 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. I am confident that under your experienced management the RECORD will improve in usefulness and efficiency; and I therefore earnestly commend it to the patronage and encouragement of the clergy and laity of the diocese. Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,
J. JOHN WALSH,
Bishop of London.

MR. THOMAS COFFEY,
Office of the "Catholic Record."

Catholic Record.

LONDON, FRIDAY, DEC. 26, 1879.

We wish our subscribers, one and all, the compliments of the season.

THE IRISH QUESTION AGAIN.

There can be no room for doubt that the Irish land agitation will engage the most earnest attention of Parliament during the coming session. The action of Lord Beaconsfield, to which we adverted in a recent issue, in granting £20,000 to drain waste lands, and the recent very emphatic declarations of Mr. Gladstone in reference to the agitation, show that something practical will be done to relieve the distress admittedly existing, and remove at least in part the causes of that distress. The history of Ireland shows, that concessions made by the British Parliament have never been of that thorough and radical stamp calculated to secure the immediate removal of grievances. But time works wonders even with legislation. The land act of 1870 had many commendable features, but the influence of the landlords in Parliament was then too great to attempt the passage of a more radical measure. Besides, the British people imagined that having gone so far as to overturn the Irish Protestant Church, they deserved the everlasting gratitude of Ireland, and that, for at least half a century, Ireland would be content to send her one hundred representatives to Westminster to vote strictly according to the dictates of British Parliamentary chiefs.

The land question was thus dealt with in what we on this side of the water would term a "slipshod" spirit of expediency, and the education question was thrown overboard for a session or two, only to drag down a government too weak to approach it in a spirit of justice. Several Canadian journals, in their references to the Irish land agitation, have been betrayed into an amazing amount of intolerance, ignorance, and, at times, we must say, an utter disregard of truth. Some have had the hardihood to deny that any real cause of distress and discontent existed; others have blamed the priests as the source of all Irish evils and grievances; others, again, have made sweeping assertions of the most barefaced audacity in reflecting on the various phases of the agitation, taking every occasion to insult the nationality and manhood of Ireland. We have before us two documents of undoubted weight and undisputed authority to prove that distress at this moment is prevalent in Ireland, and that immediate steps should be taken to remove the discontent and suffering brought about by that distress. We have the memorial to Lord Beaconsfield, signed by seventy Irish members of all creeds, religious and political, wherein it is stated that "there can be no doubt but that the distress will be severe and widespread during the coming winter and spring, and that in several extensive districts the almost complete failure of the potato crop and of the fuel supply, combined with the absence of employment, will involve a considerable number of the small farmers and laborers in absolute destitution."

The memorialists, after this very clear and concise statement of the

condition of the agricultural interest throughout the kingdom, proceed to urge on the Premier "the necessity of taking immediate steps to prevent and mitigate, as far as possible, this calamity." This memorial is signed by members of such pronounced conservatism as Messrs. Archdall, of Fermanagh; Beresford, Armagh; Goulding, Cork City; Fortenham, New Ross; and Taylor, Coleraine; by well known liberals such as the Messrs. Whitworth, Messrs. Cogan, Kildare; O'Connor, Don, Roscommon; and Swanton, Bandon; by Nationalists so trusted as Messrs. C. S. Parnell, Meath; A. M. Sullivan, Louth; O'Gorman Mahon, Clare; and Biggar, Cavan; and by nondescripts such as Messrs. P. J. Smyth, Westmeath; and O'Donoghue, Tralee. When they speak of the distress as a "calamity" the least that could be expected from others is an honest and impartial examination of the case.

The other document we have reference to is the series of resolutions adopted by the Bishops of Ireland at their meeting last month, the first of which declares, that "it is the urgent duty of the Government to take effectual measures to save the people from a calamity which has come upon them through no fault of their own."

No comment on a declaration so precise, so earnest, and so resolute, is required. We refer to these two documents simply to show the agitation has a veritable *raison d'être*. We have the satisfaction of knowing from recent declarations of the Liberal leaders that if the Government of Lord Beaconsfield neglect to apply a prompt and efficacious remedy to the evil, they are prepared to propound a policy in accord with the views of the people of Ireland, a policy humane, just and generous, a policy the success of which will do high honor to British freedom and strengthen the connection between the two countries.

THE EX-EMPRESS EUGENIE.

The story of the noble but unfortunate Mary Stuart has long been looked upon as the saddest in the annals of royalty. It has been told and retold till one should fancy it worn threadbare, but its rehearsal never fails to open in every humane breast a fountain of grief and draw from every eye a tear of deepest sympathy. Her beauty, her heroic fortitude, the dazzling splendor of her early career, all serve to bring into blacker color the treachery which betrayed her, and the misfortune which never abandoned her. She was Queen of France by right of marriage, Queen of Scotland by right of succession, and Queen of England by right of legitimate birth. She reigned in the bright days of innocent girlhood as Queen of France, was for a brief time acknowledged Sovereign of Scotland, and died because of her latent claim to the crown of England. As wife, as queen, as mother, her life was marked by trials, by sufferings and by disasters all borne with a magnanimity honorable to her royal race. Her death at Fotheringhay threw the glory of martyrdom around the misfortunes of a life already ennobled by heroism. In times to come, Chiselhurst will rival Fotheringhay for the gloomy honors of sympathy in unexampled adversity.

The noble lady whose recent bereavement in the death of a venerated mother—the last link which bound her to earth—the entire world deplores, has had a career the early brilliancy of which draws into deeper gloom the treachery which forced her abdication of the regency on the memorable 4th of September, 1870, her flight from Paris and her exile in England. It also, in its contrast with her recent afflictions, brings into fullest notice the depth and intensity of the latter. For seventeen years she shared the splendor of a monarch reputed the most powerful in Europe. The charm of personal beauty, the grace of womanly virtue, the fascination of courtly gaiety, contended in ministering to the success and brilliancy of the favored Eugenie. But all this brilliancy and success soon faded away, and, as with Mary Stuart, the memory of the regal magnificence at St. Germain-en-Laye, the felicitous

welcome at Leith, and the enthusiastic rejoicings at Edinburgh was obliterated by the overwhelming sorrows of Fotheringhay, so with Eugenie. The splendors of the Tuilleries, the adulations of the people and the admiration of Europe are forgotten in the shadows which the death of the Emperor and the massacre of the Prince Imperial have drawn around the exile home of Chiselhurst. We seek not to institute a parallel between these distinguished personages. Their lives are in many respects too dissimilar to permit such apposition. The state of society in which the one moved is so altered by the influence of events from that in which the other lived, that it were impossible by comparison to give full expression to the salient characteristics of these noble, but afflicted, women. The greatness of their misfortunes, and the intensity of their sorrows, will ever give them a name in history which the dazzling splendor of royal or imperial success could not confer.

The ex-Empress was ever esteemed, at home and abroad, for her own great personal worth. We doubt if she were ever so estimable as in the heroic resignation she has shown in her adversity. All her hopes have been rudely shattered—all the ties of affection which bound her to humanity have been remorselessly snapped in sunder. But she bears her misfortunes nobly. Even when no cloud darkened the horizon of her existence, her religious devotedness added a charm to her exalted character. But now, when nothing but religion could be her stay, we see her sustained by that heroic faith which seems indigenous to the soil of Catholic Spain. In this age of ingratitude, when rancor, hatred and unforgiveness rule supreme, it is gratifying to see such spontaneous outbursts of sympathy as those which from every court and capital in Europe have been conveyed to the sorrowing ex-Empress. The life of this noble woman, taken in all its phases, offers the sublimest example of devotedness, heroic resignation and fortitude presented by the age we live in, and is a lasting tribute to the ennobling influences of that religion which has purified humanity by exalting womanhood.

NIHILISM.

The Russian Nihilists have made another attempt on the life of the Czar. The audacity of these conspirators impresses us with the belief that they must be powerful in numbers and in strength of organization.

The Russian system of Government is such as to develop and strengthen conspiracies of that type. The Imperial court has never been free from conspiracies of a revolting character, and the peculation universally practiced by Russian officials demonstrates the utter absence of good faith in the public life of the Empire.

Absolutism may in many regards be a strong system of Government, but with a nation growing in intelligence, knowing its wants, and seeing what it thinks the best means to remedy its grievances, it brings the advocates of absolutism into contempt, and the whole system into opposition to public opinion. The Russian Government cannot in its troubles expect any large measure of sympathy from the other nations of Europe. With the Imperial family, indeed, all must sympathize, for freedom can have no association with murder and treason.

With the system of Government itself, it is quite another thing. The Russian Government has in the course of the present age dishonored itself by a fierce and unrelenting persecution in Poland. It has shown no desire whatever to promote in any way the advancement of the masses of the people in any portion of the Empire. Whatever improvement has been made has been controlled by the Government with the view of perpetuating the very system upon which it is itself based.

That improvement has evidently been utilized by the Socialists, or, as they are termed in Russia, Nihilists, to promote the growth and advancement of their own ends.

To attempt repression of Nihilism

by a few arrests or executions must end in absolute failure.

What is needed in Russia is a broad-minded spirit of reform and liberality. That statesman who relieves the church from persecution will certainly deliver the masses from oppression and deserve distinction higher, and honor more lasting, than that awarded by a grateful posterity to Peter the Great.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

It is an old and time-honored custom at this festive season to present some little gift to those we love, and though our friends, the grocers of London have determined, and wisely so, to discontinue it, still their action is not likely to effect any great change in others on this point, and hence a word of advice may not be out of season. Very frequently the gifts selected are of very little practical benefit to those receiving them, being often some ornament or other the possession of which will not be conducive either to the moral or material advantage of the recipient. In the selecting of Christmas presents, due regard should be held of the amount of good to come from the presentation, and our selection should be made not only with a view of testifying our esteem for the object of our bounty, but also of forwarding his interests. To our Catholic families nothing will bring more lasting benefits than the possession of good Catholic literature. It is true that we have many very excellent Catholic literary works, but then it is also a fact that they are generally read but by one or two members of the family, and then "laid on the table."

These books are, many of them, expensive, and a great number of our people are unable to obtain them, but there is a means of furnishing good Catholic reading to the members of our families, and at the same time of conforming to this old custom of bestowing Christmas gifts. No father could make a more fitting Christmas present to his family than to furnish it with a good Catholic paper. It is not a gift that will be thrown aside in a little while, but will come every week, fresh and wholesome, to furnish the members of the family with that information which will enable them to keep pace with the times, and at the same time will be perfectly free from anything that can taint their faith or morals. How much more in keeping with this Christmas festival would this gift be than the trinkets on which many foolishly spend their money.

FRANCE AND ENGLAND.

An incident which occurred recently in the French Chamber of Deputies might be studied with advantage by some of our English statesmen. For some time past the trade of France has been suffering, and the depression has kept on increasing, until many find themselves, through want of employment, in absolute distress. In this trying want the legislators of France are neither idle nor silent, but with that paternal care of the subjects for which this country is remarkable hasten to the relief of the suffering. A motion was made by the Minister of the Interior that five millions of francs be voted for the purpose of assisting those in need. Nor did he stop at this, but in the course of his remarks said that if this sum proved insufficient, the Government would not hesitate to ask for a further grant. On his motion being put to the chamber, it was carried by an overwhelming majority, the vote standing 524 to 3.

How differently do they do things on the other side of the channel! There a considerable portion of the United Kingdom is threatened with starvation, and urged by the prospect of the ruin that stares them in the face, they have raised their voices to protest against such a state of affairs. We do not find British statesmen proposing any means of alleviating the suffering of the unfortunate. From the premier down to the veriest hanger-on of the Government skirts, all pool pooh the misery that weighs upon the Irish portion of her majesty's kingdom, and instead of undertaking something to bring the people help, we find them increasing the number of military forces, and imposing fresh

burthens on the country. Evidently starvation, in the eyes of many of them, is good enough for the Irish, whilst the eminently charitable would suggest the breaking up of Irish homes, and the inception of a new colony in Zululand.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

POPE LEO the XIII. has conferred upon Dr. Ward, of the *Dublin Review*, the *Commanda* of the order of St. Gregory the Great, for his services as a Catholic journalist.

It really seems that every "Romish priest" who has soiled his clerical vesture, is yet clean enough to be an edifying Methodist. We say it sadly and wonderingly, not harshly.—*Pilot*.

THE Duchess of Marlborough has written to the *Times* appealing to England for funds towards the relief of the distress in the west of Ireland. The *Times* warmly supports the appeal.

IN BOSTON a committee appointed to investigate and report in regard to the present status of the Moody converts, reports that with very few exceptions, the converts have returned to their former ways.

ARCHBISHOP LYNCH arrived home Friday morning. He was met at the station by a numerous deputation of the clergy, leading laity of the diocese, and others, and was escorted by a torchlight procession to St. Michael's Cathedral, where appropriate services took place.

AT the close of the Plymouth prayer meeting Friday evening, Beecher, speaking of the American Bible Society, said: "For me, I won't give a dollar to a Society that prints a Bible notoriously false in some parts, and which the Society knows is false."

GREAT preparations are being made for the celebration of Christmas at Rome. It is rumored the Pope intends to appear on the grand balcony of St. Peter's, and give the benediction to the city and world, which has not been given since the capture of the city by the Italian forces.

PARNELL has sailed for America, having left Queenstown on the 20th instant. A deputation of tenant farmers, leading citizens and town commissioners, bade him God-speed. A large crowd assembled to witness his departure, and a band played a number of Irish airs.

THE regalia of an Orange Lodge was lately sold in Montreal for auction for the rent of a hall where their meetings were held. This is deplorable. The emblems of our civil and religious liberty sold by auction for non-payment of rent. But what's the use of keeping these things in stock, when they can't be worn on the street. It may, after all, be a stroke of business.

IN IRELAND it makes a vast amount of difference whom you strike. A man in Canada, or any where else, would be sentenced to about thirty days in jail for knocking down another individual. But in Ireland it is vastly different. The evicted tenant who a few weeks since assaulted his landlord, without inflicting any serious injury, has been sentenced to five years' penal servitude. We do not approve this man's conduct, but we cannot for the life of us see why the person of a landlord should be held in such high regard before the law. If it were another "mere Irishman" who was struck down, 2s 6d would in all probability satisfy the majesty of the British constitution in Ireland.

SOME funny reasons are given for divorce among our neighbors across the lines. In New York Catharine Burghman wishes to get a separation from her lord and master because he sometimes came home intoxicated, and threatened her life with a large stick. Gustav, in response, says he kept the stick beside him at meal times to frighten his mother-in-law, and protect himself against her propensity for throwing forks at his head. Some time ago we heard of a damsel who wished to be separated because her husband amused himself by squeezing her hand on a red-hot potato. What a convenient thing a divorce court is at times!

SIR STAFFORD NORTHCOTE delivered an address on the 20th at a great Conservative demonstration in Leeds. The Government, he said,

would take measures to alleviate the distress in Ireland without an uprising of the population. While taking care of the material prosperity of the Irish the Government would, above all, insist upon the maintenance of order, and would never coquette with any demand for Home Rule, which reasonable, responsible statesmen of all parties knew to be impossible. Sir Stafford might have approached the truth more closely had he said: "We will give a small measure of relief to them Irishmen when the state of the country and public opinion forces us to do so. We will give it sparingly and begrudgingly. We will take care of the material prosperity of the Irish with the same solicitude as we have that of the Zulus."

In an article in the *Christian Union*, on current literature, Mr. M. F. Sweetser speaks of the pernicious papers published for boys and girls. He says: "The most serious attack of unbeneficial literature is made upon the youth of the country, and its avenue of advance is through the flash newspaper and the low grade of cheap novels. The number of the former is legion, and their general uniform is illustrated by sensational head-lines and tawdry woodcuts. No fewer than twenty-five of these papers are published in New York alone, and it is estimated that they have three million readers every week. Many others are printed in other cities and count their added millions of readers. Besides the ordinary channels of the mails they are scattered broadcast through the country by the news companies, and their coarse illustrations are seen on every news stand and in the stationery shops of the remotest hamlets, amid the pastoral innocence of the hill-country and the prairies. There is no other agency which is so effectually leavening the nation, for the flash paper penetrates to solitudes where even the circuit-riding never appears, and far beyond the blue and white signs of the telegraph companies."

BONA FIDE PROFESSORS.—We are aware that Judge Booth and others connected with the Law School were sceptics and unbelievers in the Bible, and that some of the medical professors were in the same predicament; but we were not aware that the students in some of these schools amused the classes by mock prayers to God, and that they are wont to speak of the necessity of a law regulating and (of course) licensing abortion to prevent the too rapid increase of population, and the nuisance of tramps. Such things are now said by one and another to be done. A medical student informs us that mock prayers are no novelty in the college where he is matriculated; and a graduate from the Law School last June undertook to prove to us that the religion of Christ had not improved but injured the system of law and jurisprudence among men.—*Cynosure*.

We find this quotation from a Chicago paper in the New York *Witness*, which otherwise, so far as we know, does not protest against the iniquity of bringing up a people irreligiously, one of the fruits of which, as it might have inferred from this extract, is already perceptible here in the realization of the old curse, that those who administer the law shall be corrupt.—*Brooklyn Review*.

A PITTSBURGH dispatch, dated 22nd, says a pitched battle occurred in the First Reformed Presbyterian Church last night over the election of the Rev. Nevin Woodside as pastor. His opponents refusing to permit him to preach, and endeavoring to substitute another minister. The police were called in and succeeded in quieting the riot. Several arrests were made. The church this morning presents a sorry appearance. The pews are broken and remnants of gas globes strewn over the door. Hyon globes and Bibles are scattered in all directions, and a large quantity of hairpins and bangs have been gathered up. The utmost indignation prevails in church circles. The matter will be investigated by the Presbytery. The rival pastors were in the thickest of the fray.

SCHOLASTIC ANNUAL FOR 1880.—By J. A. LYONS. It is with genuine pleasure we hail this neat little annual. Without any doubt it is, both as regards literary merit and typographical workmanship, one of the very best we know of. From Prof. Lyon's well known ability we expected much and in past years were not disappointed. We are happy to add that his effort for 1880 is fully equal, if not superior, to anything he has hitherto given us. The astrollogical predictions are as *roy* as ever, whilst the different articles evince a high order of literary merit. The poetical selections, too, are choice and well-suited to the character of the little annual has already won for itself. The oration of Right Rev. Bishop Spalding, delivered at Notre Dame University in 1868, is one that is alone worth the price of the book, and we recommend it to our young men as a masterly composition, the perusal of which can do but be profitable to them. We extend our hearty congratulations to Prof. Lyon's on his eminent success.