

SOCIALISM.

Father Preedy on the Great Question of the Day

Rev. Morgan M. Sheedy, of Pittsburgh, delivered an important lecture at the Catholic Summer School, Plattsburgh, N. Y., on "Socialism and Socialists." He began by calling attention to the importance of the subject. He referred to the troubled condition of society both in the old world and the new; to the deep-seated feeling of dissatisfaction everywhere so prevalent with the existing order of things; men's minds are disturbed by the agitations and conflicts arising from our social conditions. Outbreaks and deeds of violence are of almost daily occurrence in the very heart of our civilization; a wave of unrest permeates society. Socialism is spreading. Socialist societies are established and Socialist organs propagate its teachings.

It is too soon to say what may come of this movement, but it would be folly to ignore it. Some years ago it was thought that Russia was protected from Socialism by her rural communes, and Germany by her lack of manufacturing industries. Events have shown how erroneous was this view. The people of the United States may possibly cherish a like error if they fancy themselves to possess a sure protection against Socialism in their practical character and habits of free and open discussion. It is a subject of living interest. Leo XIII. said it is the great question of our times, and so it is, for, the social aspect of modern thought lends color to the poetry, the art, the literature, the philosophy, the politics, and even the religion of the age. Socialism in one form or another is the chief factor in the forces that are silently transforming the old order; no student of contemporary events can fail to be interested in its origin and developments.

The speaker then defined socialism in its general sense, to be the attempt to better the condition of the less fortunate classes of society. It aims, he said, at making this earth that for so many is a stepmother, a true mother for all who bear the Laman form.

As there are various forms of socialism so there are different kinds of socialists. Among Christian socialists he reckoned the late Cardinal Manning and Cardinal Gibbons, who would reform society by inculcating in the minds of the rich and poor alike, obedience to the Gospel. When Leo XIII. issued his Encyclical on Labor he was styled by capitalists a socialist, but a type far removed from the author of "Progress and Poverty."

It is necessary first to notice the negative aspect or side of Socialism; and then to give some account of the positive or reconstructive movement, viz.: The new forms of society work which it seeks to replace the old; and the means it proposes to effect this reconstruction.

The evils in our industrial system against which socialism protests may be grouped under two heads: Individualism and capitalism—individualism had its origin in the last century in the teaching of an infidel school of French philosophers; it was the logical outcome of Rousseau's theory of the social contract. It was held by this school that man, apart from his own purposes and his own profit, owed no obligation to society, nor to any power higher than himself; his own interests were to be the standard and measure of his duty to others. The expression of this doctrine of selfishness as the basis of social life, when carried into the political world, found vent in the terrible revolution with which the last century closed.

Almost coincident with the practical application of the principles of individualism was the growth of capitalism. The inherent evils of the individualistic philosophy were intensified by the

evils of capitalism. Thus the social problem became still more complicated and still continues to the present time.

The speaker then reviewed the condition of the workmen during the past century in Europe and America.

He traced the revolt against capitalism, referring to the socialistic societies of France, Germany and England. He sketched the life of Karl Marx, the leader of modern socialism, and outlined his theory of surplus value of French socialists, explaining the theories as well as the methods of La Salle, who was the disciple of Marx.

In England the growth of socialism has been very rapid during the past century and is constantly increasing. It has its representatives even in the House of Commons.

In the United States we are far from being free from the presence of socialism even in its more dreaded form of anarchy. It is true that it is not native to our soil, but has been introduced within a comparatively short time by foreign agitators. Reference was made to the Haymarket affair in Chicago, the attempt upon the life of Mr. Frick, Mr. Carnegie's partner, of Pittsburgh, growing out of the labor troubles at Homestead. The lessons of socialism are taught to larger bodies of dissatisfied workmen during strikes and lockouts, which are of such frequent occurrence in this country.

Socialistic movements have taken on in the United States a political aspect. The Populist party advocates State socialism. It holds that the Government should take charge of the railroads, telegraph lines and mining lands, and provide warehouses for the storage of farm products, upon which the Government shall issue warehouse receipts to be used as currency. This teaching, the speaker insisted, must end in communism and anarchy. He asked where this movement will end, what it will achieve, and predicted that, no matter what might be the temporary success of the movement, it would not result in the permanent establishment of Socialism. The State ownership of land and capital would result in a tyranny far worse than the evils it would replace, and would inevitably provoke a revolution. At the same time there can be little doubt that the growth of Socialistic ideas will introduce into our existing industrial system profound changes and modifications. It is equally probable that it will introduce a change in politics. It will give social questions precedence over those that are merely political. It will likely abolish present party distinctions and divide politicians rather according to the social interests they represent than according to the principles which have hitherto divided them in the scramble for office.

The speaker then asked what part the Church is going to take in these movements, and how can she exert her influence for good in these troublous times.

The answer is, she can guide the movement to ends of holiness and peace, as she has done in great crises in the past. From his frequent utterances on this subject, it is evidently the wish of Leo XIII. that the Church should set herself to improve and educate the masses, and thus aid in bringing about a peaceful solution of the social problem. This work is being done in Germany by Catholic associations modeled after the ancient guilds. These associations have grown strong and powerful and are the mainstay of conservatism in Germany. The speaker then urged the students of the Catholic Summer School to become familiar with the facts and forces at work in our present industrial system; to learn the nature and aims of contemporary Socialism, so that they may aid in making the transition from the old

order to the new tranquil and beneficent.

He concluded by saying that the Catholic Church, which has redressed the evils of society in the past, has still the power to redress present evils; that there is no misery that the great mother of Christendom will not move heaven and earth to take away.

Archbishop Satolli's Letter.

Bishop Watterson, of Columbus, Ohio, has furnished for publication the letter of Archbishop Satolli, the Papal Delegate, upholding the Bishop's action in suspending every Catholic society in the diocese that has a liquor-dealer or saloon keeper at its head or among its officers until it had ceased to be so officered, and in giving notice that no one would be admitted to membership in such society who is engaged, either as principal or agent, in the manufacture and sale of liquor. The letter is as follows:

WASHINGTON, July 3, 1894.

DEAR SIR—I answer your letter, which, together with the document enclosed therein (the Bishop's letter), you handed me during my stay in Columbus.

As far as the general principle is concerned you should know that as it belongs to the office of a Bishop to observe in his own diocese what is hurtful or helpful to the spiritual good of the faithful, so it belongs to his power to command, prohibit, counsel or permit to be done or removed whatever he judges to contribute to the discharge of his own duty and to the good of the faithful.

The letter or decree of the Right Reverend Bishop of Columbus concerning Catholic societies and the abstinence to be observed from intoxicating liquors ought by no means to be subjected to the judgment of every private individual or every association of simple Catholics or citizens, but every Catholic in good conscience must hold for certain that the Bishop has commanded these things which seem to be for the greatest good of the faithful and the honor of every Catholic society.

Those three things which are expressed in the letter of the Bishop have the approval not only of Catholics, but of non-Catholics of your city because they are not only in harmony with the laws of the Church, but they are also reasonable and necessary to the honor of the Church, especially in the State of Ohio.

Therefore, these things which the Bishop has commanded in his diocese I approve, and I decide that they are to be observed, but if perhaps they for the time being seem to hurt the material interests of some this will have to be patiently borne for the good of the many and the honor of our Holy Catholic Church.

Remain, therefore, of good will and obey faithfully what the Right Reverend Bishop has decreed, confident that Divine Providence rewards the spirit of obedience, not only in the future, but also in the present life. Farewell in the Lord.

FRANCIS ARCHBISHOP SATOLLI,
Apostolic Delegate.

Vaseline is a substance introduced as a substitute for vaseline. According to an analysis by Villon, it is a solution of stearone and margarone in neutral mineral oil. Stearone is prepared by distilling stearine with lime. Margarone is prepared in a similar way from beef suet. Vaseline consists of 15 parts of margarone and five of stearone in 100 of thoroughly purified and odorless mineral oil. The fatty product obtained, after cooling, resembles vaseline, but is not transparent. It is white, odorless, neutral, and not affected by acids or chemical reagents.

Agents Wanted

To canvass for THE CATHOLIC REGISTER. A liberal commission allowed. Write for particulars.

Mr. Gladstone Declines.

The Grand Old Man has sent the following reply to the recent invitation of 100 representative Americans to the ex-Premier to visit the United States.

DON'TS Hill, July 30, 1894.

GENTLEMEN—I am alike impressed with the gratifying nature of the invitation you have been good enough to address to me, and with the form, alike flattering and considerate, in which it has been conveyed. While I am sensible of strong reasons which would make a visit to your great country an object of just and warm desire, I have for some time felt that my advancing years have placed an obstacle in its way, such as I could hardly hope to surmount. Undoubtedly your letter has supplied the strongest motives for an attempt to brave the impossible, but I regret to say that it reaches me at a time when, even if I were much younger, it could not induce me to consider this question. The surgical treatment of my eye for cataract, which began recently with the usual operation, will not be concluded for nearly two months, and until that treatment shall have reached its conclusion—in about that time, I hope—I will not be able to look with confidence to a date for the restoration of practical and useful vision. Under these circumstances, however sanguine as to the eventual issue I may feel, I am incapacitated from the contraction of prospective engagements, and I am sure that you, and the many distinguished gentlemen who joined you, will feel with me that this is the only reply I can make to your proposal. I beg you to accept and convey to them the assurance of my grateful thanks and unalterable interest in your country.

Believe me, most faithfully yours,

W. E. GLADSTONE.

To the American Invitation Committee.

Repudiating the A. P. A.

Although the A. P. A. has been affiliated with the Republican party in many States and cities, not every Republican politician claps hands with the A. P. A., says the Cincinnati Catholic Telegraph.

The Hon. Thomas B. Reed, ex-Speaker of the House of Representatives, leader of the Republicans in the lower branch of Congress and candidate for the next Republican nomination for the Presidency, frankly repudiates the Know Nothing conspirators. He said a few days ago on the floor of the National Capitol.

"The charge has been frequently made of late that Republican successes here and there through the country are largely due to what is known as the A. P. A. influence, as if this too intolerant, secret, and oath bound organization were naturally in affiliation with Republican principles. Now, sir, as a Republican of the straightest act, I utterly repudiate any such insinuation, and speaking for myself, I would a thousand times rather go down in honored defeat with the unallied flag of the Grand Old Party waving over me than to victory obtained by any such aid. And the man who rests his political hopes on this foreign-born, un-American league is foredoomed to disaster, dishonor and defeat."

The New York State Commissioners of Fisheries this year hatched and planted nearly 135,000,000 fry of different food fishes, as against 82,000,000 last year.

DYSPEPSIA AND INDIGESTION. - C. W. Snow & Co., Syracuse, N. Y., write: "Please send us ten gross of Pills. We are selling more of Parmelee's Pills than any other Pills we keep. They have a great reputation for the cure of Dyspepsia and Liver Complaint." Mr. Chas. A. Smith, Lindsay, writes: "Parmelee's Pills are an excellent medicine. My sister has been troubled with severe headache, but these pills have cured her."