

The Catholic Record

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LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION. Ottawa, June 15th, 1906. To the Editor of the Catholic Record, London, Ont.

My Dear Sir:—Since coming to Canada I have been a reader of your paper. I have spent with satisfaction the time directed with intelligence and ability, and above all, that it is imbued with a strong Catholic spirit.

LONDON, SATURDAY, SEPT. 29, 1906.

MORMONISM IN CANADA.

The North West Mounted Police have ferreted out a number of Mormons who are living in Polygamy in defiance of the Canadian law...

We heartily approve of all legal measures which the North West Police may take to keep out of Canada this fantastic religion which is making such strenuous efforts to plant itself on Canadian soil...

Among the facts which indicate a serious danger, it is stated that a Utah Mormon came recently to Cardston, Alberta, with one of his wives, leaving another well provided for in the United States...

Other instances of a similar nature have been discovered by the police, and many Mormons have left the country in a hurry. It is also very significant that the village of Taylorville, Alberta, is named after J. I. Taylor, who was a chief of the Mormons in Canada...

THE FRENCH LAW OF ASSOCIATIONS.

The French Bishops received a few days ago, from the Holy Father, Pope Pius X., an answer approving of the resolutions passed by them early last month...

There was some ill defined hope at one time at the Vatican that the ecclesiastical boards appointed under the law might possibly be endured so as to make the Church affairs workable under them without bringing up a protracted conflict between Church and State.

The Holy Father declared in his letter to the Bishops that such associations of Church wardens as the law authorizes cannot be formed consistently with proper Church Government...

THE CHURCH AND THE VERNACULAR.

The Church is the treasury in which God has deposited His revealed truth, and she has always claimed the right to preserve, determine and interpret that revealed truth, whether written or unwritten.

THE POPE AND THE FRENCH ATHLETES.

By a despatch from Rome of September 9th, we learn that the Holy Father Pope Pius X. received in audience eight hundred members of the French Catholic Gymnastic Federation.

The Holy Father expressed himself as highly pleased with the athletic exercises and repeatedly expressed his enjoyment by clapping his hands enthusiastically. He was much affected when the flags of the athletes were lowered in salute, and the gymnasts cheered.

In a military campaign every outwork or bastion taken is so much acquired toward the capture of the enemy's fortifications, and the benevolence and affection shown by the Pope for the eight hundred well educated Frenchmen who exhibited their gymnastic skill before him, and received his applause, will be appreciated, not only by the members of the Gymnastic Federa-

tion, but by innumerable friends and acquaintances of these young men who will to a man become friends and admirers of the condescending Father of the Faithful...

Perhaps we should call this encounter the second or even the third defeat of the French Government since its quarrel with the Pope. One other defeat occurred in the prohibition it received from the United States courts to sell the celebrated Chartreuse liqueur...

Another snub to the French Government is that the protectorate of the Christians of the East has been partially, at all events, taken out of the hands of France. Already in Turkey and China, the German and Italian Governments have taken up the care of the religious orders of their own nationalities without the intervention of France...

DIVORCES IN MICHIGAN.

Judge Donovan of Detroit has been recently interviewed by a representative of the Free Press of that city on the subject of the ever increasing number of divorce cases which come up before the divorce court of Wayne Co.

It is probably owing in part to the proximity of a Canadian port which is on two of the principal railways of Canada that Detroit and Wayne Co. have so large a record of divorces, which puts Michigan among the States noted for the great number of their divorces...

Judge Donovan declared to his interviewer that he hates divorces, and we must therefore take it as much against his will that he gives so many divorce decrees. We must presume that he merely decrees according to the provisions of the law in such cases authorizing separation of husband and wife, without touching the question of the Christian sacrament which cannot be dissolved, for what God hath joined together no man and no human law can put asunder.

Judge Donovan states that the latest fashion in divorces is quite a radical change from what was in vogue when he began hearing such cases ten or twelve years ago. Then there were from two to three cases each term in chancery. Now the term comes twice a year with short vacations. The term extends ninety days, which means about twenty four half divorce days each year. Three out of four cases are granted, some on scriptural grounds, some for drunkenness, cruelty or non-support.

We are not surprised at this disclosure, for there is no crime which so surely destroys in its perpetrator all feelings of humanity and care for duty than this most disgusting of crimes. The marriages for which divorce decrees are given are those which are most recklessly entered into. The Judge says: "A woman meets a stranger, and they go to Canada, get married, and remain in the married state a short time. Then suddenly the man goes away and forgets to send for his wife. Each party to the solemn contract has made promises and breaks them without the least scruple."

The civilized savages of the North American continent and of the Indies prostrate themselves before thy altars. Aye! some of them offer the Holy Sacrifice thereon; and they can see the palace of the Caesars and the temples of the gods in ruins, the relics of the greatness and grandeur of pagan Rome.

On this view of the subject we will again quote Judge Donovan: "But the good old-fashioned marriages will stand the test like well built houses or carriages; but machine-made work of the cheaper grade is not lasting. The moral tone must be low when husband and wife can meet each other in court the second year after their marriage, and tell vile stories of each other. Couples should not be divorced on such showing—both to blame."

In fine, Judge Donovan says: "I think that less alimony would lessen divorces, but I doubt if the evil is on the decrease. Even though a fair hearing in every case, which all judges is given, yet a tame defence may defy the object of the most conscientious judge."

The formality of a ceremony is needed, then, to make the marriage more sacred in the estimation of the contracting parties! And what new sacredness would such a formality give to the contract? If there is a mere ceremony needed to give an empty promise validity and to create respect for it, that is only an evidence that common sense is lacking in the parties

A NOBLE EXAMPLE.

A press despatch from Hamilton advises us that the will of the late Mrs. Kantz Perry was entered for probate by W. G. E. Boyd and the Toronto General Trust Company. It is valued at \$260,000, of which \$194,928 is cash in banks. To Gideon Perry, the husband, is left the income of \$60,000 during his life. At his death the money is to be divided between John and Mabel Barry, nephew and niece. These two also get the income on \$120,000 more till their death. Her two sisters, Mrs. Fahey and Mrs. Cox, get the income of \$40,000, and Gustave Kantz, Waterloo, brother of the brewer, who left her the money, gets \$20,000 outright. St. Joseph's Orphanage gets \$10,000 and \$20,000 to St. Joseph's Hospital to build a wing. The sum of \$300 is left for 300 masses for her and her husband, and \$200 is left for the church for the keeping of her grave green. In the event of the death of the nephew or niece, the sums of \$60,000 are to go to the Bishop of Hamilton for the use of the Sisters of St. Joseph and St. Mary's Orphanage Asylum. Gideon Perry, the husband, is at present in a retreat in Guelph in very poor health.

We draw special attention to the terms of this will because the deceased lady wisely remembered the claims of God and His Holy Church and institutions of benevolence existing under its fostering care. Sad to relate, the number of Catholics who remember God in their wills is not as large as it should be. True, wealthy Catholics are not numerous, but there is a goodly number of what might be termed the well to do. Many of them leave small bequests to the Church for one purpose or another, but the amount thus left, and the sums donated for other purposes, are altogether out of proportion. This is a matter well worthy serious consideration. Many Catholics who preen themselves upon being thoroughly orthodox, who live good lives and who take great pride in being members of the One Holy Catholic Church, in their wills exhibit a niggardliness that is simply shameful as compared with the generosity exhibited by men who are attached to even the most insignificant of the sects which have strayed from the true fold. The Catholic of means who in making his will does not give due consideration to the claims of religion and charity never possessed in all its beauty the true Catholic instinct.

WE ARE pleased to note that the Carey Stafford Co. of New Orleans, La., have produced a beautiful set of books entitled the "Apparitions and Shrines of Heaven's Bright Queen." In all respects these volumes will take rank amongst the most valued Catholic publications of the present day. The work has received the warm approval of the Archbishops and Bishops of the United States. It is in 4 volumes, purple cloth, top gilt, \$10.00. Royal edition de Luxe, full morocco, \$15.00.

It is asserted on good authority at the Vatican that the Pope has expressed his intention to hold a Consistory in November, when he will appoint several cardinals. Among these the name of Archbishop Falconcio, apostolic delegate at Washington, is mentioned. It is not believed that any American or English are included among intended cardinals.

A WORD ABOUT TALK.

Catholic Universe. Many people talk too much about other people. "Mind your own business" is an injunction that ought to be more generally heeded. A certain good old lady had an effective method of calling tattlers and talkers down. Having heard the terrible stories she would rise and get her hat and shawl and say: "Come let us go." "Go where?" "To see those parties who are doing those terrible things and warn them." "Oh! I won't go. I heard that, and it may not be as bad as reported." "Well we should give these parties a chance to defend themselves; let us go." "No, no, no, I may not be true at all and I am not going to let her know that I've been carrying this." "Well, my good woman," said the old lady "don't carry such things except to the party concerned." "The least said, soonest mended."

When her methods were known, few gossipers made ovals on the old lady. Boys flying kites haul in their white winged birds and do that way when you're flying words. Careful with fire. It's good advice, we know. Careful with words. It's ten times doubly so. Though unexpressed may sometimes fall back dead. But God Himself can't kill them when they're said.