

The True Witness

TESTIS IN CÆLO FIDELIS

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

VOL. XXXVI.—NO. 38.

MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 1886.

PRICE.—FIVE CENTS

MISSIONARIES AND MARTYRS.

Proposed Memorial Church to Their Honor at Penetanguishene.

FIRST MISSIONARIES TO THE HURON COUNTRY.

Incidents in the lives of Fathers de Brebeuf, Lallemand, Daniel and Davost.

BRIGHT PAGE IN CANADA'S HISTORY.

History of the Establishment of the Mission—The Steps Already Taken for Commemorating the Martyrdom and the Results Achieved—Progress of the Work.

The Indian Missions, which formerly existed in the country of the Hurons between the Georgian Bay and Lake Simcoe, will be ever memorable, as furnishing to the historian the material for one of the most thrilling pages of the early history of Canada; indeed, it may be safely asserted that nowhere on this Continent has Christian heroism shone with brighter lustre. An attempt to establish a mission among the Hurons was made in 1615 by the Recollet Father under Father LeClerc, with Brother Sayard, the historian. The mission was abandoned in 1622. It was only in 1634 that the mission was permanently established by the Jesuits, under Father De Brebeuf. In 1633 the Hurons, having come to Quebec, refused to take the missionaries with them to their country. But the following year, not however without much negotiating, haranguing, feasting, and giving of presents the Indians were gained over. The mission was accepted. De Brebeuf, Daniel, and Davost embarked with the savages in their canoes, and after a thousand dangers and difficulties, weary and worn with hunger and fatigue, having had to endure hardships and indignities from their new companions, they arrived one after the other at the Indian village of Ihonafria, on the shores of the Bay of Penetanguishene, an inlet of the Georgian Bay, on the 5th of August, 1634.

They received the hospitality of an Indian chief, and there on the shores of the inlet now known as Penetanguishene Bay, they established their first residence, erected with the help of the Indians their first mission-house and chapel, and founded the mission. The Huron mission, the pure and self-sacrificing lives of the missionaries, their sublime courage and devotion, and their heroic death at the hands of the enemies of Faith. All, however, were ready and worthy to die as martyrs, but foremost of this devoted band stand out two men distinguished by the variety and atrocity of the torments which preceded their death, John De Brebeuf and Gabriel Lallemand. Francis Parkman, in his *Journal of North America*; Dr. J. Gilmore, of New York; Emeron, in his history, the learned Sulpician, in *Canada*; the respected Abbé Ferland, of Quebec; the editor and writer of "Estuaire Canada"; in a word, all who have treated on it, have recorded their admiration and paid a due tribute of praise to that noble band of missionaries who never recoiled from a sacrifice, and who with a calm and unflinching constancy in the midst of continuous dangers had devoted themselves to Christianity as degraded and savage race. In the annals of humanity there is nothing that does greater honor to man. Well may it be known Canadian writer, Dr. W. H. Withrow, in a review of the "Relations des Jesuites," in the *Canadian Monthly*, call them blessed and intrepid spirits, and conclude his article by these noble words:—"Through the efforts of the missionaries multitudes of degraded savages were reclaimed from lives of utter barbarism and of pagan superstition and cruelty to the dignity of men and not infrequently to the piety of saints. He who reads the story of the self-denying lives and heroic deaths of these Jesuit Fathers, although of alien race and diverse belief, will not withhold the throbs and sympathy for their suffering and of exultation in their lofty courage and unflinching faith. The imperishable record of their pious labors, of their sublime daring, of their inexhaustible love of souls will be a perpetual inspiration to mankind." It was such men and others such as they that made Lord Elgin in one of his despatches to the Home Government, speaking of the early days of the colony, describe them as the

"HEROIC TIMES OF CANADA."

The memories of brave deeds, of sacrifice of self for the general good, instances of extraordinary endurance for some noble end, whilst they challenge the admiration of the patriotic and reflective man, afford wholesome teachings for all. They should not be allowed to perish and be effaced from the minds of men. It has been a subject of wondering, and even of reproach, that the memories of such men were so long buried in oblivion and left unremembered, and that amidst the scenes of the Huron mission no monument was erected to recall them to succeeding generations. Then lately strong desires were expressed that a fitting monument should be erected to commemorate the events of those heroic times. The present parish priest of Penetanguishene, sharing these sentiments, and receiving encouragement from many sources, has undertaken the work, the Archbishop of Toronto, in whose diocese the Huron district lies, having most willingly given his sanction to it. Having charge of the Penetanguishene Mission, Father Laboureaux is in a certain sense

the successor of these illustrious men. The banks of the Penetanguishene Bay have seen the birth of the mission. Since the dispersion of the Huron nation, Penetanguishene, having been the first settlement, the first post established in the former Huron country having been the seat of the first church and the residence of the first priest, who, for many years, used to attend the whole district from the Narrows of Lake Simcoe to Owen Sound, forms the connecting link between the past and the present. The old mission seems to have continued, or at least was first revived in Penetanguishene, which has thus become the heir and representative of the past, so that the traditions of those times are associated with the name and the place. Penetanguishene seems thus to be naturally marked for the glory and privilege of erecting the monument due to those men whose lives and deaths have made so bright the first page of the history of Upper Canada. It was then proposed to erect on the shores of the Georgian Bay at Penetanguishene, a memorial church as a fitting monument to those holy and noble men De Brebeuf, Lallemand and their companions, the early missionaries to that part of Canada, then the country of the Hurons, to recall and perpetuate their memory and the history of the missions.

The people of Penetanguishene and the civic authorities of the town are happy to encourage the Rev. Father who devotes his time and energy to that noble work. They justly think it not only an obligation but a privilege to do something to honor those men who have made their country illustrious. The Mayor, the Reeve, the Councillors have promised a generous and liberal aid to the work.

But to erect a monument worthy of the men to be honored, and of the events to be commemorated, could not be, and should not be a local affair. The memory and glory of those men is the property of the nation. Besides it would be beyond the ability of the residents of the locality. An appeal should be made to the people of the Dominion. But it was resolved first to appeal to the persons eminent in the Dominion, who by their office, their position, or reputation, naturally represent a people.

Father Laboureaux was then furnished with letters of recommendation from his ecclesiastical superior, His Grace the Archbishop of Toronto. The Mayor and Council of Penetanguishene placed in his hand a memorial to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, in which they showed the desire evinced on many sides to have a monument erected to the men who have been here.

FIRST NATIONAL GLORY OF THIS COUNTRY, and asked him kindly to endorse the undertaking, that it might be shown that it had the approval and sympathy of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province especially concerned in it.

His Honor, who has been of old connected with the County of Simcoe, the old Huron country, cordially endorsed the project, saying that "he trusted that the endeavors of the people of Penetanguishene to have erected a fitting memorial to sublime courage and devotion might meet with success," deeming it an honor to be the first to subscribe his name for a handsome sum on the subscription list. His Excellency the Governor General, Lord Lansdowne, considering the character of the project, felt himself justified to give his name and subscription.

The Lieutenant Governor of Quebec, the Hon. T. Robitaille, and his successor, the Hon. L. R. Masson, cordially approved of the work. The Catholic bishops of Ontario graciously and generously united with their venerable metropolitan in encouraging and subscribing to the memorial, as also did the Archbishop of Quebec and the bishops of the Province. Besides several of the clergy of the two Provinces have already extended their substantial sympathy and encouragement. Let it suffice to name some of the eminent persons of the Dominion and elsewhere who have kindly subscribed to the memorial church, giving thereby to the monument, as much as it is possible in our circumstances, a national character.—Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir Hector Langevin, and other Ministers of the Dominion; Hon. Edward Blake, Hon. W. Laurier, and other members of Parliament; the members of the Ontario Cabinet; Hon. W. Meredith and other members of the Provincial Legislature; members of the Quebec Ministry; the Mayor of Quebec; the Mayor of Montreal; Hon. P. J. O. Chauveau; Libbe Verrecom, Dr. J. C. Taché, of Ottawa; the venerable Dr. Scadding, of Toronto, and other distinguished persons. During a short visit to France and England made last summer by the Rev. Father Laboureaux, several distinguished persons honored his list of subscriptions, among others the Marquis of Lorne and the Princess Louise, Cardinal Manning, Sir Charles Tupper, the Archbishop of Rouen and the Bishops of Normandy, the country of Father De Brebeuf, L. P. Morton, U. S. Ambassador to France, members of the French Academy, Senators, and other distinguished persons.

PROGRESS OF THE WORK.

The site chosen and purchased for the memorial church is most beautifully situated in a commanding position, overlooking the picturesque bay and the whole scene of the birthplace of the Huron mission. On the occasion of a late visit of His Grace, the Archbishop of Toronto, to Penetanguishene, ground was broken and the first sod cut from the site. Building material has been brought to the place, excavations have been made, and it is intended to commence the work in the course of May. An committee has been formed with Archbishop Lynch as Honorary President and Father Laboureaux as Secretary-Treasurer. Subscription lists have been opened, the people of Penetanguishene and the parish have been canvassed and a sum of \$7,000 or \$8,000 has been subscribed. The Rev. Father has paid a short visit to the principal cities to be able to see personally the dignitaries of the Dominion; and it will be impossible for him to make a general personal canvass. He intends to use the press and the post to appeal for assistance. The character of the undertaking, the object

to be commemorated, will, it is hoped, enlist the general sympathy of the people of Canada and will prompt them to have some share in the erection and completion of the monument destined to perpetuate the memory of brave, holy, and noble men, and to recall most wholesome teachings to succeeding generations.

Subscriptions may be sent to Rev. H. F. Laboureaux, Penetanguishene, Ont., or deposited to his credit at the Imperial Bank, Toronto.

PLAN OF MEMORIAL CHURCH.

When in France the Rev. Father Laboureaux remained a few days in Caen, one of the chief cities of Normandy, in the neighborhood of the birthplace of Father De Brebeuf. Caen, owing to the particular kind of stone found there, is a great centre for sculptors and architects. Father Laboureaux became acquainted with a distinguished architect of the Old Norman city, who prepared plans for the memorial church. These plans have been adopted. They had, however, to be slightly modified, and to be adapted to actual requirements. These modifications were made by Messrs. Kennedy and Holland, of Toronto and Barrie, under whose supervision they will be carried out to completion. The style of architecture adopted is the late Romanesque; the walls will be built from local stone, "red faced," and all trimmings, moldings, carving, or statuary will be executed in Credit Valley stone. Two transepts on the sides of the church will be used as chapels, and are intended to contain the commemorative monuments.

ROMANISM IN QUEBEC.

The following letter was addressed to the Mail in answer to Principal MacVicar:—

To the Editor of the Mail:

Sir,—I have read with pain the report in your issue of this morning of a lecture delivered last evening by Rev. Principal MacVicar, under the above caption. That portion of the lecture which deals with the status of the Roman Catholic Church in Quebec I will leave to the people of that province to deal with; they have never yet failed to give an account of themselves when the occasion demanded it. But there is one portion of it which did directly strike the Catholic, no matter where his lot may be cast. Against a calumny conceived by bigotry and ignorance I must enter a firm protest, and I doubt not that others will raise their pens to do likewise. The statement to which I take exception is:—"When the priests go to the lumber shanties they take tobacco with them, and literally smoke the peace pipe, when they produce the dice box, and after procuring all the ten cent pieces they can for a throw, the confessional is set up and a fee of \$1 each is charged."

I assume you have reported the lecturer correctly. The inference to be plainly drawn from this statement is, that a portion of the clergy of Quebec not only encourage their flock to commit sin, but actually furnish the occasions and means to do so, and afterwards urge them to resort for pardon to the confessional, for which a fee is paid, which goes to enrich the coffers of the aforesaid priests; and further, that the clergy do not bring the dice box, etc., once, but are accustomed to do so every time the shanties are visited by them. What a wonderful example of clerical enterprise! and what a beautiful missionary tale, fit to adorn the delectable Sunday school literature with which the infant mind of the Presbyterian child is regaled. Truly the mantle of Chimquay has fallen upon the Rev. Principal MacVicar, an honor which I imagine the latter will not covet. Against this villainous slander of the Catholic priesthood I indignantly protest, for if a portion of the clergy is slandered the whole must naturally suffer. But the Rev. gentleman has gone too far; he has oversteered his mark and has attached sufficient importance to the intelligence of his auditors. If he will slander the Church he must make his slanders more probable. The Rev. gentleman is principal of a Presbyterian college in Montreal, and comes with all the flourish of scholarly attainments, but I will tell him plainly that, when he speaks of the Roman Catholic Church, he displays his ignorance. Any Catholic child of the age of ten years will refute his assertion, that the sacrament of penance (the confession of sin) is dispensed for a monetary consideration. I challenge the lecturer to mention one instance, with particulars, where such an event occurred. As it, in his opinion, happens frequently, he can surely give the facts connected with a single case. I must also ask for the evidence upon which he bases his conclusion.

The extent to which minds will be carried in their opposition to the Church is astonishing. Only recently a letter attributed to Cardinal Manning appeared in the *Mail*. The letter decried no person in the slightest degree acquainted with the sentiments of his Eminence. In this city, a short time ago, a minister of a prominent church made remarkable statements in his pulpit with reference to the extent of illegitimacy in Rome and European Roman Catholic countries. When consulted with the true state of facts and called upon for his authority, it turned out to be that of a speech reported to have been delivered in the House of Commons at Ottawa by an ordinary M.P. It is time to say to these clerical contortionists, "Stop, there is a limit to gullibility!"

I learned from your report that the lecture attracted only a fair audience. Diatribes against the Church no longer possess the magnetic power to draw which they once did. It is a sad commentary upon Christian feeling, that none of the lecturer's Presbyterian listeners deemed it worthy of them to protest against utterances which must have violated their intelligence.

CATHOLIC LAYMAN.

Hamilton, April 16.

At a recent Austrian court reception, some of the titled ladies wore trains twenty feet long to their dresses.

DECREE

BEATIFICATION AND CANONIZATION OF THE VENERABLE SERVANT OF GOD, CLEMENT MARIA BARTOLINI, PROFESSOR, FOUNDER OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE MOST HOLY REDEMPTOR, AND SIGNAL PROPAGATOR OF THAT CONGREGATION.

[We have before us the broad sheet from the Propaganda Press at Rome, containing the heading of which the above is a verbatim translation. It gives us exceeding pleasure to give a translation of the decree, the more as it respects the Blessed Clement Maria, through whom it pleased God to extend the Congregation founded in Italy by St. Alphonsus, not only into Austria, Bavaria and other German States, into Belgium and Holland, but into the United States, where it exists already in two distinct Provinces, and into England, Ireland, into France, into Canada, both East and West, and into the West India Islands, and South America. We give here following Freeman's Journal translation.]

ON THE QUESTION, if it be established that there have been miracles, and of what kind, in this Cause, and what is thereby accomplished?

Faithful and prudent servant of God, the Venerable Clement Maria happily completed, as "a workman that need not be ashamed, and a good steward of the manifold grace of God," [11. Tim. 2. L. Peter 4.] the charge he had received of working in the field of the heavenly Husbandry. He spread through the northern parts of Europe and caused to grow into a great tree, the Congregation that had been planted as a little seed in Italy, to the glory of the Most Holy Redeemer, and for the salvation of souls, by its most holy Founder, Alphonsus de Liguori. Vienna in Austria was the principal theatre of his works during the last twelve years of his life, where an impious false philosophy and anti Catholic sects had settled as it were for a centre of their wider ruls. These evils this Apostolic man, with a few chosen associates, undertook to heal. There, with a joyful success he combated for the pure Roman faith, that was despised and almost prostrate; he raised it up, converting to her motherly bosom very many who had been her enemies. This he accomplished, aided by the patience of the Divine Word, by the exceeding patience of his labors, and that precious softness of faith, in which he used to glory in those words:—"I am proud; I am vain; I have learned nothing; but one thing I have,—I am out and out a Catholic." Assured with such merits, he fell asleep in the embrace of the Lord, nearly seventy years old, on the 15th of March, in the 20th year of this century.

The Sovereign Pontiff Pius IX., of happy memory, on the 14th of May, 1876, declared his virtue heroic. A short time intervening, three times a diligent and accurate examination into the shown miracles was instituted, according to the Canonical Constitutions of the Congregation of Sacred Rites. The first was in the Ante-Preparatory Meeting, on the last day of August, 1880,—His Eminence Cardinal Aloisius Billi Rector of the Cause. The next was in the Preparatory Meeting of the Cardinals of the Congregation of Sacred Rites, in the Apostolic Palace of the Vatican, on the eleventh of February, 1884; and at length in the General Meeting held in the same Vatican Palace, before our Most Holy Lord, Pope Leo XIII., on the sixteenth of July, 1885, wherein Cardinal Dominio Bartolini, Cardinal Billi having deceased,—appeared as R. Rector of the Cause, on the Question proposed, whether the miracles related were proved,—and what was thereby settled,—the Cardinals, one by one, and the Rev. Consultors also gave their suffrages. After hearing these the Holy Father delayed uttering his final sentence, that in the meantime, in a judgment of so great weight, heavenly counsel might be implored.

But on the occurrence of this Septuagesima Sunday (Feb. 21, 1886), our Most Holy Lord having yesterday begun with great joy to the Church the ninth year of his most happy Pontificate, after the offering of the Most Holy Sacrifice, called to him, in his Pontifical Hall of the Vatican, the Most Rev. Cardinal Dominio Bartolini, Prefect of the Congregation of Sacred Rites, and Rector of the Cause, together with the Rev. Father Augustino Capara, Promoter of the Faith, and me, the undersigned, Secretary, and they assisting, in due form (the Holy Father) decreed that proof was perfected in regard to two miracles wrought by God through the intercession of the Venerable Clement Maria Hofbauer, viz: of the first, "The instantaneous and perfect cure of the girl Agnes Faith, affected with scrofulous oozing (hip disease) with imminent spontaneous dislocation of the left thigh; and of the other: the instantaneous and perfect cure of Mary Hoffman, suffering from crural hernia with sinistrous strangulation, attended by deadly symptoms."

This Decree was commanded to be given to the public, and to be put among the Acts of the Congregation of Sacred Rites, on the ninth day of March, 1886, by

L. S. D. CARDINAL BARTOLINI, S. R. C. Prefect. LAURENCE SALVATI, Secretary.

RESULTS OF THE ELECTIONS IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

St. JOHN, N.B., April 26.—The election of members of the House of Assembly to-day resulted in the retention of the Blair Government in power. The new house will stand about 29 to 13. In St. John city and county the five old members were re-elected, together with a Government supporter in place of McLeod, Opposition. In Gloucester Hon. P. G. Ryan, Government, and Young, Opposition, were elected. In McNamara Government, being defeated. In Northumberland the Opposition four were elected, Hon. K. F. Gillespie, a member of the Government, and Birchill, a supporter of it, being de-

feated. In Kent, Leblanc and Whaten, Government, were re-elected. In Westmorland, K. Lam, Government, was re-elected; three Oppositionists were returned as his colleagues. In Kings the Government ticket, Pingley, Taylor and White, were elected. In Charlotte, Surveyor General Mitchell and three supporters, Hibbard, Douglas and Russell, were elected, ex-Speaker Lynot being defeated. In Carleton, Ketchum and Atkinson, Government, were elected. In Queens, Hetherington and Palmer, both Government, were re-elected. In Sanbury, Glacov and Harrison, were elected. The Government gain for one seat. In York the whole Government ticket, Blair, Wilson, Ballamy and Moore, were elected, the Opposition losing two men, including the leader, Wetmore. In Madawaska, Theriault, Government, succeeds Nadeau, Government. Albert and Madawaska are still uncertain.

MISSION AT ST. JEAN CHRYSOSTOME, P.Q.

Through the kindness, zeal and invitation of our worthy pastor, Rev. A. R. W. Sears, P.P., the Rev. Messrs. Goets and Caron, Redemptorist Fathers, of St. Ann's parish of Montreal, were invited to conduct a mission in the parish. The indefatigable efforts and labors of the Reverend Fathers for our spiritual benefit has won for themselves an esteem that will never be blotted out partially in the hearts of our countrymen. The devotedness and piety of the congregation reflects much credit on our beloved pastor, who works so laboriously for our spiritual welfare. Notwithstanding the bad state of the roads, the parishioners turned out in masses. Old age as well as youth was seen to approach the Holy Table and partake of the Sacred Banquet at intervals. At General Communion fully 900 communicants approached and received Holy Communion. The sermon preached by the Rev. Father was both impressive and instructive. The out of consecration to the Blessed Virgin, the Pious Benediction, blessing of beads, scapulars, pictures, etc., etc., conducted greatly to our spiritual happiness. To reciprocate the friendly feelings that exist between pastor and parishioner, a also to manifest good will and thanks to the Missionaries for their kindness and labor amongst us, the Irish portion of the congregation presented them with a small tribute, as a testimonial of regard and gratitude; and the subjoined address:—

J. M. J.

To the Reverend Messrs. GOETS and CARON, Redemptorist Fathers:

VERY KIND, REVEREND AND RESPECTED FATHERS,—Permit me, in behalf of my countrymen, the Irish portion of the congregation of the Parish of St. Jean Chrysostome, to approach and thank you for your untiring efforts for our spiritual benefit during the holy time of the Mission. The many examples given by you will long be remembered and will with the help of God never be effaced from memory. We hope our Divine Lord will long spare you health and strength and permit you to work in His vineyard. We trust you will sometime think of us during the Holy Sacrifice of Mass and in return will remember you in our humble prayers and ask our Divine Lord to grant us the pleasure of having you in our midst again and preach that word that we as Christians and lovers of the True Faith should make our standard forever. Please accept our little tribute as a slight testimonial of regard and gratitude. YOUR HUMBLE CHILDREN, THE IRISH OF ST. JEAN CHRYSOSTOME, P.Q.

ST. FRANCIS SEMINARY, ST. FRANCIS, WIS.

To the Editor of THE POST and TRUE WITNESS.

Sir,—Orders were conferred upon the following gentlemen on the 10th and 11th successively. Archbishop Heiss, celebrant; Very Rev. August Juinger and Rev. J. Rainey, assistants. The following received Tonsure and Minor Orders:—Mr. E. J. Backwell, Mr. J. Croke, Mr. H. J. Dreiss, Mr. M. J. Grottinger, Mr. G. Manger, Mr. P. Hoff-Itz, Mr. W. Fischery, Mr. R. Wall, Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Mr. E. J. Conely, Mr. P. Connelly, Mr. P. H. McCabe, Mr. A. W. Stephen, Mr. T. Roastack, Mr. B. Richter, vicinity of Dakota. Mr. A. Press, Mr. J. Genrit, Mr. E. T. Goldsmith, Mr. J. Rittershoff, Mr. J. Zilla, Archdiocese of Chicago.

Mr. J. Barney, Mr. H. Flock, Mr. W. Grotz, Mr. J. Lunrey, Mr. C. Nau, Mr. J. Preucha, Diocese of Lacrosse. Mr. A. Happe, Mr. E. Lenkes, Mr. H. Wagner, Archdiocese of St. Louis. Mr. J. Koclowski, Mr. J. Stella, Mr. J. Weiss, Diocese of Grand Rapids. Mr. J. C. Reagan, Mr. E. Coolen, Diocese of Leavenworth. Mr. J. H. Freitz, Diocese of Scranton. Mr. J. Shanick, Diocese of Alton. Mr. A. Buckheit, Diocese of Fort Wayne. SUB DEACONSHIP AND DEACONSHIP. Rev. J. Kennedy, Mr. Schoelch, B. Connelly, A. W. Garr, Diocese of Lacrosse. Rev. R. J. Smith, J. Kessler, Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Rev. J. Klein, J. H. Thien, Archdiocese of St. Louis. Rev. H. Brooks, J. D. Eitmar, J. Bay, H. Rorer, Archdiocese of Chicago. Rev. H. Sholtz, Diocese of Omaha. Rev. H. W. Jennings, M. F. Harrigan, Diocese of Leavenworth. Rev. B. J. Heus, W. D. Vorack, Vicar of Dakota. Rev. H. Koerig, Diocese of Detroit (sub-deaconship only). Rev. J. Zock, Diocese of Lacrosse (receiving sub-deaconship only). Rev. J. Gillan, Rev. H. Schmelton, diocese of Alton. Rev. F. Feekes, receiving sub-deaconship only, diocese of Alton. Rev. W. Vankoommiller, Rev. A. Browns receiving sub-deaconship only, diocese of Green Bay.

At the close of the exercises the Most Rev. Archbishop Heiss made a few appropriate remarks. J. H. B.

AMERICA AND AUSTRALIA.

GREETINGS OF THE TWO CONTINENTS TO THE CHURCH.

REPLY OF THE PRELATES OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE LETTER OF GREETING OF THE AUSTRALIAN BISHOPS.

MOST ILLUSTRIOUS AND REV. FATHERS—Your message of fraternal greeting was received by the episcopate of the United States not only with the deep respect due to its venerable authors, but also with that sense of gratitude and admiration which so precious a document is calculated to inspire in the hearts of your brethren in Christ.

It is most gratifying to us to be assured that, amid cares as weighty as they are incessant, your fellow-laborers in the United States have share in your thoughts and affections.

Your noble address recalls the letters of brotherly love exchanged in earliest times between Christian ages, and affords a living evidence of the unity of faith which binds the children of the Church of Australia to their brethren in America.

Though between us there rolls a vast ocean, ours is a common faith and a common heritage; though separated wide apart, we belong to the same mystical body, under the same visible head, drawing our spiritual life from the same divine heart of Jesus Christ.

Great is our joy, venerable Fathers, to learn of the steady advance which our holy religion has made in Australia since 1853, when the first vicar apostolic set foot upon your shores. The spectacle of a cardinal-archbishop, an archbishop, and sixteen bishops constituting your actual hierarchy, with the prospective increase in the near future of metropolitan and suffragan sees, affords evidence of the zeal and success which have marked your apostolic labors, and is ample earnest of the glorious future which awaits you. It is also eloquent of the untiring devotion of the clergy and laity, without whose hearty co-operation these results could not have been achieved.

We may refer with pardonable pride to the immense strides which the English-speaking Catholic world has made within the last three centuries. Four bishops only, whose mother-tongue was ours, sat in the Council of Trent; at the Council of the Vatican one hundred and twenty shared in the deliberations. At this moment they number one hundred and sixty, and we may, without rashness, venture the prediction that before the century closes they will exceed two hundred. Moreover, doctrinal and devotional works in English, which, fifty years ago, were scarce, indeed, are now to be found in almost every Catholic home. Our noble language, which, for three centuries, has served by voice and pen to spread abroad so much of religious truth, is now, thank God! the vehicle of truth to the nations; and as it is to-day the great medium of intercommunication in trade and commerce, so may it be more and more the channel for conveying the blessings and consolations of the Gospel to the hearts of men.

May Australia and America in holy emulation continue to widen the area of God's kingdom; may the progress of the true faith ever keep pace with material development; and surely we may have reason to take heart when we read the heroic and successful struggles of the pioneer bishops of both countries, who bowed in tears that we might reap in joy.

For this advancement of the cause of religion in both countries we are in no small measure indebted, under God, to the religious freedom which constitutes so noble a feature of our respective governments. They hold over us the vigils of their protection, without intruding into the sanctuary; and by leaving inviolate our spiritual prerogatives, enable us to fulfill our apostolic mission without fettering our apostolic liberty.

Permit us, Venerable Fathers, to express the hope that your Plenary Council just closed may, by God's grace, result in drawing you closer in the bonds of brotherhood, in promoting wholesome discipline, in quickening faith, and in infusing fresh sap and life into every branch and fibre of the Lord's vine planted in your beloved country.

Believe us to be your affectionate and devoted brethren in Christ, in the name of all the Fathers, and in his own name, JAMES GIBBONS, Archbishop of Baltimore.

BALTIMORE, FEAST OF ST. GREGORY THE GREAT, 1886.

BISMARCK SAID TO HAVE SURRENDERED

BERLIN, April 24.—Repor's have been current that Baron Von Schloezer, the Prussian representative at the Vatican, was in disguise, and it is learned from official sources that these rumors are untrue and that, on the contrary, the Baron is in high favor both with the Berlin Government and with the Vatican. Baron Von Schloezer arrived at Rome yesterday and had a prolonged interview with Cardinal Jacobini, the Papal secretary. He handed to the Cardinal the reply of Prussia to the latest note of the Vatican. It is stated positively that an agreement has been effected between Prussia and the church. There is no doubt that the object of Prince Bismarck in yielding to the demands of the Vatican is to gain the support of the Centre party in the carrying out of various schemes in the immediate future. The Centre is determined to remain a strong and united party, and to guard and defend the rights that have been won back from the right. Dr. Windthorst will, probably, soon relinquish the leadership of the Clerical party owing to his advanced age. The Liberalist Bismarck with having at last gone to Canossa. They predict that the spread of ultramontanism in Prussia will prove disastrous to civilization and to Congress. The Protestant newspapers violently denounce what they term the surrender to the Vatican.