

The Catholic Record

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LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION.

Mr. Thomas Coffey—Ottawa, June 13th, 1905. My Dear Sir—Since coming to Canada I have been a reader of your paper. I have noted with satisfaction that it is directed with intelligence and ability, and above all, that it is a truly Catholic paper.

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Edmonton. What caused this breaking up of the family end of the settlement? Not necessity in most cases, for there was plenty of land for all if properly tilled. Others are prospering on it now. It was the spirit of unrest, stirred by the tales of fortune in the new land and the glamour of apparent success that shone round the returned ultra-stylishly dressed daughter from the city who perhaps earned a miserable pittance in a departmental store and eked out a wretched existence in a shabby tenement. The plans of improving the farm lost their attraction for the boys and the jolly laugh of the girls was no longer heard as they carried their pails to the milking. Discontent had entered into their lives and dismemberment of the family followed.

Now we admit that it is perfectly natural and in keeping with the divine economy that the surplus population of the older settlements should seek homes in the new. There are parishes that have sent numerous sons and daughters afar, and that are still prosperous and growing. It is the depletion of so many that we deplore; that the young life has gone out of them. Perhaps in the old days there were too frequent social gatherings that interfered with the performance of duty—too little shrewdness in the strengthening of financial and property interests. But we cannot help regretting that they are not back again. There is plenty of shrewdness now, but the spectacle of a bachelor son waiting for the demise of his father, that he might inherit a 200 acre farm is not inspiring.

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layman, and exhorts the members to stand shoulder to shoulder in defense of Holy Mother the Church. But beware! One who knew human nature well has said: "Lowliness is young ambition's ladder, Whereto the climber upward turns his face. But when he once attains the utmost round, He then unto the ladder turns his back."

Fortunately we have few, if any, in public life in Canada to-day that answer to this description. Such, however, is not the case everywhere. It were better for Catholics to be without a representative of their own faith than to be represented by one whose antecedents did not promise that he would be an honor to his religion and a fearless defender of justice to his co-religionists.

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ment and they do it in a most un-Christian-like manner. We might here draw attention to the fact that only a few years ago in Protestant Ontario members of the Salvation Army were committed to prison for holding noisy services in public. It was considered quite the proper thing to do, but had this occurred in Spain it would have assumed quite a different aspect in the minds of some people.

PASSED THE LORDS The narrow-minded bigots of this country, notably those of the Orange Association, and those belonging to the different and numerous sects whose opinions when expressed give us a flavor of the witch-burners of New England of long ago, have placed themselves in a most humiliating attitude by their opposition to any change in the coronation oath. Not only has the bill for changing the oath passed the House of Commons in England, with a mere handful of intolerant votes against it, but the House of Lords passed the third reading on the 2nd of August without any opposition whatever. All the more humiliating will the position of the bigots be when they consider that even the Archbishop of Canterbury used his powerful influence in favor of the passage of the measure.

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and the ability to unite all the forces of the Christian Church, and if that great power could be moved to meet the needs of humanity as he saw them, Christ's coming would be realized by the present generation." The press despatch adds that the Rev. Mr. Freeborough's utterance was received with significant silence. Poor deluded people! Scattered and wandering prejudices cause them to remain in the household of heresy, and they refuse to open their eyes to the light. If Christendom is to be re-united, there is only one way; and that is the return of the flock to the sheep fold—the recognition of Pius X. as the common father of all Christians.

BISHOP McDONEL There is a small stone church, slowly decaying, situated on the west bank of Crow River, within the limits of Mar-Mora village, North Hastings, Ontario, originally designed and built by the late Bishop McDonel about the year 1855, and which was used by the Catholic people until about thirty years ago, when they built a beautiful church more conveniently situated. To the historian recounting the struggles of the early pioneers of the Church, this with their monuments will be interesting evidence to the zeal and labors of the late Bishop and to those who helped in the good work of the early days.

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effects. The ceilings are covered with frescoes by Luca Giordano, who was brought from Italy for the purpose. The palace is a succession of fine rooms all beautifully frescoed and furnished. The rooms occupied by the King are exceedingly plain and modest both in their number, situation and appointments. The burial chambers are underneath and the Emperor Charles V. and most of the succeeding Spanish Kings, their wives and families are buried there. The noble Christian champion, Don Juan of Austria, whose untimely death caused Christendom to mourn, rests calmly under a magnificent monument. The great library and gallery of paintings are worthy of comparison with those of the Vatican Palace of Rome. The whole must have cost a sum little short of fabulous, and furnishes a testimony of the great resources of Spain at that period.

Segona, a small town about fifty miles north of Madrid, is one of the most interesting of Spanish cities. Its situation recalls that of Toledo, and it crowns a rocky hill of some hundred feet in height. It has some interesting features of the time of the Roman occupation as well as many ancient churches and palaces. It is surrounded by its old walls which are protected by a number of strong towers, and the whole culminates in the alcazar or citadel, where the hill descends towards the surrounding plain. The cathedral is 330 feet long and 160 feet broad, and owing to its being free from surrounding buildings and the beautiful old stained glass windows which it still retains, its interior is singularly light and impressive. It is in perfect condition both outside and within, and has a cupola over the transepts 220 feet high. From one of its facades rises another fine tower also surmounted by a cupola nearly 350 feet high. It also has many chapels and superb ancient cloisters. The stone aqueduct built by the Romans over two thousand years ago, and one of their greatest monuments in the peninsula, is still in existence, and utterly heedless of the flight of time, is still performing its duties, and to judge from appearances it will do so for many centuries yet. It brings the water from the surrounding mountains a distance of over ten miles. From the mountains to the outskirts of the city it is under ground, and then on account of the existence of a broad and deep valley, it rises from the surface and is sustained on massive granite arches. As the valley becomes deeper the height increases to nearly 100 feet, and it is then supported by two stages of arches. The masonry is put together without mortar. The whole affords a striking example of the permanence of the Romans in the construction of their national institutions and civic works.

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chasm hewn by nature through a mass of solid rock, the sides of which rise precipitously and through which flows the Tagus to its peaceful home in the distant Atlantic. It was at one time a very large city, but it is now of little importance in the matter of population, its ecclesiastical history is probably only exceeded in interest by that of Rome itself, while its political importance may be estimated from the fact that Roman, Visigoth, Moor, and again Spaniard have contended for its possession. It was the ancient capital of Spain under the Visigoths until its capture by the Moors early in the eighth century. Retaken by the Spaniards in the year 1085, it again became the capital, and remained so, with some intermissions, until the creation of Madrid as the capital by Philip in the sixteenth century. The Moors have left strong memories of their occupation in its exceedingly narrow streets which run into and cross each other in all directions without any apparent outlets, and in the many ancient and almost windowless houses in some of those thoroughfares, or as they might be more appropriately named, alleys. It is impossible for a stranger to thread his way through its narrow lanes and byways, and he is compelled to engage a guide.

The Jews located in Toledo at a very early period of its history, and there are two of their synagogues amongst the oldest in Europe, now for many centuries used as Christian churches. There is a beautifully interesting little mosque almost as old as the great one at Cordova, and it is also given over to Christian worship. The city is rich in associations of the Great Ferdinand and Isabella, who built the monastery and church of St. John of the Kings, intending it as their mausoleum, but after their conquest of Granada this resolution was changed in favor of the Cathedral at Granada, which then became their resting place. The church and cloisters of the monastery are very rich specimens of the gothic and are now being handsomely restored.

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independence, and the same feeling will soon be felt. There is a great Spanish American rapidly assimilating the Spanish matters, and the position in Europe hope in the near future. It will continue to have a position of prominence with those proud grandeur of her

NOTES The civic interest in the wreck of the Ene is alleged to be French. Mason proves to be a canard. The three men that famous scheme tails is not to be thought it accepted ideas depravity of the tombs as Canfestations of who have given development will come as the stanic generations his Lodges have found a foot Montreal. Real investigation spiracy but else could very depths other occasion the tribute people to Christ as Eucharist? which any G to discuss in lined in the or grossly spiracy of ent nature rage to the scandalize tain, and rejoice over of the bon non-Catholic real nature waged in the Christ more have the public intensify to the Ble saying. L

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