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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The action of the American General Assembly in condemning the alleged teaching of Prof. McGiffert's book *The McGiffert Case* on "The History of the Apostolic Age," and in calling upon him either to modify his position or withdraw from the ministry of the Church, has been very generally approved. On the face of it it looks like condemning him unheard. But the case seems so clear that a formal trial could have added little to the knowledge of the facts and would only have stirred up bitter feelings to no purpose. Should Dr. McGiffert feel himself aggrieved he has his recourse by demanding a trial, but this he is not very likely to do. We notice that the debate on the case was summed up and closed by Dr. Dixon, of Trenton, an old Canadian from Galt, Ont.

A good deal of dissatisfaction has been expressed with the action of the Montreal City Council in appointing *Brewers as School Commissioners* one of their number, who is a brewer, on the Protestant School Board. Against Ald. Ekers, who is a new man in the Council, personally no one seems to have any objection, but the fact that he is a brewer has shocked the temperance sentiment in the community and given the temperance cause a serious blow. One of the subjects on the school programme is Hygiene in which the injurious effects of alcohol are supposed to have a prominent place, and yet the community as represented by the Council puts over the teachers one who must be presumed to hold that beer is a wholesome beverage. The object lesson is a bad one for the

scholars and it is quite within the bounds of probability to suppose that some of the teachers may be less earnest and outspoken than formerly in their instruction lest they should give offence in high quarters and possibly be denied legitimate promotion. The appointment was made in spite of the openly expressed preference of the School Board and of the Protestant clergy of the city for the re-appointment of the late Mayor M. R. Wilson-Smith. The incident is one that ought to emphasize the importance of voting for the outlawry of the whole traffic.

Montreal has been celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the re-entrance of the Jesuit Order into Canada

The Jesuit Jubilee.

The enthusiasm of their meeting and of their banquet show that they have secured a strong following among the adherents of the Roman Catholic Church notwithstanding their unsavory reputation from former days. Compliments were of course the order of the day and were offered freely on all hands, yet many of their more thoughtful people must wonder in their own minds whether they have not done much more harm than good to the Church in Canada. Personally the members of the order in Canada have been men of high character and attainments. As teachers of youth they have won the warm attachment of their pupils who are devoted to their interests. But their extravagant claims for the Church and for themselves have produced a marked reaction both among Protestants and among professed Roman Catholics. As a result the Church has a much weaker hold on the country and much less influence in politics than it had at the time of the re-establishment. Their constant bickering with the Sulpicians has also introduced an element of discord into the Church which will continue for many a long day whatever professions may be made by the leaders of the opposing factions. The recent demonstration seems to have been characterized by an entire absence of the ultra-montane pretensions which caused such an explosion twenty-five years ago at the time of the consecration of the late Bishop Fabre. One would fain hope that they have learned wisdom from past experience. But perhaps it was only because they judged the time inopportune for their assertion.

In quietly and leisurely looking over the reports of the General Assembly and the business before it, one is impressed with the great importance of the meeting, even although no burning questions occupied its time, or perhaps, it was the absence of such questions to which the Church is indebted for the solid work performed. The one feature that has left an impression of regret on the minds of commissioners was the protracted discussion on the Cowan avenue case. This case serves to illustrate the democratic character of the Presbyterian system. The member, Session or congregation has access to the highest Court of Appeal and can be heard at adequate length in support of whatever claim is made. The Cowan avenue case, however, was one