

LIBERATED PRISONERS GRATEFUL TO THE POPE

The good work effected through Benedict XV. of restoring the broken prisoners to liberty is going on quietly but regularly, and among the letters which have reached the hand and touched the heart of the Holy Father lately are two which show that His Holiness has begun to have his reward in the gratitude of those who have been benefited. One of them, dated March 23, is from a hospital in Lyons and is signed by eighteen soldiers.

"Most Holy Father," they say, "the undersigned French soldiers, lying in the hospital 214-bis at Lyons, offer Your Holiness the expression of their most warm gratitude for their unexpected return to their native land, after long months of imprisonment abroad, obtained through the most high and benevolent intervention of Your Holiness. They ask you graciously to grant your fatherly blessing to them, to their families, to their country and to their benefactors, and they renew to you, Most Holy Father, the expression of their filial and respectful devotion."

WHAT SHALL IT BE?

The question of whether or not Christianity shall continue to be preached in Presbyterian pulpits is looming up large. There are many Presbyterian ministers who are convinced that the doctrines taught at the Union Theological Seminary of this city are not Christian doctrines. They, therefore, believe that graduates of the Seminary are not fit persons to preach to Presbyterian congregations.

The circular begins with the statement that the ministers whose names are appended to it appeal to Presbyterian churches and church courts "to unite in defence of the fundamental principles of our common faith." It calls attention to the deep unrest of the religious thought of the day, and adds that, in consequence of this unrest, greater emphasis should be placed on the integrity and authority of the Bible as the word of God, the deity of our Lord, His vicarious atonement on the cross—the only way of salvation—and His resurrection.

But what if the majority of the members of the congregation of the former Presbyterian church prefer to have a minister who believes in "the higher criticism?" And suppose that in course of time the number of such congregations far exceed that of the congregations that are loyal to the former Presbyterian standards? What then? Where will be the authority to prevent the spread of doctrines which are essentially antagonistic to Christianity? The Bible, the Protestant rule of faith, will furnish no such authority, for the Bible itself will be more or less discredited after the "higher criticism" shall have carried the day.

Ten years ago the movement known as "Modernism" made its appearance in the Catholic Church. It, too, was an insidious attack on the fundamentals of Christianity. Pius X. in the celebrated Encyclical issued by him in 1907 dealt a death blow to "Modernism." But a similar method of safeguarding Christian teachings is not at the disposal of the Protestant sects. Hence the losing fight they are making against the propagation of doctrines which are antagonistic to the very fundamentals of Christianity.—N. Y. Freeman's Journal.

REMAIL YOUR CATHOLIC PAPERS

We are in receipt of many letters from devoted priests in the South and West of the United States, in Canada, Alaska and Panama, who are crying loudly for Catholic literature. There are thousands of Catholic families scattered far and wide in Texas and California, the Dakotas and the Carolinas, in all the sparsely settled States and Provinces from Alaska to Florida, to whom Catholic periodical literature will be welcome and beneficial. The zealous missionary, labor as he may, and willing though he be to spend and be spent for Christ, can see these scattered members of his flock but two or three times a year. A moment's reflection is sufficient to convince us of the truth of the statement of zealous priests that "some word of doctrine, some consolation of religion, some explanation of the puzzling news items and disquieting anti-Catholic comments of the local press, some idea, in a word, of God and His Church should be brought into their lives" during the long intervals when there is no Mass, no sermon, no sacraments. We earnestly appeal to our readers of the CATHOLIC RECORD to co-operate with us in supplying this want. Send to the office of the International Catholic Truth Society, 407 Bergen Street, Brooklyn, N. Y., for the address of an isolated Catholic to whom to remail your Catholic weekly or monthly.

OFFICIAL CROP REPORT

Ottawa, May 11, 1915. The Census and Statistics Office issued to-day, in the form of a press bulletin, the first crop report of the present season. It deals with the area and condition of the fall wheat crop, the condition of hay and clover meadows at the close of the winter and the progress of spring seeding up to the end of April.

The Choir No Choir can do themselves justice with a poor Church Organ. KARN Church Organ will help your Choir immensely and will also please the congregation and managers. You get lasting satisfaction in a Karn. The Karn-Morris Piano & Organ Co., Limited Head Office, Woodstock, Ont. Factories, Woodstock and Litchfield

all Canada as compared with 14 per cent. last year and 22 per cent. in 1913. The average condition was 91 per cent. of the standard or full crop, as compared with 86.7 per cent. last year (May 6), 89.6 per cent. in 1913 and 74.6 per cent. in 1912. PROGRESS OF SPRING SEEDING It is as yet too soon to report on the Maritime provinces, but excellent progress in the seeding of spring grains is reported from all the other six provinces. The spring is early, and as a general rule the conditions for seeding have been most favourable. About double the amount of seeding was accomplished this year on April 30 than was completed on May 6 in 1914. Of spring wheat 55 per cent. of the total was finished in Quebec as against 5 per cent. last year; in Ontario 73 per cent. against 24 per cent.; in the three western provinces 93 per cent. was completed in Manitoba, 94 per cent. in Saskatchewan and 91 per cent. in Alberta, these proportions being higher than in any year since 1910. In British Columbia the percentage is 89. For all six provinces the proportion of seeding reported as effected on April 30 was 84 per cent. for wheat, 45 per cent. for oats, 28 per cent. for barley and 63 per cent. for all crops.

THE TABLET FUND

Toronto, May 13, 1915. Editor CATHOLIC RECORD: I thank you for giving space to the Appeal for the Tablet Fund for the Relief of the Belgians. So far I have received because of this appeal: Previously acknowledged.....\$743 86 Parish of Kinkora, Ont., 2nd installment..... 11 20 Edouard Matte, Estevan, Sask. Reader of RECORD, Alta..... 1 00 Mrs. J. O'Donnell, Kingscote Subscribers of RECORD, S. Highlands, Ont..... 1 00 Friend, Athens, Ont..... 1 00 Mrs. Ann Fleming, North Rustico, P. E. I..... 5 00 Rev. P. G. Mosey, O. M. I., Taber, Alta..... 1 00 Miss A. Copeland, Belleville Newman McGregor, Appleton R. M. Haller, Walkerton, Ont. 2 00 J. P. Schnitzler, Walkerton..... 1 00 A. Bamman, Walkerton..... 50 W. Schafter, Walkerton..... 50 J. Ellinghausen, Walkerton..... 50 H. Geisler, Walkerton..... 50 F. Schafter, Walkerton..... 50 J. Krueger, Walkerton..... 50 P. Culliton, Walkerton..... 25 G. Ward, Walkerton..... 50 G. Bender, Walkerton..... 1 00 H. Hergott, Walkerton..... 1 25 J. W. Wingfelder..... 50 F. Schunn, Walkerton, Ont..... 25 Rev. R. McKenzie, Iona, N. S. 20 00 If you would be good enough to acknowledge publicly these amounts in the columns of the RECORD I would be very grateful. Respectfully yours, W. E. BLAKE, 98 Pembroke St.

THE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

PROGRAMME OF THE CONGRESS The Canadian Eucharistic Congress will be held in Montreal on July 13, 14, 15 prox. The Hon. President is His Eminence Cardinal Begin, Archbishop of Quebec. The President is His Grace Archbishop Bruchesi of Montreal. The English Sessions will be held at Congress Hall, 278 Dorchester St. West, and the French at Laval University. The Congress will open by a Solemn Public Demonstration at Notre Dame Church, Tuesday evening, July 13th, His Eminence presiding. An address will be delivered by Rev. Rene Labelle, S. S., (in French) Pastor of Notre Dame Church, and in English by Rev. Thos. F. Burke, Paulist of Newman Hall, Toronto. The arrangements are in charge of the Fathers of the Blessed Sacrament, Rev. Father Letellier, Superior, 268 Mount Royal Ave., East. The Chairman of the Reception Committee, French Section, is Rev. Henri Gauthier, Pastor of St. James, 331 St. Catharines St. East, and Rev. Gerald J. McShane, Pastor of St. Patrick's, 280 Dorchester St. West, is the Chairman of the English Reception Committee.

LIST OF PAPERS English-speaking Section, Congress Hall, 278 Dorchester St. West. Wednesday, July 14th, 9:30 a. m.—1. "The Priests Eucharistic League." The Rev. Arthur Cote, S. S. S. 2. "The Holy Mass and the Priest." The Rev. Thos. J. Campbell, S. J. 3. p. m.—1. "The Priest and the Worship of the Eucharist." Right Rev. Michael J. O'Brien, D.D., Bishop of Peterboro. 2. "The Weekly Hour of Adoration, Means of Sanctification for the Priest." Right Rev. Alex. MacDonald, D.D., Bishop of Victoria, B. C. Thursday, July 15th, 9:30 a. m.—1. "Public Adoration of the Eucharist with the Faithful." Right Rev. Patrick T. Ryan, D. D., Auxiliary Bishop of Pembroke, Ont. 2. "Assistance at Mass for the Faithful." Right Rev. Jos. W. Forbes, D.D., Bishop of Joliette, Que. 3. p. m.—1. "The Communion of Adults." Right Rev. Jas. Morrison, D.D., Bishop of Antigonish, N. S. 2. "The Communion of Children." Right Rev. Hon. J. O'Leary, D.D., Bishop of Charlottetown, P. E. I.

FROM FATHER FRASER Taichow, April 7, 1915. Editor CATHOLIC RECORD.—I baptized to-day forty-two people, men, women and children. It was a long ceremony I assure you, taking two hours and a half to perform, but what a consolation to pour the saving waters of baptism on so many foreheads. I must attribute the merit of this harvest in great part to the readers of the RECORD who enabled me by their alms to house these converts under my roof during the past few weeks in which I prepared them for baptism. If I had to prepare each one in his own village it would have taken me many months, as they came from nearly as many different places as they were persons. This afternoon I begin to preach a retreat for them and for all whom I have baptized during the past twelve months in preparation for First Communion next Sunday. There are several hundred to take part. I will then send them to their far distant homes filled with the love of God and eager to spread the knowledge of His Holy Name. You see how impossible it is for me to do missionary work well among this poor population without receiving alms from Canada. I give to my friends all the merit and reserve for myself only the joy of leading pagans into the true fold. Yours very gratefully, J. M. FRASER.

WHY ARE PRIESTS CALLED FATHERS? Father is a title of respect and love which we give to the Catholic priest because he is the spiritual father of the faithful committed to his care. He considers all the souls confided to his care as his children in God, administers to them the Sacraments, by which they are born again in baptism, reconciled to an offended Father in Heaven in penance, nourished with the Bread of Life in Holy Communion, and fortified for their last journey in extreme unction. He pleads their cause at the altar every day and recites the official prayers of the Church for their welfare. He has no other family, no other children, in order to be free to spend his life for his spiritual children. Thus he acts as a father—gives spiritual birth and spiritual food to his children, and educates them by his sermons and instructions. We need these fathers in God even more than our natural parents. When death takes away our natural father we learn how to provide for ourselves. But if we were deprived of our priests we would be orphans indeed.—Intermountain Catholic.

SOMETHING WE SO OFTEN FORGET

"Every Catholic," says the Catholic Herald, "should remember that to a certain extent he is the custodian of the Faith, and he should act accordingly, showing by his conduct that he fully realizes the importance of that fact." DIED WHELAN.—In Detroit, Mich. April 26th, 1915, James Whelan, formerly of Westport, Ont., aged seventy-four years. May his soul rest in peace! SMYTH.—In Downie, Lot 11, con. 2, on Thursday, February the 18th, 1915, Matthew Smyth, aged eighty-five years. May his soul rest in peace! BRACELAND.—At his late residence, 610 Cumberland St., Ottawa, Ont., on Saturday, April 10, 1915, Mr. Patrick Braceland, aged seventy-two years. May his soul rest in peace!

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SITUATION WANTED AS PRIEST'S HOUSEKEEPER by a thoroughly reliable and competent person. Can furnish good references. Apply Box Y, CATHOLIC RECORD, London, Ont. 1915-4

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Toronto, April 21st, 1915.

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