

The Catholic Register

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THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1904.

THE CATHOLIC SPIRIT OF HOLY WEEK.

The slightest acquaintance with the advertising columns of our daily papers and our poster boards will bring out sharply the contrast between the Catholic and non-Catholic spirit of Holy Week. On the one side we have special amusements for Good Friday flaunted before our eyes, and the hour on which the Saviour expired is that on which the theatrical matinee is at its height.

One thing that militates against this mode of observance is that scoffers adopt precisely the same way to show their derision. The spirit of the Catholic Church during Holy Week, on the other hand, and especially during Good Friday, is one of the deepest sadness. She is not insensible to the inestimable boon of the freedom of the sons of God won for us on the Cross.

The slightest reflection should show that this is the proper spirit for Holy Week. What nation would rejoice whilst her sons were bleeding and dying for her liberty, and whilst their dead bodies were being brought through her streets for interment? Would not drawn blinds and expressions of deepest grief be regarded as demanded by the presence of death? Then after the tribute of tears and the funeral rites were paid the victor, could be appropriately celebrated.

THE STURGEON FALLS "OUTRAGE."

The Telegram's figurative onslaught upon the Toronto members of the Legislature is concerned with something which it calls the "Sturgeon Falls Outrage." Dr. Beattie Nesbitt is particularly accused of having done nothing to stop the alleged outrage, and his supposed culpable negligence is figured up against him in rows of cyphers measuring from a nonpareil 0 to a 0 a quarter of an inch long.

Dr. Beattie Nesbitt was expected, if we understand the Telegram at all, to have shaken his gory locks at the Bishop of Peterborough, and to have reminded His Lordship of the traditions of by-gone days. But we cannot make out how the Bishop comes into the matter or why the Doctor should have answered the prompter's call to bait the Episcopacy.

The pretended outrage is to be found in the basis of an agreement between the ratepayers of Sturgeon Falls and the Pulpwood Company of that place. The company, after the manner of its kind, held up the Sturgeon Falls folk for a bonus. The municipal law of Ontario does not prevent bonuses, at least in the way of exemption; but it says that the bonusses shall not be exempt from taxation for school purposes.

Public School and taking their money away from their own school, which is possibly not too well off financially. An agreement accordingly seems to have been made by which the company should be bonused and the school tax divided; and it is merely the ratification of this common sense agreement the bill before the Legislature contemplates.

Some remote Orange Lodge petitioned the Legislature to throw out the Bill, and The Telegram at once got excited. It invoked the shades of the Noble Thirteen, and the Ferguson South Simcoe Lambs; indeed it might have gone the length of adding chops and tomato sauce, but that Dr. Beattie Nesbitt declined to play Buzzfuzz to its wrongs.

It is something to be thankful for that though there doubtless are Orangemen on both sides of the Ontario Legislature, none of them holds his intelligence so cheaply as to talk clap-trap over a paltry incident in village politics. Whatever wrong there may be in the general application of company school taxes, the Catholic ratepayers bear. The law does not say they shall bear it, however.

Since the above was written a public meeting has been called in Sturgeon Falls and a petition to the Lieutenant-Governor drawn up. From the published reports it would appear that some of the officials of the Pulp Company, who describe it as a "Protestant concern," are the chief agitators of this tempest in a teapot.

The cost of Mr. Chamberlain's South African trip was "paid out of the Exchequer. Joseph is no spendthrift. Mr. Chamberlain has not, however, reported to the House of Commons upon the subject of labor in the mines. One hundred and fifty Montreal Chinese have petitioned Archbishop Bruchesi to ask for the ministrations of a priest who speaks Chinese.

THE CASE OF MISS DUNN.

Whatever the Chancellor's decision may be upon the motion made in behalf of Miss Dunn, there can be no getting away from the necessity for a Government investigation into the state of the Jarvis street school. Inspector Seath's plan of reporting is most unsatisfactory to the public, and the Education Department is responsible for Inspector Seath. Since the Board of Education rose in its anger against Miss Dunn, the press has furnished additional reports of fighting in Jarvis street collegiate institute.

FRANCE AND THE CHURCH.

The passage of Combes' Bill in the French Chamber is announced this morning. It prohibits all the authorized orders from teaching, and sweeps away the last vestige of religious influence from the schools of France. Its triumph is not a surprise, though it has been disputed with all the strength that the Catholics could muster.

Ignoring this dignified protest, and treating with contempt and resentment the more out-spoken protests of the French Cardinals, the Chamber of Deputies has put the seal of its final approval upon Combes' party cry, "Le Clericalisme c'est l'ennemi." The Chamber has avowed it and the way is open at last for the delivery of the grand attack all along the line that has been held back until the last positions of the Religious orders should have been captured.

The first step was to secure possession of the education of the country. This is accomplished. The pressure had been steadily increasing before Combes stepped in with avowed recourse to violence as a short cut to success. It is said that Combes will now retire upon the laurels he has won. The campaign against the Religious orders could not have been entrusted to a more reckless fanatic.

The parish priests of France realize to-day the forces arrayed against them. They realize their own responsibility, and like the Religious Orders, they can be relied upon to continue the fight for the Faith as long as one of them remains in the land.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A weekly two-sheet paper called The Western Catholic has made its appearance at Windsor, Ont. May it live to accomplish good.

The Irish Unionist contingent in the House of Commons revolted against the Balfour Government on Monday. They had not joined the Nationalists when we went to press.

St. Paul suffered much in life. Rev. Dr. Potts, of Toronto, possibly does not believe that the good can suffer after death. Last Sunday he pitilessly recited the great apostle's words to the Athenians from the Hill of Mars.

The powerful mind of Sir Gilbert Parker has solved the problem, Who made Canada? The Chinese did it. They built the C.P.R. and are entitled to all the credit too long held by Scotch financiers and Irish contractors.

The first engagement between the Russians and the Japanese was fought on March 28th. The Russians retired, but the Japs do not take the position vacated, their losses being severe. The engagement took place 50 miles north-west of Pingyang.

The imperial Protestant Federation, professing to represent 49 British and Colonial Protestant bodies, is up in arms against the Roman Catholic Disabilities Bill, now before the House of Commons.

Mr. James Fitzalan Hope, who was put up by the Government, after their recent defeat by the Irish members, to speak against time while telegrams and messengers were sent to all the clubs to bring to the House of Commons the lagging Tories, is a nephew of the Duke of Norfolk, a strong Tory and an English Catholic.

Holy Saturday

O earth, who daily kissed His feet Like lowly Magdalen,—how sweet (As of his mother used) to keep The silent watches of His sleep, Till Love demand the prisoner, And Death reply, "He is not here."

EASTER LILIES (Written for the Register)

Lilies, lilies, Easter lilies, Beautiful in your birth, Scattered wide in rich profusion Over all the earth. Calvary's victim immolated, Dieth now no more, Love hath triumphed, Alleluiah, Praise, rejoice, adore.

OUR STRATFORD LETTER

Mr. J. Francis Hayes of New York, son of the late County Crown Attorney Hayes, of Stratford, and son of Mrs. Michael Hayes of Spadina Road, Toronto, is in the city renewing acquaintances before his departure he intends presenting to the musical talent of Stratford a grand musical comedy at an early date. Arrangements are now underway and the selection of the best talent is being secured.

Death of Mrs. McDermott

Mrs. McDermott, widow of the late Thomas McDermott, died on Monday last at her late residence, No. 3 St. James Square, at the advanced age of 87 years. Mrs. McDermott was born in Ireland, but came to Canada when quite young, and settled in Mara, Ont., where she lived till about nine years ago. She was a member of St. Michael's parish. She is survived by four sons, Joe and John, of Toronto; Thomas, of Dubuth, and Peter, of Gravenhurst, and two daughters, the Misses Kate and Margaret, who lived at home.

All Night Session of the Legislature

There was an all night session of the Ontario Legislature on Monday night the Government postponing a division on the motion of the Opposition providing for a two-cent rate on all roads that may be subjected by the province in the future. Two Liberal members were absent and the Government was therefore deprived of its majority. The division gave three to the Government.

Mr. James E. Day, of Guelph, has taken over the legal business of Judge Anglin. Mr. Day will have a head office in Toronto with a branch in Guelph.

TRIUMPH OF COMBES

He Succeeds in Passing His Bill to Suppress All Religious Teaching

Paris, March 28.—By the decisive majority of 316 to 269, the Chamber of Deputies to-night passed the Government bill for the suppression of all forms of teaching by the religious orders. This completes the work begun by the former Premier, M. Waldeck-Rousseau, in 1901.

The bill, which still has to pass the Senate, though no serious opposition to it is anticipated there, forbids all teaching by the religious orders in the territory of France proper, and provides for the suppression within ten years of all orders actually holding an authorization to teach. An amendment, which was carried despite the wishes of Premier Combes, renders the measure inapplicable to the colonies, but this does not affect the power conferred on the Government by the law of 1901, of closing such schools in the colonies by decree.

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The report of the Department of Public Works, just published at Ottawa, gives the cost of maintaining the Stratford post office building in the year ended June 30, 1903, and was as follows: Salaries of engineer, etc., \$763.50; heating, \$374.87; lighting, \$317.83; water, \$84.08; total, \$1,539.28. In the same year \$34.55 were expended on repairs and furniture.

Below we give the report of the Provincial Municipal Auditor for the year 1902 for the city of Stratford. The total receipts for 1902 were \$191,705.37, and the payments \$190,783.72. The assessment roll for the same year amounted to \$4,027,990. Tax rate, 24 mills, which yielded, according to the collector's roll, \$96,000.

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JAMES MASON, Managing Director

671. Special rates, street watering, poll tax yielded about \$10,000 more. The sum of \$77,511.49 had been paid on the collector's roll on 31st December. Debentures at same date amounted to \$427,500, against which there was a sinking fund of cash and debentures, amounting to \$114,271.10. The water works and electric light plants are in the hands of private.

Holy Week

With the last week of March this year will come the great Holy week. It is then Holy Church asks her children to retire as much as possible from the world and its confusion and think of our Lord and Saviour in the last days and hours of His passion and death.

Thus the great Holy Week services are solemnly carried out by the Church the world over, and the faithful assemble in the temples and listen to the dirge of the lamentations, and prostrate themselves before the cross as it is held aloft with Jesus, the Saviour of the world, nailed upon it.

And yet amidst this darkness and gloom and pain and anguish, we feel as we take part in these sad ceremonies, there are a few hours of joyful respite as we visit and adore our Lord resting in the repository from Holy Thursday to Good Friday morn, where Faith and Love enthroned Him amidst myriads of blazing lights and a profusion of fresh, fragrant flowers. How the Catholic heart is touched by the scene this day presents! Thousands, yea, hundreds of thousands, go to pay their tribute to our Lord's real presence in the blessed sacrament; young and old, rich and poor, learned and ignorant, saint and sinner, crowd the different churches and gather as one family around their God and their King, and whisper their words of sorrow for any offences they may have committed against His holy law and there resolve that with His blessing and grace and nourished by His precious body and blood received in a worthy holy communion, they shall never offend Him any more.

Verily is our Lord the New Adam, and truly is He "Emmanuel"—God dwelling with us. He is both for us in His blessed sacrament, our brother in His humanity and our God in His divinity. It is specially on Holy Thursday and in Holy Week we feel the force of this, and our faith is revived and renewed in the reaction we feel in ourselves, and which we witness in the hearts and minds of all around us.

Let us enter into this Holy Week with true religious spirit; it will be a fitting culmination to the Lenten season, and prepare us for the joys of Easter. If we but make atonement for our sins through heartfelt sorrow and humbly confess them in the tribunal of penance, forgiveness will be ours, peace and reconciliation will be restored to our souls and the joys which Easter will bring will be a foretaste of the endless joys of heaven.—Bishop Colton, in Union and Times.

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