The True Witness AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

TESTIS · IN · CŒLO · FIDELIS

Vol. LVI., No. 50 MONTREAL, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1906 PRICE FIVE CENTS

Gardien de la Salle de Lecture Feb 19 1906 Assemblee Legislative

Church and State in France.

Anti-clericals Denounce Vatican and Praise Action of France.

Venerable Archbishop and Parish Priests Under Orders to Evacuate their Residences.

Paris, Dec. 11.—The struggle which began in 1880 with the banishment of the Jesuits, culminated to-day in the legal rupture of the bond which for practically a thousand years had united Church and State. By refusing to make the required declaration under the public meeting law of 1881, public Catholic worship, except by schismatic organizations, to-morrow becomes illegal.

The scenes in some of the churches were very touching. Not in years had there been such an attendance at mass. The number of women was especially conspicuous, indicating the religious indifference of the male population. Although seven-eighths of the inhabitants of this city nominally are Catholics, in no parts of the city were the churches crowded. Even at Notre Dame Cathedral, where a solemn High Mass was celebrated, the edifice was only half filled. The officiating clergy read the regular offices for the week as usual without alluding to their illegal status to-morrow. Nevertheless the depression of the Catholics was manifested. Many women emerged from the cathedral weeping and lingered outside to discuss what to do when the clergy are turned out of their churches.

It is becoming more apparent that both the government officials and higher ecclesiastics are resisting the advice of intermperate-minded persons. M. Briand, the Minister of Public Worship, announces that the government "cannot be driven into the trap by closing the churches," and Cardinal Richard, Archbishop of Paris, has strongly censured the placarding of appeals to the clericals to make violent resistance to the offficers of the law. "No violence," he says, "but passive resistance to the unjust law, after exhausting all protests at every step." This is the disposition so far as the higher ecclesiastics are concerned, but their followers evidently have no intention to submit and are preparing to assume the role of martyrs, abandon the churches and organize private worship.

Cardinal Richard and many of the bishops have already begun the removal of their private effects from the episcopal mansions, and the clergy are preparing to leave their rectories and remove into hired lodgings. It is announced that the parish priests have received many offers of places in which to hold religious services, but there is no indication that they intend to take advantage of the sole remaining chance to retain their churches, namely, by making the declarations called for by the law.

The government continues to present a calm front. Receivers have been appointed everywhere to assume charge of the sequestered property, and three policemen will be stationed to-morrow at the doors of all the churches to report law violations.

The government probably will accept the bill introduced in the Chamber of Deputies yesterday by M. Munier, Republican, providing that all buildings, presbyteries, and so on, occupied by ecclesiastics, shall definitely escheat to the state, the departments and the communes upon the enactment of the law, providing for the separation of Church and State and at once make arrangements that the sequestered property shall not be used, like the hospitals, for special purposes or public charities, to suppress the pensions of the clergy who do not conform with the laws of 1905 and 1881, and to summons all the priests of military age to the colors, to serve their turn in the army with other Frenchmen liable to military duty.

The Republican press says the temper of the people forms a more hostile attitude toward the Vatican. The Republique Francaise declares: "The time has passed when a Pope could successfully threaten to release French subjects from their allegiance. Defiance of the law will only expose the priests to being regarded as the subjects of a foreign power by which they would forfeit their rights as Frenchmen."

After a meeting of the Cabinet ministers it was announced that on Dec. 14 Premier Clemenceau will ask parliament to suppress the pension of the clergy, to liquidate the public property of Catholics and to distribute the presbyteries, seminaries, and so on.

CONGRATULATES FRANCE.

Rome, Dec. 11.—Signor Mirabelli, Republican, to-day in the Chamber of Deputies introduced a resolution, which was adopted, congratulating France on its anti-clerical policy, as "tending to secularize the state and render the human conscience independent."

MGR. MONTAGNINI, SECRETARY OF THE PAPAL NUNCIATURE EXPELLED AND HOUSE SEARCHED.

Mgr. Montagnini, secretary of the Papal Nunciature in Paris, since the recall of the Nuncio, was arrested upon an order expelling him from France, and was conducted to the frontier on Tuesday night. His residence was searched by the police.

ARCHBISHOP BRUCHESI ISSUED APPEAL.

The following appeal of His Grace Archbishop Bruchesi was issued on Monday to every part of the diocese:

"To-morrow, Dec. 11, will be a very solemn date for the Holy See, and for France. Catholics the worl over cannot remain indifferent to the serious events that are approaching and the issue of which is known by God alone. The Church of France is going through a terrible crisis. All believers are full of anxiety and anguish, for the future is threatening.

"Meanwhile, the Sovereign Pontiff, although plunged in grief, shows admirable firmness and courage. His confidence rests in God alone; from Him alone he expects help. He prays and requests us to pray with him. Let us readily comply with his appeal.

"To that end, we wish that tomorrow, Dec. 11, the Blessed Sacrament be exposed during the whole day in the churches and in the chapels of the religious communities throughout the diocese. The exposition will close with solemn benediction, during which the 'Miserere' will be chanted. We trust that the faithful will attend these religious services in large numbers, and will make the day one of fervent prayer to implore divine protection for their Pope, the Church, and France, our dear Mother Country."

In compliance with the above order the officiating priest at Low Mass in every church and chapel of the city on Tuesday morning made the announcement to those attending, immediately afterwards exposing the Blessed Sacrament on the altar. In the evening Benediction took place.

PRESS OPINION.

Toronto Mail and Empire:—"It is war between the Church and the State. The Church will not yield, and France, far from proposing to compromise or to conciliate, threatens once again to meet opposition with new restrictions. It was the fight against the education law that brought on the expulsion of the religious orders. It was the struggle against expulsion that led to the separation of Church and State. It is the separation of Church and State that is threatening to take France out of the category of Catholic nations. History, as written on the other side of the Channel, appears to be repeating itself in France England objected to the exercise within the realm of any authority, save such as was absolutely religious, by the Pope. France is doing the same thing. The wonder is that the able statesmen who give advice at Rome do not see that the modern nation is determined to rule itself in secular concerns, and that it is impolitic to oppose such a situation instead of turning it to account."

Toronto Globe:—"This is likely to become a red letter day in the French national calendar. The time allowed for compliance by religious denominations with the provisions of the law effecting a complete separation between Church and State expires to-day. To-morrow and the day after, measures will be taken to enforce the law throughout France. As no "Cultural Associations" have been formed under the law of 1905, to take over Church property, it will be taken over by the State. What disposition will be made of it hereafter only time can reveal. Not unlikely it will find its way back into the hands of its present owners, through some diplomatic modus vivendi. Certainly the Government, which has no interest in creating a permanent change, is not likely to refuse any reasonable compromise during the year of grace which the law allows. It may be conformable to the genius of the French people to effect a separation between Church and State, but it is not likely that national prestige abroad will be promoted by inflicting upon a large proportion of the people a final loss and a religious insult which to them can wear no other aspect than that of persecution. One of the possible developments, if the trouble goes farher, is the enactment of a law depriving the Roman Catholic clergy of their privileges and making them liable for military service as ordinary civilians with the still more drastic resort of treating them as foreigners reserved in the background.

"All well wishers of France will earnestly hope that none of these measures will be deemed necessary. Any one of them would give rise to a protracted and useless struggle, which would entail serious loss and lasting injury to the nation even more than to the Church."

Ottawa Citizen:—"To those who have followed the course of the political development of this antagonism there has seemed something almost cruel and forbidding in the determined manner in which the succeeding governments of the Republic have sternly forced on the issue. Each in turn has been adopting more drastic and radical measures to accomplish the purpose in view. France has a historical reputation for accomplishing in periods of excitement and popular tumult changes of a far-reaching and unexpected nature, but the manner in which it has with cold and implacable purpose carried forward to its logical constitution this legislation shows the church a new side of development of the national character."

After noting that the predecessors of the present government were forced to resign because their policy was not energetic enough, the Citizen continues: "Commencing to-day services in churches can only be conducted under a license from the Government. The Vatican has taken up the gauntlet and declared that the Church shall not recognize governmental authority by conforming to this law. It is now up to the government to prosecute those who hold services in contravention of the law and the logical outcome will be that the churches will be closed by the state and those who resist the government by endeavoring to hold services without the required legal authority will be prosecuted. It now remains to be seen whether the ecclesiastical authority of the Vatican or the temporal power of the French Government is the stronger in France."

LOCAL COMMENT.

Daily Witness:—"On the same day we have the crisis of the conflict of the British Government and Parliament with the ecclesiastical authorities of England, and that of the conflict between the French Government and Parliament against the Roman ecclesiastical authorities. The Archbishop of Montreal has issued instructions that the Holy Sacrament shall be exposed in the churches all day and that the faithful shall pray for the Pope and for the French believers in the day of their anguish. More than a hundred years ago France revolted against Rome and made ecclesiastical positions democratically elective. Napoleon Bonaparte, coming in on a wave of reaction, wiped out the premature republic with imperialism, and with it wiped out this democratic order of things, restoring papal authority on terms to suit himself, afterwards modifying that authority by the "false" concordat of 1813, the Pope being then his prisoner at Fontainbleau. France has since then ripened in national responsibility and capacity for self-comtrol The question is whether she is yet fit for and able to assert ecclesiastical freedom."

Gazette:—"Developments in France would indicate that the Government has every intention of enforcing the law relating to associations. After a thousand years it is naturally difficult for the Church to surrender the privileges it has so long enjoyed Resistance, however, would appear a mistaken policy. The Church as a moral agent, owes much respect for the law. If it is a bad law, its enforcement will condemn it.

The Patrie—in part, La Patrie speaks as follows: "It is not the first religious crisis through which France has passed. Under all regimes governed by ambitious and autocratic monarchs, the Vatican and France have had differences.

"We will mention but one: That between Bonaparte and Pope Pius VII. The conqueror made the Head of the Church his prisoner. In the palace where resided the august pontiff Napoleon treated him as if he were the meanest of his subjects. The Church has survived all these assaults perpetrated on her.

"It is impossible to suppose that to-day we will see a repetition of the dreadful scenes of the French revolution. The triumph of the elements of disorder which compose the Commune do not appear to us in the order of things to be feared. Warfare exists between forces of another nature. The Holy See does not wish for an armed revolution, which is but the organization of disorder in France. The resistance of the French hierarchy, of the French Catholics who have followed the instructions of His Holiness, will be dignified resistance, calm but energetic, which does not sanction bloody conflicts. The Holy Father and the French hierarchy have no battalions at their command. Since the Sovereign Pontiff, in the exercise of the supreme duties of his charge, has resolved that the Church must not be affected by the laws adopted by the French Parliament, the battle will henceforth be between the influence which controls the Catholic Church in France and the entire world, and that which France in a measure at present commands. Bismarck, who governed a Protestant country, made his peace and that of the German Empire with Rome before the close of his career. The Catholics of the Empire are organized with the determination to obtain their legitimate liberty and the possession of their rights one day or another. If there remains in the French Catholics sufficient energy to imitate their German co-religionists they will hear sounding in their ears the just vindication of their rights and will salute an area of conquest and liberty.

La Presse, under the heading, "Where is France Going," says in part: "They do not want God. M. Viviani, one of the members of the Clemenceau Ministry, cried out the other day, blasphemously: 'We have extinguished the light of heaven.' But he was mistaken. . . Many others before him boasted of having vanquished the Gallilean, and, like Julian the Apostate, had finally to acknowledge that it was the Gallilean who had conquered. . . We love France. She has safeguarded our faith, our language and our traditions. If our young race has, on this American soil, battled with honor to retain her place, we owe it to the French Catholic pioneers. We have prayed for France, and will continue to do so. In spite of all, we still hope that the statesmen in charge of affairs will halt in the road of atheism in which they are leading the people, and for the honor of our chivalrous country join forces with the Supreme Head of the Church.

THE POPE'S WORDS.

The Pope, referring to the action taken by the French Government yesterday, said: "Neither persecution nor martyrdom will stop us in protecting religion. Our cause is God's cause."

The excitement in Vatican circles is naturally great. All the clergy, from the Cardinals to the humblest priests, are devoutly invoking the aid and protection of God for the faith and their co-religionists in France. The anti-clericals seem to be disposed to make capital for themselves. One of the anti-clerical clubs, the Giordano Bruno, has issued a manifesto denouncing the Italian Government as a slave of the papacy. The document was so violently worded that the censor confiscated it and would not allow it to be reissued until the gravest phrases were excised. Even as it is now, it fiercely denounces the action of the Vatican and praises the energetic action of France, contrasting it with Italy's attitude toward the papacy.

IMPRESSIVE SERVICE AT ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL.

On Tuesday evening was witnessed a ceremony of intense solemnity at the Cathedral. All day long the Blessed Sacrament had been exposed, as it was in all churches of the diocese, and at 7.30 o'clock crowds had filled every available space to assist at the closing exercises. The sweet young voices of the orphan girls of the Hospice St, Joseph rendered in a touching manner a hymn imploring God's pity on France, after which His Grace Archbishop Bruchesi addressed a few words to the congregation, making allusion to the children's canticle in which they made supplication for God's mercy and pity on the Mother Country—France. He went over in very few words the actual state of affairs and concluded by saying that notwithstanding all this, hope need not be abandoned, inasmuch as the Church had passed through as great trials, but had always come out victorious, and that the Sovereign Pontiff, in taking the stand he had, had been assuredly inspired by the Holy Spirit. His Grace then read the cablegram which, after issuing his appeal for Tuesday's observance as a day of prayer in behalf of France, he had sent to the Holy Father:

Montreal, Dec. 10, 1906.

Most Holy Father:—

Admiring your apostolic firmness, sympathizing with your grief, the diocese of Montreal will pray in union with you to-morrow before the Blessed Sacrament, which will be exposed in all the churches.

PAUL BRUCHESI,
Archbishop.

The Sovereign Pontiff immediately replied through the Cardinal Secretary of State:

Rome, Dec. 11, 1906.

Mgr. Bruchesi,
Archbishop of Montreal.

The Holy Father thanks you for your renewed testimony of devotedness.

CARD. MERRY DEL VAL.

Benediction was then given by His Grace, during which the orphans chanted the "Miserere."

Abbey's Effervescent Salt

Be Advised

Follow the directions and there will be no upset Stomach, no Headache, no Biliousness, no poor blood, but Health and Vigor and good Digestion --- making every day the best day.

ALL DRUGGISTS, 25 and 60c. BOTTLE.

William O'Brien's Generous Offer.

William O'Brien is the recipient of numerous congratulations from all over the country in connection with an offer made by himself and his wife, in Cork, recently, to bequeath upon their demise practically every penny they are worth as a contribution towards the endowment of a Munster University in Cork, if the local authorities are willing to assume a slight temporary debt in the meantime.

As Mr. and Mrs. O'Brien are worth between $250,000 and $500,000, their offer is regarded as the only practical scheme for settling the Irish University question at the present time.

"As I calculate," remarked Mr. O'Brien, in outlining the terms of his offer, "if the borough councils and county councils of the province are willing to assume a temporary burden, which would be an excessively slight one, and every shilling of which would be repaid at our death, a sum of say £50,000 could be at once made available, and the arrangement would have the double advantage of persuading England that the people of the south mean to have a people's university, governed by the representatives of the people, they are willing to prove the faith that is in them by making the people of the south in some degree also contributory to the work. As I figure it out, even if the burden was confined to the city and county of Cork alone, it would not involve a debt of more than one farthing in the pound for a very few years, with the absolute security of being then recouped the whole sum, and if the borough and county councils of the other counties in the province desired that their children should share in the privileges of university education, the temporary rate would scarcely amount to half a farthing in the pound. You would thus have immediately at your command an additional endowment of £10,000 a year for five years, added to the present endowment of £10,000 a year."

Why go limping and whining about your corns when a 25 cent bottle of Holloway's Corn Cure will remove them? Give it a trial and you will not regret it.