

but this not being the case he had none.

In the United States the question of professional confidence and secrecy has been settled by several decisions in regard to priests, lawyers and physicians. None of these is bound by law to reveal secrets he has received professionally. The first decision was given in the case of Father Kohlman for not revealing on the witness stand secrets he had heard in the confessional. The ultimate decision was that he was not guilty of contempt for refusing to answer. The case of a physician was decided in a like manner by a vote of the Illinois State Senate, before which the case was brought. He was asked by the president of the senate the same question that he had refused to answer in court. He refused to answer it, and the question was raised, was he guilty of contempt of the senate? And it was decided by a majority that he was not.

It is remarkable that the seal of the confessional in the Catholic Church has ever been kept inviolable, even by priests who professed confession to the Protestant religion. History does not record a single instance of its violation by innumerable priests in all ages and nations, and not one of them has availed himself of the knowledge obtained through confession to exercise political or any other undue influence. The priest is bound by the most sacred obligation to make no use whatever of the knowledge thus acquired outside of the confessional itself. A short time ago the papers related that a man who had stolen money went to confession to a priest in some part of France and gave him the ill-forgotten funds. Being afraid that he was detected the thief went immediately to the authorities and accused the priest of stealing the money. On being arrested the money was found in his possession. The thief ap-

peared as the prosecuting witness, and the innocent man was convicted on his false testimony. The priest was found guilty and sentenced to a long term of imprisonment which he bore patiently for conscience sake. In Irish history it is related that a murderer in the confessional declared that he had killed the priest's own brother. So confident was the criminal that the priest would keep the secret that he had no hesitation in confessing the perpetration of the bloody deed. Some time afterward, so the story goes, the murderer when engaged in conversation with the same priest referred to the murder of his brother and alluded to the confession he had made to him. The priest succeeded in getting all particulars from him outside the confessional and then caused his arrest for the crime. He was convicted and executed.

That the penitent pays a fee at confession on a scale commensurate with the enormity of his sins is a fiction only accepted as fact by that small class of fanatics who believe that the Pope wrote a letter last December calling on all good Catholics to exterminate all the Protestants of the country by fire and sword. Were Catholics obliged to pay a tariff on sin in confession, the priests would have an easy time of it, for mighty few would bother them, and their best customers, the poor, would be entirely cut off, for they would have nothing to give for the remission of their crimes.

President Ellis' grand aggregation of world-beaters have once more emphasized their right to hold the title of "Invincibles" by humbling in the dust the crack lacrosse team of Montreal. Those who sneered at the idea of sending the Victoria team back east are eating humble pie; on the other hand, it is really wonderful to know how many people knew Victoria would win. In the light of their brilliant playing in Mont-

real, it may occur to many that we have been entertaining angels unawares. If the Victorias win one or two more games it will give a wonderful impetus to lacrosse in this province next summer.

As I predicted before even the necessary legislation had received the sanction of the Lieut.-Governor, Mr. A. B. Gray is the Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, his appointment having been formally announced in the last number of the Official Gazette. I objected to Mr. Gray as the head of the Department on the ground that he had not and could not possibly have the necessary knowledge of labor and its requirements, nor had his past experiences been such as to enable him to secure the confidence of those who constituted that important element. For that reason and because I felt that in him capital would not have one who had had any practical means of acquainting himself with its attitude in relation to labor, I objected to Mr. Gray. It was held that there were actual workingmen—skilled artisans—who would be much more acceptable to both the parties concerned in whatever issues might arise. It was further held that the appointment was objectionable inasmuch as it was likely to be the means of patronizing a political partizan at the expense of the service which was to be performed.

In a letter which recently appeared there was a suggestion which struck me at the time as being a good one. It was with regard to the park, drives, etc. It is stated that at the present time the chain gang is employed keeping the garden at the Lieut.-Governor's residence in order. That is good, as far as it goes, but the result of their labor only gives enjoyment to the Lieut.-Governor himself and his household. I believe it would be much better to