4 The Catholic Record

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LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION, Apostolic Delegation, Ottawa, June 13th, 1905.

To the Editor of the CATHOLIC RECORD,

London. Ont. My Dear Sir,—Since coming to Canada I have been a reader of your paper. I have noted with satisfaction that it is directed with intelli-gence and ability, and, above all, that it is im-bued with a strong Catholic spirit. It strenu-ously defends Catholic principles and rights, and stands firmily by the teachings and author-ity of the Church, at the same time promoting the best interests of the country. Following these lines it has done a great deal of good for the welfare of religion and coun-ty, and it will do more and more, as its wholesome influence reaches more Catholic homes.

homes. I, therefore, earnestly recommend it to Cath-blic families. With my blessing on your work, and best

amilies. th my blessing on your work, and best se for its continued success, Yours very sincerely in Christ, DONATUS, Archbishop of Ephesus, Apostolic Delegate.

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA. wa, Canada, March 7th, 1900. Ottaw

To the Editor of THE CATHOLIC RECOR London. Ont : London. Ont: Dear Sir: For some time past I have read our estimable paper, THE CATHOLIC RECORD. and compatulate you upon the manner in

your estimable paper. In you upon the manner in which it is published. Its matter and form are both good; and a wuy Catholle spirit pervadesthe whole. Therefore, with pleasure, I can recommend to the faithful.

the faithful. Bleging you and wishing you success, Bieleve me to remain, Yours faithfully in Jesus Christ † D FALCONIO, Arch. of Larissa, Apost. Deleg.

LONDON, SATURDAY, SEPT. 15, 1906.

HOME RULE AND THE ENGLISH EDUCATION BILL.

It is now understood that the British Cabinet has promised to Mr. John Redmond that a Home Rule Bill will be brought before the House of Commons at an early date, by which a local Parliament will be established at Dublin which shall have large powers for the management of Irish matters, without impairing the supreme authority of the Imperial Parliament.

It is admitted by Sir Henry Camp bell Bannerman that the autonomy ac corded to the more distant colonies in cluded within the British Empire, such as Canada, Australia, New Zealand, etc., has made these colonies thor. oughly loyal, whereas all efforts to placate Ireland have failed, because even the most petty matters of Govern ment are managed for Ireland by the Imperial Parliament, though in the colonies referred to such matters are under control of the various local Parents or County Councils. There are undeniable grievance which bear heavily on the Irish people, among which are their excessive taxation and likewise the distribution of all offices of emolument and authority among the Protestant minority, to the extent of 65 to 80 per cent., whereas that minority comprises only a quarter of the population. This state of affairs could not and would not be endured by any liberty-loving people, as it exceeds even the disproportion between the governing and the governed classes of India and Egypt, in which the greatest consideration possible is given to the Buddhists and Mahometans who form the majorities in these countries. Let there be a change in the mode of government in Ireland, and there will soon be a spirit of unity and amity between the people of the three king doms which has never hitherto existed An oppressed and over-ridden people seldom or never becomes reconciled with the race of oppressors, and never is the word to be used as long as the vivid memory of the oppression lasts, or until, by a changed demeanor, the oppressors show by their deeds that they regard the subject race no longer as serfs but as equals. There may then be a union of hearts, but not otherwise. The people of Scotland have long been brothers to the English people, but such was not the case or until, the highest positions in the united kingdoms were made equally open to both peoples - nay, even the Scotch were given decisive advantage by the union. A Scotch king had already long before been raised to the united thrones of the two kingdoms ; Scotchmen could and did aspire to the highest positions under the union without any objection on the part of the

Great Britain shall have a history, at his head the stool on which she had and further, it was mutually agreed to that the diversity of religions of the natives of the two countries should be no bar to the advancement of the citizens of both. Why should not the same causes effect

the same results between England and Ireland ? And why should not the experiment at least be tried ? We have not the least doubt that the effort to do so which it is now stated the Govern. ment will make will be a decisive suc.

Bat in Ireland a different religion from that of the other two nations of the tripartite compact prevails. This should be no obstacle in the way of a permanent political peace. Let the three religions be made equal under the laws, and the result will be a perman. ent peace and friendship. This is what we believe Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman will effect by the Home Rule Bill he

proposes as an olive branch offered to Ireland. But here it will be said, " Scotland has not Home Rule, therefore to keep the equality, Ireland should not have it

either." To this we answer that the difference of religion between Ireland and England makes Home Rule neces sary for Ireland, whereas similarity on the score of religion removes that necessity so far as Scotland is concerned. The English people have so far shown such an animosity toward the people of Ireland on account of their religion, that, to make the three countries equal before the law, there must be a divergence of treatment of Ireland and Scotland which would otherwise be unnecessary. England and Scotland are treated equally because of their having

similar though not identical religions, whereas the difference of religion in the case of Ireland has made a difference of treatment which gives Protestantism an scendancy which is about equal to three hundred, or four times seventyfive to one.

We may here add a word on the Birrell School Bill which has passed the House of Commons, but which it is expected will not in its present form pass the Lords.

We cannot think that the votes of the Irish members can be purchased to support this educational measure which proposes to do a permanent in

ustice to Catholic Schools, already enjoying vested rights, for the sake of the Home Rule Bill which it is believed the Government will concede. Justice cries out that Home Rule be granted, and no such price should be paid to ob tain it as the bartering away of Catholic educational rights. Anglican rights are at stake also. These rights are the rights of a large majority of the population; but, as a matter of course. Anglican rights are secondary to the rights of Catholics at the standpoint

of the Irish National Party. Yet the claims of both creeds should be res nected. The Nonconformists have raised a false cry that they are taxed under the school laws of 1902 and 1903 for the teaching of the Anglican and Catholic creeds. The fact is, they desire to impose on Catholics and Anglicans alike a religious teaching to suit their desires. This injustice should not b done to the great majority of the people, and they may take it as a certainty that neither Catholics nor Anglicans will endure the threatened injustice. Sir Anthony MacDonnell has already given a hint that the Home Rule Bill will be introduced at the next session of Parliament. It will not be so com prehensive as was that of Mr. W. E. Gladstone, but a representative Legislative Assembly sitting at Dublin and dealing with Irish matters will be a feature of it, and though there will be a determined fight in both Houses of Parliament over it, the Government is quite confident it will be passed with very little modification, even by the Lords, who killed Mr, Gladstone's bill.

been sitting, saying "How daur you read the Mass at my very lug?" The others taking part in the disturbance the meeting was soon entirely broken up Recently the Presbyterians of that city erected to the memory of Jenny Geddes an imposing monument, which

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attests that she has been regarded to the present day as one of the champions of Scotch Presbyterianism. But at the General Assembly which convened at Des Moines, Jows, last May, it was de cided to issue a new "Common Book o Worship" which has just been issued from the press and which bears a grea resemblance to the Anglican Book of Common Prayer. This is undoubtedly a bid for a future union of these de nominations, notwithstanding the indignation expressed a few years ago when the delegates of the Presbyter. ians who were sent to consult with the Anglicans on terms of union, were told that they could never endure to submit to reordination by Bishops, as a preliminary to union, as this would be an acknowledgment that they have hitherto wrongfully assumed the office of the Christian ministry.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S SPELLING REFORM.

A sharp discussion has arisen out the order issued by President Roose velt on August 24th, to the effect that in all official documents to be issued from the White House in future the President's messages shall be printed in accordance with the recommendations of a Spelling Reform Committee, the chairman of which is Brandon Matthews of Columbia University.

This Committee has published a list of a hundred words in which it is proposed that for the present the spelling shall be reformed, and these are the words the spelling of which is to be changed in official documents emanating from the President. Thus, though and through will become the and thru, and other words which are complicated in their spelling or have letters which are not pronounced, will does not appear to be at all a desirable be simplified by dropping the useless letters. The President's correspond ence will also be spelled in the sam style.

Secretary Loeb has already put int force the President's order, and we are further informed that as the Spelling Reform Committee shall prepare new lists of words which ought to be simplified, they will be added to the Presid ent's list and to that of the public printer.

It is not said that all executive de partments at Washington must adopt the new spelling, but it is believed to be most probable that the heads of departments will fall into line and will use the President's spelling in their documents.

Coming so soon after the advice given by Mr. Andrew Carnegie to authors and editors to spell according to the rules laid down by the Spelling Reform Committee, the public have been partly led to believe that the President's action has been influenced very much by Mr. Carnegie's advice, and the press of England, especially the leading London newspapers, have not shown any sympathy with the Pres ident's action. The London Standard says that President Roosevelt over rates his powers, and adds that it declines to believe that scholarly and cultivated Americans will sacrifice the history and meaning of the language by adopting the Carnegie jargon. Other papers deal humorously on the matter, but generally offence seems to have been taken at the fact that the movement arose without consulting the people of England. This is thought to e an assumption that henceforth the United States is to be regarded as the supreme authority which is to govern the English language, a concession

letters to make it strictly phonetic, but Sir Isaac Pitman about seventy years ago, till his death, advocated as alphabet of forty letters in which there would be six double or dipthongal sounds, and he furnished ingenious printed and script alphabets to fulfil this end, such that they would not very seriously change a printed or written page. But though Sir Isaac Pitman's pro

posal had many earnest and activ advocates both in Great Britain and America, and a sprightly paper advo ned under cating his views was publis the name of "Fonetic Ngz" (Phonetic News) the public generally showed no inclination to adopt his plan. It is to be noted that in this newspaper title the new character q represents ew or the long sound of u, one of the diph thongal characters used, the usual form of u being kept for the short sound of the same letter as used in cut.

Many think that the official sanctio of the President to the Reform movement will be the most effective and speediest method of inaugurating the new system of spelling throughout the country.

As to our own opinion on this matter, we may say without desiring to force it on any of our readers, that we conscientiously believe that by the adoption of Sir Isaac Pitman's plan, or even by the use of an alphabet of thirty four letters, and the perfect phonetization of our spelling, the time spent in our schools in the mere elements of language would be shortened by fully two years, which would be a most desirable result. We would therefore be glad to see the language phoneticized, but we are very doubtfu of the full reform being effected by the gradual patching method. It remain to be seen whether the President's plan will bring about a good effect. But already we see a weakness which has not been pointed out in the reform now proposed. Thru does not represent the phoneticized spelling o through, unless the sound of oo is to be always given to the letter u, which

change. In our estimation the most practical way to really improve the written English language would be to establish an international commission authorized by the respective governments of the two great nations which speak the English language to decide all ques tions on language together, so that the perpetuation of the language for future generations in both countries would be made sure, and the basis of the rules on which the decisions might rest should be to tend to the perfect phonetization of the language whether by degrees, or at once. By this means only could the two nations make such changes harmoniously.

Since the above was written Presi dent Roosevelt has shown signs of weakening in his decision to use the simplifed spelling. In a letter made public on Sept. 3rd and addressed to Mr. Charles A. Stillings, the public printer at Washington, the President wrote that if the proposed changes meet popular approval they will be made permanent : if not, they will be

Church for condemning such engines of mmorality and infidelity ?

To counteract the evil influences of the Protestant versions, a Catholie translation was made from the Latin Valgate by Dr. Gregory Martin, assisted by Dr. (Cardinal) Allen, Dr. Richard Bristow and Dr. William Reynolds. The New Testament was published at Rheims in 1582, A. D., and the Old Testa-

ment at Dousy in 1610 A. D. On the title page we read : " The Holie Bible faith-fully translated into English ovt of the avthentical Latin ; diligently conferred with the Hebrew, Greeke, and others editions in divers languages, with arguments of the bookes and chapters ; annotations, tables, and other helpes for the better vnderstanding of the text, for the discoverie of corruption in some late translations, and for clear ing controversies in religion, etc."

In the preface to the New Testa ment the translators say : " Moreover we presume not to mollify the speeches or phrases, but religiously keep them word for word and point for point, for the fear of missing or restraining the sense of the Holy Ghost to our fancy." This Catholic version created a

furore in England and many copies were seized and confiscated by the agents of Queen Elizabeth. A certain Thomas Cartwright, a Puritan, was appointed to refute it, but after some little time. Archbishop Whitgift of the Church of England, prohibited him to proceed any further, desming it improper that the doctrines of the Church of England should be defended by a Puritan.

Then a certain Dr. Falke was ap pointed, and it is conceded by Proestants that if abuse can be considered refutation, Fulke succeeded most admirably. McDore, a Protestant critic, writing on the Douay version says 'This version is, as it professes to be translated from the Vulgate, and in some parts more exactly represents the very words of the inspired writers, as they were originally written, than the authorised version, or any other translation. This is owing to Saint Jerom having translated the text into Latin from primitive manuscripts, which were not accessible to later translators, who therefore had to rely on copies made in many instances by heretics, containing interpolations and omissions as well as intentional alter ations, which by the mere process of constant copying, varied in hundreds of places from the original documents. Saint Jerome lived more than a thousand years before the reformation, and he was free from all those religious prejudices of a later age, which contribute to corrupt the word of God in such a manner that, with all due respect to our separated brethren, it can be truly said that the pure word of God has not for well nigh four hundred years been offered to the people either by the Church of England or by any other Protestant denomination. How ever, it is but right to say that the alterations introduced into the Bible by the English reformers have been

largely corrected in the more recent revisions of the Protestant Bible, for scholarship and not religious prejudice was the motive and guiding light of revisers. But a

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other causes have left their marks upon them. Incidentally we must remark that this proves that God never intended that His Revelation should be made known by means of the Bible, for, if He did, he undoubtedly would have preserved the originals of the inspired writings ; but no, He has allowed them to decay and to be lost, a fact which proves conclusively that He did not deem them necessary.

Now it is not necessary to be versed either in the rules of grammar or of rhetoric in order to be able to communicate a truth to others ; the truth of this assertion may easily be verified. for it occurs in our daily interconce with children and uneducated people. How often have not solemn truths been found rudely carved on the top of some wild and rocky precipice by savage hands, but which were nevertheless as true as if they had been chiselled out by the trained hand of a Michae Angelo, simply because the force of truth is something distinct from elogance in diction or from artistic culture

In this way Catholics were always ecure regarding the truth contained in their Bible, for they well knew that God could not fail to safeguard the revelation which He had made to me for their direction and guidance.

The Bible is not the principal teacher of Catholics, it is only a secondary one ; in fact it can well be compared to a text book in the hands of student, which needs the explanation of a living teacher. For us that teacher is the Church. Hence, there is no necessity for us to be the least apprehensive about the defects of our quaint old Catholic version. After all the written word is only a secondary source of Divine Revelation, and as such it is made known to us by Tradition, which maintains the authenticity and integrity of the written word. And if Tradition is capable of doing this, surely it must be capable of safeguarding it independently of ink and paper ; and in fact it does so in many ways under the form and authority of the Church. It must be remembered that since revealed truth, taken in its traditional form, is identical with the Christian doctrines and truths which are conserved and communicated to the world by the magisterium of the Church, that the Church herself is nothing but Divine Tradition divinely informed. This is what makes the Church so eminently scriptural and is the secret and cause of that beautiful harmony that exists between the living teaching of the Church and the written word of God. When St. Augustine said that he would not believe the gospels only on the authority of the Catholic Church, did he not imply that harmony ? Did he not imply that there could not possibly be any antagonism between the Church and the written word of God ? Hence it is easy to understand why Catholics cannot find anything in their Bible contrary to the truths, doctrines, laws, liturgical practices and traditions of their holy mother the Church.

TO BE CONTINUED.

A POLISH SCHISMATICAL of errors of a fundamental nature can TION still be found in the newest revisions A couple of months ago there was a of the Bible made under Protestant dispatch published in the papers from patronage to prevent Catholics from Cooperstown, N. Y., announcing that using such revisions and to disciplinary the pastor and congregation of a Cathregulations of the Church prohibiting the olic Church in Plymouth, Pennsylvania, use of the Protestant Bible, except for had applied to the General Conference the purpose of study, is wholly justified. of the Methodist Episcopal Church, And no matter how closely it may rethen in session in Cooperstown, to semble our own, the brand of rebellion admit them to membership in that is upon it. We recognize the likeness Church. The pretended priest who bit we cannot follow it on account of was represented as being thus desirthe difference. The Catholic translatous of becoming a Methodist and bringors, though they were good Hebrew and ing his congregation with him was stated Greek scholars, nevertheless they to be the Rev. Joseph Davidowski, deemed it wise to follow the translat who on further investigation was ascortion of Saint Jerome, for the reasons tained to be the self appointed pastor given by our Protestant critic, as of a so-called Polish National Church quoted above. And although the Valat Plymouth. These Poles had started gate was only a translation, still it was this pretended Church, because they good translation, and better than the could not rule the Catholic Church of originals that were then at hand, and a that city, and of course they could no good copy of God's message to man. longer claim to be Catholics The English into which it was trans-Davidowski is a man of glib tongue who lated was the quaint English of the Elizabethan age, and very often the translators, not finding suitable ex had some influence with these Poles, and got them to make him their paster, though he was not and never was a pressions in English into which they Catholic priest, nor is his name to be could translate certain Latin words. religiously incorporated these words found at all in the Catholic directory, into the English language, thereby enwhich has in it the names and addresses of all the Catholic priests of the United riching it, a fact which is said to have delighted the heart of Doctor Johnson. States and Canada. The Church which these people, numbering forty families, In order to thoroughly understand attend is known not to be a recognized the position of Catholics in regard to this or any other Catholic translation Church of the diocese of Scranton, to which Plymouth belongs, so that the of the Bible, it is necessary to distinpretended pastor thereof is not a Cathguish between the truth contained in olic priest, nor are his followers Catho the language and the grammatical conlics. The truth of the matter is that this church is heavily burdened with debt, and Davidowski has sought to have it accepted by one of the sects in order to have its debt paid. He at first made advances to the Russian church, but the Russian church authorities refused to accept him into their boil the obliterating power of time and body. The Baptists, on being applied

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of England, and the most people honored of British statesmen since the union was a thorough Scotchman,

MORE CONCESSIONS FOR UNITY'S SAKE.

The Presbyterians of the United States, having amalgamated with the Cumberland Presbyterians, with which they now form one body, and having already discarded the frightful doctrine of Predestinarianism, as taught in the Westminster Confession, have made another step which aims at further mion with other sects, the purpose being to make a determined effort at a further union between Protestant bodies : but it is always at a sacrifice of doctrine that these advances are being made.

Some generations ago there was a great aversion among Presbyterians to fixed liturgy further than the reading of the Scriptures and the recital of prayers made up from the thoughts of the minister himself, and it was because of the reading of the Book of Common Prayer by the Dean of Edinburgh in St. Giles' cathedral in that city that riot took place in the cathedral, being started by Mistress Jenny Geddes, on July 23rd, 1637, who rose up whose memory will not die so long as when the dean began to read, and threw

very slow to make. And yet, if the language is to be reformed in its orthography, who is to make the change? It is clear that some one must begin. It is admitted by all who have paid any attention to the matter that the spelling of the English language diverges more than that of any other alphabetic tongue from the true purpose of an alphabet, which is to rep resent the sounds of the language. French comes next in the category, while German, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese come nearest to the ideal of a phonetic language, the words of these languages being spelled almost exactly as they are pronounced, due regard being given to the fact that

each language has a force of its own for the letters of the alphabet. The ideal phonetic alphabet would have as many letters as there are dis-

tinct sounds in any given language, its bosom. and these letters would retain the same sounds wherever found : yet it would not exclude certain combinations of letters so closely united that they are separable with difficulty, from being represented by single characters.

From this point of view, English would require at least thirty four mon sense, will blame the Catholic

THE CHURCH AND THE VERNACULAR.

CONTINUED.

Now we have seen the history of the English Protestant Bible, we have seen that every translation that was ever published was condemned as either untrue or corrupt, and that by men who were the leaders of English Pro testantism. We have seen that num berless revisions and re-revisions shared the same fate. We have seen that royal proclamations were issued grant ing permission to the people to read these Bibles and commanding ministers which the people of England will be, to teach them in season and out of season, although they were condemned as corrupt and untrue. We have seen that royal injunctions were enacted forbidding the reading of these Bibles under pain of imprisonment, not it deed because they were corrupt and untrue but on account of the strife, ill-feeling disturbance and quarrels which it engendered. The private interpretation of the Bible, which is the fundamental principle of Protestantism, was pushed to its logical extreme, for men freely discussed the Bible, and fought over it in ale-houses, taverns, and in all places of ill repute, and each found arguments in it to support his own theories, no matter how vile. The Bible had lost its supernatural life, and versions and revisions were strewn all over the land like corpses in a plague stricken city : in its new form, it lay dead at the feet of England, and sects crawled out of

struction and polish of the language. If the leaders of Protestantism be-The Scriptures, as the word indicates, are written documents which have been same so appalled at the havoe which a handed down to us, like other written corrupt Bible, as well as the principle documents, through the medium of of private interpretation, was creating, human preservation, which, like all where can that man be found, outsid things under the sun, is at best but of an insane asylum, who, having any protensions to common decency or e imperfect, and it is not to be wondered