

The Catholic Record

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Catholic Record

LONDON, SATURDAY, APR. 19, 1884. HOLY WEEK IN LONDON.

The usual Lenten devotions were held during Holy Week in the Cathedral, and never within our memory were they so well attended. Unusual numbers approached the Sacraments with great fervor and piety.

The services at St. Mary's church, conducted by Rev. Father Cornyn, were also largely attended. We heard the rev. gentleman declare that never, during his stay in London, did he observe such fervor and earnest piety in that congregation.

The singing at the Cathedral and at St. Mary's Church, was unusually grand, and Mrs. Cruickshanks and Miss Farrell, the respective organists, deserve praise for their success in producing vocal efforts in every way worthy of the occasion.

We beg to return hearty thanks to our friend Donald M. Cameron, M. P. for the West Riding of Middlesex, for very many acts of kindness and courtesy. We may at the same time extend him hearty thanks on behalf of the College of Ottawa for maps and other documents. Mr. Cam-

eron has, during his first session, endeared himself to his acquaintances by his gentlemanly bearing. We wish him many long years of Parliamentary life.

THE PROVINCIAL SUBSIDIES.

It was, we think, pointed out several months ago in these columns that the financial arrangements entered into at Confederation, binding the Dominion to contribute a certain sum per capita to the Provincial Governments for their maintenance and support, could not stand the test of time, and that the sooner a new—and, under the constant development of Provincial resources and enlargement of Provincial wants—a really equitable system of Dominion subvention of the Province of Quebec, having incurred in the prosecution of public works, of benefit as well to that Province as to the Dominion at large, an amount of indebtedness which its Provincial revenues could not meet, has for some time been pressing for better terms.

That it is expedient to provide that in the accounts between the several provinces the amount by which the subsidy was increased by the act 36 Vic, cap. 30, as explained by the act 37 Vic, cap. 3, as to Nova Scotia, shall be calculated and allowed to the provinces respectively as if the said act had directed the increased subsidies should be allowed from the day of its coming into force in the Dominion of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, as provided thereby, shall bear to the respective populations of the last named province, as ascertained by the census of 1881, and the amount of such increase to the said provinces of British Columbia, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, as deemed capital owing to said provinces respectively, and shall bear interest at the rate of 5 per cent. as part of their respective subsidies. Sir Leonard Tilley explained that if the amount to be placed at the credit of the provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, averaged \$1.50 per head of their population, the provinces of British Columbia, Manitoba and Prince Edward Island would also receive \$1.50 per head of the population, according to the census of 1881.

In other words, the subsidy to the several provinces will be increased according to the measure of the government by about sixty-two cents per head of the population, as shown by the census of 1881. A very decided increase, indeed. But will this measure set at rest the financial difficulties of the Dominion in regard to its several provinces? We fear not. Nothing but an amendment of the British America Act, fixing a readjustment on a basis so equitable as to be permanent, will ever give general satisfaction and deliver Confederation from ever-recurring difficulty and danger.

LADIES, FORSOOTH!

The American says: "No less than three hundred English ladies have signed a petition for the restoration of Baker Pasha to his rank in the British army. As this worthy forfeited his rank by attempting to outrage a young lady in an English railway-carriage, we cannot think that these petitioners have done much honor to their sex by making this request. We have confidence, however, in one English lady—we mean Queen Victoria—that three thousand such signatures would not move her to take this man back into her service. Since the death of the Prince Consort, the Queen's children rather than the Queen have given tone to English society. The result has been morally disastrous. An era of self-indulgence, extravagant outlay and moral laxity has succeeded to that in which Prince Albert was the first gentleman in the kingdom. In such a condition of things, the most influential class that cares little about right or wrong is apt to think itself the generosity that inclines to mercy. The Queen represents an older and sounder mode of feeling, and England would be the better for her more frequent appearance in public and in society."

Ladies, indeed. Three hundred ladies signing a petition in favor of a lascivious brute, who sought to outrage an innocent and helpless girl! In what age do we live!

Is it in the nineteenth century! Or, rather, is it not in the days of a Tiberius, a Caligula, or a Nero! No. Let us bring ourselves home to the truth. It is in the nineteenth century, and in the England once justly proud and jealous of woman's honor, that this assault on public decency is committed by persons called English ladies. And that not by a few. But by three hundred! Baker had a friend the Prince of Wales. But no man, even when called Prince, can give honor to crime, or lustre to brutality. Baker is, in the eyes of all honest men, as degraded a blackguard as if he had never enjoyed such friendship. Not even the petition of the noble three hundred females can, whatever it may do as to his rank in the army, restore him to public respect.

OUR BAD BOYS.

The Star, in a late issue, says: "Peck's 'Bad Boy' is being dramatized and placed on the boards of a New York theatre. There is surely little need to dramatize the bad boy. He dramatizes himself quite too much. He is the benefit of the community. The papers are full of the actual exploits of bad boys—thefts, highway robberies, murders—and yet people think they can afford to laugh over a humorous portrait of the bad boy. Such books as the one we refer to do an immense amount of harm by encouraging boys to think that it is a very fine thing to make nuisances of themselves to their elders by the continual performance of silly and mischievous tricks. And, as if a 'Bad Boy's Diary' was not enough and too much, we now have a 'Bad Girl's Diary,' which will also, no doubt, be eagerly read by the large and thoughtless class who enjoyed the earlier production."

There is not, indeed, any need of dramatizing either one—"bad boys" or "bad girls." The bad boy and the bad girl seem to have acquired permanent residence amongst us, and are part and parcel of our modern paganism. When vice is actually lionized in the persons of worthless women who have in Europe acquired notoriety by their profligacy, we cannot be surprised that the bad boy is to be found everywhere and the bad girl deplorably ubiquitous. We have had the Bernharts and Langtrys of Parisian and London notoriety fairly worshipped, not by boys or girls, but men and women mature enough in years to be wise, but so depraved by false training and corrupt surroundings as to be actually, even if they see it not themselves—licentious. Let society reform itself by correcting its wicked tastes, eschewing its wicked practices, and setting its foot down firmly in condemnation of the wrong and in favor of the right, and the bad boy as well as the bad girl will be glad to hide, the one his wickedness and the other her shame.

THE WAR IN THE SOUDAN.

An American journalist very fairly, we think, sums up the results thus far of the contest in the Soudan in the following terms: "The latest news from the Soudan is not reassuring with reference to the safety of Colonel Gordon. It appears that he has failed completely as regards the main object of his journey to Khartoum. The whole district around that city is in insurrection, and no part of the country to the west of Khartoum is safe from the incursions of the Egyptian army. At last affairs, Colonel Gordon had fought a successful battle on the 16th inst., and was to start on his retreat on the 15th. But a retreat under such circumstances must mean a continuous battle, or what is still worse, a march under the gullible fire of the enemy. To traverse hundreds of miles of an African desert after this fashion, on his way to the Egyptian frontier, is an undertaking from which the bravest man might shrink."

The reasons for his failure are two. The first is that he was sent out to the Soudan without any definite object. He was to restore peace, without either annexing the country or restoring it to Egyptian rule. At no point in his mission has he been able to say what he came for, unless it were to make Mr. Gladstone's course in Parliament a success because less open to criticism. The other reason for his failure is the complete change of conditions in the Soudan. A genuine religious fanaticism, like that of the Moslems, is as nearly an incalculable force as can be. A "war of zeal," such as El Mahdi is waging, calls out all that is bravest and all that is fiercest in both the Arab and the Berber character. It differs vastly from the huge egotism of the Tae-Ping in China, by whose suppression Colonel Gordon won his first laurels. It meets the elements which are strongest in his own character with the resistance of something equally energetic."

England has, in our estimation, undertaken altogether too much in her attempted conquest of the Soudan. Nothing but conquest could bring that country into subjection. And its conquest under existing circumstances appears to us impossible not only by England but by any European power or combination of powers. True, indeed, an army might force its way through these arid deserts, defeating what-ever Moslem fanatics it might meet, but would that be a conquest of the country! By no means would the defeat of El Mahdi mean a conquest of the country. Not at all. There are El Mahdis without end among the fanatical Moslems in that immense region whom no defeat can discourage, no reverses overwhelm. Fighting is their very trade, and certainly their sole occupation.

The whole Egyptian policy of the British government has been a mistake. What

was demanded was not the permanent occupation of any portion of the country but that in the vicinity of the Suez Canal, for the protection of that great work of international importance, and that occupation should have been undertaken not by one power alone, but conjointly by all.

OTTAWA SHIP CANAL.

Resuming the subject of the Ottawa ship canal, I shall now refer briefly to the report of Mr. Thos. C. Clarke who reported upon it to the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd January, 1880. The total distance between the city of Montreal and Lake Huron, via the river Ottawa, its tributary the Mattawan, Lake Nipissingue, and the French river, is 430 miles, of which, 350 miles already offer good natural navigation—the remaining 80 miles require to be improved, and this can be done at an estimated cost of 12 million dollars which, according to Mr. Clarke, would be distributed as follows:—

Table with columns: DISTANCES, and Canal, and Cost. Rows include Lake of Two Mountains, Ottawa River, Des Chenes Lake, etc.

These are, exclusive of the Lachine Canal, 20.82 miles of Canal, costing \$12,057,680, which is equal to \$579,134 per mile of canal. But the cost of the whole navigation, from St. Annes to Lake Huron 408.76 miles, is but a trifle under \$29,500 per mile.

The system of navigation recommended by Mr. Clarke was calculated for vessels of one thousand tons burden, and the locks were to be 250 feet long by 45 feet in width, with a depth of 12 feet on the mid-rills.

In a brief article as this necessarily must be, it is impossible to do justice to the various engineering features of the route. It may be stated, however, that the method of improvement proposed by both Messrs. Shively and Clark is not inferior to the standard of the St. Lawrence Canals. For the supply of water at the summit of navigation there appears to be no great difficulty, both Messrs. Shively and Clark having given much study to the problem.

It appears, from the observations and surveys of those gentlemen that, in order to insure the necessary supply of water for lockage on both slopes of the proposed chain of navigation, it will be sufficient to raise Lake Nipissingue 9.46 feet above high water, lower Trout and Turtle lakes, respectively 7.85, and 6.95 feet, and raise Lac Talon 20.95 feet, thus making a summit level for navigation of 57 miles length. The shores of Lake Nipissingue of 31 1/2 square miles, and a reception basin eighty miles in length, varying from half a mile to twelve miles in width, and giving a surface of three hundred and thirty square miles. By this arrangement it becomes unnecessary to make any provision for a storage of water in the waters of Lake Nipissingue being sufficient for any scale of navigation, for all time.

It may be said that, in order to raise Lake Nipissingue 9 1/2 feet above its present level, much damage would be done to the adjacent lands. The entire southern shore, east of the Chaudiere portage, is bounded by high, barren, rocky cliffs, excepting a strip on the east side of the lake, about eight miles in length and one quarter mile in width, which is annually inundated by the spring freshets. The shores of Lake Nipissingue would be overflowed; but a large portion of this is already subject to inundation. The north shore, for two-thirds of its length, is high, and out of reach of the proposed height of water.

With the exception of the track of the Canadian Pacific railway, which I believe, runs pretty close to the North shore for some miles, there is very little settlement, and but little exposure would be incurred for damage on that score.

The outlet of Lake Nipissingue into French river is admirably adapted for the damming up of the lake, the channels of exit being narrow, with high, rocky shores of granite and gneiss. From the entrance of French river on the Georgian Bay, to its outlet from Lake Nipissingue, the distance is fifty miles, the ascent sixty feet, and the level of Lake Nipissingue above sea, 632 feet nearly.

The construction of 7 and 8 dams, with 1 mile of rock cutting (exclusive of the lock excavations) embraces all the work necessary for the passage of vessels of one thousand tons burden, from Lake Huron to Lake Nipissingue. At the mouth of French river there are excellent facilities for a harbor, in fact, with very little expense, it can be made the safest and most easily accessible port upon the upper lakes, especially in the fall of the year.

As has been already remarked, this route is the natural outlet for all the region lying west and north of the great lakes, and, in point of distance is far superior to the Welland canal route, as the following tables of comparison will show:

Table comparing routes from Chicago to Montreal. Columns: Chicago, Montreal, Lockage, Total, Up, Down. Rows: Welland, French River, Ottawa.

In point of time, the above routes bear each other the following proportions: Welland, 106 hours; French River, 176 hours; Ottawa, 176 hours. With the certainty of six and a half

months navigation every year, between Thos. Bay and Montreal, not to speak of the trade of Lake Michigan, a great portion of which would undoubtedly seek this route in preference to that of the lakes and the St. Lawrence; with the growing demands of the oppressed North Western farmers for cheap transportation to sea board, with the incalculable advantages which would accrue to the provinces of Quebec and Ontario from the construction of this waterway, with the growing monopolies, the railroads, may the question not be pertinently asked, if the Dominion government meant to make a present of \$25,000,000 to the Canadian Pacific railway Co., for the purpose, among many other things, of enabling that corporation to dictate freight rates to the Dominion generally, would it be too much to direct attention to a subject which, so long unassumed, has a very great importance to the public at large. NORTH-WEST.

CATHOLIC PRESS.

Freeman's Journal. Father Nugent's ballad concert, given on Saturday nights for the working people of Liverpool, have been very effective in supplying a few hours of recreation to over-worked wives, and in keeping men out of low places of amusement. The programmes offered to the public were not made up of variety hall ditties, but of music of a good kind—old-fashioned songs and airs from the composers who had not learned to hate to have a tune in their works. It is not pleasant to compare Father Nugent's programme with the plan of the entertainments given on this side of the Atlantic by some of the literary and temperance societies. They seem to be very much after weak imitations of the variety shows, made up of dog-dancing, silly and vulgar songs, and caricatures of "alleged" Irish life. Catholic young men ought to have more respect for the Church and themselves than to give the impression that Catholics are not only devoid of good taste, but ready to give exhibitions which, while not positively immoral, are low and coarse. Easter time is generally selected for exhibitions; let them contain, this year, none of the objectionable caricatures and songs borrowed from the variety theatres.

Buffalo Union. March, fierce and wild as a Tipperary raparee, is gone, and the fresh, fair April, with a bunch of sweet primroses pinned in her hair, brings back the twittering swallow, blue skies, and budding branches.

Dion Boucicault, the theatrical magnifico who has enriched himself by vilely travestying Irish character, is simply plain Dennis Buckley. The poor mother that bore him would scarce recognize him in the new nomenclature.

During the past thirty years, millions of Irishmen have immigrated to these shores. How many of these millions hold propertarian positions of influence and wealth to-day? Alas! few—very few. Why? Because they have not been true to themselves. Coming to this bright and breezy Republic, with Eldorado dreams, they have opened their naturally generous and confiding hearts for every daw to peck at; and all too early many of them have found the grave of their hopes and schemes, their manhood and their worth, in the blighting and besotting saloon.

We are rapidly approaching the termination of the holy season when all Christians will be called to commemorate the great events of mankind's redemption. The most solemn anniversaries in the whole history of our Lord's passion, or to speak more properly, the entire sufferings which the God-man underwent for the salvation of men will be concentrated in the Church's ceremonial for next week. Next Sunday the entire Christian world will strew their Saviour's pathway with palms. As the King and Redeemer approaches the tribunal to receive the condemnatory sentence of ambitious and fendish men, he receives the homage of those who have not despised His grace. We cannot place the unsullied branches of the forest beneath the material steed that bears our King; but in every Catholic church throughout Christendom our Saviour will be present to receive the homage of the contrite and humble heart. A clear conscience is the most imperishable palm branch that can be strewn before the approaching Redeemer.

Baltimore Mirror. The eyes of the whole world are anxiously turned towards Rome. Nations instinctively feel that she has healing for their troubles. In their turn, Russia, Germany and France have come to the Holy Father. After experiencing the disturbances of heresy and infidelity, and finding how unreal were all their internal policies over the social stratum, they come, begging, as it were, the intercession of the Holy Father. A clear conscience is the most imperishable palm branch that can be strewn before the approaching Redeemer.

The American college in Rome has been saved. The firm distinct representations made by Mr. Astor, the American Minister in Rome, under instructions from Secretary Frelinghuysen and President Arthur, have convinced the Italian Government that it will need a more authoritative decision than that of its creature, the Court of Cession, to steal the foreign investments of Catholic-Americans. President Arthur and Secretary Frelinghuysen probably did, so far as the substance of their action goes, only what any other American officials would have done in so gross a case, but the promptness, good judgment and high American spirit which they displayed will invest their action, abroad, with a respectability that will serve the country, and which certainly will add to their strength at home, amongst all not blinded by partisan or religious prejudice. Their good offices in this emergency will not be forgotten.

Boston Catholic Herald. Some of our Puritans are anxiously making public inquiry how to obtain their family coat-of-arms from England. They are probably the descendants of the some soap boiler, button maker, or traveling tinkler who changed his name from the plebeian Smith, Jones or Robinson to that of Sydney or Howard, and having gathered together some dollars think that the family cannot live on good pork and beans without the prestige of his dignity and the exercise of his supreme power. Puritan eyes and stamp their culture with

the seal of antiquity. Poor Puritans, the fathers are disgraced by your parvenu tastes.

Cincinnati Telegraph. Not in the days of the Blue Laws, but only a couple of weeks ago, as an exchange assures us, and in the city of Boston, was the following item found on the docket of one of its aidmen:—Jeremiah Donnelly, for playing marbles on the Lord's Day, fined \$2 without costs. This is in the land where, of course, great sinners go scot-free and are "respectable." The "straining at a gnat" usually takes the form of great devotion to a sanctimonious observance of the Lord's Day. "Oh ye hypocrites!"

Catholicism. A young lady was once arguing with her spiritual director that there was no harm in round dances, for she had often indulged in them and had never had an impure thought. Her director simply asked her whether she had ever listened to the confession of her partner in the dance. This put the matter to her in a light entirely different from the way in which she had contemplated it up to that time, and she was completely silenced. This leads us to say that although a young girl may in the innocence of her heart dance a round dance without the suggestion of evil entering her soul, yet if she is the cause of sin to her male partner, she is guilty in the sight of Almighty God of being the proximate occasion of sin and also of giving scandal. Hear what St. Alphonsus Liguori says on this point: "Dances are bad because, if in the end there is danger of impurity for oneself or for others." In another place, he writes: "A act which is no sin at all, or only a venial sin, becomes a mortal sin if it gives great scandal."

CATHOLIC NOTES.

Mr. and Mrs. Oakley O'Leil, of New York City, were received into the Church recently.

The Paris Gaulois says the Pope is preparing a strong encyclical letter against Freemasons and other secret societies.

The Vatican Library contains over 40,000 MSS., and was instituted 1,400 years ago.

It is announced that a conference of Irish Bishops will be held during September next.

The Belgian Catholics in the last four years contributed £2,400,000 for the erection of Catholic schools, without taking into account £240,000 a year paid by them for the maintenance of existing schools.

Mrs. Lamotte and her son and daughter, of Brighton, are to be received into the Church in a short time. This lady is the wife of the Rev. Mr. Lamotte, who has been so prominent a ritualist in Brighton, England.

Dr. William Thomson, an American surgeon of great eminence, who has been living in Rome during several years past, was received into the Church, on Sunday, February 10th, in the chapel of the Scotch College, Rome. Dr. Thomson acquired a high reputation in the Army during the Civil War in America, and there also his ability has been widely recognized. His charity to the poor is conspicuous.

Eighteen Indian girls from the White Earth reservation in the northern part of Minnesota, entered the Academy of the Benedictine Sisters at St. Joseph's, Stearns county, last week, and twelve more are expected this week. These girls are to be educated in accordance with arrangements recently made with the United States government. The number of Indian girls at the academy will gradually be increased to fifty. This system of civilizing the Indians is proving most successful.

In regard to the popularity of Lord Ripon among the natives of India, a valued correspondent writes to say that he had a recent opportunity of hearing Sir William Wedderburn's views on the subject: "I have never," said Sir William, "seen anything like the popularity of Lord Ripon among the natives. They say he is the best Governor-General we have ever had." They speak of him as so straight, so genuine, tears come into their eyes with enthusiasm when you mention Lord Ripon's name.

This being the Feast of Annunciation, appropriate special services were held in the Basilica this morning. His Lordship Bishop Duhamel celebrated High Mass. There was a very large congregation. Previous to the service, Mr. D. C. F. Bliss, Lieutenant of the Ottawa Field Battery, was received into the Church. After making a solemn abjuration he received the Sacrament of Baptism administered by the Bishop. Hon. A. P. Caron, Minister of Militia, and Madam Caron acted as sponsors at the baptismal ceremony. He then received the Blessed Sacrament for the first time. Mr. Bliss was formerly a member of the Church of England.—Ottawa Free Press, 25th March.

The possibility of the Pope's departure from Rome is again agitating the minds of the Catholics in Italy. The latest act of the Italian Government with regard to the Propaganda property, and the extreme probability that further attempts against the Holy See will be carried out by that Government, especially as the anti-Catholic party are becoming more powerful in the Chamber, induce the belief that the only safety for the Holy See will be in removal from Italy. The *Monsieur de Rome* of this evening says: "Abandoned by some, attacked by others, the Holy See will be obliged, one day or the other, to count upon itself alone. It is not the first time that the Popes, yielding to violence and persecution, have followed the path of exile to seek guarantees of independence and security which they no longer found upon Italian soil. Any history teaches us that the peoples have always surrounded this august exile with touching attestations of veneration and of love, and that, if the Vicar of Christ has had to renounce for a time the advantages of his legitimate residence, he has at least been enabled to safeguard the prestige of his dignity and the exercise of his supreme power."—Boston Pilot.

Reported for the

SEASON BY REV. F. A. C. S. R.

The following are no

preached by the Rev. F. A.

SS. R. of St. Patrick's

9th March, 1884:

He that loveth his

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