

The Catholic Record

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LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION.

Mr. Thomas Coffey. Dear Sir—Since coming to Canada I have been a reader of your paper, I have noted with satisfaction that it is directed with intelligence and ability, and above all that it is imbued with a strong Catholic spirit.

LONDON, SATURDAY, JULY 30, 1913

Editorial correspondence CATHOLIC RECORD, FRANCE

It may not be uninteresting matter for the CATHOLIC RECORD if we jot down a few thoughts upon this fair land of France where we find ourselves for a fortnight. Many customs in every country attract a stranger's attention. But to know more than the mere external expression of racial habits one must draw wider the curtain of public thought and action.

weakness to French diplomacy. We content ourselves with giving one of the economical reasons advanced. France is impoverished at the expense of other nations. Whilst Germany has gone ahead by leaps and bounds in commerce and industry—Belgium likewise—France has gone backward and is fast crowded out of the markets of the world.

For fear of making this letter too long we turn to the question of the Church. Briefly stated the Church is freer to-day in France than it was for the last twenty years under the Concordat. Our readers must not conclude from this that the Church is all right, that after all the French are too hard upon the government.

LETTER FROM SPAIN

Burgos, July 6th, 1910.

A journey almost due south from Madrid of about two hundred and seventy-five miles transports the traveller from the flat central tableland of Castile, devoted almost entirely to the growing of large crops of grain, to the rich and fertile Province of Andalusia and the charm of a southern and semi-tropical landscape.

A few hours ride still further south brings us to Seville, an important and prosperous city of one hundred and fifty thousand people, situated on the Guadalquivir, and although fifty-four miles from the sea, it possesses all the advantages of a seaport, as vessels ascend the river from the sea to its quay.

the splendor of its services at Christmas, Easter and other great festivals. The dance of The Sixes is celebrated all over Europe. A number of young boys execute a dance before the high altar in presence of the bishops and clergy on these occasions.

From Seville to Granada, a distance of one hundred and fifty miles, the country continues very rich and fertile. The mountain scenery on approaching Granada is very grand. The majestic Sierra Nevada, the highest mountains in Spain, rise up in all their glory.

In 1492, after centuries of warfare by the Spaniards, Ferdinand and Isabella made a final campaign, taking the city and putting an end to the long ages of Moorish dominion in Spain. These monarchs were as noble a pair as ever sat on the throne of any state.

Moorish kingdoms. It contains an ancient and very rich cathedral, with a tower 480 feet high, affording a view of the rich surrounding country. Alicante, a busy city of fifty thousand people, is situated on the north of Murcia.

Valencia, an important seaport, lies still farther to the north, on the coast of the Mediterranean. It is a city of good appearance, with many old palaces and fine churches, and has a population of over two hundred thousand. It is situated in the very garden of Spain.

The cathedral, a very fine gothic one hardly as vast as that of Granada, is like all the other cathedrals of Spain, rich in sculpture, painting and other works of art. Valencia is celebrated in the artistic development of the country as being the centre of an excellent school of painters, amongst whom may be mentioned Leocadio, Ribaltas, Espinosa and Ribera, whose works may be studied in the Valencian museum of paintings.

RECKLESS ORANGE ORATORS

It is noticeable that the average 12th of July orator, and particularly the clerical one, has scant regard for cold facts when delivering speeches to the innocents from the town lines. Inflamed with insane bigotry, these stalwart yeomen, who have for generations allowed themselves to become merely footstools for professional politicians, will believe anything they hear about the Catholic Church at a Boyneite demonstration.

ECHOES FROM THE PINES

A splendid publication is the golden jubilee number of "Echoes from the Pines," issued by the Ursuline nuns of Chatham, Ont. It is a volume of two hundred and forty pages, printed on fine paper in beautiful style and profusely illustrated with half tones. It begins with the foundation and progress of the Ursuline Order in Chatham, depicting its progress from an humble beginning, half a century ago, to the present day, when we find one of the best equipped and most successful educational institutions in the province of Ontario.

because by so doing he places himself in the same class as Margaret Sheppard and Maria Monk. What are we to think of a man claiming to be a minister of the Gospel who declares that "all our children should be educated secularly; that the only safety is national schools and that if we had no religion in the schools we would lose nothing and gain much."

A GREAT CHARITY

A couple of weeks ago the people of the country were startled by the terrible misfortune which had visited Campbellton, New Brunswick. In a few hours this thriving town was almost completely wiped out of existence by fire. All the Catholic institutions were destroyed—the church, presbytery, hospital, convent and school.

CHATHAM N. B., JULY 14, 1910.

Reverend Father.—It was with extreme regret that I learned of the devastating fire in Campbellton, and I extend to you, your afflicted congregation, and to all the citizens of Campbellton, my deepest and most heartfelt sympathy. Since your congregation has suffered and still suffers so much, you cannot now appeal to me for aid, hence I freely grant you permission to request the help of charitable persons outside your mission in order to re-establish your religious and charitable works, and not only give my approval but wish you also the greatest success in your praiseworthy endeavors.

BE CAREFUL, SLANDERERS!

A reckless writer in an Irish paper called the Western People recently published an article in which was made the statement that there was an outbreak of typhoid fever in a convent at Kiltmogh being caused by the nuns giving the pupils low priced meat of a bad quality while they kept the choicest morsels for themselves. The article was also printed in The Nineteenth Century and After, and the Mother Superior of the convent entered an action for libel. The editor of the English paper has been forced to withdraw and apologize as has also the editor of the Western

People. The defendants have likewise agreed to pay fifty guineas damages and plaintiffs' solicitors and costs. Mr. Justice Wright, who is a Protestant, remarked that the nuns had most thoroughly vindicated themselves. The Dublin Leader justly remarks that a libel on nuns is a particularly cowardly thing and it is rendered all the worse when an Irishman rushes into highly paid print in England to regale the English public with a libel on Irish nuns.

In this connection would it not be well were some clergymen and Orange dignitaries in Canada, notably Dr. Spruille, more careful in their utterances regarding the Catholic Church and its episcopacy. Some day they might find themselves in court on a charge of libel entered by a bishop or priest, when patience ceases to be a virtue. In many parts of our country bigotry and falsehood have become mates. To eradicate this disease should be the work of all who love their country. A heavy fine or a term in gaol, or both, might prove a curative agent.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Now that the aviation meets at Montreal and Toronto are accomplished facts and Canadians for the first time have had an opportunity of witnessing on an extensive scale navigation of the air by heavier-than-air machines, the full significance of this latest triumph of inventive genius may be appreciated to the full. In Toronto, where the latest meet was held, or rather in Weston, a village contiguous to Toronto, the sensational performance of both types of machines, the biplane and the monoplane, were indicative of still more startling developments along the same line in the near future. In particular, the flight of Count de Lesseps over the city and bay in his famous monoplane, Le Scorpion, covering a distance of twenty-seven miles in thirty minutes, was impressive in the highest degree, and as people gazed into the sky and saw at an altitude of three thousand feet or more, this wonderful machine gliding through the air with the grace and speed of the albatross, they might well marvel as to what the future may contain in the way of human achievement. That navigation of the air is but in its infancy, and the triumphs of Bleriot and the Wrights but the prelude to still greater marvels is scarcely open to question, and if we may judge by the scale of advancement in other departments of mechanics, travel by airship will in ten years be scarcely more out of the ordinary than it is by the automobile now. Great disasters will happen and the toll of human life be enormous ere it is brought to a state anything like perfection, but those who stand agnost at this prospect need but recall to mind the tributes humanity has paid to steam navigation on the sea or land to be convinced that this will not stop the all-conquering energy and restless intellect of man.

THE RESULT of the entrance examinations this year in Toronto, as for several years past, must be very gratifying to the Catholics of that city and particularly so to the zealous teachers who in pursuit of their vocation have sacrificed so much and endured uncomplainingly so much adverse criticism in times past, even from quarters to which they might reasonably have looked for support and sympathy. Not only have candidates from the Separate schools surpassed in the aggregate those from the Public schools by a substantial margin, but in some schools the percentage of successful candidates, (as high as 80 per cent. in one), so far exceeds anything that the Public schools can show as to give cause for supporters of the latter to adjust their thinking caps and ponder resolutely on their pet maxims that the Separate schools are of necessity inferior to their own.

BUT if this applies to Non-Catholics how much more so to those of the household of the Faith, who caught up by the prevailing tone of public opinion outside, and in face of it, perhaps, just a little shy that the Church is the home of the poor, have in spite of every admonition to the contrary deprived their children of the inestimable benefits of a religious education for the sake of that "superior" secular training to be had in Public schools. We can imagine any thoughtful parent who has allowed himself to be influenced by this idea, falling automatically into a brown study after reading the results of these competitive examinations—the only opportunity afforded us of comparing one system with the other. And if he be indeed a thoughtful man and able to estimate the immense responsibility resting upon him as a parent to see that in these days of dissolving faith and principle in the world at large, nothing is wanting on his part to safeguard the faith and moral rectitude of his children, that brown study should be as a ray of light to reveal to him the folly of his course in the past and an inspiration to higher and better things. For 'Wisdom is oftentimes nearer when we stoop Than when [we think] we soar.'