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ONTARIO'S BIRTH RATE.

The Register was the first paper in Canada to point out the problem of Ontario's birth rate. Five years ago we proved from the declining school population that the population of Ontario was not kept down by emigration to the west, but by the low birth rate. The Anglican Church committee has at last arrived at the same inevitable conclusion, and in the recommendation brought in last week included the following paragraph:

"(a) As to the birth rate—That the Bishops be requested in their pastoral to call the attention of the people to the Divine and social purposes of marriage, and to the awful sin of interfering to prevent the procreation and birth of children."

The Church Record says nothing about the "awful sin," but discusses the subject in the following style, which is certainly lacking in seriousness of tone:

"That wilful barrenness is a cause of the low birth rate in towns, those who are best able to form an opinion assure us. What are the social circumstances which render men and women unwilling to assume the duties of parentage at the present time? We suppose they are in the main two fold. First, because of the time and trouble involved in the care of children, and, second, because of the expense."

"There is no doubt that children are troublesome. In our large towns, where tiny houses command a high rent, and where there is but little room for out-door games for the children except in the street, the mother has indeed an anxious and worrying time. In a more affluent stratum of society, the mother has room and she has servants to help, but here comes in the question of social pleasures and supposed claims, which are interfered with by the periodic bearing of children."

"We fear that it is steadily growing more and more 'unfashionable' to have large families. There is perhaps a merited reproach in a recent cartoon published in a French-Canadian paper, which represents Baptiste and his smiling wife and family (Quebec) in an automobile, meeting Mr. and Mrs. Ontario, the latter with a pet dog in her arms. However this may be, there is certainly something radically wrong in the disinclination to have children, and the half-contemptuous pity for the mother of a large family. It is wrong on religious grounds, it is wrong on moral grounds, it is wrong on social grounds. It is a mistake, too, to suppose that one is really rendered happier by avoiding an obvious duty. The real happiness of large families is a subject of frequent comment, and it is a happiness which increases with age. A childless marriage means, in only too many cases, a lonely and embittered middle life and old age. There comes a time when the mother of children is an object of envy to the childless. We think there are few childless people in old age who do not sigh for children, and few, if any, parents of families who envy the childless."

Rev. Dr. Langtry, who preached upon the subject on Sunday last, indulged in no gingerbread English for fear of shocking the audience. The Doctor is thus reported:

"The worst of human crimes, murder, has increased a thousand fold. I am not thinking of the atrocious murders and more atrocious suicides which defile the columns of our own daily papers. I am thinking of the wholesale murders that are being perpetrated by wives who ought to be mothers moving, many of them, in the

highest ranks of society. The vital statistics leave no doubt that this crime is being committed on an enormous scale, and if not arrested will end in the destruction of our Anglo-Saxon race and the substitution of a Celtic Roman Catholic population for that of which we are so proud. You may depend upon it that in families where there are no children, or where there are one or two children, in nine cases out of ten there has been murder. And the mothers that ought to have been will be arraigned on the judgment day as murderers, and their husbands, in many cases, as accomplices. Something must be done to stop this enormous iniquity, which is the outgrowth of what is called an educated age. The church declares solemnly at every marriage that marriage was ordained first for the procreation of children, to be brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Yes, and there is no more gladdening work, no nobler achievement, no life that has in it a surer reward, than that of the mother who devotes her life so to train her children for the great hereafter. But for the sake of selfish ease, and to escape the care and toil of guiding her children, many women are robbing themselves of the truest joys on earth, drying up the sweetest natural affections and preparing a desolate, unloving old age for themselves. And all this is the outcome of putting out the light of God's truth and of sweeping away the mould which God has formed for the fashioning of home life."

A PRACTICAL SUGGESTION.

"Onlooker" (himself a Catholic), in a recent issue of The Register, appeared to have felt not the least touch of reflection when he described the Catholic press of this country as "Liberal first and then mildly Catholic." "Onlooker" is well aware that one of the principal elements that go to make up the so-called "Liberal" color of the Catholic papers is their necessarily continuous criticism of the leading Conservative organs, notably The Mail and Empire. Last week, for instance, the majority of our religious contemporaries had occasion to take to task that old offender "Flaneur," and that for the hundredth time. The Register is not ignorant of the fact that there are Catholics both in public life and in religion who would have the Catholic press ignore "Flaneur" and all the small fry who have gained a little journalistic notoriety in Toronto by catering to the anti-Catholic element. We are told that the public is too intelligent to be influenced by palpable catch-penny bigotry. Perhaps if they were to occupy for a few weeks the editorial chair of any Catholic paper they would alter their opinion. "Flaneur" and his fellow paragraphers who grope in all the anti-Catholic exchanges for the little morsels that feed their gradually diminishing flock in Ontario really do a great deal to keep alive ill-will and misunderstanding in this mixed community.

The Church Record is now before us with a long communication from a gentleman named Thomas Armstrong, who appears to be suffering from extreme excitement which leads him to unsparingly abuse Catholics and High Church Anglicans; and all apparently upon no better provocation than some sensational information he has gathered from The Mail and Empire. Now, there is no gainsaying that the influence of the had spirit thus stirred up is not all absorbed by the paper upon which it is printed. It meets Catholics working in shop, factory and store, and even deprives some of them of their bread.

The editor of the Catholic paper sees all this; and he would certainly be recreant to his duty if he did not strive to counteract it, though his doing so should injure the political party of which The Mail and Empire is the official organ, and though he should be exposed himself to the partisan insinuation of doing some Liberal axe-grinding.

The Register has often said it before, and this is a truth which cannot too often be repeated, that the most effective point to strike at in the anti-Catholic press is their partyism. Their anti-Catholic activity is to be sure but a means

to an end — which end is party interest or the ill-judged desire to serve it. On the other hand there are the political "Codlins" to consider. In deference to their great desire for conciliation it must be admitted that it is rather hard on persons of so sentimental a turn to be challenged by the Catholic press.

But would it not be better that they should themselves take up the cudgels to "Flaneur" in The Mail and Empire, which could not refuse them a hearing in deference to their party standing? This is a practical suggestion.

ANOTHER HORRIBLE EXAMPLE.

The following is the comment which I. N. Ford, The New York Tribune's London correspondent, makes upon the trial of the notorious Ann O'Delia Diss Debar and her male companion who goes by the name of Jackson:

"With the return of the King and the Prime Minister there will be a marked revival of public life. It cannot come too soon, for the attention of the public has been centred upon one of the foulest and most abominable cases ever investigated by any Police Court, and there has been revolting disclosures of unspeakable horror day after day. Everything occurring in a Court of Justice is by English usage sacrosanct, and the only limitations upon the publication of obscenity and blasphemy are the restraints imposed by the conscience or squeamishness of news editors at a dull time, when half-penny journalism needs an adventurous lift for circulation. There is no apparent reason why a filthy trial from which women are excluded as spectators by the court officials cannot be held with an empty reporters' table, after the newspapers have been warned from the bench to suppress the testimony. Mr. Curtis Bennett, the Magistrate presiding over the Horos inquiry at Marylebone, holds that under the existing law he has no power to exclude reporters."

The woman in the case is one of the flock of "converted Romanists" who in their day have "exploited America. Ten years ago she took the wife of a Chicago Methodist minister around the Windy City looking for mysterious agents of the Jesuits; but the discovery the Methodist lady finally succeeded in making was that Miss Diss Debar was "an agent at lying."

Nevertheless a great flutter was made in those dovecots that burn with love for the enfranchisement of the poor, enslaved and unenlightened Catholics. A Chicago professor undertook to protect the bogus "distinguished convert" from the assassins of Rome, who were alleged to be dogging her footsteps all over the globe. So thrilling was the tale she told that her dupes were really sorry to believe her a fraud, and probably would have held on to her only that Margaret Sheppard turned up with a still more fascinating tale, which caught the attention of the prurient-minded and Miss Diss Debar was forgotten.

The present London trial brings the adventures once more into the public eyes. Margaret Sheppard has been exposed in the meantime; so that we suppose the time is ripe for the appearance of another bold impostor with a lying tale monotonously like the yarns that have done service for Maria Monk, Miss Diss Debar, Margaret Sheppard, and the rest of the "No Popery" recruiting agents.

SCHOOLS OF TORONTO.

The controversy which has been carried on in the public press since the middle of August between Dr. John Ferguson and School Inspector Hughes has cast an instructive light upon the supposed efficiency of Public School education in the City of Toronto. Mr. Hughes having a weak case has had resort to temper, with the usual result of increasing the advantage of his opponent. He has been reminded this week by one journal that he does not own the schools, but is merely paid to inspect them. It would have been better for him had he kept out of this controversy altogether. As the matter stands we are bound to accept the accuracy of Dr. Ferguson's figures when he

"In Toronto there were 656 candidates. Of these 362 were successful or 55 per cent. In Hamilton 76 per cent. passed; in London 85 per cent.; in Ottawa 81 per cent., and in Kingston 84 per cent."

In this comparison, of course, the Public School, of one Ontario city are placed beside another. There are still some Catholic parents who imagine that in purely secular education it would be an advantage to their children if they could attend the Public Schools. We have gone to the trouble of ascertaining the percentage of pupils from the Separate schools who pass the High School entrance examinations. The following are the figures: 1895, 68 per cent.; 1896, 65 per cent.; 1897, 75 per cent.; 1898, 61 per cent.

The totals for the last two years are not to hand. We may add that at the last entrance examinations some of the Separate Schools that did well are: Barrie (4 teachers), 9 wrote, 9 passed; Cobourg (4 teachers), 12 wrote, 11 passed; Lindsay (7 teachers), 14 wrote, 14 passed; Orillia (4 teachers), 16 wrote, 16 passed; Hamilton (36 teachers), 54 wrote, 40 passed; St. Mary's, Kingston (5 teachers), 20 wrote, 20 passed.

Compare these figures with the 55 per cent. successful Toronto pupils, and we think the Catholic people of Ontario may well congratulate themselves that not only have they schools in which their children receive a religious training, but in which is imparted, as shown by the results, a better secular education than the pupils of the Public Schools can boast.

AN ILL-MANNERED LORD BISHOP.

The influence of the Duke upon the manners of some persons in Ontario has been short lived. No sooner is his back turned than they are returning to their old ways. Last week he had Prof. Clark, whose public exam. is always excellent, impressing upon the faculty and students of Trinity College the great desirability of copying the Duke, if they would speak correct English. When H. R. H. addressed the Catholic bishops at Laval, and when he spoke in Ville Marie and Loretto convents he never failed to refer to the "Catholic Church." But on Tuesday last, Right Rev. Dr. Mills, Lord Bishop of Ontario, preached in Trinity College, and the following words are extracted from the report of his address published in The Toronto World:

"It was not merely their Romanist friends who were erring in worshipping before the image of a dead Christ."

This is not only incorrect English and a departure from the example of H. R. H.; it is grossly and wantonly insulting language. The Bishop who uttered it cannot be so ignorant that he was unaware of its character. The lesson taught by Prof. Clark evidently has not the approval of Bishop Mills, who prefers the phrases of sectarian ill-will to the correct forms which the future head of the Anglican Church uses and which in any event should be employed on all public occasions.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Goldwin Smith, in this week's Weekly Sun, favorably reviews Mr. Grattan Grey's new work "Australia." Mr. Grey is an Irish-Australian Catholic.

Mr. John Redmond, M. P., accompanied by several members of the Irish Parliamentary Party, is now on his way to the United States to arouse the Hon. Rule forces in the Republic to the necessities of Ireland's case. Mr. Redmond will not visit Canada through lack of time.

It seems only the other day that General Buller's ears were ringing with the applause of his flatterers. Now he has been drummed out of the army on half pay by Lord Roberts, and the flatterers are tickling the ears of his successor, General French. The English Army must be commended by Irishmen.

A London cable despatch says: The judicial appointments have been left in the Lord Chancellor's hands, and are highly acceptable to the legal profession. Justice Collins, the new Master of the Rolls, is a most eminent, capable Judge, and Justice Mathew, who takes his place in the Court of Appeal, has long been marked out for promotion. Each is an Irishman by birth, and Justice Mathew has been a strong Gladstonian home ruler and is a devout Roman Catholic. Sir Robert Finlay, the Attorney-General, is mentioned as a candidate for Master of the Rolls, but his appointment would have involved important changes in the law offices of the Crown and at least two bye-elections. He is the natural successor of Lord Halsbury as Lord Chancellor, is in the prime of life and can afford to await the King's pleasure.

Rev. Dr. Langtry blames the irreligious education of the young

for the alarming increase of prenatal murders in Canada. He fears the Catholic Celts are superseding the Anglo-Saxons, though from the tenor of his remarks we are in doubt as to whether he is pleased or pained by the prospect of the future. Rev. A. U. De Pencker, another Anglican clergyman, also gives credit to the Catholic religion. Preaching on Sunday he said: "The Roman Catholic section of the community put them to shame. The poorest Roman Catholic mother was careful to see that her child received systematic religious teaching. If all parents were true to this duty, there would be no drifting away. Parents insisted on their children being taught the usages of polite society, while religious instruction was belittled and slighted. Should this continue and increase, there would be a drifting on to the rocks, which would wreck not only the church, but the state."

Rev. Dr. Courtney, Anglican Bishop of Nova Scotia, had a surprise party prepared for the Duke of York, whom he expected to attend the service in his church in Halifax on Sunday last. The Duke, however, did not come, and from what followed we are led to suppose that Major Maude must have read over the manuscript of His Lordship's sermon. Dr. Courtney is reported as follows: "He said that the belief in the divine right of Kings was dead, and he thanked God that such was the case. Robert Burns was the man who he considered had done more than any other in his generation to establish the equality of mankind."

If Dr. Courtney simply meant that the idea that the eldest son of the Sovereign must succeed to the throne by divine right, and that any denial of this doctrine spells treason, he is theoretically and theologically upon solid ground. But why have chosen the visit of the Heir-Apparent for making a declaration that is simply a challenge to the son of the Sovereign to behave himself? If Dr. Courtney were not an Anglican Bishop, we apprehend he would have been suspected of Socialism or Fenianism.

A Dr. Long, who has stirred up a great deal of sectarian ill-feeling, both in England and Ireland, by his repeated attempts to carry on a proselytizing campaign in the City of Limerick, Ireland, has signally failed to injure the reputation of the Catholics of Ireland as a tolerant people. Judge Adams, on October 1, made some comments from the Bench in Limerick which should be taken to heart by Dr. Long's supporters. His Honor said that up to a very recent date amongst all Christians — Protestants and Catholics — there existed in the most marked degree that true Christian feeling which sought, as far as conscience allowed, to make much of those lessons of mercy and love which were the common heritage of every Christian. That was shown in the respect, esteem and regard which Catholic and Protestant had for each other. He might refer to the attitude adopted there by Christians towards a little community amongst them for the Jew, who was persecuted in Moscow, persecuted in Berlin, and was not looked at all upon with too much favor in East London, is found in Limerick in comfortable and happy homes. There was not a more respected or respectable community amongst them than their Jewish brethren, now numbering several hundreds. "We must," said Judge Adams, "leave the methods that have been adopted by this gentleman (Dr. Long) to public opinion, as to whether or not the cause of common Christianity has been served by what has been going on in our midst."

CREDIT TO WHOM IT IS DUE.

To the Editor of The Register: Sir—Last week you gave Hon. Mr. Stratton special credit for the magnificent illuminations in the Queen's Park and of the Parliament Buildings during the Royal visit. Hon. F. R. Latchford, Commissioner of Public Works, is responsible for the decorations and all the credit appertaining to them. READER. "Reader" is quite right. We are very glad to remove the credit to the proper shoulders. The people of Toronto thought it very handsomely done on the part of the Provincial Government to make such a display in the park, and if Mr. Latchford perseveres he will certainly make himself very popular in the city.—Ed. C. R.

A POPULAR RAILROAD MAN.

London, Oct. 21.—Mr. Jeremiah McCarthy, a native of this city, died at Chicago Saturday evening after an illness of several months duration. Deceased, who was a son of the late John McCarthy, of the G. T. R., received his early training on the G. T. R., and by honest endeavor rapidly advanced in the railroad world. For many years he was a valued officer of the West Shore line at Buffalo. A number of years ago Mr. McCarthy was promoted to the position of general western passenger agent of the West Shore, a position he held until his recent illness. He was widely known and highly popular in railroad circles and his death will occasion profound regret. The following brothers and sisters survive: Mrs. Arthur McKenna, East London; Mrs. Edward Nouty, York street east; Mrs. Jerry McDonald, York street west; Mrs. Edward McDonald, and Miss Katie McCarthy, Chicago, and John, Robert and Thomas of Chicago; Edward, of the Chicago and Grand Trunk Railroad, and Charles, of Columbus, Ohio. The remains will arrive here to-morrow morning at 8.15 over the Wobash Railroad, and will be taken to the residence of Mrs. Jerry McDonald, of No. 5 York street west. The funeral will leave the house at 9 o'clock on Wednesday morning for St. Peter's Cathedral, where High Mass will be celebrated.

CHAMBERLAINISM AND BARBARISM.

Prof. Goldwin Smith, in The Weekly Sun; "There has been nothing more serious in this South African business than Mr. Chamberlain's announcement that Great Britain will henceforth 'feel herself at liberty to use her Eastern soldiers to any extent in wars with civilized nations. The question was raised some time ago when Disraeli, for theatrical effect, brought Sikhs to Malta, and the jingo rhyme

"We don't want to fight, but, by Jingo, if we do, We've got the men, we've got the ships, we've got the money, too,"

was parodied

"We don't want to fight, but by Jingo, if we do, We'll stay at home at ease ourselves and send the mild Hindoo."

On that occasion European civilization protested, as it did when the French used African chassateurs in their war with Germany. It is said that the Sikhs and Afghans have behaved well in China. Private information does not perfectly tally with public information on that subject. However, it cannot be doubted that the Sikhs, though very good soldiers and faithful to their paymaster, are essentially barbarians, who could not be trusted when their passions were fired, and they were let loose on an enemy's country, to keep the laws of war and the rules of humanity. In 'Up Among the Pandies,' that unobtrusive little record of facts otherwise withheld concerning the suppression of the Indian Mutiny we find a description of the treatment by Sikhs of a prisoner guilty of nothing but a brave and obstinate defence. They first tried to tear him in two; failing in this, they stab him in the face with their bayonets, and then slowly roast him to death on a small fire of dry sticks. British officers coolly look on, showing the effect upon the character of Europeans. The Japanese, it is said, are Orientals, and the Japanese soldiery behaved well. But the Japanese soldiery are national, not hirelings like the Indian mercenaries of Great Britain. If Mr. Chamberlain's policy were adopted on a large scale, Great Britain might become, like Carthage of old, a great commercial state, waging wars of aggrandizement with hordes of mercenary barbarians. Other Governments which have masses of barbarians in their dominions would feel themselves at liberty to follow suit. What would be the consequences to civilization?

Mr. John Laverly, the well-known Catholic artist of Glasgow, Scotland, has just added another laurel to his European fame by gaining the first-class medal at the eighth international Art Exhibition a present going on in Munich.

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