

THE CATHOLIC RECORD

The Catholic Record.

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION. UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA, Ottawa, Canada, March 7th, 1900. The Editor of THE CATHOLIC RECORD, London, Ont.

Dear Sir: For some time past I have read your estimable paper, THE CATHOLIC RECORD, and congratulate you upon the manner in which it is published.

TO CORRESPONDENTS. Press of matter upon our columns prevented the following from appearing sooner:

1. P. J. M., of Vernon River Bridge, P. E. I., enquires whether a priest hearing confessions has as much power to forgive sin as would Jesus Christ if He were hearing confessions in the same church in another place.

The question appears to us to be rather captious, or even an idle one, as it is always Jesus Christ who forgives sin through the Sacrament of Penance, the priest being the instrument or medium through whom He acts.

2. A second question is: "When the priest celebrates Mass, and the bread and wine are changed into the body and blood of Christ, does the priest command the Almighty God to come down from heaven to our altars?"

It must be remembered that strictly no creature can command Almighty God under any circumstances. However, when God has made a promise that He will do something on our fulfilling certain conditions, if we fulfill the conditions, God will necessarily do what He has promised, as He is truth itself who can neither deceive nor be deceived.

"ALTERED" AND "UNALTERED" OF FAITH. We notice by Buffalo papers that permission was granted by the Supreme court of the state of New York to the Calvary English Evangelical Lutheran congregation of the unaltered Augsburg Confession of Buffalo to mortgage its property for \$2,000 for the purpose of raising funds with which to make improvements.

In Poland and Austria, the official title of the Lutheran Church is "The Church of the Augsburg Confession." The words, "The Unaltered Augsburg Confession," sufficiently indicate the multiplicity of changes which have been made from time to time in the Lutheran confessions of faith.

The Answer to Necessity. It is of the essence of resource that it usually lies dormant, and often unsuspected, until necessity awakens it. It is a draft payable on demand, the very demand being essential to create the assets. In a word, it needs the "power of the moment" to evoke the "power of the man."

And His messengers who went thither to prepare the way for Him: "Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?"

He does not rebuke them for saying that they should command a miracle which only God Almighty could enable them to perform.

3. A third question is whether the prophecy (in Psalm cix) regarding the priesthood of Melchisedech has reference to Christ.

"The Lord said to my Lord: sit thou at my right hand until I make thy enemies thy footstool. The Lord will smite thy Sceptre of thy power out of Sion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies.

1. Christ applies the passage to Himself in the two texts, (St. Matt. xxii. 42-44) (St. Luk. xx. 42-44).

2. It is clear from these same passages that the ancient Jewish doctors interpreted the passage of the Christ whom they expected as having been foretold by the prophets.

3. Christ applies the passage to Himself in two texts cited in (1) the 1st and 10th, and throughout the 5th, 6th, and 7th, chapters of his epistle to the Hebrews, and in 1 Cor. xv. 35.

THE POLICE AND THE IRISH LANGUAGE. Our French Canadian friends never tire in expressing their gratitude in that they enjoy the free practice of their religion, and also—mark well!—that their language is not only allowed them but is actually an official language.

On Thursday last, before Capt. Pery, R. M., and J. W. Brady Murray for the case of District Inspector Hussey against Mr. Bartley Hynds, Kivvara, came on for hearing. The defendant was charged under the Acts 14 and 15 Vic., cap. 92, sec. 92, with not complying with the Acts requiring him to have his name and residence printed in legible letters on his cart, he having the same printed in Irish. The defendant maintained that his name and the name of his residence were legibly printed in Irish, and so far as refused to affix the same in any other language.

THE OLD LEAVER. Ours is a ridiculously Laodicean age. To be neither hot nor cold, but innocently lukewarm, to have few convictions, and to deal with those we have in a worldly-shrewd spirit of compromise, that is the attitude that would seem best to describe our most pronounced mental characteristic.

SCENES AT LOURDES. Lourdes, which for ten months out of the twelve has a population of some 1,500, has had its inhabitants increased since early this morning, says a correspondent of the London Mail recently, to 18,000, and by to-morrow some 25,000 persons will be gathered in this little Basque village under the beauteous brows of the Pyrenees, which tower over it.

ABOUT THE MASTER'S WORK. Labor of the Jesuits in a Difficult Alaskan Mission. It is with a quickening of the spirit that we read of the heroism with which our missionaries go forth to face the rigors of strange climates and countries inviting death at every step; and yet, strong in the glorious Faith which accustoms them, never hesitating, never halting, in the work which they have chosen. There is something in the simply told narrative of the following letter, which must touch the heart of every reader:

Holy Cross Mission, Keeserefsky, P. O. Yukon River, Alaska, Feb. 28, 1901.

Dear Sir—Our monthly mail brought me to-day your kind reply of Oct. 11, and I thank you, both for your answer and your notice in The Columbian.

Well, now, I am going to stop this rambling letter. I am sure there is much here that would interest you but you have not time to read it, even if I have not time to write it. I wish I could say that I leave us all well. The fact is that we are all played out as far as health and strength are concerned.

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