

The Catholic Record.

Published Weekly at 484 and 486 Richmond street, London, Ontario.

Price of subscription—\$2.00 per annum.

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION. UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA.

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.

Its matter and form are both good; and a truly Catholic spirit pervades the whole.

Therefore, with pleasure, I can recommend it to be faithful.

Believe me, to remain Yours faithfully in Jesus Christ, D. FALCONIO, Arch. of Larissa.

LONDON, SATURDAY, NOV. 8, 1902.

HIS EXC. LLENCY MGR. FALCONIO.

The departure of the Most Rev. Dionede Falconio for the United States—official notice of whose transference was received in Ottawa on the 30th October—will be regretted by his many friends throughout the Dominion.

Several women refused to allow milk to be given to their starving children, and spilt it when the civilized inhabitants offered it to their little ones.

The harshness of the measures adopted by the application of the Coercion Act, recently passed by the Imperial Parliament at the suggestion and wish of Mr. Wyndham, the Irish Secretary, has set forth in a stronger light than ever the necessity of granting Home Rule to Ireland.

THE SITUATION IN IRELAND.

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THE DOUKHOBORS.

Some alarm was created recently by a report from Winnipeg to the effect that an army of Doukhobors some thousand strong was marching upon Yorkton to demand food and compensation for the cattle they had turned adrift, and which the Government agents had sold for their benefit.

the sick, the women, and the children housed in sheds and other buildings much against their will. Mothers allowed their children to be taken into shelter, but refused to follow them till they were forced along by the officials.

It is stated that the Doukhobors are indignant that their wives, children and infirm have been obliged to go into shelter, and are threatening to release them by force from their prisons, as God has told them to release them.

In another place, at Pollock's Bridge, seven miles distant, there are seven hundred more of these fanatics who are still more crazy in their conduct than those near Yorkton.

The Government has endeavored to relieve the immediate wants of these people by selling the animals and supplying the wants of the people with the proceeds, but the money so obtained cannot last long while the present state of illness lasts, and great distress must ensue soon unless their fanaticism be brought to an end.

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From this statement of the present conditions it will be readily understood that the Doukhobors have not at present any hostile intention.

Besides these bands to which we have already referred, there are several smaller bands of fanatics assembled at various points, who are not as yet suffering so many privations, owing to their being less numerous.

These transactions reminds us of the proceedings of the Anabaptists Stork and Muncer in Germany in the sixteenth century, during which so much blood was shed in that country.

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blood was shed in that country. The Anabaptists were not identical with the Doukhobors, but their beliefs have much affinity with each other, and the excesses of both equally show the absurdity of the Protestant rule of faith which allows every individual to interpret Holy Scripture according to his own fancy.

Of course the present follies are not to be attributed to all the Doukhobors, many of whom are estimable and industrious people who will be good citizens; yet we are now not so very much surprised as we were at one time that they came into collision with the civil authorities in Russia so that the latter were so anxious to get rid of them, and were glad when they emigrated.

BOGUS CERTIFICATES TO HEAVEN.

A despatch from Topeka, Kansas, states that Senator Burton has just returned from Hawaii, whither he went as a member of a Senatorial committee.

The Senator makes the statement that the Hawaiians are a fine people, but are at the present moment in distressed circumstances owing to the manner in which they have been swindled by Boston missionaries.

Considering the previous experience of the Hawaiians with their missionaries who by trading and imposing upon the credulity of the natives enriched themselves enormously, the wonder is that these simple people were not more on their guard in the transaction of which Senator Burton speaks; but it was said by Phineas T. Barnum that people like to be humbugged, and we take it for granted that the Hawaiians are like the rest of mankind in this respect.

The keys of the kingdom of heaven were conferred upon St. Peter and transmitted to his successors, but we have yet to learn that the Boston missionaries have or even pretend to have any claim to lawful succession from St. Peter or any other Apostle.

A mild protest was entered by Mr. James Bryce on behalf of the Liberal party. Mr. Bryce taking this duty in the absence of the Liberal leader, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman.

Mr. Healy here began a speech which is described as one of the finest satires ever delivered in the House of Commons.

Another instance of the same kind of wanton insult offered to Catholics is to be found in a small pamphlet which is

being widely circulated as an advertisement by "The Radnor Water Co." of Montreal. The picture on the cover of this book represents a monk whose attitude is certainly intended to throw ridicule upon the person so represented as anxious to open a bottle of Radnor Mineral Water in order to take "a little for his stomach's sake."

These pictures are not quite so wicked in their purpose as the show in Detroit; but they are but little less objectionable, and we doubt not the Catholics of Canada who respect their religion will resent the insult.

THE INDEPENDENT POLISH NATIONAL CHURCH.

It has been reported that some independent Polish Catholics have petitioned the Episcopal Church of the United States for admission into that communion.

It is not announced what number have so petitioned or on what terms the demand has been made; but the Poles of Poland have been noted for their firm attachment to the Catholic faith, and have suffered persecutions for conscience' sake both from Russia and Prussia; and they might have been prosperous in their own country if they had joined the Schismatical Greek Church; but they preferred spoliation and exile rather than renounce their faith.

There is a considerable number of Poles in Chicago, Detroit, Toledo, Bay City, Cleveland, Buffalo and other cities of the United States; and in the past in some of these places they have been independent enough: in other words, they have been disobedient to their Bishops who have been appointed by the Holy Ghost to rule the Church of God.

There is a bogus bishop in Chicago, named Koslowski, with some independent Polish priests, who, it is said, have petitioned for union with the Episcopal Protestant Church, but the foxey bishop lays down the condition that in any agreement which may be arrived at with the Episcopal Church, he should have sole jurisdiction over the Polish priests and congregations organized or to be organized: that is to say, the Episcopals will be allowed to contribute all the help they can, in dollars and cents; but Koslowski must be supreme over all the unfortunate Poles who may be foolish enough to follow him.

The application of the dissatisfied Poles of Chicago to become affiliated to the Protestant Episcopal Church will not be any serious drawback to the Catholic Church, though, of course, any breach of the unity of the Church is to be regretted, not so much for the unfortunate people who abandon the Church of God, "the pillar and ground of truth," and imperil their own salvation.

But the number of Polish schismatics who profess to belong to the independent Church is not very large, even when taken all together. It is said that some years ago there were as many as 50,000 Poles in this rebellion; but this number has been constantly diminishing, and two years ago they had dwindled down to 21,000 persons, the remainder having returned to Catholic unity. Those who remained in schism were divided into 14 congregations, of which three were in Chicago, and one in each of the following cities: Buffalo, Milwaukee, Depew, N. Y., Chicago and Fall River, Mass.; Philadelphia,

Seranton, Priceburg and Plymouth, Pa., Cleveland and Baltimore.

Should the union with the Protestant Episcopal Church be effected, it is more likely that many of the Poles who have been deceived into attending their schismatical churches will understand the evil they have done when they become aware that they are no longer Catholics on account of being in schism, rather than that they should turn to Protestantism in a body because the few priests who are leading them invite them to Protestantize themselves.

The total number of priests who are ministering to these schismatics was twenty-one, two years ago. We understand that two or three of these have since returned to the Catholic Church.

In a letter addressed to the Polish Catholics of Baltimore Diocese two or three years ago, His Eminence Cardinal Gibbons said:

"The Independent Church" has been condemned and solemnly anathematized by Pope Leo XIII, and is a sect all the more dangerous because its external appearance and ceremonies so closely resembling Catholic rites are apt to lead many unsuspecting Catholics astray.

From time to time one may read in the daily newspapers—especially in the large cities—notice of intended musical services in one or other of the Catholic churches, in which the names of the "performers" (no other word would suit as well) are given, together with the particular "parts" assigned to them.

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