

A LETTER FROM FRANCE.

IMPORTANT POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS QUESTIONS.

An old Friend of the "True Witness" Remembers us in Far-away France and Sends His Impressions on Current Events.

To the Editor of THE TRUE WITNESS:

DEAR SIR,—You told me, when I left Canada, that the columns of THE TRUE WITNESS were open to me and that its readers would be glad to peruse letters on European topics. Having a few leisure hours at my disposal, I feel like beginning to-night to write on the last incidents of French politics.

The Russians are gone; but it would be wrong to believe that the enthusiastic reception tendered them by all classes and all political parties in France was only a bomb-fire. On the streets of Paris as well as in the remotest country places of France, on the lips of the politician as well as on those of the peasant, the names of Russia and of France are always associated together, and, if we rely upon the news that comes every day from Russia, the same feelings pervade the Czar's empire. There is only one discordant note in the concert; it comes from Freemasonry, because Freemasonry patronizes the Triple Alliance, expecting from its triumph over Catholic France the down-fall of Papacy and, as a necessary consequence, the ruin of Christianity. This will explain to you why Pope Leo XIII. has been so favorable to the union of France and Russia and why, on the contrary, England, the mother of secret societies, has proved so angry at it.

As Catholics, we must congratulate ourselves on the lesson given by Admiral Avellan and his officers to the Radical Municipal Council of Paris. While, at Toulon, Marseilles and Lyons, the bishops had been invited to take part in the official receptions, Cardinal Richard, Archbishop of Paris, had been entirely ignored. Then Admiral Avellan and his officers paid a visit to His Eminence and showed him the greatest respect. On that very day the Archbishop ordered a *Te Deum* to be sung in all the churches of his diocese and himself presided over the ceremony in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, at Montmartre. It was reported that quite a number of Russian officers attended the service and you know that the Czar himself expressed, through his ambassador in Paris, his gratitude to Cardinal Richard. The official exclusion of the clergy contrasted with the enthusiastic part many priests everywhere took in those patriotic demonstrations, and it was noticed that even in Paris the people at large manifested openly their joy at the presence of the priests. May the priests have increased thereby their influence and enabled themselves to do more good to the people!

The downfall of a ministry happens so often in France that it hardly attracts the public attention. However, when it was officially announced that Dupuy and his colleagues had sent in their resignation, everybody waited anxiously for the coming sun. Dupuy had been brought out of his insignificance and he disappeared in a cloud of complete inability; what's next? A Radical cabinet was utterly impossible, because it could not command even a decent minority in the chambers; a socialistic cabinet was out of question, although the Socialists had been the stumbling block in the way of Dupuy; the Catholics are too few and too much divided among themselves to come into power. Therefore the Opportunists were called upon; but, as there are moderate and progressive opportunists, it took nearly a full week before any practical arrangement was arrived at.

At last, Casimir Perier, out of devotedness to his party, set aside the chance he had, after having presided over the chambers, of being made the president of the Republic, and assumed the onerous task of forming a new cabinet. If we take one by one the names of his colleagues, we may indeed raise objections and serious too against most of them; they are far from being spotless; but in politics we must not be too exacting and at the present time less than ever, as a good many believe that Casimir Perier will be able to control them and to give France several months of a peaceful and energetic administration.

He will not, like Dupuy, say that the school and military laws will be the two poles of his politics and he will not let any of his colleagues insult the majority of the French people by saying that all religion is but a commercial business.

While legal France perseveres in its practical unbelief, nay, in its hypocritical persecution of the Catholic Church, real France remains faithful to its God and its creed. Lyons, as you know, is by its antiquity, piety and the number of its Catholic institutions, the heart and centre of Catholic France. You could hardly believe how strong and lively is Faith among its people. A few days ago, I attended the solemn opening of the classical year at the Catholic Faculties (they took this name, after they had been forbidden to call themselves University). It was grand and dignified. All the reports of the various faculties were most elaborate and calculated to bring home in each hearer the principles of Catholic Faith. But as to me, there was one which created in me a deep feeling of admiration; this was the report of the venerable Dean of the Law Faculty. All throughout the report one could feel that the Cross of Christ was the standard of rights and duties, and that Calvary was the source from which all justice has flowed upon society.

After to-morrow, the annual meeting of the Catholic Society for the Propagation of Faith shall take place in the old church of Ainay, and I am proud to tell you that a Canadian Bishop, Mgr. Grandin, bishop of Saint-Albert, will address the meeting. All our Canadian Missions are greatly indebted to this society for the good and great work they have been able to perform among the Indians, and I know that the warm words that will fall from the lips of the saintly bishop of Saint-Albert could not fail to arrest public attention and enhance the charity of Catholic hearts.

Another feature of Lyons' life is the devotion of its people towards Our Blessed Lady. On the mountain which, like your Montreal beautiful mountain, hangs over the city along the banks of the Saane river, a magnificent church has been built in honor of Our Lady of Fourviere. I am told that, on some days, not less than fifty thousand people climb up the narrow paths which lead to the sanctuary and piously visit it. Mary Immaculate therefrom, as from a fortress, watches over the city, keeps away from it all dangers and saves undoubtedly innumerable souls. Happy the people who grow under this motherly protection!

I will draw this first letter to an end by asking you to excuse its style. It was written in haste, at night, just on the eve of leaving the city for a few days. Next time, if you like me to continue, I will try to do better.

"THE OLD CANADIAN."

WORTH ITS WEIGHT IN GOLD.

Dear Sirs,—I can truly say that Haggard's Pectoral Balsam is the best remedy ever made for coughs and colds. It is worth its weight in gold. Harry Palmer, Lorneville, Ont.

IN COURT—Judge (to witness): "What is your age, senora?" Witness: "I am over twenty." "You must tell me the exact truth." "Between twenty and thirty." "But when will you be thirty?" "To-morrow, my Lord."

THAT PALE FACE.

For Nervous Prostration and Anæmia, there is no medicine that will so promptly and infallibly restore vigor and strength as Scott's Emulsion.

CONVENIENT.—Mother: Why, Ivy, what have you done with dolly's eyes? Ivy: Took them out, mamma, so she couldn't see that she had to sleep in a dark room.—*Funny Folks.*

CONSTIPATION CURED.

The following extract from a letter from Mr. Jas. M. Carson, Banff, N.W.T., will speak for itself:—"I have been troubled with constipation and general debility and was induced to use your B.B.B. through seeing your advertisement. I now take great pleasure in recommending it to all my friends, as it completely cured me."

How is it one can generally purchase things at a low price on board ship? Because there is generally a sail on.—*Fun.*

RELIGIOUS NEWS.

New England has 290,000 more Catholics than Protestants.

Of the 95,000 inhabitants of the Sandwich Islands, 25,000 are Catholics.

The Rev. John McCarthy, D. D., Bishop of Cloyne, Ireland, died last Saturday.

Over two thousand American Indians were received into the Catholic church during 1898.

A new Trappist monastery has just been opened at Troisveaux, in the diocese of Arras, France.

Mgr. Thorpe says that Bishop Gilmore spent \$40,000 in trying to establish the Catholic Universe at Cleveland.

A congress of Catholic students will be held at Brussels early in the coming year. The eminent historian Goffredo Warth will preside.

Sister M. John Baptist, one of the community of the House of the Good Shepherd, Cleveland, O., died at that institution last week.

A subscription list having been opened in Paris for the purpose of erecting a monument to M. Gounod, the first day's subscription amounted to 42,000f.

It is reported that the beatification of Joan of Arc will not be proceeded with. There is not sufficient established evidence of the heroic sanctity required by the Church.

The distinguished Dominican, Padre Guglielmotti, who lately died in Rome, left behind several unpublished works which are to be brought out by his order.

Prince Otto, of Schaumberg Lippe, has, it is stated, expressed his intention to become a Catholic, and he will receive baptism shortly at Paderborn. The wife of Prince Otto is a Catholic.

On the 5th of December, at Detroit, Mich., Miss Rose Alma Cuierier, translator of the little work of Father St. Omer, C. S. S. R., entitled: "Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help," departed this life.

The Pope will shortly receive in solemn audience the Grand Duchess Catherine of Russia. The event is noteworthy taken in connection with the recent visit of the Russian naval officers in France.

Work has been commenced on the additions to the buildings of the New York Catholic Protectory at Westchester. When completed the capacity of the junior boy's department will be tripled. About \$80,000 will be expended.

A considerable stir has been caused in society by the conversion to Catholicity of the niece of the Right Hon. John Morley, Chief Secretary for Ireland. She kept house for her uncle at the Secretary's Lodge, Dublin. She will enter a convent within three months.

A Reuter's telegram from Rome says: The Pope presided recently at a meeting of the Congregation of Rites, at which eleven Cardinals were present, the subject discussed being approaching beatifications, including that of the Venerable John Darrla and Father Grassi.

In Syria the population of two important villages which belonged to the Schismatic Greek Church have, with their clergy, entered the Catholic Church. In the town of Edlibe the chief citizens have applied for Catholic missionaries.

The Osservatore Romano publishes an encouraging letter sent by the Holy Father to Don Rua, the head of the Salesian Fathers. His Holiness expresses his gratification at the fact that Don Rua is acting in the spirit of the founder of the order, Don Bosco.

The Germania states that the German Emperor, recently addressing recruits, said: "I want Christian soldiers who say their Lord's Prayer. The soldier has not to have a will of his own. You must have but one will, and that my will; one law, and that my law."

Dr. Knox, the Protestant Bishop of Armagh, who died recently, was highly respected in the community in which he resided. When the news of his sudden death was made public the bells of the Catholic Cathedral were tolled at intervals throughout the day. Cardinal Logue sent a message of condolence to

NO OTHER Sarsaparilla can produce from actual cures such wonderful statements of relief to human suffering as HOOD'S Sarsaparilla.

the episcopal palace. This is the way Irish Catholics treat Protestant neighbors who are Christian gentlemen and not brutal and unreasoning bigots.

A colossal statue of the Blessed Virgin is to be erected on one of the loftiest summits of the Rouergue Mountains, in the Department of the Aveyron. The statue, which will be easily visible to passengers travelling from Paris to Montpellier and Beziers, is to be fifty feet in height, and will probably not be completed for three or four years.

The Catholic Citizen, of Milwaukee, is making a noble and patriotic fight against that criminal conspiracy which seeks to nullify the constitution and defy the laws of the nation. The A.P.A. has no right of existence in our country, and has met with condemnation both by secular and religious papers, Protestant as well as Catholic.

There is a Catholic hospital in Berlin, the hospital of St. Hedwige, which is served by the Sisters of Charity. Its report for 1892, just issued, shows that during last year 5,640 persons were admitted to the hospital. The majority of these were non-Catholics, the exact number being 2,249 Catholics, 3,111 Protestants and 59 Jews.

IRISH STATISTICS.

The following statistics show the population of Ireland in 1891, and the number of persons who immigrated from her shores between the years 1851 and 1884:

	Population in 1891.	Emigration 1851-1884.
Antrim.....	428,123	214,634
Armagh.....	143,289	75,596
Cavan.....	111,917	87,027
Derry.....	152,009	82,271
Donegal.....	185,635	98,880
Down.....	267,059	118,088
Fermanagh.....	74,170	42,757
Monaghan.....	86,206	60,468
Tyrone.....	171,401	160,000
Clare.....	125,488	114,915
Cork.....	438,432	372,605
Kerry.....	179,186	143,100
Limerick.....	158,912	144,542
Tipperary.....	178,188	168,518
Waterford.....	98,251	78,000
Carlow.....	40,936	25,000
Dublin.....	419,216	88,000
Kildare.....	270,206	30,000
Kilkenny.....	87,261	60,569
King's.....	65,568	48,000
Longford.....	52,647	45,245
Louth.....	71,088	35,904
Meath.....	76,987	55,145
Queen's.....	64,888	45,000
Westmeath.....	65,109	41,428
Wexford.....	111,778	68,000
Wicklow.....	62,136	24,000
Galway.....	214,712	137,657
Leitrim.....	76,618	53,272
Mayo.....	219,084	108,000
Roscommon.....	114,897	78,175
Sligo.....	90,018	48,000
Total.....	4,704,725	2,878,724

It thus appears that more than half of Ireland's population emigrated, between 1851 and 1884. But Ireland, in 1841, had almost 9,000,000 of inhabitants. What therefore became of the other two and a half millions that do not appear on this list? They evidently perished by famine or through the rapacity of bad landlords! Ireland's story is a sad one. She is the only nation that has suffered such losses in her people in modern times.—*Catholic Sentinel.*

Holloway's Pills and Ointment.—Influenza, Coughs and Colds.—In diseases of the throat and chest, so prevalent in our changeable climate, nothing so speedily relieves, or so certainly cures, as these inestimable remedies. These disorders are too often neglected at their commencement, or are injudiciously treated, resulting in either case in disastrous consequences. Whatever the condition of the patient, Holloway's remedies will restore, if recovery be possible; they will retard the alarming symptoms till the blood is purified and nature consummates the cure, gradually restoring strength and vital nervous power. By persevering in the use of Holloway's preparations, tone is conferred on the stomach and frame generally. Thousands of persons have testified that by the use of these remedies alone they have been restored to health after every other means had failed.

"Claude, dear, the butcher is here, and says he won't leave the house unless his bill is paid." "Well, let him take it with him, then."