

three sources—viz., from endowments and real estate, from tithes, and from assessments, all of which are exacted by law. In this sense the Church is established. Not, of course, as in Franco. Priests are not paid in Quebec, as in France, from the public exchequer, but they are invested with legal power to collect their own stipends, or at least the civil tribunals are at their service for this purpose. They are placed in a position of independence in this respect consistent with the Romish dogma which makes the State subordinate to the Church.

FEEES FOR CHURCH SERVICES, BAPTISMS, FUNERALS, MASSES &C.

We have yet to notice revenues drawn from three other sources—namely, from fees for Church services of all sorts, from the work of large communities of Nuns in various directions, and from lotteries and the sale of indulgences, charms, trinkets, pictures, etc. As in pagan, so in papal Rome everything is venal. There are charges for all manner of priestly acts and rites—for baptisms, funerals, masses, etc. Each bishop determines the cost of these in his own diocese, and, therefore, prices vary; but the aggregate at any price is very considerable. The sacrament of baptism, as is well known, must under no circumstances be neglected. Without it infant salvation is impossible, and perdition inevitable. There is no efficacy in the fires of purgatory, and the intercession of priests and angels, and even of the Virgin Mary to deliver unbaptized infants from the limbus of eternal misery to which Romish theologians doom them. This being the case, all devout Catholics hasten to seek baptism for their children, even although they may have to pay for it, which is the usual but not the absolutely universal rule. In the parish of Montreal, when baptism is performed in the Church, the charge for ringing the great bell is \$20, and for the three smaller ones, \$8. But it is in connection with funerals, masses, and the deliverance of souls from the torments of purgatory that a steady and copious stream of treasures flows into the pockets of the priests. In the Church of Notre Dame, Montreal, the prices of funeral services alone range from \$300 to \$10, there being nine classes graded in point of grandeur and scenic effect according to the amount paid. To this we must add unlimited sums paid for masses said for the repose of souls

in purgatory, and continued, year by year as long as money is forthcoming for the purpose. The common theological dogma and belief is that there is no possibility of evading these tormenting flames. The infallible Pope himself and all subordinate ecclesiastics, as well as all the members of their flock, must pass through them. A singular exception to this rule occurred last winter among the French Canadians, who believed that their little children dying of small-pox escaped the fires of purgatory through the intercession of St. Roch. Hence they now speak of 1826 as the angel's year, because during its course thousands of their infant offspring were thus transformed into angels and passed direct into heaven. This superstition, and the relief which it affords from payment for masses, may partly explain their obstinate dislike of vaccination and strange tolerance of small-pox. But notwithstanding this exception, the demand for masses in the Province of Quebec is so great that priests in France are said to be employed in celebrating them. The work can be done cheaper there than in Canada, and the Church here can draw a nice little income from this international arrangement. Besides this, there is a society, which has its home in Montreal, which carries on a comprehensive traffic in masses, and draws a large and increasing revenue from all parts of Canada and the United States. It is known as "The Confraternity for the Relief of Souls in Purgatory and the Conversion of Infidels, Under the Patronage of the Blessed Virgin and her Glorious Spouse St. Joseph." Its rules are issued over the signature of the Bishop of Montreal. It is in affiliation with a similar society in Rome, and by a rescript of August 7th, 1877, the Holy Father granted the remarkable favor of the privileged altar to all the masses of the society wherever celebrated. These are celebrated by the begging Order of St. Francis, who receive the fees as alms, and are thus aided in prosecuting their mission to infidels, so that a double benefit accrues to members. A fee of \$25 constitutes a life member, and \$500 constitutes a perpetual foundation of masses, which may be continued to the Day of Judgment. In support of this view reference is made to many similar foundations given in Palestine during the time of the Crusade, and which are said to be still intact and conferring unspeakable blessings upon suffer-