

POLITICAL ADMINISTRATION
IN FRANCE.

(Special Correspondence of the New World.)

So far the new ministry has met with no difficulties. It will find them soon, however, but for the present it is at peace. The greatest obstacle which will present itself will be the separation of Church and State. The Minister of Worship has formulated a project of law on this subject which does not give to Catholics any more confidence than the one formulated by Premier Combes. The minister assures the public that his project will accord liberty of public worship, but he puts in so many conditions that such liberty will never exist. It was, in his opinion, very easy to make a law. It was first necessary to cut off all relations with the Pope, as one of the predecessors of Pius X. on the throne of Peter signed the concordat which is now being suppressed. But the Mace and the free-thinkers of France want a bloody law and not a liberal one. There will be great debates soon to take place in the Chamber of Deputies. We shall then see what are the intentions of the people's representative.

I have also stated that there are 590 deputies and 800 senators. Perhaps a word on the way in which our governmental machine is run might be of interest.

At the foot of the political ladder we have the municipal councils. There is a municipal council in each country town, the number of members being regulated according to the population and importance of the place. At the head of this council is the Mayor, who presides over the council and also at civil marriages. No matter how important the town or city, it has its municipal council, elected by general vote.

Paris alone is managed in a different way. The capital is divided into twenty wards. In each there is a mayor, named by the government, who fills the role of officer of the civil state. He is only there for marriages and to sign all administration papers.

Each ward is divided into four quarters. Thus there are eighty quarters in Paris. Each quarter elects a municipal councillor at the general election. Those 80 councillors compose the municipal council of Paris and they themselves choose their president every year.

Immediately above the municipal councils comes the ward council. The ward is a portion of the department, and the councillors are elected at the general election. They are employed in collecting certain contributions.

Besides, each department—there are 86 in France—elects general councillors who have charge of all the affairs of the department. The general council is the highest assembly in the province. They choose their own president. It is forbidden for them to enter into politics but they do it sometimes.

There is in each department a prefect who is the official representative of the government; there is a sub-prefect, who is also a government official.

The two political assemblies in France are the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate. The Deputies are chosen at the general election. Every citizen, 21 years old, who has not suffered condemnation for some offense, is a voter, and every citizen, who is at least 25 years, is eligible to be deputy. There is a district deputy; the district is defined by the population.

The deputies are elected for four years, and are always eligible for re-election. They receive 25 francs a day all the year round, and they travel free on all French railroads. They choose their president each year in the month of January. The president lives in a palace belonging to the state, and receives a salary of 75,000 francs a year. The deputies have the right to present laws, they have the right to question the ministers on their acts of political administration, and if the majority of the deputies are not in favor of any minister, it is usual for the minister to give in his resignation.

They fix the dates of their meetings themselves, except the first one of the year, which is fixed by law for the second Tuesday in January.

The Senate is composed of 800 members. The senators are not chosen at the general election, but at what we call restrained elections. They are elected for nine years, and like the deputies they receive 25 francs a day. They also partake of the same privileges. The restrained vote (?) is composed of general councillors and delegates from the municipal



principal councils. In each department the senators, of whom the number is fixed by the population, are elected by the general councillors and delegates from the municipal councils.

The senators have also the right to present laws, to question the ministers. They choose, too, a president, who lives in a state palace and receives 75,000 francs a year. Then above the senators is the president of the republic, named by the senators and deputies for seven years. He lives in the palace of the Elysee, and the state puts at his disposal several palaces in the provinces. He receives one million, two hundred thousand francs a year. The constitutional law of 1875, which established the functions of the government, points out precisely its duties and does not leave it much initiative. It cannot directly present a law, but it chooses its members.

In fact it chooses a political leader whom it charges to constitute a ministry, and it accepts, as a rule, the ministers whom this man proposes. The ministers are always taken from among the senators and deputies. Sometimes they put a general as minister of war, sometimes an admiral as minister of the navy, but more often they are civilians.

The ministers are responsible for their acts before the parliament; they can be compelled to resign if they are in disfavor with the majority of the chamber or the senate. They can introduce laws, but all laws and decrees must be signed by a minister and by the president of the republic and must be inserted in the official journal.

The president of the republic is, in the Constitution, chief of the armies on land and sea, but he cannot dispose of them without the signature of the proper minister.

The ministers have an annual salary of 60,000 francs and live in a state palace. The salaries of the deputies, senators, ministers and president are all inscribed in the budget.

So thus, in a few words, is how the governmental machine is run in France.

LOUIS BARD.

ITALIAN WORKINGMEN HAVE
A PLACE IN THE CHURCH.In Italy, as Elsewhere, She is the
Church of All Classes.

(From the Sacred Heart Review.)

Does the Catholic Church in Italy stand aloof from the working people? Do the working classes maintain an indifferent or a hostile attitude toward the Church? Is there in that country among the laboring population a feeling of constraint with regard to the Church, as there is in this country between a corresponding class and the various Protestant churches? Does the workingman in Italy so suspect the Church of lack of sympathy with him and his problems that he takes small interest in Church affairs? Does he avoid church-going through a feeling that he has no place there? Is there, in fine, in Italy a church-labor problem such as so many Protestant preachers and editors in America recognize as existing (so far as their denominations are concerned) here in the United States? Evidently not. Everything, on the contrary, points to the fact that the Catholic Church is the Church of all classes in Italy as she is elsewhere.

Recent proof, of this comes under eye in a recent issue of the Christian Register. A writer in that Unitarian paper, whose article as a whole shows little trace of sympathy with the Catholic Church, was witness recently to the public welcome given by the people of Palermo to the new Archbishop, Monsignor Luialdi, and

was pleasantly surprised to find that on that occasion, in the great Cathedral, the working men of the city, in all their fraternities, stood with banners furled, closely packed from door to altar rails. No such thing, he believes, could have happened in England. The common people would not have a prominent place at such a function in Great Britain. The poor man in that favored land of the Anglo-Saxon could not afford to dress well enough to go to church, but, in Palermo, "dress does not count," says the writer; and she continues: "It was a touching sight—the interior of the Cathedral that day. The entire floor, filled with artisans, men who earn their living, and a scanty one as a rule, by their daily labor, and all so orderly, self-respecting, brothers of Christ, and of the highest in the Church. And their little boys from 5 to 15! There they were standing on the costly inlaid altar rails, perched high on the top of confessional boxes, clinging to saints and angels wherever they could find a place from which to see over the heads of their elders. Many of them were far from washed and combed for the occasion. Their boots or shoes were white with dust or mud. No one rebuked them! One thought of 'Suffer them, forbid them not, of such is the kingdom.' Into this midst, preceded by chanting choir, with the great bells ringing pean overhead and organ triumphantly expressing the gladness of the throng, the really fine noble-looking Archbishop came up the aisle to his throne."

And in the great procession in honor of the Archbishop the working men were seen in all their strength. The writer says that all the working men of Palermo, in their ordinary working clothes, but carrying banners of many colors, took part in the procession. "On and on they came, quietly, without haste, without rest, until we wondered if their long line would never end," she writes.

There are good people in this country who, viewing the Catholic religion as an abomination, and believing the highly-colored reports of Protestant missionaries in Italy, contribute money for what they expect will be the speedy "evangelization" of Catholic Italy. They believe in their simple-mindedness that the common people of Italy are growing tired of the Catholic Church. We wish they all could have seen this impressive popular welcome, and the part taken in it by the laboring population of Palermo.

DEFINITIONS.

The following are gleaned from the definitions given by English school-children:

Henry VIII. was brave, corpulent and cruel; he was frequently married to a widow, had an ulcer on his leg and great decision of character.

Simon de Montfort's father was a crusader, and from him he inherited religiousness, which was very useful to him afterward when he became Archbishop of Canterbury.

The climate of Bombay is such that its inhabitants have to live elsewhere.

Etc. is a sign used to make believe you know more than you do.

The equator is a menagerie lion running round the centre of the earth.

The zebra is like a horse, only striped, and used to illustrate the letter Z.

A vacuum is nothing shut up in a box.

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"FIRST IN PEACE."

A Notable Tribute to the Irish
People as Factors in American
Progress.

(From the New York Times.)
Why is it in these modern times when we all profess to abhor war, that if by chance a statesman, poet, scholar, preacher, or teacher gets on his feet to extol the virtues of a race he straightway begins to call the roll of those members of it who have distinguished themselves in war?

No, doubt President Roosevelt pleased his St. Patrick's Day audience when he told them how Barry had helped to build up our infant navy, how Montgomery fell so gloriously at Quebec, how Sullivan conquered the Iroquois, how Mad Anthony Wayne fought like a tiger against the British, and how Andrew Jackson of the old Irish stock became "the victor of New Orleans." The tributes he paid to these brave men were deserved, but where one American of the Irish strain has won distinction upon the field of battle ten thousand Irishmen "guiltless of their country's blood" or of any other blood have given their unsparing toil to develop the resources of the United States of America. We should cut a pretty poor figure if the fighting of our Irish Generals had not been supplemented by the labor of Irishmen who have built our railroads, cleared our forests, worked our mines, and manned our shops and factories. That has been the great work of the sturdy Irish race in this country; the President made a mere reference to it when he spoke of the Irish virtue of "working hard in time of peace," adding, of course, "and fighting hard in time of war." It would have been temperately impossible for Mr. Roosevelt to leave that out.

The President may know, but he would not disclose the knowledge that the Irish are first-rate farmers—among the very best that ever put a plow into American soil. Many an indomitable toiler of that race has taken a farm which successive New England Yankees had failed to get a living on, and by downright hard work with head and hands has made it support a good-sized family and build up for him a small fortune, as fortunes go in the farmer's calling. The Irish are great managers of men elsewhere than on battlefields. Great numbers of the most successful contractors in the country are of Irish blood. Subtract what these Generals in peaceful fields have done with their men and their material from the sum total of our achievements and we should be a good deal less far advanced than this year of grace finds us. New York would have no subway, for instance. The President alluded in a perfunctory sort of way to what the men of the Irish race have done for the artistic and literary development of the country, and mentioned in passing their standing at the bench and at the bar, in business and statesmanship. But of all the races out of which this great American blend has been made the Irish are pre-eminent in politics. The President knows that, certainly. His own skill in that art tends powerfully to confirm the tradition that there is an Irish admixture in the hot Batavian ichor that tumultuously courses through his veins. Although the aptitude of the Irish for politics is proverbial, probably the President felt that it might be considered rather delicate ground, and being much more regardless of the sensibilities of his hosts than our present Ambassador at the Court of St. James showed himself to be upon a similar occasion, he kept within the safe line of complimentary platitudes, chiefly about the Irish warriors. For our part it seems not at all right that the Irish arms that have tugged and the Irish backs that have ached in making this country what it is, should be deprived of their due recognition and meed of praise. The Irish qualities that the President chiefly lauded, the qualities that make the Irish hard fighters in war, are common to all the great races of earth. The qualities that make them indomitable in toil, that make them so successful in innumerable arts of peace, are not so universally diffused among the branches of our human stock that they may be lightly passed over by eulogists of the race.

No story is the same to us after the lapse of time; or rather we who read it are no longer the same interpreters.—George Eliot.

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What we need, nowadays, is to come back to a belief in the passing day and to-day's works, even though we have to dismiss some visions for them. The vision that is worth having will come back all the clearer for our doing something about it. "The will is vision." We need not be afraid that some mighty opportunity will slip by us if we take up with some definite labor, nor fear that God will let any good escape.

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THAT DR

By

I must begin by confessing I am a very nervous woman—Scripture has it a woman fears—for unless this is clear I should not have been so bold as to write this story. I have heard the reader, especially the superior male reader, ready with his half-pitying contemptuous comments on the nervousness of my sex. I am brave at any rate to acknowledge it, and I am afraid of mice, and I am afraid of spiders, and I am afraid of the dark, and I am afraid of the mere suggestion of ghost or burglar. So don't think it's quite fair of me to begin with this defect, especially when he has a much more serious one, a self-will which carries all before it, and every woman will admit, is the most aggravating quality one's own will happens to be the very opposite direction.

In this case the trouble was a house that Dick (did I mention that Dick is my husband) wanted me to see—a house, thought of buying, several away from the city and at a distance from any other dwelling, this because he had heard it was a well-finished house and cheap and likely to turn out well at some future time, when I should have succumbed to the horrors it had engendered. Let the way open for Mrs. Reynolds number two.

He said (Dick said of course) the children needed fresh air, looked pretty, but this necessity had been enduring calmly enough all the advent of an officious lawyer, Mr. Miles, who said their husband's imagination one unlucky night when I had simple goodness of my heart had led me, Mr. Miles, to dinner. Now it seems to me that I have been talking rather flippantly, but if so it is with a view to shaking off the attack of the generally entitled upon me by collection of that night I am to describe as a would-be brain-whistles his loudest passing church-yard of a dark night. I often been complimented on making of a ghost story, and have nessed with pardonable pride blanching cheek and moistened some dear and valued friend who had selected as a good subject experiment. But though my senses were quite creepy enough the night aforesaid ghosts had part in them, and faint hope indeed of shaking the steady of readers well inured to war of terror.

It was just this way. My obstinate husband, my two children supposed to be in need of country air, and my nervous had been for some time living pensively and somewhat constrained in a city flat far away (Dick right enough there) from trees and all the dear delights of Nature. We were always plausibly optimistic, summer trips never materialized, and doing little best meanwhile to make lack of better things by sundry, culously extravagant and excessive wearisome all day expeditions to boats and cars. These expeditions began cheerfully in early morning and ended in utter collapse of body towards sunset, at peaceful hour we victims to pain feeling might often have been wearily dragging or carrying tired offspring homewards, out-tamper and decidedly out of patience. It may be easily imagined with what interest I listened to Miles' interesting account of this beautiful country residence, just a few miles from town, surrounded by a good bit of land—included a flower and vegetable garden as well as a couple of fine fields, and a playground for our little people. Dick looked radiant, but my enthusiasm began to cool after thought from Mr. Miles, who could tell a lie, lawyer as he was, claiming fact that this paragon was what he called, a "good" what remote, namely a good on other hand from its nearest neighbor, but—at this I saw in the certainty of the street railway continued to the very was assured, inside a year, he was not afraid to say.

"And I may tell you in all this," Mr. Miles went on, "the table with an aggravatingly