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Items of Local Interest Solicited.

Van will you build churches, give missions, found schools—all your works, all your efforts will be destroyed if you are not able to wield the defensive and offensive weapon of a loyal and sincere Catholic press.

—Pope Pius X.

Episcopal Approbation.

If the English Speaking Catholics of Montreal and of this Province consulted their best interests, they would make of the TRUE WITNESS one of the most prosperous and powerful Catholic papers in this country.

I heartily bless those who encourage this excellent work.

PAUL, Archbishop of Montreal.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1909.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

"Orphan Hours, the Year is dead! Come and sigh, come and weep!" "Merry Hours, smile instead, For the Year is but asleep: See, it smiles as it is sleeping, Mocking your untimely weeping."

Thus Shelley, in his "Dirge for the Year," written on the 1st of January, 1821. And elsewhere: "Where art thou, beloved To-morrow? When young and old, and strong and weak, Rich and poor, through joy and sorrow, Thy sweet smiles we ever seek, In thy place—ah! well-a-day!— We find the thing we fled—To-day."

The Old Year, indeed, is dying! But ere it fades, let us not forget its gifts and graces—the many hours of mirth, the good desires, the fervent prayers, the health and leisure or, perhaps, the sickness sanctified, the riches of plenty, the Holy Masses, the stories of our repentance at the feet of Jesus with Magdalen, and, then, our presence at the banquet of the Lord, while the very angels envied us our blessed share! These, and more, the memories of 1909!

But, before God, has the dying year been for us a season of merit? How have we served our Maker? How have we loved our neighbor? How have we striven after Heaven?

"The years of thy life in the balance Eternity's measure sublime, What are they but drops in the ocean, But grains on the sand shore of time?"

Or again: "Years roll through the palm of ages, As the dropping Rosary speeds Through the cold and passive fingers, Of a hermit at his beads."

Then will come the New Year! May it be for all men a happy and thrice happy New Year in God's finding! May it bring added health and happiness to our Holy Father, to our Archbishop and his worthy Auxiliary, to all our good and devoted priests, to the self-sacrificing Brothers and Sisters who are giving their lives for us, to our painstaking lay teachers, to our friends and to our foes, to those who wish us well and to those who wish us ill, to the old and the young, to the strong of body, and to the dear ones of whom disease has made its prey. Again, to all, a Happy New Year! Let 1910 be God's Year! It shall

witness in our midst the glorious pageant of Jesus in the Sacrament of His Love.

"Give thy heart's best treasures,— From fair Nature loans; Give thy love—and ask not, Wait not a return! And the more thou spendest From thy little store, With a double bounty God will give thee more."

May the Mother of God make of 1910 a year of plenty for us all in the everlasting records of His Angel!

THE NEW BISHOP OF LONDON, ONT.

It is rejoicing news for us all to hear that Very Reverend Doctor M. F. Fallon, O.M.I., has been chosen as the new bishop of London, Ont. Dr. Fallon needs no introduction to our readers, or to English-speaking Canadians in general. A man of very superior intellect, he is also of remarkable physique, an indefatigable worker who always makes of an undertaking a telling success. It must be remembered that it was Dr. Fallon who practically took up the fight against the anti-Catholic kingly oath of office. His work while at Ottawa University made of him a brilliant national figure, and he it was again who organized the Buffalo province of Oblates. In a word, he cannot but rank with the peers of the episcopacy in Canada and the United States. The Holy Ghost, we feel sure, has ratified the choice made for the diocese of the Forest City. He may indeed feel justly proud of the clergy over whom he has been placed, true, sincere, holy, hard-working priests, who, more than anybody else, will thank God for the Bishop sent them by Heaven. Dr. Fallon is a member of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, a truly wonderful congregation of missionaries, and a veritable seminary for the episcopate.

That God may spare him for many long years, that other honors may be made his share, and that his zeal and earnestness may meet with the undying success he so fully deserves, is the prayer of all our readers, and of every true, loyal son of the Church.

THE IRISH NOT A MISSIONARY RACE.

We lately came across the perverse statement that the Irish are not today a missionary race. In reply, let us simply say:

If it were not for Irish priests, the Church in England would still be in its second infancy after the Reformation;

So would the Church in Scotland; Irish priests kept the faith alive in the United States in nine-tenths of the cases;

You will find scores of Irish priests, brothers and nuns among the members of the clergy and orders in France;

They are doing the Church's work in Australia, South Africa, New Zealand;

The Irish priests are out in India too, with nuns and brothers of their race;

The Irish clergy are at the head of over three hundred papers and periodicals, all fighting for the Church's interests;

Irishmen and men of Irish blood are responsible for nine-tenths of the conversions of non-Catholics to the faith;

Ireland sends out hundreds of priests and religious to the English-speaking world each year;

Irish men and women are at the head of the religious orders in the whole English-speaking world;

Men of Irish blood are responsible for our two Extension societies;

So really a missionary people are they that you will not find in their papers insult and outrage for the bishops and clergy of any nationality;

The Irish people are well known for their readiness to untie their purse-strings;

Look at the number of the colleges, convents and universities they can show in the United States, if you think they are only beggars in Canada;

The Irish Catholic members of Parliament stood by the Manitoba schools, independent of party allegiance;

The Irish paid their solid dollars each time their sons or daughters were educated at any college;

of the United States; Ireland has never apostatized, nor did she ever draw the Papacy in the mud;

Tens of thousands of priests and hundreds of thousands of religious have Irish blood in their veins; Marshall MacMahon, of France, was of Irish blood, and we know what kind of Catholic he was;

Ireland has never had, and has not today, any national heresiarch; Religion is taught in the National schools of Ireland.

Her national holiday is that of her apostle, St. Patrick;

"The Irish people," says O'Connell, "would not erect even a splendid shrine to Liberty on the ruins of the temple."

Irish faith does not thrive on schism.

WORD "OBEY" ELIMINATED.

The Rev. E. R. Adams, pastor of the Forest Avenue Christian Church, Chicago, has stricken the word "obey" from the marriage ceremony, and will require no woman to promise to "obey" her husband. Dr. Adams declares the Bible places woman on an equality with men, and the idea that she is inferior to the husband belongs, he says, to the "Dark Ages."

Now, first of all, we are thankful to know that it is "he" who says what he does about the Middle Ages. We do not like to hear a cultured Anglican, for instance, disparage the old days of Europe, but we know that very little knowledge of history is required of a preacher among the Campbellites. According to the ritual of the Catholic Church there is no question of asking the wife to "obey." She and her husband are instructed in their duties before they marry, and it is understood that they will live, not as cannibals, but as Christians, ready to put up with each other. The Reformers changed all, and their successors are changing things all over again. But that should cause no surprise, for the Bible itself has been cast to the winds. The prevalence of divorce, for instance, although forbidden by Christ our Savior in the Gospel, and the facility with which it is obtained in the United States and most European countries, is truly deplorable, and makes the ceremony of marriage beyond the pale of the Church often a very mockery. The only non-Catholic ministers who are really fighting it are a few truly admirable Anglican bishops and clergymen, with a scattering of right-thinking preachers in the other sects.

Reverend Adams condemns the "Dark Ages" on the score of justice to womanhood. Has the poor man never heard that it was during the selfsame calumniated ages that woman fully got back her rights? Has he read two chapters of history aright?

Whatever there is of worth in his own sect, was inherited from the Church that civilized Europe, after having conquered Rome and the Caesars; from the Church that made Christians out of the Huns and Visigoths, the Vandals and the Ostrogoths; from the Church that sent Patrick to Ireland, Austin to England, Boniface to Germany, Methodius and Cyril to Russia; from the Church of Gregory and Innocent; from the Church of John Chrysostom and Basil, and Austin of Carthage and Bernard of Clairvaux. The "Dark Ages" against womanhood? Humbug! When will those preachers cease raving?

But to be just to the Middle Ages, we must judge them by the principles and ideas of those times, and not of our own. The Church could not do all in a day. Even if the converted Vandals were uncouth for a long while, they could not have withstood the moral atmosphere of our great cities. They may have had no notions about our perfumery and were strangers to our theatricals; but those who preached to them did not proclaim the gospel of divorce, for all that. The scholars of Germany, and of the world, have studied the story of the Middle Ages but their findings are food too strong for a Campbellite meeting-house. The great romantic school of all nations had to go back to the Middle Ages for themes of grandeur and chivalry. From the deep study of them a Von Stolberg and the Schlegels, with a Newman and a Brunetiere, became Catholics; but after a slight glimpse of them a Voltaire, a Payne, and an Ingersoll remained cads. With whom do the preachers stand? Ours to question, theirs to answer. It would be well for Rev. Adams's country were it to go back to the standards of old on questions pertaining to decency. Would there have been one million divorces in the last twenty years, if the ideals of his country were those of the Middle Ages? But enough.

The wisdom of our forefathers and the very foundations of the State are ruined by the destructive morals of to-day and by the creeds of the hour that teach and inculcate every thing save the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

SOME CLAIMS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

In the November number of one of our truly great magazines (as Father Talbot Smith would say), the Catholic World, we came across a remarkable article by Bertram C. A. Windle, M.D., F.R.S., a brilliant Irishman (among the many), on "The Intellectual Claims of the Catholic Church," in which he shows that "those who take the trouble to study it in the dry light of science will soon discover that our Church, from the intellectual standpoint, is just as much a matter for marvel and for thankfulness as it is from any of the many other standpoints from which it may be viewed."

Mr. Windle does not deal with all the claims our Church has on the minds of the intellectual, but he gives a few facts which that most objectionable of creatures, the "superior person," would do well to study, at least as far as his intellect will permit him. Without taking our bearings from Mr. Windle, directly or solely, we think we can (and may) name a few of the Church's claims, as follows:

(a) She is the only Church Christ founded, even if Whitaker's Almanac names more than a hundred sects for England alone.

(b) She is the only One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church—even if Chiniquy's books, Rev. Clot, Mother Eddy, and Deacon Jasper Johnson say the contrary.

(c) She is the only Church whose ministrations reach the children of all nations, a matter belonging to her Catholicity, but solely disputed by the founders of the Campbellites.

(d) Her philosophy and theology presuppose in those who study them some education. They were never meant to be understood by self-ordained exhorters or self-immortalized sciolists.

(e) The greatest poets, litterateurs, scientists, general scholars, philosophers have, in ninety per cent of the cases, been Catholics: What was Pasteur? What is Lorenz, Von Roentgen, etc! etc?

(f) Even Darwin got his cue from the Schoolmen.

(g) The great scientists who are not Catholics are not Protestants either; they are infidels. So are the best theologians outside the Church. Catholic argument, when it does not win them, at least "smokes them out."

(h) The Catholic Church is the only one where poor and rich, ignorant and learned, feel equally at home.

(i) She is the only Church that can win a Newman, a Manning, a Von Stolberg, a Schlegel, a Brownson, etc., etc., etc.

(j) She is the only Church, as Comte de Mun says, who can give God's answer to the agitated social biologists!

(k) She is the only Church that can boast of hundreds of thousands of monks and nuns. What is the sacrifice of a Christian Endeavor when compared with that of the priest, brother, and nun among lepers?

(l) She is the only Church that tries seriously to save the child.

(m) The only Church that has civilized the world. Here and there others turned up, once the savages had lost their thirst for blood.

(n) There is even, as the late Father A. F. Hewit, C.S.P., once said, a distinct charm in the word "Catholic" for those who retain the Christian tone and temper of mind.

(o) She is the only Church infidels find worth fighting.

(p) Christ was fought by all classes of men in Jerusalem; His Church has inherited the common hatred of all heretics, infidels, Jews, and schismatics.

(q) The unbroken chain of her Popes forms the backbone of general history. Luther is dead, but there is still a Pope.

(r) The Church, as Archbishop Hughes once said, is not a foreigner on any continent or island of this globe.

(s) She is the only Church that can speak with authority, and the only Church that truly respects the Bible.

(t) She has given the artist, the musician, the sculptor, the architect, etc., etc., their noblest themes, the themes that immortalized them.

(u) She is the only Church that deserves the common hatred of such blackguards, as Luther, Calvin, Henry VIII, Zwingle, and Knox, and such cads as Chiniquy, Combes and Clemensosau.

(v) She is the only Church that

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bears a full message to the world.

(w) The Church that can make a man confess his sins, although she can have him sing hymns, strain his eyes, and strike his breast in the bargain.

(x) She is the only Church whose doctrine can bear the scrutiny of common sense.

(y) Like her founder, Jesus Christ she never changes. Her priests cannot teach and preach according as every wind of doctrine moves.

(z) She is the only Church that has never yielded, never faltered, never gone back, never made a compromise with infidelity, never let go the Old Testament or the New, never hesitated in the conflict with kings or people when Christianity was at stake. She defied King Hal and disobeyed Napoleon. From latest cable reports, she is not going to fall just because Kensit Jr., Reverend Graham, "Goliath of Galt," Sam Blake, or Jasper Johnson say she shall.

The Chinamen have an alphabet of several thousand characters. That is the kind we need when writing as we now do, for the purpose of enumeration. "We may look back on the Church," says the Very Rev. Dr. Zahn, "at any period of her history, and we shall find that she was progressive then as she is to-day; that then, as now, she was the one power capable of directing and carrying with her the genius of the world." And, "when a man impudently contends that the Church stifles mental freedom (or ever has stifled it), he only proves that dull bigotry has stifled his own, and contradicts the whole history of human thought," remarks T. W. M. Marshall. We are willing to admit the honesty and sincerity of many who disagree with us; willing to confess that faith is an infused and theological virtue; but what we could never understand is how a man can be willing to accept a part of Revelation and leave the rest. An infidel may have some little recourse to logic, but a heretic has to swear away all economy in order to subsist as such. What we say in this article is meant for honest minds only.

MORE DESIRABLE IMMIGRANTS! The following has appeared in our generous dailies:

Geneva, Dec. 17.—(Special).—The police to-day confirmed the report of a wholesale exodus of members of the Black Hand who mean to find a new field of operation in America. It developed also that no less than sixty of the characters of whom forty have been expelled from Switzerland are making their way by circuitous routes to the United States. These men formerly were part of a gang of 2,000 Italians employed in the construction of the Loetschberg Tunnel through the Bonier alps. This scene of industry became a hot-bed of Black Handers, four of whom are now in custody here awaiting trial on charges of blackmail, assault and murder.

Now, perhaps some of the two thousand gentlemen spoken of in the above news despatch have heard how easy it is to enter Canada, and our hardware merchants, if not the second-hand stores, should employ more salesmen, in consequence. We must not, however, confound and confuse the honest hard-working Italian immigrants with the loathsome fellows whom the Government of Italy banishes to our shores. We can get no better immigrants than the good Italians, and they can suffer no more cruelly than at the hands of their own fellow-country of the wrong kind. Nor is Southern Italy what Northern Italy is. The Salvation Army is willing to give us some very desirable immigrants in the shape and form of reclaimed criminals, but our jails are too small, and the ocean too big. Ralph Connor ought to send them "Mr. Brown"; or, again, "Mr. Brown" could go through Ontario and preach the "Monk" will still be popular, on the subject of murder. If whosoever.

JUST A SHORT LETTER.

To the Editor of the True Witness: Hamilton, Ont., Dec. 28, 1909.

Dear sir, I am enclosing a clipping taken from a daily paper, it deals, as you will see, with the action and letter of a man, who left the Church, just because our churches are poorly ventilated. Most likely you saw the same in some papers or other. What do you think of it! Please tell your readers.

Yours sincerely,

Yes, indeed, we had read of the gentleman in nine or ten of our dailies, and had smiled as we read. If that good man could only find how the air of his parish church has improved since he stopped going to it, he would, if he is honest, blame the right party. Fraud, as Dante says, must leave its sting in every conscience. But "men," according to Balmes, "frequently deceive themselves before they deceive others."

GOLD BRICKS AGAIN!

Our readers know what we think of hypocritical proselytizers. Respectable Protestants—and they are the very vast majority among their brethren—have often been warned. Some have taken heed, but many, alas! have taken heed, but many, alas! very many, will not take us seriously! The following from our respected contemporary, Register-Extension, speaks for itself. Says the editor:

"And so the Rev. George M. Atlas, Presbyterian missionary, lecturer and evangelist, has disappeared with the funds of his confiding countrymen. We warned the Mission Board some time ago that these Greek missionaries were worth watching, but our warning fell upon deaf ears. This was the gentleman who discovered that the Catholics of Leghorn worshipped a holy ass. Our evangelical brethren are now convinced that the holy asses are not confined to any particular city."

But Brother Atlas inherited a family trait. One of his ancestors was no ordinary thief; he could not only burglarize a poor-box, but carry off the world in the bargain. "Ma-could go through Ontario and preach the Monk" will still be popular, on the subject of murder. If whosoever.

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continue to get the kind of desirable immigrants we are getting, we shall soon have to use "Dreadnoughts" on Craig River, between St. Lawrence and Beaver Hall streets. In some parts of Europe they are abolishing jails and penitentiaries, and we are not surprised. The prisoners are evidently hearing the "Call of the Wild," and are coming to us in all haste.

Ferris's friends few, will be pleased the Socialists were in Rome the other never thought he of friends he is!

They are getting bit, over in English Catholic mayors. ton have stepped do. —Presbyterian R

England expects his duty when the Boers to be a poor fellow who could not find other day.

Sir Lomer Goulet doing its best to chance. We expect thoroughly Catholic dealing with our

The Protestant its agents in Car new trick just now three weeks, we s "smoke them out" hole.

Dr. John Clifford Free Churches in Peers should be dis Sea. At any rate much of the old J. Murder is a part bus. But let us see some of its pro

Henry C. Lee of grandson of an em spent his life calur tholic Church, in s works, and diea at er day, a very old trouble was due to the mixed marriage

We hope that Catholics are not g to the choice of sol little gentlemen wh faith, upstarts who our bishops and p stand no dictation lows. Our books a all right.

We are beginning opinion we had for coolness, according ports from the Briti "Suffragettes," and newly-arrived Engli give opinions on Cap road cars. The fa coolness were forme by with the House o Budget issues are a Irish can be cool to cannot master Cana more than they can

"Had there been n world, we had not n ders of God's mercy