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LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1916

THE HON. MR. JUSTICE CHISHOLM

We beg to congratulate the Hon. Mr. Justice Chisholm on his appointment to the Bench of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia. He takes the place of Judge Meagher who, to the great regret of his many friends and admirers, felt obliged, owing to the burden of years, to resign in favour of a younger man. Judge Meagher has his name not writ in water in the history of jurisprudence in Nova Scotia. For years he has maintained the high character of the judiciary and has been known always as a gentleman whose feet were ever on the highway of honour. A learned and just judge and withal a Catholic, uncompromising and fearless, proud of his faith that demands a citizenship clean of avarice and immune of cowardice—fraternal, honest, generous, courageous and just, Judge Meagher may well be proud of his honorable career in the law. He leaves the Bench with a name that is in benediction among all who venerate standards of dignity and honour and devotion to principle.

In taking the place of this distinguished jurist Judge Chisholm has the responsibility of keeping undimmed the splendour of the traditions so nobly maintained by Judge Meagher. We have no doubt as to his ability. His many qualities of mind and heart, his culture, together with his legal attainments, fit him for the position of honor to which he has been called.

During his many years in Halifax he has enjoyed the respect of citizens irrespective of creed. He has given his time and learning to philanthropic and educational movements and he has endeared himself to a wide circle of acquaintances by a gentle courtesy that is of the warp and woof of his being—a courtesy that is the mother of kind words and judgments and befits the scholar.

The appointment of Judge Chisholm will be acclaimed by Nova Scotians as one that is eminently just, and in accordance with the character of the Nova Scotia Bench. No man, we believe, will dissent from this opinion. In public and private life he is a gentleman—a citizen devoted to the welfare of his community, a Catholic who manifests his faith in his life, a man endowed with the respect of his fellow citizens.

We wish him many years of success on the Bench.

BRITAIN'S DUTY AND BELGIUM'S APPEAL

When there is work to be done or danger to be faced, whether in peace or war, there is no better watchword than Nelson's: "England expects every man this day to do his duty." Never was there a day when a sense of duty was more important. That England, which Nelson loved and gave his life for, is now a portion of the greatest empire which the world has ever seen. And that empire's heart is threatened. Sons of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, have spread over the world and planted the flag of liberty in vast new lands, united by the tie of British freedom. So vast has been this freedom, we have almost ceased to look upon our speech as something that could lose its liberty. Pulpit and press alike have enjoyed rational liberty in this glorious British Empire of ours. We have been free from tyrannical laws like the German "Kanzelparagraf," which made free speech in the pulpit an offence against the State in the dark days of the "Kulturkampf." We have lived in an empire where liberty was in the spirit of the air. It is this fair, free empire which

claims our loyalty to-day. The vastness of our empire means vast responsibilities. That liberty for which our fathers fought must be handed down to future generations. We must not regard this war as something we shall win by a mere habit of victory. We must work for liberty. Every man who works for the British Empire to-day, whether in the factory, or office, or on the battlefield must work as he has never worked before. It is the price of liberty.

It is the pledge of our British honor. When we learn from the Catholic bishops of Belgium that unspeakable record of Prussia in Belgium; when we hear how her soldiers pillaged, and massacred and burned and committed sacrilege; when we read how fifty innocent priests were put to death and thousands of innocent people murdered, can we help but endorse the Belgian bishops who in their recent letter to the bishops of Germany and Austria declare:

"These crimes cry to heaven for vengeance."

The British Empire owes little Belgium an inestimable debt. Belgium might have sold her honor and have escaped invasion by a little juggling with conscience. She preferred disaster to disgrace. That is why the people of the British Empire will never rest till Prussia be driven out of Belgium. It is the pledge of British honor.

The Belgian bishops in their letter, ask the bishops of Germany and Austria to help them in establishing a committee to investigate war outrages. It is a pathetic letter. To Great Britain it should seem like a message of fire to liberate Belgium from the Prussian oppressor. What right has Prussia in Belgium? No more right than a burglar in a stranger's house. By her invasion of Belgium, Prussia stands self-condemned.

"Thrice he is armed who hath his quarrel just." Never had the British Empire a cause so just as this. Never since the crusades of the Middle Ages has there been more reason to nerve the British people in the cause of truth and justice. It is a time when every member of the British Empire must do his part for the freedom of the human race. This war is at once our chastisement and path to glory. Like the monks of old we must perform our task of courage and self-sacrifice, in the belief that "to labor is to pray." It is the hour for Britons to show the mettle of their race. It is the hour to stand out boldly for the cause that is good and true. Liberty and the false god of pagan Caesarism are fighting for life on the fields of Flanders.

TO THE STRANGER ON THE THRESHOLD

Among the people met with in daily life who should interest a Catholic is the man on the threshold of the Catholic Church. It has been said of James Anthony Froude that he was always on the threshold of the Catholic Church and was only separated from her by a thin wall of his own making. There are not a few men on the threshold of Catholicism. That step from the outer court into the Catholic Church is one that makes men pause. So they stay on the threshold, halting between two opinions.

There are men of initiative in religion who cannot be content with transitional attitudes. They find no pleasure in the endless balancing of doctrinal probabilities. They desire to know the truth.

"How am I to be sure which of the churches is the Church of Christ? is a question often heard among seekers after truth. Such men have not had the time to devote to the study of theology, and while attracted to the Catholic Church they feel themselves unable to come to any definite decision with regard to her claims as a Church.

So from among these seekers after truth we will take one typical stranger on the threshold, and suppose him to be a wanderer among the churches, in earnest search of the one true church. He is a man of common sense and therefore will find no difficulty in seeing that churches teaching contradictory doctrines cannot all be true. The next step is to consult the Bible. There we shall find exactly how Christ founded His church. In St. Matthew 16, verses 18 and 19, Christ's words on this occasion are recorded: "And I say to thee that thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my church, and

the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give to thee the keys of the Kingdom of heaven, and whatsoever thou shalt bind upon earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth, it shall be loosed in heaven."

Now all the above words of Christ are fulfilled in the Roman Catholic Church and in no other. What other church but the Roman Catholic Church can claim to have had St. Peter for its first bishop and primate? Further, the power of the keys and the power of binding and loosing were powers essential to the constitution of the church and therefore must have been conferred upon St. Peter in a public capacity, so that they might pass to his successors. For if they had been conferred upon him merely in a private capacity, these essential powers must have perished with him, which would have been contrary to their nature and opposed to the intention of the Church's Divine Founder. Thus we reach the following thesis:

Christ conferred upon St. Peter the primacy of jurisdiction over the whole Church, immediately and directly; St. Peter lives and presides and judges to this day and always in his successors the bishops of the Holy Roman See; whosoever succeeds St. Peter in his chair, obtains the primacy of St. Peter over the whole Church, according to the institution of Christ.

Thus His Holiness Pope Benedict XV. has evidently jurisdiction over the whole Church to-day and the true church of Christ can only be that which acknowledges this jurisdiction. These are points that may assist the stranger on the threshold.

THE PROBLEM OF THE CASUAL TEACHER

The problem of the person, who in the absence of the regular Sunday school teacher is asked to take a class, is full of strange perplexities. "How is it," writes one of these casual teachers, "that I can secure no attention from my pupils? Their age was about twelve, and I put questions to them which I thought they could easily answer, such, for example, as: Tell me something about the life of our Lord. But they showed no interest whatever."

This question is a clue to the reason why the pupils lacked interest. Wide, vague inquiries with children should always be avoided. Indeed with adults, such questions show lack of precision and preparation on the part of a teacher.

Avoid all questions in which the whole of what has to be said is said by the teacher and in which the scholar is simply called on to assent. Take, for example, an extract from a precious little catechism on "good manners" published in Scotland for the use of Board schools:

Q. Is untruthfulness a very common vice?

A. Yes.

Such questions as the above will always lead to lack of interest. They will soon demoralize a class. To arouse and sustain interest, questions should be carefully prepared and should be marked by clearness and brevity. Avoid too many illustrations, as they tend to mental dissipation. In explaining, the most important point is to know when to stop. Be sparing of words, and give a class short intervals of silence to digest what has been said. The teacher who talks all the time has always a listless audience.

WHO WILL JOIN NEW HOSPITAL UNIT?

From Antigonish, N. S., comes the welcome news that St. Francis Xavier College's offer of a hospital unit has been accepted by the imperial authorities. Laval and other universities have already hospital units doing excellent service in the great war, and as the war is likely to be protracted for many months the new unit of the famous Nova Scotia college will doubtless find a wide field for medical and Christian usefulness. The unit is to consist of one hundred and fifty men, thirty-five nurses and twelve doctors, and the president of St. Francis Xavier's states that persons wishing to join should write to the university immediately. The importance of hospital units in the European war is so great that it commands attention. Countless valuable lives will be restored to health and usefulness as the result of proper treatment by an adequately equipped field hospital. To aid in the formation of these hospital units is a duty we owe to our brave boys at the front. Who will volunteer for service?

CONVERTING "ROMANISTS"

At a recent Protestant missionary conference a delegate gave a report of "work amongst the French-Canadians." We take it she meant the savage tribes that inhabit the lower province. We are sure the French-Canadians are exceedingly grateful for her kindly interest in them, even if they do not evidence their gratitude by clamoring for admittance to her pitiful little sect.

Now, for the earnest, sincere Protestant, who lives his life according to his own fashion, and faithfully worships God in the manner prescribed by the church to which he belongs, and in which he believes, we have nothing but the deepest respect. It matters not that from our point of view he is wrong in his views of what constitutes Christian truth. He believes he is right, and does his best to live up to his belief. Therefore all fair-minded men respect him. But the type represented by the delegate above mentioned is in an entirely different class. There is something pharisaical in her make-up. Like the hypocrites of old, she sees the mote in her brother's eye, but ignores the beam in her own. Utterly unmindful of the fact that right at her own doors so-called Christians are living lives of most shameful paganism, she trots off to Quebec to bring the true light of the Gospel to the French-Canadians who sit in darkness. Truly in her case doth charity begin at home. Quebec is in no need of the sanctimonious tract hawkers. By their fruits you shall know them. If the statistics of crime are a test of the beneficent effects of the "pure gospel" as preached in Ontario, then give us the "darkness" of Romanist Quebec.

It is surely zeal run riot that would seek to deprive the French-Canadian of his historic faith while there are thousands of so-called Christians who have no faith at all. The only result of the mischievous activities of the proselytiser is to destroy all faith in the souls of his victims. A Catholic will be a Catholic or nothing. There never yet was a Catholic who left the faith of his fathers for conscientious motives. When Francis Parkman, the historian, was in Europe for the first time he met an Italian who spoke disrespectfully of the Pope. "Why," said Parkman, "do you speak so of the Pope? Are you not a Roman Catholic?" The man said he used to be a Catholic, but some years in America had "opened his eyes." "You are no longer a Catholic," said Parkman. "What religion do you believe in now?" "Oh, no religion in particular," replied the Italian. "Whereupon," says Parkman, satirically, "I congratulated him upon so happy a conversion from the error of his ways."

All of the so-called converts from "Rome" are of this variety. The "missionaries" may now and then succeed in robbing a poor unfortunate of his faith, but they will never succeed in making him a Protestant. He will but swell the ranks of those who profess "no religion in particular."

COLUMBA.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

A clerical appointment in Scotland having an interest far beyond the boundaries of that country, is that of Rev. Henry Gray Graham, M. A., who has been placed in charge of the Longriggend mission. Father Graham is one of the few converts from the ranks of the Scots Presbyterianism. The son of a minister, he followed in his father's footsteps, to the extent at least of becoming a minister himself, and after serving for some time as Assistant Professor of Hebrew and Oriental Languages in the University of St. Andrew, was elected to the pastorate of Avondale, Lanarkshire. Two years later he was received into the Catholic Church, and after three years' study at the Scots College, Rome, was ordained priest in 1906.

FATHER GRAHAM is a man of intellectual habits and possesses marked ability as a writer. His weekly contribution to the Glasgow Observer, the Catholic Herald and other papers over the initials "H. C. G." have made him well-known in Great Britain and far beyond it. An omnivorous reader, and the possessor of a profound knowledge of religious conditions in Scotland, he has been able to uncover many a fable and to dispel prejudice in quarters where it has been fixedly rooted for centuries. He is the author also of several interesting volumes, among them a lucid disquisition on the question:

"Where we got the Bible," which has made a marked impression on many thinking Scotsmen. As a parish priest, Father Graham can hardly fail to extend the sphere of his influence and bear an honorable part in the great work of restoring to his country the glorious fabric of pre-reformation Catholicism.

THE CANADIAN CONGREGATIONALIST regales its readers with this toothsome morsel culled from the pages of "The Neglected Continent" said "neglected continent" being South America which, as all know, has been the medium through which a whole host of "missionaries" from the United States and Canada has flourished upon the gullibility of their countrymen at home. This is a fair example of the stories which have done the trick so effectively:

"Many books having been bought of a Bible seller, the priest soon gathered all of them he could, and made a fire of them in the village square, fearing them up. One last containing John 3 was blown through a window. The lady within was deeply interested in it, as also her husband on his return. A year after she gladly bought a Bible of a colporteur, and soon both husband and wife turned from Rome to Christ."

Anyone who would swallow that would swallow anything!

THE MADRAS EXAMINER (which has the faculty of compressing a whole story into a phrase), commenting upon the Bishop of Carlisle's Nineteenth Century article upon "Religious Monopoly," twits his Anglican lordship with having beyond dispute or cavil a "monopoly of controversial indecency." Even the Church Times, the spokesman of advanced ritualism, is unable to find any excuse for this display on the part of one of its own Bishops of what has already been termed in these columns, ecclesiastical rowdism. The Church of England's claim to apostolic origin has been dealt many blows from within its own bosom. The Bishop of Carlisle, if we may judge by his latest excursion into polemics, seems bent upon dechristianizing it altogether.

ONE OF THE HOPEFUL signs in an age given over largely to materialism, is the number of books that have appeared in the last few years on the subject of Christ's divinity. The earnest searcher after truth may in this fact find evidence that whatever the trend of mankind in general, God does not lack His witnesses, nor the Church of Christ her ardent defenders even in a world which, turning aside for the moment from a false and degrading philosophy, is convulsed to its very centre by a bloody and fratricidal war. Whatever may be the eventual outcome of that strife, we may not, in face of Christ's promise, despair of the triumph of His Kingdom.

A BOOK OF THIS character which has lately come to our hands is the work of an Irish Jesuit, Father Peter Finlay. It is entitled "The Church of Christ: Its Foundation and Constitution," and is made up of lectures delivered by him in his opening term as Professor of Theology in the National University of Ireland. The general purpose of these lectures was to inquire into the reasons why, other than because of her own assertions, we acknowledge the authority of the Church and attribute to her divine authority, but, incidentally, they also vindicate the divinity of the Author. Father Finlay goes to the root of things, demonstrating in the course of his enquiry that the Church is the one true Church established by Christ and that she possesses all the marks which enable truth seeking men to so identify her. He first establishes the genuineness of the New Testament as a series of historical documents which all the assaults of modern scepticism and higher criticism have been unable to gainay. Then, in a series of chapters upon the Divinity of Christ, the Foundation of the Church, the Characteristics of the Kingdom, the Teaching Authority of the Church and the Authority of the Pope, he builds up a thesis which is at once satisfying to the intellect and consoling to the heart of the devout reader.

WHILE FATHER FINLAY'S thesis is thus mainly the vindication of the Church's authority he does not pass over without examination the claims of various ecclesiastical organizations exterior to herself. In particular he deals with the "Branch" theory of the Anglican church, and the assumed claim of her bishops to teach with authority. That this claim has no foundation is clearly demonstrated in this volume. The bishops assembled from time to time at Lambeth as a Pan-Anglican Council, cannot, for instance, decide a doctrinal controversy. They cannot determine a point of liturgy, or enact or abrogate a single detail of church discipline. Their ineptitude in this particular has been shown time and time again in recent years by the evasive response of the Archbishop of Canterbury to every appeal made to him. All is dependent upon the State, and it is the Prime Minister and his cabinet, not the Bishops, who form the ultimate court of appeal in matters whether of doctrine or discipline.

FATHER FINLAY'S is not a one-sided apologetic. His method, like Cardinal Newman's, is to state an opponent's case fairly—nay, more than fairly, generously—and to face square and boldly the leading doubts and difficulties raised by critics and sceptics in our time. These difficulties are dealt with searching, thoroughly and dispassionately, and for this reason we regard the volume as one which every well-instructed lay Catholic, who has to encounter all the sophisms of ephemeral literature, would do well to read carefully and to keep by him for constant reference. Longmans Green & Co., (New York) have made intellectual Catholics very much their debtors in recent years and never more so than by their publication at a moderate price of this very able and lucid exposition of their Faith by Father Peter Finlay of the Society of Jesus.

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ON THE BATTLE LINE

BERLIN MUST BE CHEERED

Berlin must be cheered up at all costs. There is a growing feeling of discontent, not only in the capital, but elsewhere throughout Germany. To lessen it the most inconsequential news is twisted so that it seems of great importance. Yesterday the German Admiralty announced that "German torpedo boats sank the British cruiser Arabic on Thursday night on the Dogger Bank. We also torpedoed another British cruiser. Our ships rescued the commander of the Arabic with two officers and 21 men. We suffered no loss or damage. Several other British cruisers which were sighted by our torpedo boats near the Dogger Bank took flight."

When that bulletin was posted the school children must have called for another holiday. The German navy out at last! The British Cruisers sunk or forced to take flight. Hooray! hooray! The British Press Bureau quickly punctured the bubble, but the Berlin crowd will never know that. The vessel sunk was the Arabic, an oil-burning merchant ship of 3,273 tons burthen, used as a minesweeper. She was one of four vessels so engaged, and the other three have returned safely. The official bureau which magnified this insignificant incident of the sinking of a mine sweeper into an important engagement is beneath contempt. When the German people learn how they are being fooled as to naval conditions their mutterings of discontent will become a storm.

ATTACK ON FRENCH FRONT FAILED

The German attack on the French front south of the Somme has definitely failed. This is made clear by the midnight French official report, which says that on Tuesday and Wednesday "we took from the Germans a notable part of the trench sections which remained in their hands in the region south of Frise. Yesterday (Thursday) at dusk the Germans attempted by a violent counter-attack to drive us out of the recaptured sections, but our barrier and infantry fire stopped them short. The Germans suffered heavy losses. To-day there was moderate artillery activity on this whole sector." This means that the enemy has been unable to concentrate men enough to hold even the advance trenches won a week ago.

IN ARTOIS

In Artois, also, activity lessens. The British troops there are more active now than either the French or Germans. At Givenchy yesterday they sprang a mine, and on Thursday three were exploded. The results were evidently indecisive. The Germans had no greater result from the explosion of a mine yesterday southwest of the Hohenzollern redoubt in the Loos district. The British troops there suffered no losses.

BELGIAN LINES UNDER PRESSURE

For the first time in several weeks the Belgian lines have been under pressure. A Belgian official report states that on Thursday night an important detachment of the enemy, composed of selected men, undertook a surprise attack on one of the Belgian advance posts. The attack failed, and many dead and wounded were left in front of the lines of the Belgians, who suffered no losses

whatever. The French artillery in Belgium has also been busy, and has caused the explosion of some depots of munitions.

THE AUSTRIANS

A Petrograd official report tells of activity at various points along the front, particularly in Volhynia. There near Tobesmerine the Austrians endeavored to recover some lost ground, and after a heavy bombardment launched two successive counter-attacks. The Russians held the ground won as they did farther south, where the Austrians with a superior force tried to recover a height taken from them. On the northern front there has been steady artillery practice, and the Russians record some good hits. Their gunnery is improving greatly. Possibly the instructors reported some time ago as having been sent to the Russian front by Britain and France have had some part in the improvement.

The Austrians are not yet in Durazzo. They occupied Tirano, a town 20 miles to the east, however, on Wednesday, and as there is a good road from Tirano to Durazzo the Austrians should be in the Albanian capital to-day or to-morrow. It is asserted that there are only 10,000 Austrians in the army approaching Durazzo, the balance being irregulars under the orders of Prince William of Wied, the ruler of Albania, who was placed on the throne by the Central Powers.

THE SUPPLIES

Britain is sparing no effort to bring up the supply of guns, rifles and other munitions of war to a satisfactory quality. It is announced that 116 additional establishments have been taken over by the Government. The total number of factories controlled by the Ministry of Munitions is now 2,884. The output must be prodigious. From a single factory of the Woolwich group a force consisting of 3,000 women and children, with a few men to repair and keep in order the machinery, secures a weekly output of 7,000,000 rounds of rifle ammunition. There are scores of similar factories. The big problem is the heavy gun. Scotland, Yorkshire and the Tyne-side have most to do with the making of the larger guns, and that is why Mr. Lloyd George is continually taking a run to the north and talking earnestly to the workers. There is an ample supply now of projectiles and small arm ammunition. The only real shortage now is in large calibre guns and in rifles.—Toronto Globe, Feb. 12.

T. P. O'CONNOR'S LETTER

Special Cable to THE CATHOLIC RECORD
(Copyright 1916, Central News)

London, Feb. 12.—So radical is the revolution among the families of British working men wrought by the war, that it is plainly impossible to restore the old social conditions. Woman's position in England has been forever altered by the war. Woman has accepted with eagerness and delight her new lot outside the home as a wage earner. There has come in fact a passion among the women of all classes for work, especially if it be work connected directly or indirectly with the war.

Probably the war will be succeeded by a large emigration of both men and women from the rather dreary countryside of England to the boundless and unfilled fields and the brighter possibilities of the New World. It may be then, that this will be the great hour for the rapid development of Canada and Australia and New Zealand; and the rulers of these countries ought to be already preparing for this magnificent opportunity of increasing the population and accelerating their development.

The problem of all the after war problems, however, which will be presented to the British nation, is that of the position of women. Some curious and startling items appear in English papers this week. A tall, fair haired girl in long white surgical coat, toying with a wax cast of the human jaw, tells a reporter she is going to Harley street, known as Pillbox Row because nearly every house belongs to a doctor, and she hopes to build a big practice there as a dentist. She is one of sixteen girl students in a dental hospital. At present there are only four or five qualified women dentists in England.

The second item describes the experience of a girl who already has been in practice as a dentist for a year. "My first patient," she said, "fought in the chair under gas, and I had some trouble. Only one so far has demurred when I operated. I assured her that I was capable and in a few moments she was reassured."

Finally, so it is stated by the Manchester Guardian, the dowager has already disappeared from society before the war. As conventional rules have gone overboard, and as the chaperone has followed the dowager, the nicest young girls now go out with a young sister and two men friends to supper and a dance at big hotels, and don't return until 2 in the morning. The young English girl now has as much freedom as her married sister. This tempting theme I might illustrate by describing the new fashionable supper club, where wealthy duchesses jostle pretty chorus ladies in the whirl of the tango, and all in dresses both brief and fragile; but to day I confine myself to the more serious side of the changes in women's general