

The Catholic Record

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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.

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.

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.

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.

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."

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.

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;

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.

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.

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.

TO THE STRANGER ON THE THRESHOLD

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.

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.

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the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give to these 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?

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.

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 demoralise a class. To arouse and sustain interest, questions should be carefully prepared and should be marked by clearness and brevity.

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 Presbyterian clergy.

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 moons the new unit of the famous Nova Scotian college will doubtless find a wide field for medical and Christian usefulness.

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.

Truly in her case doth charity begin at home. Quebec is in no need of the sanctimonious tract hawkers. By their fruits ye 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.

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.

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.

IN ARTOIS In Artois, also, activity lessens. The British troops there are more active now than at the French or German fronts. 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.

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.

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."

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 "a monopoly of controversial incense." 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 "a monopoly of controversial incense."

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.

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. Hooh! hooh! hooh! 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.

THE GERMAN PEOPLE learn how they are being fooled as to naval conditions their utterings of discontent will become a storm. 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.

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THE AUSTRILIANS A Petrograd official report tells of activity at various points along the front, particularly in Volhynia. There near Tobesmerin 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.

THE AUSTRILIANS 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.

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.

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 do so I confine myself to the more serious side of the changes in women's general

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