

The True Witness and Catholic Chronicle.

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EPISCOPAL APPROBATION.

If the English Speaking Catholics of Montreal and of this Province consulted their best interests, they would soon 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.

SATURDAY.....JANUARY 5, 1901.

THE DELPIT CASE

When a question of law, be it civil or ecclesiastical, is still "subjudice," and frequently when it becomes "res judicata" we do not feel it our duty to enter into the merits or demerits of the case. However, there are questions, that are often still pending, when the press gives free vent to its views and opinions concerning them. Of these the now famous Delpit case is one. We have no intention of repeating the whole story, as it is already well known to our readers, nor do we desire to pass any judgment upon it, from a legal or any other standpoint; there are those in authority whose business it is to settle all such disputed issues, and our duty is simply to accept their decisions. But there is one point raised, and constantly insisted on by the non-Catholic press—and we may say very much ignored by the Catholic press—which we wish to briefly examine.

It has been repeatedly stated, both in Catholic and Protestant daily papers—that the "Pope has annulled the Delpit marriage;" that the "Sovereign Pontiff has granted a decree annulling the marriage;" and this same assertion in various other forms. We wish simply to state that this is not true; the Pope did not annul the marriage; he could not annul a marriage; it is beyond his power: "whom God has joined let no man put asunder"—and the Pope is a man; and as such he is forbidden, or rather he is not empowered by Christ to annul this or any other marriage.

Without entering into any lengthy dissertation on the subject, we will reduce the situation to a couple of clear-cut propositions.

In the Catholic Church marriage—or matrimony—is a sacrament; if there be no sacrament there can be no marriage. Any other bond is a mere civil contract, that comes not under the cognizance or recognition of the Church. It is within the Church's province to declare whether or not a sacrament exists, that is to say, whether or not a sacramental marriage has taken place. If it be not sacramental, there is no matrimony; the affair is null and void "ab initio." This much the Pope may declare; he may make it known, that in accord with the divine laws of the Church, the necessary conditions of a sacrament are lacking; therefore, no sacrament exists, consequently, no marriage took place.

We said that the Pope did not and could not "annul" a marriage. If there be no sacramental matrimony, there can be no Catholic marriage, consequently, he cannot annul that which does not exist. If there be a marriage, he cannot annul it, because "death alone" can sever the sacramental marriage bond. Under given conditions he may declare that no marriage existed, that the so-called ceremony was ineffective, and that the pretended marriage was null; but he could not annul it, if it ever existed.

We do not purpose entering into the facts of the now famous Delpit case, which has given rise to all these errors of exposition. If the Pope has decided that the marriage was null, it simply means that in accord with Catholic theology the

elements of a sacrament were lacking, therefore, no sacramental union was contracted, consequently, no marriage in the eyes of the Church—and in the eyes of God. There are impediments which, of themselves, cause the nullity of a marriage. If they exist, even without the knowledge of the parties, the marriage is null all the same; the only difference being that their ignorance of such impediments existing preserves them from the sinfulness of the union—provided they separate on learning the presence of such impediments. Take for example that of consanguinity. A brother and sister meet after twenty odd years of separation; they have no knowledge of the relationship between them; they fall in love, become engaged, go through the marriage ceremony sacramentally; and after a time, by an accident they discover their true relationship. Provided they at once take steps to rectify the error they are not guilty of the sin which otherwise would be theirs. But, despite the sacramental ceremonies at their union, no marriage ever really existed. The very first impediment was there to render null and void the sacrament, or rather to prevent the existence of a sacrament for them. In this case it would be the Pope's duty to declare the marriage null; but that does not mean that he would annul it. There being no real marriage there is nothing to annul; and had there been a marriage he could not annul it. In other words, the law of the Catholic Church is inexorable on this point—divorce in any form is not within her power to grant any more than within the power of any one else.

RANK BIGOTRY.

In Monday night's "Star" we find the following despatch, which we insert exactly as it appeared:—

POPE EXTENDS HOLY YEAR

IN ORDER TO REPLENISH THE PAPAL TREASURY BY ATTRACTING MORE PILGRIMS TO ROME.

Rome, December 31. (Special to the Star.)—The announcement that the Holy Year had been extended six months caused considerable surprise, as it was understood that 1900 had quite come up to the expectations of the Vatican authorities in respect of the number of pilgrims, and the amount of contributions to Peter's Pence.

"The Pope, it is said, is of the opinion that the world almost immediately will commence a series of seven lean years in respect to international trade and commerce with a consequent falling off of Peter's Pence.

"Special efforts, therefore, are necessary to replenish the Papal treasury, and one of these is the Pope's plan for attracting more pilgrims to Rome by prolonging the Holy Year."

We doubt very much if bigotry could invent, prejudice engender, or falsehood perpetrate anything worse than this despatch. Yet it comes direct from Rome, from a special correspondent (we are expected to suppose) of a widely-circulated Canadian paper, and it is unblushingly given to no less than twenty-five thousand Catholics to inspire them with feelings strictly at variance with those that the closing hours of a great century should create in them.

One would imagine, to read this correspondent's ill-informed views,

that the celebration of the Holy Year, by the Catholic Church, was on a par with those fairs or bazaars that are announced to last a week, but which—for the sake of getting rid of a superabundance of things saleable—are extended for a few days longer. In other words, the dominant note of this unqualified piece of slander is the grasping, money-grubbing, aim which it attributes to Leo XIII. Just imagine an old man of ninety, who, at best, could not expect to enjoy for an hour the faded wealth that he is said to be thirsting for, belying all the events of his most eventful career, and coming down from the lofty station of Christ's spiritual Vicar upon earth to the level of the stock exchange, or the Monte Carlo system of advancing the interests of the Church Preposterous as it may seem, still there are men sufficiently devoid of original matter, or reliable information, to write such stuff, there are papers sufficiently bigoted to give it full publication, there are men sufficiently ignorant or prejudiced to believe it, and there are Catholics sufficiently mean to encourage it—to the prejudice of their own organs—by supporting the medium whence it comes.

For all Catholics, and all fair-minded, high-principled Protestants no argument by way of refutation is necessary; and for the one who could publish, and the few who would believe the fable, their bigotry is too ignorant to be reasoned with and their ignorance is too prejudiced to be combated. To represent the Pope as a gatherer in of millions, and as a man making use of his office and of this year's exceptional circumstances in order to heap up treasure, comes with a very bad grace from men who aided in robbing the papacy of its temporal power and its rightful estates and revenues, who hedged the Pope in with such a variety of restrictions that he is and must be an actual prisoner in his own palace.

But why make any further comment? Our readers know well what the nature of such comments would be. The mercenary soul that can see only dollars and cents in the grand spiritual effects of all the repentances, all the communions, all the church visits, all the Masses, all the pilgrimages, all the indulgences that the special privileges of this Holy Year give rise to, and all of them that might be missed were the jubilee not extended, is deserving of a pity that cannot but be tempered with a certain degree of contempt. He is surely not of those who will ever derive inspiration from the imperishable encyclicals of Leo, nor any special benefits from a contact with the shrine of the Apostles.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

HIS GRACE'S ADDRESS.—Always eloquent, always timely, always appropriate, always elegant and delicate, His Grace Archbishop Bruchesi's short address, delivered in the Cathedral, before the "Credo," at Monday-Tuesday's Midnight Mass, will be read with pleasure by our readers for whose benefit we translate it. His Grace spoke thus:—

"To Christ Redeemer let us give this twentieth century that now commences! Such the cry which, at this solemn hour, escapes from my heart.

Is He not, in truth, the Master and the Father of this century? "Pater futuri seculi." Let the glory thereof, even unto its last day, be given to Him. "Regi seculorum immortalis in invisibili, soli Deo, honor et gloria!" For truly is He a King. The cross to which—nineteen hundred years ago—He was nailed, torn, bruised, blood-bespattered and thorn-crowned, proclaimed His Divine Royalty to the universe. "Jesus Nazarene Rex." The Jews protested, but Pilate made answer, "What I have written, remains written." And ever since that buried crucified One, soon to become Death's conqueror, challenged for all time the respect and adoration of the human race. No being on earth ever exercised such a complete sway. Fire and sword, impetuosity, sarcasm, schism, heresy, hypocrisy and hatred vainly combated their efforts, they helplessly failed. Christ continued to be adored as the Divine Ruler of the intelligences and the wills of individuals and of the peoples. Everywhere and ever was He loved, more than a father or a mother, more than life itself, more than everything; He was loved even unto death, and by millions, throughout the ages did the martyrs flock to pay to His Divinity the tribute of their blood. Yes, Christ-Redeemer is King. Infinite is His Power. By Him were all things made; and nothing of grand or stable was made by other than He. Come, then, Christians, and adore Him while avowing fidelity to His teachings and His law. To-day He repeats to the world that which he once

said in presence of the poor people of Judea: "Come to Me all ye who suffer, ye who carry heavy burdens, and I will relieve you." Sublime, but strange words; the strangest, perhaps, that ever fell from human lips.

"Neither Socrates, nor Plato, nor any sage, nor any legislator of antiquity could have dared say what He said; because, in truth, only a Man-God could have said the same with truth. And who else ever enjoyed the thought, the ambition, the hope of consoling and uplifting all beings that suffer: "Omnes;" do you hear that? Every person; there is no exception.

"All! all! The abandoned orphan, the homeless and hungry poor, the sick moaning upon their beds, the just man oppressed, the friend abandoned and betrayed, the sage, tormented by his fruitless researches for truth, the tempted soul, the sinner ashamed of his crimes, and to all these and all others does Jesus Christ address that astounding invitation.

"Come to Me; and nineteen centuries are there to prove the truth of how He can keep his word. As He was in the past so will He be in the future.

O Good Master, O Powerful Friend, O Incomparable Benefactor, O Saviour, O Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life in one, we place all our confidence in thee. To whom else can we go? You possess the words of eternal life even as the words of supreme consolation.

My brethren, the century that has just closed has at times been called the century of Mary. It would appear that Jesus Christ had desired for His Mother a glorification surpassing that of all preceding centuries and a more satisfactory realization of the prophetic words pronounced by the Virgin, herself: "all the nations shall call me Blessed." The day that beheld the infallible Church proclaim the Immaculate Conception of Mary, the 8th December, 1854, will remain one of the most celebrated days in the history of Time.

"The Son's work of Divine Love has been accomplished, and we are satisfied. To-day a new century is born; throughout the entire world should it be the century of the Sacred Heart!

"Adorable Heart, may you be loved, thanked, and served as you deserve to be; touch all sinners and bring them back to the path of duty, in order that by your blessed action all minds may return to the union of Faith; may the laws of our Church be respected; may peace reign in all our homes; may grace reign in all our hearts. This diocese belongs to you; you know it; this country is yours; keep them and protect them. Open out, O Divine Heart, give us a refuge, and may we all perpetually remain therein; thus will the joys in this valley of tears be the prelude to the unending joys of eternity—Amen."

CENTURY ALLUSIONS.—In all the five Irish Catholic parishes of the city appropriate allusions were made, on Tuesday, to the passing of the century. The occasion furnished a very beautiful subject for the pulpit, and each of the pastors delivered a few remarks that are calculated to remain fixed, like the memory of an epoch, in the minds of their parishioners.

REV. BROTHER ARNOLD.—Who does not know good Brother Arnold? Every person, old and young, rich and poor, Catholic and Protestant, will be glad to learn that he is in perfect health and enjoying his residence in a milder climate to his great heart's content. A friend of his, in this city, received a New Year's letter from him, in which he states that he is in the enjoyment of better health than he has had for years, and that the mild, balmy, snowless climate of St. Louis agrees with him in every sense. The "True Witness," amongst thousands of Canada's citizens, rejoices that Brother Arnold is so well and so pleased with his present home; and wishes him a happy and health-blessed New Year—and many a year to come.

THE IMMIGRANT STONE.—The stone that so long has marked the last resting place of so many Irish immigrants, whose days were cut short by the terrible fever scourge, has finally been removed from amidst railway tracks, fences, switches and sheds, to a not much better situation in the heart of St. Patrick's Square, near the Wellington Bridge. How, or by whom removed, we have not yet learned; all we know is that the translation was done with very little noise, and less ceremony. So much had been said, so many protests had been made by our various societies, when the question of the transfer of that monumental stone to some other site, was first mooted, that we expected to have heard

something about the matter when the event would actually take place. The silence is very peculiar, to say the least. Every one appears to disclaim any responsibility. We are not criticizing the fact of the removal; on this point we had our say many months ago, and there is no need of repeating what we then wrote, especially as no one in particular seems very interested in the affair. All we desire to do is to draw a very patent lesson from the matter; it teaches us the futility of all the loud protestations, warmly debated opinions and positive resolutions in the presence of that apathy which, like a reaction, seems to set in once the fever-heat of the initial movement has been allowed to die out. We trust that the change may prove satisfactory; otherwise it would be very regrettable.

THE CHINESE SITUATION.—The murderer of the German representative in China has been beheaded in the open street of the capital. The execution was as blundering an affair as could be expected, while the friends of the assassinated Consul as well as the officers of the German army took part in the miserable spectacle. Russia and China have come to an understanding concerning certain provinces of the Celestial Empire. Apart from these two meagre phrases we are not prepared to say much about the whole affair.

The twentieth century dawns upon a convulsed China, it may set upon a shattered Europe. This may be but the beginning of the end. The greatest menace to the world's tranquility is the fact that China is learning all the improvements in the art of war that the Western nations possess. A week, a day, an hour may bring some startling revelation, a peaceful transition, or an earthquake shock of excitement. The situation will be carefully watched for the future.

SOUTH AFRICA WAR.—We do not pretend to know much about what is now transpiring in South Africa. To judge by Lord Roberts' return, and Kruger's European trip, we could simply conclude that the situation is all changed, that war is over, and that the Transvaal matter is settled. Yet, the daily, we might also state, the hourly press despatches detail most extraordinary events in South Africa—extraordinary in as much as the war that was threatening in its commencement has been pronounced over—still reinforcements are needed; still political friends of the Boer are sanguine of some ultimate success, and they cheer the little command of DeWet. What is the meaning of all those apparent contradictions? It is evident that the war is not over, nor is it likely to be finished for some time. We would not be astonished to hear of another Canadian contingent being requested to proceed to Cape Town. In fact, we would be surprised at nothing, not even at a Boer occupation of Cape Colony, and a renewal of all the past year's hostilities. Why is it, or how is it that DeWet still defies and baffles the concentrated efforts of the best British generals in South Africa, in his erratic flights and spasmodic advances? When we learn that the last Boer has laid down his arms we will consider it timely to express an opinion upon a subject that is beyond the power of man to regulate.

BIGOTRY DISAPPEARING.—In former days, and even down to our time; no more bigoted, anti-Catholic time, there was no more bigoted, anti-Catholic section of America than the State of Massachusetts. As an evidence of how the close of the nineteenth century has been marked by a visible movement away from the domain of prejudice, we need but quote the following:

"Massachusetts," says the Irish "Standard," is gradually getting rid of its puritanical bigotry. Philip J. O'Connell, a Roman Catholic and the son of Irish parents, has been elected Mayor of Worcester, despite the fact that every daily paper in the city opposed him politically. Springfield has a Hayes for mayor, Taunton has an O'Hearn, Salem has a Hurley, and Boston would have had a Collins, were it not for the jealousy of a rival, who divided the Democratic vote. The Celts of the Bay State are coming prominently to the front on their merits. O'Connell, of Worcester, is a staunch member of the A.O.H."

PUBLIC INSTALLATION.

A public installation of the officers of St. Gabriel Court, G.O.F., will be held on Jan. 7th. Addresses will be made by prominent citizens, and, with the assistance of past and provincial officers, marriage and good will is on the order paper, the talent for the evening having already been secured.

PAROCHIAL NOTES.

REV. P. J. BRADY.—Although we were aware, prior to the announcement made to the daily press, of the appointment of Rev. P. J. Brady—late chaplain of the female prison—to the pastorate of St. Mary's parish, in succession to the late lamented Father O'Donnell, still in such matters we prefer to allow the official statement to be made before publishing the information that we possess. In this instance, as in every other one, since the advent of Mgr. Bruchesi to the archiepiscopal throne, the appointment followed almost immediately upon the creation of the vacancy. In this do we see another of the many evidences of His Grace's administrative activity. On Sunday next Father Brady will take official possession of his new parish, and will preach his initial sermon at High Mass. The members of St. Mary's congregation will long miss the kindly presence of Father O'Donnell, but they will find a deep consolation in the fact that his successor is one whose noble qualities of heart and mind are certain to endear him to his new parishioners. We wish him every possible blessing, at the opening of a century, the dawning of a year, and the commencement of his new career in this grand field of sacerdotal activity.

REV. FATHER McDERMOTT.—It is with deep regret that we learn of the illness of Rev. Father McDermott, who has been acting pastor of St. Mary's during the late Father O'Donnell's illness, and since his death. It would seem as if Father McDermott had taken greatly to heart the untimely death of the noble priest and friend to whom he had been named as assistant; and this shock combined with the immense amount of work and the responsibility entailed, contributed considerably to his present sickness. It is to be hoped that a few days will see him again perfectly restored to health and strength.

REV. FATHER KIERNAN.—We learn with great pleasure that Rev. Father Kiernan returns to our archdiocese and to this city, and that he will replace Father Brady, as chaplain of the female prison. The change from Sheenboro to Montreal will doubtless be gratifying to Father Kiernan; his sojourn amongst the pines of Pontiac will have served as a builder up of energies, and while we feel confident that he leaves behind him many pleasant memories and sincere friendships, still, to a man of his well known ability, the atmosphere of a large centre must be more congenial than that—pure as it is—of the rocky regions of the Upper Ottawa.

OUR LORD'S STATUE.

From time to time we receive many evidences of how selfish some men become, even in the presence of gradually accumulating millions; but rarely have we read a more affecting piece of news than the following extract from a Roman letter:—

"In view of the Solemn Homage to the Divine Redeemer with which the Catholic world is inaugurating the new century, a colossal statue of Our Lord, of the form already approved by the ecclesiastical authorities for the purposes of this act of devotion, is to be erected upon a lofty crest of the Sabine Mountains. The selected site stands at the height of about 4,000 feet above the sea level, and can be clearly distinguished from Rome, from the Campagna, and from the Mediterranean, commanding also the whole tract of country occupied by the Sabine group.

"The statue will be placed in close proximity to the little village of Guadagnolo, which occupies the highest summit of the elevation known as 'the Montorella,' being situated on the top of a precipitous and almost inaccessible crag of rock. The village, perched like an eagle's nest, on the steeply-encircled spot, was founded by the famous house of the Conti, who gave four Pontiffs to the Church. It has the reputation of being one of the poorest towns in Italy, and certainly contains a most poverty-stricken population, who subsist by raising maize on the barren hillsides, banking up what little soil there is into terraces for this purpose, and by tending the herds of goats which find pasture among the rocks."

SEVEN IN EIGHTEEN MONTHS.

We have no comment to make upon the following despatch from Wilkesboro, N.C. Mrs. Newton McCann gave birth to four children, two girls and two boys, last week. Eighteen months ago she gave birth to three. All seven are well and hearty.

It is said that this beats the world's record. Seven children in less than two years.

There is only one person in the world to whom we may be severe. There is one who deserves it, and on whom we may vent all our severity, and that person is our own self.

God is so good that He never sends us a cross without providing a Cyrenian to help us carry it.

Local

DR. HACK—A friend of Dr. Hack in Irish Catholicism to learn the Western Hemisphere occupies a medical profession.

C.M.B.A.—A of this organ to learn that an member, M. has been again Deputy of the bec. The appo the Supreme Haynes. The tulates Mr. Fl ment for a s years. He is enthusiastic m

C.O.F. ST.—At a special Court, the following unanimously adopted:

Whereas,—A. Has thought p our midst our much respecter F. O'Donnell, Resolved, Th St. Mary's Co Order of Forc assembly assembled felt sympathy deceased, and consoled by t exemplary "and the deceased

tend our sorri ors and assoc who mourn th Christian com Resolved, Th Court attend that our char ty days an solutions for of the deceas "True Witness ester."

M. D. P. J. T. M. Co

The election Court was held corner of Cra Thursday eve The results w J. Ryan, C. C. R.; H. F. (re-elected); J. (re-elected); J. (re-elected).

BRANCH 54 ing, the 2nd C.M.B.A., was hall, corner C Grand Depu dent, T. B. J. McDonagh, present. The installed for sident, Jno. dent, Geo. Pa dent, T. B. J. McDonagh, secretary, J. D. McDonnell; n guard, E. Br man, J. McK Mahon and C sentative to v neltus O'Brien tive, J. D. Co Speeches we uties Costigan gratulating t elected such a coming year.

The retiring O'Brien, feeli death of Rev. late spiritual on the moti London, seco dent, Geo. Pa resolutions adopted.—Whereas,—I call to his t deemed spirit O'Donnell, b Resolved, T members of hereby tender ter of our lat deep and hea sad affliction Resolved, T inserted in t Branch, and Miss O'Donn Witness" and publication.

PERSECUT

(Continued)

provinces wh been destroyi escaping by r refuge, at the world's good been pillaged ravages fields devast industry was little village mulation of vultures. Son records will, and compiled never be othe incomplete. T to the loss of sonnel, have and lives of instant, chur ages, and ho ruins by the this veritabl entered i talle of the Cardinal in Throughout all the work has been overal catastrophe.