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The True Witness



Vol. LVI., No. 47

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, MAY 30, 1907

PRICE FIVE CENTS

Gardien de la Salle
de Lecture
Feb 19, 1906
Assemblée Legislative

Where Religious? Suppressed Orders Badly Scattered Come in Domestic Service.

One of the first questions which presents itself to an observer of conditions in France concerns the religious orders, suppressed and dispersed by the law of Waldeck-Rousseau as administered by Combes. "How many members of the congregations accepted the sentence of exile? How many remain in France? What are these doing? How do they live? How are they supported? What of their present and their future?" These were among the first questions I asked of clerics and Catholic laymen, of radicals and Socialists, of people who were indifferent, of partisans of every side of the great controversy.

I was baffled at every turn. Every one confessed or professed ignorance. A few vague generalities were the only gleanings of a month's queries. The managing editor of an anti-clerical paper told me: "They are wiped out. Of course, a few of them are still here, but they are hiding like rats in their holes. Any Catholic can tell you about them, doubtless."

From Catholics I gained only reticence, evasion or frank admissions of ignorance of all save the generalities of which I have spoken.

STATEMENTS BY MGR. AMETTE.

Among the frank utterances I counted that of Mgr. Amette, the Coadjutor Archbishop: "I cannot give you the information you seek, sir, because I do not possess it. The schools, the younger brothers and sisters of the orders, and the executives of the congregations are established in other countries throughout the world. Some of the members we were able lawfully to return to their place in the dioceses where they were priests before they became affiliated with the orders."

"But many do remain in France. They bear their own burdens. They choose not to add to our troubles nor to provoke any possible complications."

"We hear of them often by chance, almost always by hearsay. But I fear that you could not well exaggerate the misery of their condition."

NUNFOUND OUT AT SERVICE.

This was as far as I reached in all paths of investigation. Most of them proved "no thoroughfare." But after a month I mentioned my difficulty in the drawing-room of an American woman who is an ardent Episcopalian—the faith of her family since long before our Revolution, but who has lived in Paris for many years. She smiled and said: "You wish to speak with a nun? You shall have your wish in two minutes."

She called a servant and said: "Ask Marie to come here if she is not occupied."

Another servant entered—a woman of forty or forty-five years, meek and commonplace in appearance, in simple black gown, with cap and apron. Her mistress took her hand and moved as if to draw her to a seat beside her. She looked hurriedly from one to another of the four people in the room, shrank back and hurried toward the door. It is not a pretty sight to look upon a frightened woman who cowers as if expectant of a blow. Her employer detained her with affectionate insistence; told her that I was a foreigner, and, though no Catholic, not an enemy and would cause no trouble to her. But it was no use. All I obtained in answer to my questions was: "I am only madame's housemaid, sir. Yes, I was a religieuse, but I am only madame's servant," and she was gone.

Increased Salaries. Catholic School Commissioners Considering Proposition.

At a meeting of the Catholic School Commissioners this week a proposition was entertained and is being considered by which the schedule of salaries now paid to teachers under the jurisdiction of the board may soon be increased from \$1000 to \$1200 a year. Ex-Ald. Vallieres gave the notice of motion and it is intended to give greater compensation to those teaching for at least twenty years, and who have a diploma of the model school.

The \$1200 is to be a maximum salary, and if adopted, it will affect nearly a score of teachers. The increase will probably be voted at the rate of fifty dollars a year.

There were present Revs. Canon Adam, Canon O'Meara, ex-Alderman Vallieres, Aldermen Payette and Gallery, Judge Piche, Mr. Semple and Mr. Lacroix.

United Irish League Boycotts English Manufacturers

New York, May 28.—Resolutions asking for a boycott of all goods bearing the Lion of England or the words "Purveyors to His Majesty King Edward," were adopted in the Imperial, Fulton street and Red Hook Lane, Brooklyn, Sunday at a mass meeting held under the auspices of the United Irish League.

The meeting was held primarily to indorse the recent convention in Dublin of a "harmonious and united Ireland," and to emphasize that the United Irish League is the only organization authorized to speak for the Irish people; also to commemorate the death of Michael Davitt.

SEEK WORK, NOT CHARITY.

"What are you to say when the poor dear comes to you, hiding, as she thought, her transparent secret, and rejects any offer of aid, saying, 'Oh, no, madame, I am still young and strong. I will work hard, and I shall learn whatever I do not know. I shall be very willing and obedient. Charity is for the old and helpless, and I have two old aunts whom I must help. It is not for my food and lodging only that I am anxious; I must earn money to help my aunts.'"

At this point my hostess broke into illogical but picturesquely feminine comment upon certain aspects of the Church and State as viewed from the standpoint of her sex rather than her sect. Her remarks were interesting, as coming from a Protestant American, but were scarcely temperate and non-partisan enough for repetition here.

Presentation to Father Shea.

St. Anthony's Hall was the scene of a large gathering of parishioners and friends last night on the occasion of the presentation of a complimentary testimonial and purse to the Rev. Father M. L. Shea on account of his approaching trip to Europe and Palestine.

The testimonial was got up by the ladies of St. Anthony's parish and accompanying the presentation was a musical programme with songs and recitations.

St. Anthony's Total Abstinence and Benefit Society.

Last Sunday evening, at St. Anthony's Church, the first annual celebration of the Juvenile Total Abstinence and Benefit Society took place. Rev. Father Fahy, of St. Gabriel's Church, Point St. Charles, preached in part as follows: "Speaking of the Blessed Trinity, whose feast we are celebrating today, St. Bernard calls it a sublime mystery. To comprehend the mystery of the Blessed Trinity is beyond human reason since it exceeds our understanding. What is the relation between the Blessed Trinity and ourselves? In the world there are divers inhabitants. True it is that they are not all Christians, still all are made to the image of God, possessing intellect, reason and immortal souls. What are the Christian's prerogatives? Christians are the children of God, the inheritors of the Kingdom of God. St. Paul says: 'We are the sons of God and heirs and co-heirs of His Kingdom.' As Christians we should have a high opinion of ourselves, since we are no longer corrupt creatures, but pure and holy beings. Let worldlings glory in their riches, let our glory be in being good Christians."

"Do all Christians keep their lives good and pure? Let us take the drunkard who defiles his body, which is the temple of the Holy Ghost. See the awful sins of scandal, quarrelling, cursing and swearing, impurity and other crimes which he commits. Yet he will bring down to the pits of hell that body which was sanctified. God gave man three great powers, memory, understanding and free-will. Behold how the drunkard effaces the action of his Creator and lowers himself lower than the irrational beast. When I look at the large number of young men and old men assembled here this evening, I thank Almighty God, who has given them their faculties, that they are using them to advantage. These men who are pledged to total abstinence were not obliged to bind themselves with such a pledge, but they did it for the greater honor and glory of God, and for their salvation. What a noble example you are giving to the parishioners and what a reproof of conscience to the drunkard. There is nothing more powerful than example. Encourage others to follow your example, and lead them to be good, honest, and noble citizens. Fight the good fight here below and departing this life in the name of the Blessed Trinity will yours be that everlasting joy in heaven."

Catholics and the Y. M. C. A.

In the first number of the Florida Catholic, a monthly magazine recently started, Rev. James Nunan, D.D. gives some reasons why a Catholic should not join the Young Men's Christian Association. Father Nunan's remarks deserve to be reproduced here.

"The first and principal reason why a Catholic should not join this organization," says Rev. Dr. Nunan, "is that it is Protestant in its origin, and Protestant in its management and propaganda. Local associations have absolute autonomy, but for affiliation with the international convention there must be constitutional provision restricting voting and office bearing membership to men in communion with some Evangelical church. Catholics, therefore, are excluded from the rights of full membership; they can only join as associate members and are not allowed to vote for officers or have any hand in the management of the Association. This being the case, can a Catholic who has any self-respect join such an organization which discriminates unjustly against him and his co-religionists? The Y.M.C.A. displays its sectarian bias by depriving Catholics of the advantages and privileges it concedes to members of Evangelical churches. Again the Y.M.C.A. carries on an active propaganda in getting members to join the Evangelical churches and in helping their home and foreign missions. Can a Catholic give his name and material help and cooperation to such endeavor? Moreover, the whole atmosphere of the Association is Protestant; frequent revival meetings are held in their halls; Protestant religious services are held, and sermons, addresses and exhortations by prominent Protestant clergymen are the rule. Anti-Catholic literature and books containing scurrilous attacks on the Church's doctrine and institutions are sometimes found on the Association's library tables. For all these reasons there can be no doubt that a conscientious Catholic may not join the Y.M.C.A."

Great Irish Meeting.

The New York Municipal Council of the United Irish League is receiving much encouragement in its efforts to get up a great public demonstration for Ireland in Carnegie Hall on next Sunday evening, June 2. The purpose of the meeting is to endorse the action of the Irish

National Convention which met in Dublin last Tuesday evening regarding the Irish Council Bill and to commemorate the first anniversary of the death of Ireland's pure and great patriot, Michael Davitt, whose place in Irish affairs was left vacant at the convention for the first time in thirty years.

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Clergymen Need Just such a Tonic as Abbey's Salt. It gently regulates stomach, liver and bowels—helps appetite and digestion—strengthens and invigorates the whole system.

ALL DRUGGISTS, 25 and 50c. BOTTLE.

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Our business having grown to such an extent and finding that our East St. Catherine Street Store was entirely too small for the accommodation of our largely increasing patronage, we decided to open a West End Branch.

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West End buyers are invited to call at our New Branch.

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The Dubuque, Iowa, Law and Order League organized some months ago to enforce Sunday closing of saloons has served warrants upon all the saloonkeepers of that city and has gone into court asking for injunctions against them. The name of Archbishop Keane appears as plaintiff in most of the suits started.