

The Catholic Record

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LONDON, SATURDAY, SEPT. 22, 1917

A RETROSPECT

Monsignor Corbet, Vicar-General of the Diocese of Alexandria, has just published an important and interesting pamphlet on the early history of Ontario. "A Retrospect," with the sub-title "First Catholic Diocese of Upper Canada and the Evolution of the Catholic Separate School System," is not only an important and interesting contribution to the scanty records available to the general reader of the early history of the Church in Ontario, but it is an illumination of the past highly useful and even necessary for an intelligent apprehension of present conditions and for prudent guidance with regard to the future.

That early history of the Church in Ontario is largely the history of Alexander Macdonnell, first Bishop of Upper Canada. The future bishop arrived in Canada in 1804, and in 1839, after the intervening years had been spent in apostolic labors for the spiritual welfare of his flock and statesman-like provision for their temporal needs, Bishop Macdonnell published a pamphlet outlining the history of the immigration from the Scottish Highlands and the vicissitudes of their pioneer settlements in Canada. This pamphlet Father Corbet has reprinted in the present work.

Perhaps a short summary, necessarily very inadequate, may best reveal to our readers the intense, even romantic interest attaching to the pioneer period of our brief history.

Like O'Connell, Macdonnell in his youth witnessed the lawless excesses of the French Revolution and this experience exercised as great an influence on the future bishop as on the great Irish champion of civil and religious liberty. And yet, staunchly loyal and ultra conservative though he was, he wrote from Scotland in 1793 to a Mr. Macdonnell in Upper Canada to caution his fellow-men against allowing anyone to assume the position of "Laird" over them in their adopted country. So that a touch of Scottish radicalism tempered the unquestioned loyalty and conservatism which characterized a career that had a great influence in shaping the destiny of Church and State in the premier province of our great Dominion.

In his preface Father Corbet says: "He had an intense perception for the spiritual and corporal needs of his fellow-man, and a great charity and fortitude in redressing them. It was his piety and his untiring zeal which impelled him to go to the rescue of his countrymen of the Highlands and Islands where they had been left homeless and destitute, because of the greed of their Lairds, and found employment for them in the city of Glasgow and other localities and attended to their spiritual wants. Some of his deeds as a Catholic priest are admirable. Catholics who entered the army were subjected to an oath odious to their convictions. To have undertaken to have them released from such an oath and with success; to have conceived and realized the formation of a Catholic Highland Regiment—the first since the Reformation—prepared to serve wherever British defence or expeditionary needs required; to have himself appointed Catholic chaplain contrary to existing laws thirty-five years before emancipation were in themselves astounding achievements."

The First Glengarry Regiment, as this Catholic regiment was called, served in Ireland during the whole

of the troubles of '98. Here the Catholic chaplain of a Catholic regiment found an opportunity of mitigating the savage cruelties with which the rebellion, deliberately provoked for the purpose of facilitating the Union, was suppressed: "Mr. Macdonnell, (that is Father Macdonnell the future bishop), accompanying the men into the field, by the character of his office, prevented those excesses so generally committed by the soldiers of other regiments, especially by those of the native Yeomanry Corps, which rendered them alike the terror and detestation of the insurgent inhabitants. Mr. Macdonnell found many of the Catholic Chaplains in the counties of Wicklow, Carlow and Wexford turned into stables for the horses of the Yeomanry. These he caused to be cleansed and restored to their original sacred use, performing Divine Service in them himself, and inviting the Clergy and the Congregations to attend, who had mostly been driven into the mountains and bogs, to escape the cruelties of the Yeomanry and such of the Regular Troops as were under the command of prejudiced or merciless officers." Needless to say the humane and Christian conduct of the Catholic Highlanders was much more effective in restoring order and peace than the traditional methods of the savage Yeomanry.

This glimpse of his activities at home is necessary to understand the remarkable influence that Bishop Macdonnell exercised after coming to Canada.

The clearing of Highland estates of tenants to make room for sheep-walks and the restricted demand for labor in the factories left many in destitute circumstances. Father Macdonnell turned his thoughts and his zeal to emigration as a remedy. Mr. Addington, then Premier, assured Father Macdonnell of the appreciation and good will of His Majesty towards the brave and loyal Catholic Highlanders, and offered strong inducements to the young priest to settle a colony of his countrymen in the Island of Trinidad, then just ceded to England by Spain. This he refused to do, having insuperable objections to a tropical climate, and renewed his request for grants of land in Upper Canada. Mr. Addington objected because of the slender hold of the British Government on the Province of Upper Canada. To this Father Macdonnell pointed out that emigration to the province by Highlanders would form the strongest bond of union between the Colony and the Mother Country. In 1803 the indefatigable young chaplain obtained a grant of land for every officer and soldier belonging to the late Glengarry Regiment whom he should settle in Upper Canada. Then the Highland Lairds, taking alarm, opposed and hampered the movement in every way. The Emigration Act was full of vexatious restrictions well calculated to make emigration not only difficult but in most cases impossible. American ships sailing to American ports were not subject to the same restrictions; so that the unwise Emigration laws actually had the effect of diverting the stream of immigration to the United States. Lord Hobart, the Colonial Secretary of the Government of the day, actually endeavored to prevail upon Father Macdonnell to conduct his Emigrants to Upper Canada through the United States in order not to incur the odium of directly assisting emigration from the Highlands in opposition to the desires and interests of the landlords. This proposal was peremptorily declined. "Consequently, and in the midst of all this opposition, Mr. Macdonnell and his followers found their way to Upper Canada in the best way they could in the years 1803 and 1804; nay, he may be said, almost literally, to have smuggled his friends away, so many and so vexatious were the restrictions against their going."

We shall later continue the notice of this admirable pamphlet. If we give a somewhat extended notice it is with the desire and hope that a taste will so whet the appetite that every reader of the RECORD will secure the pamphlet for himself.

CAMPAIGN WEEK FOR OUR CATHOLIC SOLDIERS

We may venture to express the hope and trust that there is not a Catholic in Ontario who has not been stirred by the appeal for funds to enable the Catholic Army Chaplains to carry on more effectively their great and noble work for our Catholic soldiers overseas. Though the Knights of Columbus

have the work in hand it is not by any means one that affects them exclusively. The Knights are a Catholic society with councils in most of the centres of population throughout the province. One of the advantages of such a society is that numbers of Catholics have been brought together and intimate relations established. When matters of Catholic interest come up for consideration such a society affords facilities for discussion and agreement, as well as an organization for concerted action. The Knights of Columbus in the present case have promoted interest in the fund and placed themselves as an organization at its service. There are, however, many Catholics outside its membership and many Catholic centres of population beyond its reach. We trust that every reader of the CATHOLIC RECORD will not only contribute to the fund but will interest himself or herself in carrying on the work in places where councils of the Knights of Columbus do not exist. Let each feel a sense of personal responsibility in the matter. Our Catholic Chaplains depend largely on our efforts for adequate means to provide over fifty thousand Catholic soldiers with the spiritual help and strength and moral safeguards afforded by our holy religion. Could there be a more beautiful exercise of Christian charity or a more peremptory call to duty?

We have every confidence that the response to the appeal for funds will be prompt and generous.

THE POPE AND PEACE

The Holy Father's appeal to the warring powers of the world to end the ghastly struggle and endeavor to establish a just and durable peace on a basis other than that of military prowess has naturally been the theme of universal discussion in the press. Now that it has calmed down we may consider the views thus expressed as well as the probable ultimate effect of the Pope's appeal. One thing arrests attention at the outset. While hosts of journalists, irresponsible and ill-informed, have summarily rejected the Holy Father's proposal, the statesmen of the various belligerent countries to whom it was primarily addressed, have apparently not found it so simple a matter to dispose of. With the exception of the United States the Letter is still for them a matter of serious consideration and consultation. Until their formal replies are known it will be impossible to gauge the measure of success that may attend the Pontiff's interposition. At the present writing it is stated that the reply of the Central Powers is already in the hands of Pope Benedict. The nature of that reply, however, is as yet nothing but surmise. The long time given to the consideration of the answer to the Pope's communication is in itself a hopeful sign. It may not and in all likelihood will not result in anything like immediate peace negotiations; but the carefully considered replies themselves must inevitably be a step in the direction of clarifying the situation and leading to a better mutual understanding.

It is somewhat startling and deeply significant that even the most virulent of anti-papal press comments recognize that the Papacy is the medium through which the voice of the conscience of Christendom should be expressed. Sometimes unconsciously and in a violently anti-papal spirit this tribute is paid to the Papacy. The very violence and virulence are significant of an almost incredible change of sentiment in the Protestant world from what would have been deemed possible a generation or two ago. It is the recognition of the Pope as the unique representative and mouth-piece of moral power in a world grown sick of the materialistic ideals so recently held as all sufficient.

From the first study of the Pope's Letter we were convinced that the acceptance by Germany of the bases proposed would be the acknowledgment of defeat. The aim and object of the War on the part of Germany or at least on the part of Germany's militaristic rulers, was the domination of Europe and ultimately of the world. In this they have failed so utterly that they can never lead their people through such another dance of death for such an object. That seems to be a moral certainty. World-dominion or Downfall were the alternatives. The downfall of Prussian military rule of the German people is as assured as the defeat of the inordinate ambition for world-dominion. That seems to be the

inevitable result. The Central Powers are no longer fighting for world dominion but waging a war in defense of national existence and integrity.

However, President Wilson would make assurance doubly sure. He demands, as a condition precedent to peace negotiations, that the Prussian junkers give up their ruthless mastery of the German people. It is absurd to say that the President summarily rejected the Pope's appeal. He did not. He merely stated unequivocally and emphatically that the present German government can not be trusted to adhere to the conditions of any treaty of peace. With a magnificent and magnanimous faith in the common people he stipulates that the German people first establish a government responsible to themselves. He expressly offers them an alternative to the avowed object in continuing the War until Prussian militarism is destroyed by the armed democracy of the world.

If the President's alternative be chosen then there is every reason to believe that the President and Pope agree that the indefinite prolongation of the War is a useless massacre.

It is interesting to note, too, that those who condemn the Pope in unsparring terms for not taking sides in the quarrel he wishes to compose, were equally unsparring in their criticism of President Wilson when he was making his last strenuous efforts for peace without victory. Now language is too poor for them to express their admiration for this same President. This should serve to remind some of our journalists that the language of the neutral, still more that of the peacemaker, labors under certain limitations and restraints imposed by the amenities of civilization as well as by the object sought to be served.

It will be interesting to study the formal replies of the powers to the Pope's Letter. Intelligent readers hardly need to be warned against the misleading impressions of newspaper headlines, nor against the superficial criticism of journalistic panderers to popular prejudice.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

A CORRESPONDENT of the Montreal Star in quoting certain figures relative to Ulster's contribution of men to the Army, gives as his authority the Protestant Alliance, "a body established some sixty years ago, and recognized as straight." Recognized by whom? Even the Alliance itself might be surprised at such a reputation, for its entire history has been characterized by utter disregard of truth where Catholics or Catholic questions were concerned.

PARIS, THE mistress of fashion and arbiter of female attire the world over, is leading the way in the matter of War-time economy in dress. In order to decrease the consumption of woollen fabrics and reduce their importation, the Federated Chamber of Court Dressmakers in that city, has informed the Government that, for the approaching winter season, the length employed for costumes will not exceed 4 1/2 metres (about five yards). The Federated Chamber of Tailors and Dressmakers, and the Federation of Ladies' Outfitters, which, with the first-named organization, embrace practically all the garment-workers in Paris, have given their adhesion to these regulations in the creation of models, and in this matter where Paris speaks the world obeys.

THE INHERENT aggressiveness of the Teuton in trade, and his determination, no matter what the issue of the War, to assert himself in the world's markets, is manifested by a memorial addressed to the Chancellor of the German Empire recently by the Union of the German Sugar Industry. The Chancellor is asked to define his attitude towards the Brussels convention, whose continued existence the Union deserves on the condition that England shall agree to it under the same conditions as in the first convention, held prior to the War. England had been an important market for German beet sugar, and while, as the Union points out, she has since the beginning of hostilities used mainly sugar from the overseas British Dominions, it is highly important for the German point of view that this condition of things should not be permanent.

A CERTAIN incapacity for seeing things from other than his own point

of view of self-interest and world-dominance is now generally accepted as a characteristic of the Teuton, and that even the hard lesson of War has failed to extend his vision this latest move makes evident. Germany wants to supply England with sugar again when the War is over, and is laying her plans apparently without regard to the temper of the British people. The inhumanity of her policy throughout the War; the utter disregard of the conventions, the usages and the maxims of civilization, are of course a mere matter of detail not worth worrying about. Viewed through German spectacles, the return of peace is simply a matter of shaking hands and all will be forgotten. It is strange that having by the course of events in the last three years been undeceived on the score of their military invincibility the German people should still hug the delusion that their place among the nations has undergone no material change. There are some rude shocks still awaiting them.

WHILE THE rest of Europe has been writhing in the throes of War, Spain, "chief of the neutrals," has been enjoying unprecedented prosperity. This is seen in the development and rapid extension of the Postal Savings Bank system which until last year was unknown in that country. The first of these banks were established in March, 1916, and by the end of the year there were 739 in operation. On the day of inauguration 2,761 accounts were opened and deposits made totaling \$27,775. At the end of the year the accounts had increased to 572,180, and the amount on deposit to \$9,515,687. This in spite of the unrest of the laboring classes, and the critical condition of affairs as regards Spain's attitude to the War.

THE SPANIARD is naturally a thrifty individual, and in face of his inherent conservatism, this adaptation, on his part to a new system in regard to his boardings is noteworthy. It seems at least to point to his confidence in the stability of his Government, which to the outside world has seemed at times to be anything but secure. Spanish thriftiness comes out very strongly in the published reports of the savings banks in operation, in connection with the various "Montes de Piedad," charitable institutions, and economical societies. Deposits in these banks amount to over \$100,000,000, and they are growing daily. Spain has had a large share in feeding the Allies during the War, and her people have profited in the process.

IT IS DIFFICULT in these days to turn one's thoughts when writing away from the all-absorbing channel of War. For ourselves we may say that map out as we please a series of comments on other and ordinarily more congenial phases of human thought and endeavor we find our thoughts and our pencil diverted to the one great question before the world at the present time. Were it not for the consciousness that we are in this respect but following the universal trend we might feel obligated to apologize to our readers for this seeming devotion to the War-god.

A NOTE on the incredible profits which foreign shippers are deriving from the War-time necessities of the Allies may be interesting. An instance occurs to us of one individual—hitherto unconnected with shipping—who, by dint of borrowing, succeeded in purchasing in England, for the sum of £30,000, an old and almost derelict vessel which, but for the War, would have been broken up. It took about four months to fit her for sea, and in the first three voyages the purchase price was recovered three times over. This astute alien must now be a millionaire, for it is said that he has been offered £200,000 for his old boat. There is no doubt an element of luck in the whole transaction, for the vessel might have been torpedoed on her first voyage. As it is it ranks among the more sordid romances of War—if we may be permitted the conjunction of terms otherwise contradictory.

RUSSIA'S NEW MINISTER TO VATICAN A CATHOLIC

Rome, August 14.—The Holy See has been asked for its "agreement" to the name of M. Lissakovsky as Minister of Russia to the Vatican and has given it. The new Minister is welcome in that the old one never came here to take up his post, and he was not a Catholic, whereas his successor is. At the same time there

must be discrimination in accepting news of matters affecting Russia and the Holy See. It is quite true that pleasure and hope have been aroused by this appointment and by official acts of the new Government, such as the formal declaration of liberty of worship.

Rome is also sincerely pleased that one of the first acts of the new Government was to accede to its request for the release of Monsignor Szeptycki, Archbishop of Lemberg, but it is not in the least true that he is coming here at the request of the Holy See to advise it on affairs in Russia. The Holy See will continue, as before, to rely on its own excellent means of information about Russia, while of course adding to it anything that the released prelate may tell of his experiences under the old and the new regime. He, personally, is an Austrian Pole, born in the Diocese of Przemyśl at a place called Przybice, and he has recently talked to an interviewer of the internal affairs of Russia with special reference to the Ukraine. The Holy See does not interfere with the internal affairs of Russia or other countries.

ON THE BATTLE LINE

ITALY'S GREAT VICTORY

"It is the greatest victory gained by the Italians since their entrance into the War." This is the striking statement contained in an announcement made by the Italian Embassy at Washington declaring that the top of Monte San Gabriele, in the Goritz area, together with some other important positions there, had been captured from the Austrians. An almost equally striking claim is that contained in the words: "The fighting in the region of the Forest of Tarnovo was very severe, as the Austrians had assembled an enormous amount of artillery there. The positions there were taken by infantry attack at heavy cost to the Italians." There is a town of Tarnovo nearer to Monte San Gabriele than the forest. Through the latter a road runs from Laibach, which is forty miles away from the advanced Italian lines. Much difficult country lies between, but if Laibach were reached all the railway communications for Austria to the Dalmatian coast would be cut off. Not only Trieste, but Pola, Fiume and all the surrounding country would soon fall into Italian hands. That is looking considerably ahead, however. For the moment the Washington despatch would indicate that a good deal more progress has been made northeast and northwest of Goritz than the Italians have previously been credited with. An official despatch from Rome saying that rain had impeded the fighting is believed to have been sent earlier than the advises to the Embassy at Washington. The fighting around San Gabriele and vicinity has been raging for some twenty days. Last week the Austrians, reinforced by detachments of their own armies from other fronts, as well as from the German and Turkish armies, launched a great offensive in an attempt to drive the Italians off San Gabriele altogether. For a time it seemed that they would be successful and their own reports, as well as those of the Swiss correspondents and critics, assumed that this was the case, and that the prize of the fighting had been lost to our Allies. Near Monte San Gabriele is Monte San Daniele. The reduction of this height should be comparatively easy with San Gabriele in possession of the Italians, who would thus be given command of the Vipacco Valley and the greater part of the Carso Plateau to the south as well as the Bainsizza Plateau to the northeast, which in turn would almost certainly involve the fall of Tolmino. Indeed, the Italians have already made some gains on this plateau, which is flattered by the name, as it is rocky and difficult country. Further successes for the Italians from the San Gabriele area would enable them to drive a wedge between the Austrian forces in the North and those in the south.

THE SUBMARINE

A vivid story of some recent successful battles with enemy submarines, in which at least eight, and perhaps nine, of the U-boats were accounted for, was made public in London on Friday night. Most of the engagements were fought by British navy vessels, in one case submersible, but in two cases armed merchantmen were the victors. One of the merchantmen, in fact, fought two submarines, sank one and drove off the other, and was then damaged. The Hun will soon have to fight every Allied merchant vessel that gets the slightest chance to defend itself. The day when he could shell or torpedo helpless traders at his leisure is almost gone, and the game is not nearly so interesting for the world's leading murderers. In two separate cases the report tells of explosives dropped by naval vessels resulting in the destruction of enemy submarines. This method of fighting the under-seas boats has been several times referred to, but this is the first occasion on which it has been officially detailed. It seems to be working well. There are hints from Washington and London that another sure thing in meeting the sub has been discovered, but it is not likely that anything more will be said about it should it be found to be workable. In that event the enemy will have the first practical intimation of its success.—The Globe, Sept. 15.

On the other hand the New York

Times gives this gloomy view of the U-boat problem: Officers of the British Naval Reserve who arrived yesterday at an Atlantic port said that the submarine situation was very serious and that it was of no use to try to minimize the losses in shipping by keeping them from the public. The patrol boats and destroyers, they said, were doing their best to protect the vessels belonging to the Allies as they reached the danger zone, but were not able to conquer the U-boats because there were too many of them and the ocean was too large.

At the present activity of the submarines in the Bay of Biscay is so great that British transports and supply ships remain in the Mediterranean, not passing through the Strait of Gibraltar. All their business with England is transacted overland through France from one of the southern ports on the Mediterranean.

RECTOR OF AMERICAN COLLEGE DIES

Rome, Sept. 4, 1917.—Archbishop Kennedy died peacefully at Castelgandolfo, the summer villa of the American College here, fortified by all the rites of the Church and after having received a special blessing from the Pope. Many Masses of Requiem were offered up in the chapel of the villa on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. The last was a Solemn High Mass, which was celebrated by Monsignor O'Riordan, rector of the Irish College here. The body was then taken to Rome, through the Porta San Giovanni, where it was met by a large number of prelates, priests and prominent laymen, who followed it in procession through the city to the cemetery, the students of the American College carrying lighted candles. The remains were interred in a vault in the chapel of the college. Monsignor O'Hern, who is now the rector of the American College, gave the last absolution.

The death of Archbishop Thomas F. Kennedy, D. D., rector of the American College, Rome, gives that vacated post of distinction and responsibility to a young Chicagoan, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. C. A. O'Hern, D. D. Pope Benedict, in May, 1916, through Cardinal Bisielli, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Seminaries and Universities, appointed Msgr. O'Hern, vice-rector of the American College, conadjutor to Archbishop Kennedy, the rector with right of succession. This was done for the purpose of relieving the rector of some of his heavy duties and responsibilities, thus giving him an opportunity to recuperate his health, which even then was not in a satisfactory condition.

The death of Archbishop Kennedy, rector of the American College at Rome, removes from the American Hierarchy a distinguished and learned figure. Msgr. Kennedy, Titular Archbishop of Seleucia Trachaea (Seleucia of Isauria) Prelate Assistant at the Pontifical Throne, Counselor of the S. Congregation of Propaganda Fide, rector of the North American College in Rome, was born in Marble Hall, Conshohocken, Pa., in 1858. Fifty-nine years at the time of his death, he was young as age in relation to prelatical dignity is reckoned in Rome. His ecclesiastical career may be reckoned as from 1879 when he began to study for Holy Orders, and of the thirty-eight intervening years twenty-two have been passed in Rome in residence at the North American College; six as student, entering in 1882, ordained priest in 1887 by Cardinal Parocchi, leaving Rome the year following for Philadelphia, to occupy a professorial chair in the diocesan seminary; sixteen years as rector, succeeding Msgr. now Cardinal Archbishop of Boston, O'Connell, when he was taken from Rome to be Bishop of Portland, Maine.

Msgr. Kennedy's rise, step by step, in Roman dignity runs: Under Leo XIII, Prelate of His Holiness in December, 1901, shortly after his appointment as Rector of the College; under Pius X., Protonotary Apostolic March 16, 1904; Titular Bishop of Adrianople December 16, 1907, consecrated on the 29th of the same month by His Eminence Cardinal Gotti, the consecrating Bishops being Archbishop Riordan of San Francisco and Bishop Giles, the even then venerable Rector of the English College. Both of these latter are since dead. Also under Pius X., in 1912, on the occasion of his twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination, Msgr. Kennedy was nominated Bishop Assistant at the Pontifical Throne. Under Benedict XV., 1915, one more dignity became his: From Bishop of Adrianople he was promoted Titular Archbishop of Seleucia, and to his work in Rome was added that of a Counselor of the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda Fide, the Prefect of which, Cardinal Gotti, had consecrated him Bishop eight years before.

INFIDEL PRAISES LITTLE CATECHISM

Jouffroy, one of the representatives of infidel philosophy, could not but admire the Catechism. These are the words he made use of when addressing a numerous audience of the Sorbonne on the resume of Christian Doctrine contained in the Catechism: "There is a little book which children are taught and about which they are questioned in church and in school; read this