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The Montreal Witness

Vol. LI, No. 18

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1901.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

THE PAPACY'S DOOM.—For centuries back it has been periodically announced that the days of the Papacy would soon be numbered. Lord Macaulay's celebrated passage in his essay on Van Ranneke's "History of the Popes" had put a check for a time on these predictions; but there are always men to be found who are perfectly willing to talk nonsense provided it results in a degree of notoriety. Of these Dr. Huntington is one. He is pastor of Grace Church, New York. He attended the Episcopal convention, held a week ago in San Francisco. Amongst other wise things said by this prominent divine was that "great fear is expressed of the Roman Catholic Church. I bestow great praise upon the Roman Catholic Church. I believe it has done great things in this country. But a great change is coming about in the Latin Catholic Church. I believe the yoke of the Papacy will be thrown off. Then shall we be ready to welcome them on the right."

It would be very interesting to know whether Dr. Huntington expects to be on hand for the proposed reception, or if he merely gives expression to what he hopes those who come after him will do. It is very kind and liberal of the learned doctor to "believe that the Catholic Church has done great things in this country." In fact, he could have said, without fear of serious contradiction, that the same Church has done a few things of importance in other countries as well. There are people living to-day who actually believe that the Catholic Church did some things of great moment prior to the existence of this country, to which Dr. Huntington belongs. We do not think that the learned members of the convention at San Francisco would have been shocked had the doctor expressed the belief that the Apostles had done great things in their time. We can assure the good doctor, if it is any satisfaction to him, that when "the yoke of the Papacy will be thrown off" the ills of the flesh will long since have ceased to trouble his anatomy. This "yoke" as he calls it is the one that Christ declared to be easy to carry and sweet; His Church is likely to continue, with extreme delight, to bear that "yoke" unto the end of time.

PRISON REFORM.—Over in Connecticut they have passed an enactment that is called the "New Indeterminate Sentence Law." This law is expected to produce some marvelous effects. It has been in operation about a month, so it would be difficult, as yet, to judge how far these hopes are to be realized. Without entering into any of the details we may explain the nature of the enactment in a few words. It gives judges

the criminal cases a power to fix a maximum and a minimum term of imprisonment. The prisoner then passes under the control of a Board of Parole. This Board decides, according to circumstances of good conduct and the like, how long the prisoner will be detained. He may be freed at the expiration of the minimum term, and be allowed to enjoy his liberty under what we would call a suspended sentence; that is to say, that he is on parole, or on good conduct, but may be re-arrested and re-imprisoned at any moment until the expiration of the maximum term. It seems to us that the discretionary powers thus given the Board are very great, and that the administration of justice by that body would need be above all reproach to ensure beneficial results from the law. It will be interesting to follow the workings of this novel enactment.

VATICAN HONORS.—Recently the Pope conferred special honors on the great violinist Jan Kubelik. In doing so His Holiness said:

"I know, my dear son, that you are called a second Paganini, and Cardinal Vassary suggested that I should confer this Order upon you. I thought you too young for such a high distinction, but the Cardinal pointed out that you are an artist, and a master favored of God, and he ended by convincing me that you are worthy of the decoration. I treat you will continue to pursue the career you have chosen, doing honor to your country and the divine art of music."

In then addressing the young mu-

sician the Pope presented him with two rosaries, one for his mother and the other for himself.

SUPPRESSING CARTOONS.—In the "Evening Post," a Boston correspondent, signing "Eugene B. Willard," has a letter on the subject of suppressing vulgar cartoons. After referring to a movement commenced in France, for the suppression of vulgar and unpatriotic caricatures—which movement is proving a success—he makes use of these remarks:

"Apparently public sentiment is throwing its influence in the same direction in the United States. The assassination of President McKinley has aroused the nation to a stern realization of the awful consequences of permitting the newspapers to publish undignified and unpatriotic caricatures. Our public men, the judges of the courts, the leaders of society and religion, are speaking out against these cartoons, with a plainness which goes far toward making reform universal. It is the terrible state of the rapid press, up to the time of the martyred President's death, which has awakened the American people to the rescue of common decency in caricatures, and if the sensational 'yellow journal' could be made to respect the fact that the Chief Magistrate of the United States should not be slandered, that it is nothing to the nation's credit to have unpatriotic caricatures reviewed abroad; that undignified and unpatriotic cartoons are evils, and should be treated like any other form of deadly evil; that the caricature can only meet real success when it enlists the moral force of the community in its favor, the refinement of the people can be turned to excellent and permanent account."

This is a subject that comes home to us very strongly. We have taken our humble share in the crusade waged against the abominable custom of caricaturing the Irish race, whether upon the stage or in the press. We remember how, a few years ago, the Irishman was held up to the scorn and the scoffs of alien races by the vulgar means of the "stage Irishman" and of the senseless caricature. It is with no small degree of satisfaction that we notice the decline of these abuses. To-day the comic, or rather vulgar Irishman of the stage is the rare exception; and even "Mr. Punch" has continued to make pennies by ridiculing the Irish race. We trust that if this movement, originating in France and spreading to America, becomes universal in its operation, our people will not prove an exception to the rule that it will establish. In view of the long years of persistent public misrepresentation of our race, on stage and on paper, we require more than all others to be upon our guard against the revival of this evil.

A TIMELY REBUKE.

We clip the following from the "Home Journal and News":

The anti-Christian forces have roused an unexpected antagonist. The venerable Archbishop of Cincinnati would not keep quiet while Christ the Redeemer is directly termed ignorant by a superintendent of public schools. Monday of last week the following was issued from St. Peter's cathedral:

"The 'Enquirer' of the 10th inst. contained mention of an address given in the Methodist Episcopal Church, of Walnut Hills, by Mr. R. G. Boone, superintendent of the public schools of Cincinnati, on the subject of 'Christ as a Teacher.'"

"My remarks have been delayed because I wished to ascertain how far he acknowledged the correctness of the published report."

"It appears that his statement was this: 'It was not so much that Christ was ignorant of those things, as that He did not need them in the accomplishment of His purposes.'"

"This expression seems to indicate that our Lord Jesus Christ was ignorant of some objects of human knowledge, and so it was expressly stated in the 'Enquirer's' report, which Mr. Boone has not publicly disavowed. We can therefore safely conclude that such was his teaching."

"Now, to assert that our Lord was ignorant of anything is to deny His divinity."

"Of course, it is not for me to question whether Mr. Boone believes or does not believe the divinity of Christ in his own mind. But, that the superintendent of the public schools of Cincinnati should make a public declaration against His divinity is calculated to produce a very painful impression on thousands of Christian parents in our city, whose children have been entrusted to him for instruction."

"Although he was not speaking in

MR. ASQUITH AND THE IRISH PARTY.

In the course of an address, delivered to his constituents in the Masonic Hall, Ladybank, Mr. Asquith made the following reference to the Irish party. The event of the year which overshadowed all others in its interest and seriousness was undoubtedly the re-entering upon the Parliamentary arena of the Irish Nationalist party as an organized and militant force. They had once more united under a leader of high ability and resourcefulness. Mr. Redmond made no secret of the intentions and policy of his reconstructed party. At a great function, of the Irish League, at Blenheim, Mr. Balfour, in a veiled but direct manner, after his fashion, by direct menace threatened to retaliate upon those new assailants by a curtailment of the Irish representation in the House of Commons. Within a week after this language had been uttered, the Government capitulated in the House of Commons to these very Irish members, and abandoned the most valuable clause of the Factory Bill. The practical effect was sought to be given to the threats of the Government against the Irish party, he hoped that the Liberal party would remain as usual, at a partial or punitive redistribution.

In the first place, it would be ludicrously ineffective, even for its supposed purpose. The representation of Ireland in the House of Commons was now 101. If it were reduced on the principle of numerical proportion, it would become 71, but they would still have to count on a compact body of some 50 Nationalists. In the second place, the purpose of Parliamentary government was to force the Government to face the facts of the situation. In the next place, it was not immaterial to remember, though he was far from saying that it was a decisive consideration, that the Irish representation was fixed by the Act of Union at a figure which was far below what Ireland was entitled to on the principle of proportional representation, and that, whatever changes had since been made, had been made with the assent, expressed or presumed, of the vast majority of the Irish people. But, thirdly, and more important—whenever the task of redistribution was begun—and he agreed that it was both a necessary and an urgent task—it must be taken up as a whole. It was not statesmanship to cast about in a spirit of petulance and vindictiveness for a reduction in the number of Irish members, while they shut their eyes to the still more glaring anomalies which prevailed in the representation of other parts of the United Kingdom. It would be distribution was to be carried into effect, he hoped it would be administered upon a large scale and in a large spirit, and not simply as a convenient stick for the back of Irish Nationalists.

But there was another and far more serious set of considerations. Mr. Redmond announced the other day at Waterford that his party were ready to ally itself to any English party that would help it towards its goal, that goal being the creation of an independent Irish Parliament; he had no preference—business with him was business, and so long as he controlled the Irish vote, it would go to the British party which for the moment was prepared to give the most value for it. This might seem to some of them a hard saying when they thought of the efforts and sacrifices which the Liberal party had made for the Irish cause, but the Irish party no doubt thought that they could not afford to be governed by sentiment, and sentiment apart, their position appeared to him to be not only indefensible, but logically unsatisfactory. In 1895 there was an alliance between the Irish and the Liberal party for a specific purpose, and the alliance was loyally observed on both sides. It was only fair to remember that, but for the vote of the Irish members, the Liberal Government of the day would not have

been able to carry the Finance Act and many other valuable measures of reform in which Ireland had no direct interest. But the experiment came to an end in the Liberal crash of 1895, and, in his opinion, none of us has any right to complain if the Irish asserted their freedom to act with whom and against whom they chose. They had made use of that freedom during the present week in Scotland, to make a gift of an undoubted Liberal seat to the Tory candidate. But there must be reciprocity in these matters. If the Irish party was free and independent, so also was the Liberal party. He had for some time held the opinion that the Liberal party ought not to assume the duties and the responsibilities of Government unless it could rely on an independent Liberal majority in the House of Commons. Such a majority might take a long time to secure, though in his judgment it was far more likely to come upon that footing than upon any other. But, let the time be long or short, it would, he was satisfied, be found in the long run that it is the only practical alternative to a Tory Government. He was painfully aware that the language he was using, plain though it was, would, if he left the matter there, be misunderstood in some quarters and misrepresented in others. He added, therefore, that the problem of Irish Government was as serious and as intractable as it ever had been. They could not kill it by land purchase. Indeed, in some ways the problem grew more complicated and more perplexing as it was more clearly seen to be closely bound up with two other problems of state-manship. The future had to solve the efficiency of our Parliamentary machinery, and the relation of the different parts of the empire to the central power, and to one another. He believed as strongly as ever in the necessity of maintaining the absolute and unimpaired supremacy of the Imperial Parliament, and subject to that condition, in the policy of giving to local powers and local responsibilities as statesmanship could from time to time devise.

HAPPENINGS IN IRELAND.

RECEPTION TO NUNS.—The quiet village of Eyrecourt, County Galway, Ireland, was on fête on a recent Sunday, the occasion being the introduction of the Sisters of Mercy from the branch house in Ballinasloe. The people of the parish, their pastor, Father Leahy, leading order after last Mass in procession to the village, where they were met by a large number of the people, and escorted them into the village, the band of the temperance society, Ballinasloe, playing some choice selections. A new house has been built for the nuns, who assumed charge of the Female National School on October 1st. Mgr. Madden, V.G., Tyngah, in the absence of Bishop Healy installed the nuns in the new establishment, and addressed the assembled parishioners at some length. In the evening there was a grand display of fireworks followed by an address from Father O'Reilly, C.C., Banagher.

THE UNIVERSITY QUESTION.—The Catholic Headmasters' Association of Ireland, at a recent meeting, selected Very Rev. A. Murphy, president of St. Munchin's college, Limerick, and Very Rev. John T. Murphy, president of Blackrock college, to give evidence on its behalf before the Royal Commission on university education. The president of St. Munchin's will very effectively represent the interests of the diocesan colleges, while the president of Blackrock will be able to show how far the present system fails to do justice to the schools and scholars of the teaching orders. A call is made on the general body of the Catholic headmasters to prepare evidence showing the difficulties the present system places in the path of promising Catholic boys who have completed their intermediate studies with distinction. Meantime the association specially thanks the Dublin Municipal Council for its action, and declares that no university system can be satisfactory to Irish Catholics which excludes religion from amongst the subjects of higher education.

A large and representative meeting of the Catholic association was held in the Catholic Reading Rooms, Magherafelt, recently. Considerable interest was evinced in the proceedings, as it will depend upon the success of the Nationalist efforts at the coming revision whether the present small majority in the Magherafelt Board of Guardians and District Council will be maintained. The spirit of the meeting yesterday was not one of apathy, but one of determination to maintain the strength of the Nationalist vote. Up to the present the Nationalist registration agent, with the assistance of local workers in the various districts, have done splendid work. Everything is in good order, and it only remains for those who have been objected to, and those on whose behalf claims have been made, to attend at the respective courts and prove their right to the franchise. If the people do their duty in this respect, the present position of the Nationalists is secure. Should the people fail to attend to this matter

now it means a return back to landlord domination in Magherafelt District Council and Board of Guardians.

The meeting showed a splendid spirit between priests and people, and one which is sure to produce splendid results.

On the motion of Mr. O'Neill, seconded by Father O'Kane, the chair was taken by Father O'Doherty amidst applause. The Rev. Chairman, having suitably thanked the meeting for the honor done him, said that he need not impress upon those present the importance of giving their attention to the work of registration during the next month. It was pretty well known that the Local Government elections in Ireland will take place during the month of June, 1902, and it all depends upon the result of their efforts during the next month whether the Nationalists would be returned to power at Magherafelt at next elections. The Unionist party has given early indication that they would make a desperate fight to regain control of affairs at Magherafelt. They have been working might and main with all their well-known available resources, and the fight for supremacy will be a hard and bitter one. To make it a successful one all they require was that every Nationalist in the doubtful districts should take an interest in the matter, and see that the claimants and those objected to attend the courts to establish their right to the franchise. If this was done, victory would surely crown their efforts.

Mr. O'Neill, who acted as secretary, announced that the following districts had sent in subscriptions:—Maghera, Bellaghy, Glenties, Louisa, Greenoughs, Castledawson, and Salterstown, amounting in all to the sum of £33 9s. He also reported that the committee appointed to secure the services of a solicitor had retained Mr. Joseph I. Donaghy, B.A., solicitor, Belfast and Magherafelt, to act for the Nationalists.

CANON MCCARTHY DEAD.—Excitement received this week the announcement of the death of Canon McCarthy, P.P., Ballinacolly, which occurred with appalling suddenness. The deceased priest arrived in Cork by train to drive him to Blackrock Church. The man did so, but on arriving at his destination he was horrified to find the revered gentleman dead. Naturally there was a scene of consternation when the sad news was circulated in the city. Mr. McCarthy, who was an advanced Nationalist, and took an active part for Mr. Parnell in the South Infirmity, which is on the Blackrock Road. Several of the medical staff were present, and they soon pronounced life extinct. He was an advanced Nationalist, and took an active part for Mr. Parnell at his first contest for Cork. Canon McCarthy was about 60 years of age, and for the past eleven years had been considered as parish priest of Ballinacolly, where, as indeed, in all the parishes associated with his mission, he endeared himself as much by the gentleness of his disposition and the zeal he displayed for the duties of the ministry, as by his abiding consideration for the poor, to whom he was always a sincere friend, and amongst whom his loss will be most deeply deplored. He was a man of his piety and his anxiety for the welfare and advancement of Holy Church were amongst the leading traits of his priestly character, and the assiduity with which he ministered to his flock, and the sacrifices he made where the solemn duties of the ministry called for such, were some of the most remarkable events in his career.

No better instance of this devotion could be forthcoming than that afforded at the time of the smallpox epidemic in the city, when Canon McCarthy, in his office as the chaplain of the workhouse, looked after the spiritual needs of nearly 1,200 of the poor sufferers of the fell disease who were treated in the wards of the hospital. No risk was too great for him to encounter during this trying time, and the record of his work is one of the brightest pages in the annals of heroic immolation to duty on the part of the Catholic clergymen of the city, of which there were so many examples during the prevalence of the epidemic.

Canon McCarthy, who was a native of Bandon, was educated at the Irish College in Paris, and had a distinguished collegiate course. He was ordained at a comparatively early age, and on his return to his native diocese one of his first missions was with the late Canon O'Regan of Schull. He was subsequently appointed chaplain of the Cork Workhouse, where he ministered for five or six years. It was during this time that the smallpox epidemic, already referred to, occurred in the city, and it only remains to be said, in this particular, that Canon McCarthy attended personally to every one of the poor victims who found his, or her, way to the hospital of the institution. From the workhouse he was appointed to a curacy in St. Finbar's, East, which then included St. Finbar's, West, and was known as the South parish, and over which the late Dean Neville was parish priest, while stationed here. It was in the year 1881, the late Dean Neville, who was a member of the Nationalist party, sought the representation of the city in Parliament for

the first time, and one of the signatures to a nomination paper handed in on his behalf was that of Canon McCarthy, P.P. (Kilmurry), then also a curate in the South parish. His next curacy was at Bandon, where he remained for some six years, and from here he was removed to the cathedral in 1888, where he labored up to 1891, when on the transference of the late Very Rev. Canon Maguire from Ballinacolly to the South parish he was elevated to the position of pastor of the latter parish. The love and esteem universally entertained for him by his parishioners is a tribute to the manner in which he fulfilled the duties of his office, and the news of his unexpected death evoked the keenest regret amongst all classes in the parish.—R.I.P.

CAPITAL AND LABOR.

Several times already has the conference at San Francisco been the subject of our comments. Amongst other reports we find one to the effect that an important series of resolutions has been submitted and adopted by what is styled the "Protestant Episcopal House of Deputies." The Committee on Capital and Labor is the branch of the "House" which is responsible for such resolutions. In view of the peculiar circumstances of time and scope attached to these resolutions we deem it well to reproduce them in full. Here is the text:—

"The Church of Jesus Christ, has been commissioned by her Lord to be the friend and counselor of all sorts and conditions of men, rich and poor alike, without respect of persons, and it is a part of her divine mission to be a mediator and peacemaker between those who are at strife one with another."

"The relations of labor and capital, which ought to be harmonious, from time to time very seriously disturbed to the prejudice of peace and good will among the people of the land, and often to the suffering of thousands of women and children, as well as to the sowing of bitterness and strife between class and class."

"The Christian Church, which becometh untrue to her master—the Carpenter of Nazareth—if she were not the friend of the laboring man, and did not hold his welfare as dear to her heart as that of his employer."

"Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, that a joint commission of both houses, to consist of three bishops, three presbyters and three laymen, be appointed to investigate the causes of industrial disturbances."

"First—To study carefully the aims and purposes of the labor organizations of our country."

"Second—In particular to investigate the causes of industrial disturbances."

"Third—To hold themselves in readiness to act as arbitrators should their services be desired, between the men and their employers, with a view to bringing about mutual conciliation and harmony in the spirit of the Prince of Peace."

"Resolved, That the above named commission should be continued by reappointment, every three years, and shall make reports of its proceedings to the general convention."

In reading the preamble to the above resolutions we are strongly impressed with the similarity between the claims set forth by the "House of Deputies" for their church, and the attitude of the great Pontiff who rules the Church of Christ to-day. We do not say that these learned divines have been inspired by the encyclicals of Leo XIII., possibly they never read them; nor do we pretend that they are anxious to copy the utterances, adopt the methods, and emulate the zeal of the Vicar of Christ. In fact, we are more inclined to believe that they would disown any such intention on their part, so bitterly opposed are they to the Catholic Church, and so certain do they feel that "nothing good could come out of Nazareth." But, all this does not alter the fact that these resolutions, coming at this very late date, are merely a feeble imitation of a most effective and powerful original. At all events, we trust that there is some sense of consistency left in the Protestant Episcopal body, and that henceforth that section of Protestantism, at least, will not impute false motives to the Pope, when he offers, in the name of Christ, to act as an arbitrator between the two great and contending influences of labor and capital, and when he addresses the working classes in the language of a father and in the tone of a deeply interested friend. This blind hostility to whatever emanates from Rome, accompanied with a distant imitation of the same immediately afterwards, is a most striking evidence of the strength of her infatigability and a most astonishing testimony of her Divine Mission.

NEWMAN MEMORIAL.—The Duke of Norfolk has contributed \$5,000 to the fund for a memorial to Cardinal Newman in Birmingham.