

# The Catholic Register.

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"Truth is Catholic; proclaim it ever, and God will effect the rest."—BALMEZ.

VOL. V.—No. 28.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, JULY 15, 1897.

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## MGR. MERRY DEL VAL'S LETTER.

OFFICIAL.

His Excellency Mgr. Merry del Val, Apostolic Delegate to Canada, has authorized the publication of the following in **THE REGISTER** :

OTTAWA, July 3, 1897.

My Lord—On the eve of my departure for the Eternal City, where I shall soon place in the hands of His Holiness the results of my enquiries and of my labors. I wish to address your Grace, as the Bishop most directly concerned in the question which has formed the main object of my mission; and in addressing your Grace I speak to all the Catholics of the same province.

In the first place, my Lord, permit me, together with the sentiments of respect and devotion which I most heartily offer to all the Archbishops and Bishops of the Dominion, to tender a sincere expression of gratitude to their Lordships for the kindness of which they have given me signal proof. I can only express my regret that I am unable to tell each one who I so deeply feel.

My thanks are due also to all the members of the clergy, and to the faithful of each diocese, for the hearty and sincere welcome with which they have greeted me on every occasion.

I have furthermore to acknowledge the great courtesy shown to me by the civil authorities; and I wish to take this opportunity of testifying, in their regard, my gratitude and respect. We must hope that the blessed work of peace and justice so much desired by the Holy See and by us all, will be fully accomplished.

In reference to this matter I can assure your Grace that His Holiness will soon be in a position to decide the question and to trace out a line of conduct for Canadian Catholics in the present situation.

The Holy Father has exhausted all sources of information, and unless we wish to blind ourselves to the truth, it is impossible for us to suppose that he is not perfectly acquainted with all the facts and circumstances of the case.

In the meantime there is, however, an imperative duty for all; and in the exercise of my office I am obliged to inculcate to in a formal manner with the certainty that the Bishops and clergy, devoted as they are to the Holy See, will be careful to require its exact fulfillment on the part of the faithful.

This duty is, that they should abstain altogether from all agitation, forget divisions and strife, and lay aside all discussion.

Things having entered a new phase (as far as Catholics are concerned) by the sole fact of the direct intervention of the Sovereign Pontiff, it is for him to finally determine their duty with regard to the religious side of this question. Hence it is not for us or for anyone to forestall his judgment or his action. It must be clear to every enlightened Catholic that we cannot invoke or sustain the authority of the Supreme Pastor if we disparage the authority of the Bishops; and that on the other hand we weaken episcopal authority if we curtail in any way the free exercise of the authority of the Head of the Church. For my own part, my Lord Archbishop, I have so quickly learned to esteem and admire the Catholics of Canada that I feel sure they will be glad to leave to the Vicar of Jesus Christ with confidence and submission the care of their religious interests; and they will do so with the conviction that His guidance will be the wisest and the best.

I beg your Grace to accept the assurance of my esteem and of my sincere attachment. Permit me to say how ardently I desire that God may bless and prosper the people of Manitoba, to whom you devote your zeal, your labors and your prayers.

I beg leave to remain your Grace's most devoted servant in Jesus Christ,  
RAPHAEL MERRY DEL VAL,  
To His Grace Mgr. Adolphe Languevin,  
Archbishop of St. Boniface, Man.

### Death of Peter A. Egleson.

The sudden death of Peter A. Egleson at Ottawa on Wednesday of last week has caused wide-spread sorrow, not only at the Capital, but throughout the Province of Ontario and Quebec, where his name is known and favorably known. About noon on the day mentioned Mr. Egleson had called at the office of Mr. George O'Keefe, M.P. There he met Dr. Freeland, to whom as we learn from *The Journal* he remarked that he did not feel well. He began to stagger and would have fallen to the floor had the doctor not caught him in time. Dr. Freeland laid him on the floor and went to the next room to call Mr. O'Keefe Dr. Freeland and Mr. O'Keefe at once returned, but Mr. Egleson was breathing

his last. The doctor tried to revive him, while a clergyman was sent for, but the task was in vain, as the dying man never regained strength. The cause of death was undoubtedly due to heart disease. On the previous Monday morning he remarked to Mr. M. Mousghan that he was feeling ill and that his chest was tight and he felt as though his "heart machinery was going to stop."

It is proposed in this paper to enquire why it is and how reasonable that we should be sometimes forbidden many things that have nothing bad in themselves and at other times allowed to use them only under conditions or limitations of time, place and person and the like. And to go at once in medias res, we ask why are we commanded to abstain on Fridays, or widening the view, why to abstain at all? Does the law arbitrarily impose an obligation of its own choosing? or is it a rule, setting forth the only lines upon which, when we use things we can secure ourselves, the maximum of benefit with the minimum of injury?

The answer to this enquiry may be given in the following way: God alone is able to live, and move and have His being, within Himself, and independently of all else. The august dogma of the *Trinity*, showing that in Father, Son and Holy Ghost, He is His own principle, medium and end, tells us how this is. But no creature, from low to high, has such capacity, he cannot even think, actively at least, without a word, which is of course no part of Himself, he can't breathe without air, nor eat without food, nor see without something to be seen. And this air, and food, and all the rest, embraces the whole universe, in which there is not an item great or small but may, and at times does, enter as a principal factor into man's action, and exercises a very real influence upon the character of that action. To take a simple instance: the lungs may be strong and healthy, but if the air is tainted, is poisonous, the breathing, a necessary vital act, becomes the occasion of death. A shears is of little worth unless both blades are sharp and fit each other. To secure—then perfection in anything we do there are three things indispensable: a fit actor, proper instrument, and due object. Failure in any one of them is failure in all, or, to give a concrete instance, the success of a surgical operation depends not merely upon the surgeon, but also upon his having proper instruments and a curable case. We should therefore be careful that he will kill, where he ought to cure, with the best scalpel his labor will be vain if the patient has not sufficient vitality, and then the tool may be of the best, but it is of no use if the patient is not fit to receive it. And so it is in all actions: the three elements must be sound or the excellence of the other one or two goes for nothing.

Now, in this matter of eating or abstaining, the food may be good, the act of eating, and the due object, are all in nature, is of course good, but the actor, how about him? Is he always necessarily in a fit state to eat at all, or to eat anything that comes before him? Is he acting a wise rule of medical practice? Are people in forests who dwell the free use of whatever comes along or men threatened with apoplexy obliged to stave upon an almond? A fragrant roast of beef is an admirable thing, but it is likely, even the smell of it should not reach the suffering, whose chances of life depend upon not touching it.

Now observe in all these cases, the food is good, the eating is good, but the actor is sick and must be dealt with according to the needs of his malady if you will not destroy his life and restore his health. What more does the Church say or do when she prescribes abstinence or fasting? You have lost your original state, she addresses her children, when you committed sin. Your malady is not a passing ailment, your faculties are disordered and you must submit to a time of dieting, longer or shorter, severer or less severe, according to the gravity of your case. The rule of medicine is not to be painful, but there is no other remedy. What is there in all this that is not in accordance with common sense and daily experience? Hence the ordinary Protestant gloss—why is meat good on other days and not on Friday?—is innocuously shallow and unworthy of any man who thinks at all in a Christian way. Of course it is just good on Friday, or on Lent, as at any other time; but the system of the ordinary Christian being an occasional time, and being carelessly about its actualness in taking it, or not, is in his own interest to take it when the wisdom of the physician prescribes it and the Church—the great physician of the race—declares it is good in general to fast and abstain on certain days; and she orders her children, respecting to herself the right to look upon exceptional cases and provide for them according to their varying symptoms. Hence the rule of her dispensations, to fast and abstain on certain days; and she orders her children, respecting to herself the right to look upon exceptional cases and provide for them according to their varying symptoms.

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nature, which it is constantly struggling to purify and elevate to its own dignity. It is constantly struggling to purify and elevate to its own dignity. It is constantly struggling to purify and elevate to its own dignity.

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## Farewell at the Falls.

### Sir Frank Smith Invites a Large Company to Meet Mgr. Merry del Val.

Those who were present—Speared by Sir Frank Smith and the Delegate, Catholics of that city will have a great treat at the Falls in the person of Mgr. Merry del Val, his visit from New York on Saturday.

### His Excellency, Mgr. Merry del Val, Apostolic Delegate to Canada, arrived in Toronto on Ottawa on Friday evening.

He was met at the station by Vicar-General McCann and Father Ryan, representing the Archbishop of Toronto. He was driven to the Palace where he rested during most of his stay until Monday afternoon. Then he took the boat for Niagara Falls accompanied by his secretary, Father Tampiere, and Rev. Father Ryan, rector of the Cathedral. During his short stay in the city the Delegate renewed his former pleasant acquaintance with a large number of the Catholic citizens. His Grace the Archbishop of Kingston spent Saturday in Toronto in company with the Delegate and both enjoyed a drive. Mgr. Merry del Val was not feeling quite well and looked thinner and paler than upon the occasion of his former visit.

On Tuesday morning on the invitation of Sir Frank Smith a large company of clergy and laymen from Toronto, Hamilton, London, etc., visited Niagara Falls to bid goodspeed to the distinguished representative of the Holy Father. The Toronto party was made up of the following along with Sir Frank Smith: Mr. Thomas Long, Vicar-General McCann, Rev. James Walsh, Rev. T. F. Labreure, Rev. J. H. Hand, Rev. F. Rolobeur, Rev. Philip Lamarche, Rev. L. Brennan, Mr. Eugene O'Keefe, Mr. Patrick Boyle, Mr. Nicholas Rooney, Mr. P. F. Cronin, Mr. B. B. Hughes, Dr. Charles S. Murray, Mr. F. P. Lee, Mr. J. Bruce Macdonald, Mr. James J. Foy, O.C., Mr. Remy Emsloy. Arrived at Queenston, a private car was placed at the service of the visitors and they enjoyed the scenery of the Niagara River in the most perfect weather. At the Clifton they joined Mgr. Merry del Val, Right Rev. Dr. Dowling, Bishop of Hamilton, Right Rev. Dr. O'Connor, Bishop of London, Very Rev. Dr. Harris, St. Catharines, Monsignor McElroy of Hamilton, Father Tampiere, Delegate's Secretary, Father Halpin, S.J., New York Rev. Dr. Treacy, Toronto, Father Ryan, Rector St. Michael's Cathedral, Toronto, and Father Antoine, Falls View. The entire company were Sir Frank Smith's guests at luncheon at the Clifton.

Sir Frank Smith proposed the health of the Apostolic Delegate. In doing so he remarked that any representative of His Holiness Pope Leo was sure to receive from the Catholic people of Ontario a loyal reception; but Mgr. Merry del Val had won his way into their hearts (applause). They felt that they could not allow his departure from Canadian soil without saying the parting good bye and goodspeed where they now sat. This was the object of their gathering. They had to regret the absence on this occasion of his Grace, the Archbishop of Toronto who was one of the first to express his pleasure over the proposal to give the distinguished visitor a farewell luncheon upon the Canadian border and within sight of the Falls of Niagara. He had come amongst them on a mission of peace and they were parting from him with love. He could not help but express the hope that this would not be Mgr. Merry del Val's last visit to Canada (applause). And when he shall come again it will be to find that the affection with which they now bade him farewell had not abated in the meantime. He proposed the Delegate's good health which was honored with a will.

Mgr. Merry del Val's reply was characterized by the grace and sincerity of language that distinguished him. He said his mission was at an end and he was now parting from many gentlemen, representatives of the clergy and laity of Ontario to whom he had become warmly attached, not only on account of the many kindnesses he had received at their hands, but also because of the strong, sterling loyalty to the Holy See which he now acquainted their hospitality to himself as the representative of the Head of the Church. He too regretted the absence of the great Archbishop of Toronto who was, however, worthily represented. He appreciated what Sir Frank Smith had said in this regard, and he also appreciated the idea of sitting down to this farewell luncheon with view of the great Falls and with the rest of Niagara in their ears. His description of this stupendous natural wonder, which Canada shared with the

United States, will he know afford very great interest to the Holy Father, had when he should see Pope Leo that had been surrounded by loyal and warm-hearted Canadian Catholics on this spot and upon the occasion of his departure from Canadian soil, Niagara would be a name doubly interesting to the Pope. Applause. Mr. Joseph Smith, who was one of the representative Catholics of Ontario had made allusion to his mission of peace. He thanked him for that and he might express his belief that the mission of peace had not failed short of success applicable. Only that day he had received from Manitoba a letter which had given him pleasure, because it told him that the Catholic people of that province could now feel a great degree of confidence in the good will in their relations with their fellow-citizens (applause). The question which he had investigated in the hands of the Holy Father, and they might say that his decision would be the wisest (applause). He was pleased that the Bishops of Hamilton and London were there, because through them he could say to the Catholic people of the whole of Western Ontario how pleasant his impressions of this province were. He had formed friendships which would long entertain him and beyond those personal friendships he would say that Ontario and its loyal Catholic citizens would always have a warm and grateful, though humble, friend at the Vatican in himself. He thanked the company for the cordiality with which they had honored the toast of his health. The speech was followed by applause and singing "For His holy good will."

Sir Frank Smith proposed the Queen and the Governor-General of Canada and the Archbishops and Bishops of Ontario. Speeches brimming with the feeling of affection for the parting guest were made by Right Rev. Dr. Dowling, Right Rev. Dr. O'Connor, Father Ryan, Vicar-General McCann and Very Rev. Dr. Harris. Vicar-General McCann proposed the health of the kindly host which was honored with enthusiasm. Each member of the company said good bye and goodspeed to the Delegate, who declared that his last days on Canadian soil had been rendered exceedingly pleasant by their warm kindness. The Delegate stayed on Tuesday night at the Monastery. On Wednesday he left for Rochester, New York, to be the guest of the Bishop. He sails on Saturday for Liverpool on the S.S. Campania.

### Visiting Priests.

Amongst the members of the American priesthood who came to Toronto in connection with the National Conference of Bishops and Clergy were Rev. Thomas F. Hickey, Chairman of the State Industrial School at Rochester, N. Y.; Rev. J. H. Gauhan, Rev. Thomas J. Kneen, chaplain of St. Joseph's Home, New York City. Father Kinkaid's name is familiar to readers of Catholic books published in New York—as he holds the office of Canon there. Among the priests who visited the City last week also was Very Rev. Vicar-General Kelly, who came up from Kingston in company with the Archbishop.

### Picnic at Weston.

The Weston R.C. Church are holding their Annual Picnic on Saturday, July 17th, on the Exhibition Park, Weston. There will be a splendid programme of attractions, including a football, baseball tournament, quoit tournament, bicycle racing, besides a number of other events, such as running, jumping, etc., for which prizes to the value of nearly \$800 will be given. The Citizens Brass Band and a first-class orchestra will entertain in the afternoon and evening, and a first-class platform has been secured for dancing. The prizes for local trot and baseball are cash, and entries must be in to the Secretary, H. P. Royal, Weston, by Saturday noon. Bicycle races will be taken care of. No better opportunity for a day's enjoyment could be had. Take Queen and Dundas Cars, connecting Hamberston Ave. with Weston line, whose painful open cars run direct to grounds. Be sure to go, half Toronto will be there. H. P. R.

### Well Won Honors.

Many of the friends of Mr. B. B. Hughes were pleased to see that his son, Mr. Vincent P. Hughes was admitted to the bar at Osgoode Hall on the 29th of last month after a successful career as a law student and B. A. and LL.B. of Toronto University. Vincent P. Hughes is partner in the firm of Charles Miller & Co. Mr. B. B. Hughes' daughter, Lilian, has also won honor for the name by carrying off the only medal for china painting at the recent art school examinations under the Education Department.

### Fifty Years a Resident.

One of Ontario's oldest and most respected citizens is Mr. Patrick Hughes. He is half a century ago by the Ontario to-day since he arrived in the Queen City, and his many friends will join with The World in wishing him continued years and happiness.—The World, July 14.

The white-washing Transvaal Commission has found Mr. Chamberlain blameless as in duty bound. Cecil Rhodes is held culpable. And this is the end of it.

### Cheapest Excursion of the Century.

After repeated efforts for the past six years Rev. Father Stanton, Smith's Falls, has succeeded in securing cheap fares to Toronto to St. Ann de Beauport, via Montreal and Quebec, over Canadian Pacific and Grand Trunk Railways. The fare for round trip from Toronto to St. Ann de Beauport (a distance of 1,082 miles) is only \$6.00 for adults, children one half. Tickets are good for ten days. Passengers going by Canadian Pacific and Grand Trunk may take regular morning express, leaving Union station at 7.00 a. m., and connecting with G. T. special at Belleville, or any other regular train leaving Union station on Tuesday, 20th inst. For further information apply at C.P.R. City office, 1 King St. E., G. T. R. City office, cor. King and Yonge sts., Saddle's book store, 129 Church St., or Rev. M. J. Stanton, Smith's Falls, Ont.

Whenever Nature leaves a hole in a person's mind she generally plasters it over with a thick coat of self-conceit.