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Catholic Record.

LONDON, SATURDAY, OCT. 11, 1884.

THE BELGIAN SCHOOL LAW.

The American, in a very clear and succinct notice of the new Belgian school law, puts the matter in its just light before the public on this side of the Atlantic. Our contemporary shows that the law has been drafted with the most careful regard for the rights of the minority. The law provides for "the teaching in the schools of that religion to which the majority of the people in each commune belong, but it permits parents to withdraw their children at the hours in which that instruction is given. It also provides that where twenty or more parents desire any kind of religious instruction not already furnished by the schools, special classes shall be formed for that purpose. It makes it compulsory upon any commune to set up secular schools in addition to the denominational schools already in existence, whenever there is a reasonable number of parents who demand this. It requires that every teacher shall procure a certificate of competence from the government board, before entering upon his duties, but it allows the government to dispense with this certificate in certain cases. This is to enable the retention in service of teachers who have a good record for success, but are unable to pass examinations which would be easy to younger and probably less competent men."

Could anything be really fairer than these provisions? No coercion of any kind is decreed in regard of any portion of the population. But this does not satisfy the rampant radical. Instead of welcoming this new law as a concession to the demands of the age, he violently opposes and condemns it. The American puts the whole case in a nutshell when it states that the temper of Belgian Liberalism seems to be very like that of the French Republicans. They have no school law that is not offensive, not only to the priests, but to all who desire a religious education for their children. It was this temper that cost them their defeat in the recent election, and it now finds expression in such outbreaks in the streets of the Belgian cities.

It is well indeed that the Belgian Radical should be known in his true light. The American deserves congratulation for exposing his disregard for fairness and equality.

ENGLAND AND EGYPT.

It is now certain that an English occupation of Egypt has almost been finally decided on. Britain is proverbially greedy of territory and will not submit to the expenditure of such a vast amount of treasure as the Khartoum expedition involves without some adequate compensation. Public opinion will force the government to decide on the occupation of the land of the Pharaohs. A late despatch from London gives clear indication of the prevalent popular opinion in Britain on the subject. The despatch states that:

"The feeling is growing in political circles in London, that the English are occupying Egypt with the intention of staying. The stupidity of withdrawing after the suppression of the Arabi rebellion and the retreat after the brilliant battle of Tel-el-Kebir, is becoming more apparent. English taxpayers are willing to be taxed for a definite object, but they decidedly dislike hearing heavy expense to chase El Mahdi into a corner, only to find him reappear when the troops are withdrawn. Public opinion is growing, and the Government weathercock will veer with the popular wind. Of course, there will be continental growling, but none of the powers care to provoke the consequences of overt hostilities."

There will indeed be some growling, but England is the very last country in the world that should complain of the growling of other nations at her projects of aggrandizement. Whenever France, for instance, decides on a policy of self-assertion in some foreign country there is a storm of rage and jealousy at once raised by the British press. The French are told that they have no right to defend the honor of the French name, that any increase in their territorial possessions is unjust and that any punishment of barbarian combatants is cruel and inhuman. In Madagascar, Tonquin and China the French are being met and annoyed by British interference and by British sympathy with barbarians against whom France wages legitimate war.

We do not anticipate that any serious objection will be raised to a British occu-

pation of Egypt, provided the rights of the creditors of the penniless government of that wretched country be guaranteed. Under British sway Egypt cannot be worse than under that of the Sultans of Turkey.

METHODIST FALSEHOOD.

The chief characteristic of a Methodist lie is that it is very sleek and quasi-celestial in its innocence. The Christian Guardian could not, of course, fail to notice the late troubles in Belgium on the school question. But, instead of an honest discussion of the subject, that goody-good journal favors its readers with this very sly paragraph:

"After the Belgian educational bill had been adopted by both Chambers, the Liberals hoped that the King would veto it. It invested the Church and the clergy with powers and authority of which he was believed to disapprove; but as the bill had been properly passed, the King felt that it was his duty as a constitutional monarch to sign the Act. The excitement against the Act still continues. There has been much recrimination among the papers."

The bill invested the church and the clergy with no powers and authority they did not already enjoy, but it did restore to the people of Belgium that liberty in school matters of which the radicals had deprived them. The Guardian has no ground whatever for believing that the king privately disapproved of the bill. On the contrary, there is very good reason to think that he, as a Catholic sovereign, and a lover of legitimate freedom must have held the very same views on this subject as are held by his government. The Guardian lets down the radicals very easily, handles them, in fact, with the softest gloves. Hear this pious writer:

"It is asserted that the Brussels police have found arms, ammunition, and evidence of conspiracy against the State in the house of the editor of the Nationale, and in the Republican League rooms. The Liberals suggest that when they are again in power they should use the immense wealth of the religious orders, and that their motto should be the separation of Church and State."

Were the Guardian commenting not on radical treachery but on some Irish agrarian outrage, the singing of a seditious song, for instance, or the sending of a threatening letter, no words be could find were strong enough to denounce Irish insubordination and disorder. For a clear and truthful statement of the religious difficulties in Belgium we commend the Guardian to the Pittsburg, Pa. Catholic. That journal very aptly declares that it is hard to discover the grounds of opposition offered to the present school law by the infidel radical party. "Under the new law," says the Catholic, and to its words we direct the special attention of the Guardian:

"Under the new law, education will still be compulsory, and—to the children of the poor—free, which is an enormous gain over the late state of affairs. There are other changes, such as relieving exclusively Catholic communities from the burden of supporting schools which they do not want and will not use. The selection of teachers will be vested in the communal or district councils. All of which is evidently fair and just. The new measure gives a very long way in protecting the rights of minorities. For instance, in any commune where twenty fathers of families demand religious instruction, the council must provide special class-rooms and teachers for their children; and where twenty parents request against religious teaching they have the same right to a separate school. Strange that this latter provision does not satisfy and cover the most exacting demands of the radicals. What more do they want? Here in Republican America, we Catholics would be very thankful should we receive such liberal consideration of our grievances on the school question."

This is a plain, unvarnished statement of fact, such as we fear the Guardian is almost incapable of comprehending and certainly of making. Because the radicals assail the Catholic Church, this pious organ cannot find it in its little heart to speak out in condemnation of a brutal and anti-Christian faction.

THE PAPACY.

The Catholic Citizen, in a very interesting article on the characteristics of the Popes, brings into view many points often lost sight of by Catholics. The Citizen holds that there is so distinct a resemblance between Popes of the same name that they fall into groups. The Gregories have been remarkable as great spiritual sovereigns, as, for instance, Gregory the Great, who extended the borders of the Church into many lands, including England itself, and the immortal Gregory VII, Hildebrand, who, despite kingly arrogance and aggression, asserted the divine rights and spiritual prerogatives of the Holy See. The Leos, on the other hand, have represented the temporal splendor and the exalted majesty of the regal power of the Papacy. Leo I. the Great, it was who repulsed Attila and saved Rome and Italy from destruction and devastation. Another Pope of the same name, St. Leo III, founded the Holy Roman Empire. Another, Leo X., met the brutal onslaught of Luther. And in our own days, the great pontiff now gloriously reigning asserts Pontifical majesty and authority over kings and nations. The Innocents have been noted for diplomatic skill and success, as Innocent III. and IV., while the Benedicts are renowned

for learning, all typified in the illustrious Benedict XIV. The Piuses have shone as priests, pastors and devotees—as Pius IV, St. Pius II. and the late Holy Father Pius IX. The Citizen well says that as a dynasty the Popes, beyond all doubt, are supreme for ability, devotion to the common good and moral excellence. And our contemporary very happily adds that this is not surprising to Catholics, but others often forget that if the charges they bring against some few Popes look so black it is because they stand out against so white a background. The worst abused of the Popes would have been respectable among kings and emperors. As a result of its cursory, but clear and trenchant review of the Popes, the Citizen concludes with an expression of views that should find a ready echo in every Catholic heart:

"The Papal dynasty stands out in history above all, for its wonderful fecundity. No royal house bears any proportion to it in the array and succession of great names, appearing not at one age, but all ages. The early Popes are, to a great extent, shrouded in persecution and the catacombs, but what we know of them proves that they discerned the times with singular sagacity, and guided the Church with super-human prudence. The characteristics of the Popes are a fruitful source of study, for the exalted morality of their lives, their high aims, and moderate use of unparalleled power, combine into a luminous proof of their Divine mission."

We know of no better means of inspiring Catholics with liveliest sentiments of attachment and devotion to the Holy See than the study of the lives of the Supreme Pontiffs. They are the lives of martyrs, saints, scholars and heroes, whose virtues have adorned royalty and given Catholicism much of that mysterious power it has at all times exercised in all parts of the world, for the regeneration and advancement of the human race. The history of the Papacy is indeed the history of human progress, human disentanglement, and Christian civilization.

MR. HICKSON AND MAYOR HYMAN.

On the 30th of September last, Mr. Jos. Hickson, of the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada, addressed to His Worship Mayor Hyman, of this city, a letter, complaining of the course pursued by the city of London towards the Grand Trunk in the matter of the water supply for the car shops in London East. The whole question of the water supply in this latter municipality was raised through the destruction by fire a few weeks ago of the railway car shops. Much blame was attached by the general public to the company for neglecting to provide for such an emergency as the late unfortunate fire. Mr. Hickson naturally seeks to relieve that organization of the odium thus fixed on it, and in a letter to His Worship Mayor Hyman, makes a certain recital of "facts" from which he deduces conclusions favorable to the company, but unjust to the city. He sums up his arguments in these terms:

"From this simple statement of facts, which cannot be controverted, it will be seen that the Waterworks Commission, as first agreed to by the water being supplied through the London East pipes, which had been specially arranged with a view to the supply coming direct into the works; that they subsequently set aside their previous assent and made a demand that the company for payments which, in face of the existing agreement, there is not the slightest ground for making; that when the water was subsequently turned on they caused it to be turned off, and although the question is said to have been referred to the City Solicitor the company have never been favored with views of the City Solicitor on the question or with any further reply or communication from either the Water Commissioners or the Council."

His Worship the Mayor meets the issue squarely, and entirely disposes of Mr. Hickson's contentions, although based on "facts" which cannot be controverted. His Worship reminds Mr. Hickson that, so far as the original agreement is concerned, the railway company has never carried out their part of it to this day, viz, the providing of a main to the carworks. He further states:

"I am for the first time aware of the letter written by the Secretary of the Board dated 14th November. I am, however, informed that the position taken by the Board in this letter was in consequence of the endeavor of the railway company to obtain water for the car shops at the price originally paid by the G. W. R. Company. At most this was only a reprisal, and I think the payment and acceptance of \$400 in dispute settled the matter as far as the amount of remuneration was concerned."

It was, as the Mayor contends, the place of the company to open further negotiations with the corporation, after having been informed that the city could comply with their terms. Mr. Hickson would appear to think that the city and its officials should have sought to find out the easiest and readiest means of complying with the wishes of the Grand Trunk, regardless of the interests of the people of London. We do not know that this city is under any special obligations to Mr. Hickson or the Grand Trunk, amalgamated or unamalgamated. But whether under obligations to that powerful organization or not, the city was at all times prepared to do all that justice and even generosity dic-

tated. The fact is that the company thought itself powerful enough to force the city to terms, and that it should have water supplied to its car shops, a vast manufactory in itself, both for ordinary daily use and for fire protection at a mere nominal figure. We are glad to see that His Worship fastens the responsibility for the disgraceful state of things prevailing when the car shops were destroyed, where it properly belongs. Mr. Hyman very sentimentally concludes his reply to Mr. Hickson by this deduction:

"Having shown that since payment of the \$400 in dispute on Dec. 1, 1883, no request has been made to the Board of Water Commissioners, at least in an official (and we are without proof that it has been made in any other) manner, that the Railway Company having supplied mains according to agreement, called upon the Board to supply the water for the car works." I am of opinion that the officers of the company whose duty it was to carry out the agreement of the Company being found, the problem of responsibility is easy of solution."

We congratulate His Worship on his dignified but firm assertion of civic rights and his creditable maintenance of the honor of this great and respectable municipality.

THE NATIVITY AT LYONS.

In L'Echo de Fourvières we read that the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary was celebrated with much éclat at Lyons. The celebrated shrine of Fourvières was from early morning besieged by pilgrims innumerable. The chapel proved, even at the five o'clock mass, too small to hold the vast concourse at that early hour assembled. The immense crypt of the new church, where an altar had been erected, received a vast crowd, eager to partake of the Bread of Life. There was present a large number of confessors to meet the desire of the crowding penitents. Holy Communion was, without ceasing, administered during the whole morning. In all the city parishes likewise the Holy Table was approached by an unusual large number of persons, united in spirit with the pilgrims at Fourvières. Throughout the live-long day the celebrated shrine of our Lady at this latter place was visited by the faithful, whole families ascending the hill together. At eight o'clock took place the solemn renewal of the vow of the aldermen made in 1643. The renewal was pronounced by the curé de Saint Foithier in the presence of delegates from the thirty-six parishes of the city, whom he addressed in terms of deepest faith and tenderest piety.

In the evening at six o'clock the Benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament was given to the city by Mgr. Dubuis, Bishop of Galveston, Texas. A procession was formed on the heights overlooking the city, the effect of which, as seen from the squares and streets of that great and illustrious town, was simply electrical. The multitudes who gathered on the house-tops and filled the windows looking towards Fourvières, at a given signal fell on their knees to receive the blessing of the Living God.

L'Echo very properly terms the ceremony a confirmation and renewal of the alliance between the mercy of Mary and the faith of her Lyonese children. This pact, adds that truly Catholic journal, will be kept by the rising generation, to whom, it trusts, the Lyonese may transmit intact the heritage of their fathers.

FRANCE AND CHINA.

The French still continue, all British prognostications to the contrary notwithstanding, to pursue their victorious course in China. On the 4th inst. Gen. Delisle telegraphed to Paris the news of his victory over four thousand Chinese troops, between Back and Langsen, driving them back with heavy loss to their gun boats. Admiral Courbet, under date of the 3rd, forwarded the glad news of the capture of Kelung. The Admiral says:

"I commenced operations against Kelung Wednesday by occupying the heights of St. Clement. The Chinese forces, after a fairly warm engagement Wednesday night, evacuated two of their works westward of the height, which we afterward occupied. I am now fortifying them, and shall operate on Saturday against their works eastward of the height. Our loss was four killed, one missing, and thirteen wounded. The Chinese loss is estimated at from 80 to 100 killed, and from 200 to 300 wounded. Admiral Lesseps commenced an attack upon Tamin on Thursday, and will occupy that port, if possible."

On the 5th another message was received from Courbet giving equal satisfaction. "We completed the occupation of Kelung without assistance. The batteries at Tamsui were dismantled. It will be necessary before proceeding to the coal stations to fortify the principal portion of the coast to enable a small force to hold them. Sunken junks and torpedoed in the river are being removed."

What, we may ask, in the face of these facts, what has become of China's great military prowess. The British press for weeks never ceased belauding China and seeking to convey to an astonished and incredulous world some idea of Chinese greatness and of the risk of provoking a

fight with the valorous celestials. The French government, however, wholly unalarmed at the prospect of the immense armies and military power credited to China by the British press, entered on the assertion of French rights with a determination that did them honor. In the contest, as far as it has gone, China has been simply nowhere. France may now dictate its own terms to the Celestial Empire. These terms will not be in any sense, we feel confident, exorbitant. But they will assuredly be such as to protect French rights and to inspire the deceitful celestials with a lasting dread of provoking without cause and without purpose a contest like that which has brought on them the humiliations of Foo Chow and Kelung. In Tonquin, where the Chinese threaten to give some further trouble, the French will take active measures to preserve the fruits of past victories and secure the perpetuation of their sway.

The whole struggle, both in Tonquin and China, redounds greatly to the glory of France, and, if its results be put to the profit they should, must procure that country commercial advantages of untold value, by opening up for its industries and its natural products a multitude of new markets and by placing at her disposal the finest raw materials for her vast and varied manufactures.

A BRANTFORD FANATIC.

The Brantford Telegram of the 30th, speaking of the refusal of the Limerick city council to pay the iniquitous police tax, states:

"The result may be that the Councilors, at least each recusant Councilor, may be bundled off to goal for refusing to carry out the law. It is quite possible. A contemporary says: 'Not that the town councilors would very much object to it. There is no surer way of earning popularity in Ireland than by spending a few months in jail for resisting the law. The Limerick councilors would not only be looked upon as patriots of the first water, but as masters to the Irish cause, and their re-election would be placed beyond a doubt. The principle upon which the Crimes Act is based is that if the Irish people are determined to amuse themselves by burning each other's barns and cracking each other's skulls, they must pay for it.'"

We may inform the Telegram very plainly, that in these few lines it displays a narrowness and ignorance of the Irish question, that its readers will know how to appreciate. The Irish people, as even the "cooked" Castle figures show, are the most law-abiding of the three kingdoms. The City Council of Limerick has done a noble and patriotic duty by its honorable refusal to meet the payment of the police tax.

In the same issue of the enlightened organ, we also read:

"Many of the larger cities and towns in Southern Europe are filthy and mere hotbeds of disease; all ordinary sanitary laws are utterly disregarded. The people are very ignorant and superstitious. They think the doctors help to spread the disease, and that only the priests can check the ravages. The Church of Rome is largely responsible for this ignorance and this superstition, and instead of urging these unfortunate people to keep themselves clean and to take proper sanitary precautions in order to check the spread of the disease, the Pope comes out with an encyclical letter calling upon them to pray for its removal. "When the cholera was prevailing in Great Britain, the clergy of Edinburgh petitioned Lord Palmerston, then Premier, to set apart a day for fasting and prayer, to arrest the plague. In reply he advised them, in the first place, to thoroughly purify and cleanse the city, and to adopt all sanitary precautions, and then they might after that try the efficacy of prayer and fasting. Had the Pope issued an encyclical letter to the same effect, his advice might have been more efficacious than prayers alone without good sanitary measures."

The Telegram, blinded by an innate bigotry, cannot see that the Pope is no way responsible for the municipal government of southern Europe. As far as ignorance and superstition go, there is just as much of it, to say the least, at the Telegram's own doors among the sectaries of Ontario, as in any part of southern Europe, and a thousand times more in enlightened Britain. Catholics must respectfully decline to be instructed by the Telegram in the matter of prayer. The Telegram evidently detests the Irish race, and that, for one reason, because of its Catholicity, and then, in defiance of fact, would fasten on the Church responsibility for the spread of the cholera. A journal so utterly devoid of principle and so completely a stranger to honesty is no credit to the press of Canada.

ORDINATION IN ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL.

On Friday last, at 7:30 a. m., His Lordship the Bishop of London held an ordination service in St. Peter's Cathedral. The holy order of priesthood was then conferred on the Rev. Messrs. Guam and McManus, both of the diocese of London, the former from the parish of Corunna and the latter from that of Goderich. The rev. gentlemen had made their ecclesiastical studies in the Seminary of Montreal. His Lordship was assisted during the solemn ceremony by the Right Rev. Mgr. Bruyere, Rev. Father Tiernan, Rev. Father Ronan, Corunna, and the Rev.

Fathers Cornyn, Walsh and Coffey of this city. We extend to the two young priests, both of whom celebrated their first mass on Sunday last, our heartiest wishes that their ministry may be blessed by length of days and by the most abundant fruits.

IMPOTENT RAGE.

Mr. Ald. Cunningham, on Monday evening last, took occasion, in the City Council of Ottawa, to vent his long-threatened abuse on the Record and its editor. Maddened by disappointment and envenomed by the lowest of passions, this vile man could no longer control himself. Hence the torrent of vulgarity he heaped on us. We may, however, assure him that no profusion of foam, nor liberal display of tusk on his part, will frighten us. On this journal his grimaces, unnatural and obscene, are wholly wasted. We defy him. We have him now just where we want him—in the hopelessness of anger and the criminality of cowardice. We feel honored by the abuse of a creature base, vile and villainous. This untamable whom reminds us of the object fantasies of whom the immortal Curran speaks; and whose answer to the great orator as to the grounds of their hatred of their Catholic fellow-citizens, was uniformly this:—"Why, sir, I never knewed nothing at all of the principles of the Irish Papists, except their lank hair, and long coats, without no arms in the sleeves, and I think the most liberal man will allow, that them are dangerous principles." No views higher than these fill the breast of Ald. Cunningham in his efforts to disfranchise the 20,000 Catholics of Ottawa. Of higher views he is incapable. Through the mire of his own slimy fanaticism he would drag, but cannot, the whole of his Protestant fellow-citizens, and secure the endorsement of the Government of Ontario for a scheme as iniquitous as ever devised by the dark spirit of malignity and its brother demon of bigotry.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

— To any of our readers who could return a copy of the issue of the RECORD bearing date the 27th Sept. last we will feel deeply indebted.

— We are pleased to welcome among our exchanges the Evening Paragraph, a sprightly daily published at Warren, Pa. Its managing editor is Mr. J. H. Kelly, a former London boy, and son of our respected county gaoler, Patrick Kelly, Esq.

— L'Echo de Fourvières informs us that so great is the uneasiness felt throughout Europe for the fate of the Christian missions and missionaries in China that Cardinal Jacobini has addressed, in the name of the Holy Father, a note to the French government, begging of the Cabinet to take measures looking to the security of the numerous Catholic missions of China. It is believed that the Vatican will address a similar note to the other powers, but probably, it is regrettable to think, without effect, for these powers have decided on the maintenance of absolute neutrality in the present conflict between France and China.

— From our respected contemporary, the Western Catholic, we call an item that should be read with care by Canadians contemplating removal to the United States. The Chicago paper says: "There are thirty thousand idle men in Chicago, and yet thousands of young men—many of them Irish Catholics—come to the city every week in pursuit of a fortune, but only to find themselves swelling the ranks of the great army of unemployed who are starving on the streets. Will our contemporaries be so good as to warn young men against coming to this phantom El Dorado?" Comment needless.

— The term "Nihilist" is supposed to be of modern origin. Such, however, is not the case. A no less distinguished person than St. Augustine, the illustrious bishop of Hippo, must be regarded as its inventor. We lately read that fifteen centuries ago he used this substantive in almost the same sense as it is now used:—"Nihilisti appellantur," he says, "quia nihil credunt a nihil docent." To judge from this, the African Nihilists in the fourth century were much the same people as their cousins of our times, minus press and dynamite. St. Augustine referred to those black sheep of his diocese whose only aim was to destroy and deny everything that could either be destroyed or denied.

— The Belgian government has at last taken measures to rid the country of some of the more dangerous of the radicals. On the 2nd of October M. Marchi, director of the National Journal of Brussels, one of the most inflammatory of the radical and masonic organs was, by order of the government, obliged to leave the kingdom. We are informed that he was escorted to the railway station by his friends, a number of Socialists and band, which played the "Marseillaise." Shouts of "Vive la République" were raised by his escort. M. Marchi made an address to the crowd, protesting against his expulsion. The radicals are the enemies of the monarchy. So long as they can use a king as they use Humbert of Italy they tolerate royalty. But let the king once