

**HONORE MERCIER DEAD.**

During several weeks Death's Angel has been hovering, in ever narrowing circles, over the home of ex-Premier Honore Mercier. At times it seemed that the last hour had arrived and that human resistance could no longer withstand the pressure; but with wonderful energy the dying statesman overcame the icy-handed grip that was upon him and rallied back into a fitful life. Finally, on yesterday morning, at half-past eight o'clock, in the shadow of that wing that had fatally touched him, his spirit went forth to the great unknown, eternal region beyond Time's confines. He is now beyond the power of human flattery or human censure; his varied and checkered career has passed into history; had he faults—and such is the lot of humanity to have them—they vanish in the light of his noble gifts, his grand mind, his patriotic heart, his indomitable courage, his strong Catholic faith, his never-to-be-forgotten services to his people and to his country. If he ever committed a mistake, in all the whirl, excitement and vicissitudes of a political career, doubtless "the accusing spirit fled up to heaven's sanctuary therewith, and the Recording Angel, as he wrote it down, dropped a tear upon it and blotted it out forever." But compared with acts that might have given rise to political censure,—and all political deeds are subject to the same,—there was a grand purpose in Mr. Mercier's life; a purpose accompanied by so many splendid evidences of sincerity, of heart, of faith, that over his death-couch the grief of a people should be manifest, and over his last resting place the tears of combined admiration and regret should dampen, for many a year, the sod that will be as green as his memory in the annals of Quebec's history and in the hearts of the people he loved.

The man who arose, by his own exertions and by the exercise of his native talents, from the position of an ordinary student to a foremost place in the profession of his choice,—who entered the political arena without any other weapons than his skill in organization and his magnificent eloquence,—who, despite all opposition, all crushing attacks, personal and general, ascended the stairway of success, with strides so rapid and with foot-steps so secure that he reached the highest position in the gift of the people of this Province, and swayed the minds and souls of a race to such an extent that their entire confidence and hopes were centered in him,—who was deemed worthy of special and extraordinary honors from the immortal Pontiff who to-day governs the Church of Christ,—who was as magnanimous in subsequent defeat as he was generous in the hour of victory,—who had it within his power to secure immense fortune at the expense of a confiding people, but who retired from his lofty post of trust, having enriched his friends and forever impoverished himself,—who never murmured at the ingratitude that those who owed most to him,—who accepted the reverses as he had taken the triumphs of life,—and who died a poor man, poor in this world's wealth, but gloriously rich in the mighty consolations of an imperishable faith—such a man is no mere ordinary politician, no simple citizen, he is one of the grandest characters on the field of Canadian history and one to whom pen or voice can scarcely pay a sufficient tribute.

The magnificent service that he rendered to the Catholic Church in this Province, when risking his high office of Prime Minister in order to restore to the rightful owners that which belonged to them and of which they had been so

unceremoniously deprived, will long remain as a monument to his zeal, his sincerity and his devotion to the cause of truth. The manner in which he fought for the rights and privileges of his immediate fellow-countrymen must forever stamp his character with the seal of the patriot. The numberless evidences of a broad and generous spirit which he gave—even after the shadow of political defeat had come upon him—indicate the inwardness of a noble heart and the workings of a lofty mind.

But all is over. *Hodie homo est, et cras non comparet.* Yesterday he was the leader, the powerful-voiced orator, the mighty tribune thundering his appeals in the ears of a people; last evening he was the vanquished, but still unconquerable hero, who faced death with the serenity and confidence that a grand and soul-absorbing Faith alone can impart; to-day he is no more; the frail form that contained the bright spirit lies there, but the soul has been wafted, long since, to a region beyond the din, the turmoil and the sorrows of this existence. His ashes will slumber beneath his beloved Canadian soil; his name will be inscribed on the page of Canadian history; his memory will survive in the hearts of his people; and his soul—rendered glorious in the contact with the Church's sacramental gifts—will enjoy, we pray, that repose, that happiness and that peace promised by the Saviour to "every good and faithful servant." To his bereaved family—wife and children—we extend our heartfelt sympathy, and trust that they will find consolation in the knowledge of his edifying death and in the fact, that, as far as this Province is concerned, his was

"One of the few, the immortal names  
That were not born to die."

**CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY.**

**GRAND CONCERT IN THE GESU HALL.**

The second annual concert of the Catholic Truth Society, in aid of the Catholic Sailors' Club, was held in the academic hall of the Gesu, on Monday evening. There was a large attendance, and the varied and excellent numbers on the programme were heartily appreciated. The piano selections, by Miss Barbeau and Miss Wheeler, were well applauded, and Professor Sullivan's brilliant rendition of some classical violin solos elicited an enthusiastic encore. The songs of humorous Mr. Holland, and Mr. Frank Feron, were very enjoyable in their different classes. The singing of Miss Bertram and Miss Delaney was well received. Miss Mona Stafford, who has an unusually sweet voice, which she modulates without the slightest apparent effort, sang a pretty song which was enthusiastically received. Miss McAndrew's clear voice was also heard to great advantage. The musical selections by Mr. J.S. Shea, Miss Shea and Master Shea were very clever and pretty. Miss Mamie Stafford recited a difficult piece very gracefully and exceedingly well. Miss May Milloy also performed as artistically and thoughtfully as usual. The dainty recitation by pretty Miss Appleton was, as it deserved to be, one of the best received performances of the evening. One of the sailors was called up from the audience and acquitted himself so well that he was encored twice. Perhaps the most charming item of the evening was the violin playing of Miss Camille Hone, a very graceful young lady, who, for one so young, has a surprising mastery over that most untamable of instruments. Miss Hone played first in company of Miss Lefebvre, also a clever little lady, and, alone, played the Mazurka de Courant in the most charming and dexterous manner. The mandolin selections by the Ladies' Musicales were very enjoyable. Altogether, the concert was a most enjoyable one, and those who attended it were well satisfied with the entertainment provided.

When a lady, in answer to an importunate alms-taker, answered that she never gave anything at the door, the beggar said as to that he had no scruples into going in the parlor.

**THE ARCHBISHOP'S CASE.**

**HIS GRACE VICTORIOUS.**

Decision in the Famous Case of the Canada Revue Against Archbishop Fabre.

On Tuesday morning Mr. Justice Doherty delivered a most elaborate and comprehensive judgment in the famous case that has been going on between the proprietors of the defunct Canada Revue and His Grace the Archbishop of Montreal. Owing to the late hour of the judgment, we are unable to give more than a synopsis of it, but sufficient to show that the Archbishop has been upheld throughout. We take the following from the Witness report.

The case being put before the Court, opened four questions for examination: First—Did the Archbishop's circular constitute a libel? Second—If so, was it a privileged communication? Third—Was the prohibition a wrongful act, or was it the mere exercise of a right? Fourth—Did such exercise, if so it was, constitute an invasion of plaintiffs rights?

As a sequel came the question of damages, but the proof clearly established that plaintiff suffered loss as a result of the circular complained of, and the only question on that point was the one of responsibility for such loss.

First—Did the circular constitute a libel? On this point the Court held that if there was any libel the proof thereof must be found in the document complained of. While plaintiff's declaration referred to the circular as charging him with the intention to disperse and destroy the bishop's flock, the Court found it difficult to see anything in said circular but of comment, criticism or imputation upon a public paper. Now, did such constitute a libel? After quoting from both French and English authors, the learned judge came to the conclusion that there is a marked distinction between the defamation of a person and a condemnation of his writings, and with the law as it now stands and must be applied, criticism, however severe, is not a libel. If the criticism is unfair it may give rise to damages, but the unfairness must be established. This privilege of criticism was not confined to journalists, but it was the right of every man. Plaintiff claimed that the comment complained of was unfair, but he failed to establish that point, and the law supplied no presumption of such unfairness. The Court did not say that it would have arrived at the same conclusion as defendant did with reference to plaintiff's writings, but the conclusions arrived at were such as could be reached by an honest man criticising them. Under those circumstances the circular must be pronounced as not constituting a libel. This question being settled, rendered it unnecessary to examine whether or not the circular was a privileged communication, and the third question must be taken up.

Third—Was the prohibition a wrongful act or the mere exercise of a right? On this point the Court declared that the defendant had in no way questioned the jurisdiction of the Court in deciding this point. As a matter of fact, the Civil Code declares that the law applies to all persons who are able to discern between right and wrong amenable to the law, and there was no reason to depart from this course in the present case. While contending that defendant's condemnation was wrong, plaintiff admitted that the bishop had the right to condemn heterodox books. At the same time he held that the sufficiency of ground for such condemnation should be pronounced by the Court.

Defendant claimed, on the other hand, that this was a matter left to his own discretion, which the Court could not revise. Plaintiff based his pretension on this point on the old French law of 'Appel comme d'abus.' With this view, the bishop's decision was actually made a judgment in the first instance, and the Court was not prepared to admit that it should imply, without the contrary being proved, that this first judgment was wrong. 'Appel comme d'abus' supposed an abuse, but here no abuse had been proved, although it rested with Plaintiff to make such proof.

Although not necessarily called upon to do so, the Court was willing to consider the further question whether the 'Appel comme d'abus' still applied in

Canada. In the opinion of the Court it did not, having disappeared at the time of the cession, with all the other laws governing the relations of protection between the Church and State in France.

Under our present regime all subjects were purely citizens, and all religions stood in the same light as other organizations recognized by the state. Now, all such organizations could make rules for their internal government, provided such rules were not contrary to law.

After quoting decisions of the Privy Council in support of this doctrine, the learned judge went on to say that the evidence had shown it to be a fundamental rule in the Roman Catholic Church that the bishop has a right to govern the reading of books by members of his flock, and there was nothing to show that such domestic rules were contrary to law. On the other hand, there was not the slightest indication of any malice on the part of the defendant, and the Courts interfered in the domestic management of any organization only in the case of such malice. Under all these circumstances the prohibition must be considered as the mere exercise of a right.

Fourth—Did the exercise of such right constitute an invasion of plaintiff's own rights? No doubt the exercise of the Archbishop's right had seriously affected plaintiff's interests, but it could not be considered to have invaded his rights. Plaintiff had the right to offer his paper to those who were willing to purchase it, and even after the publication of the circular, everyone was still at liberty to purchase the 'Canada-Revue' if he so desired. The Bishop's act did not constitute an invasion of plaintiff's right, although it affected his interests. It was 'damnum absque injuria,' but did not render its author responsible in damages. For all of these reasons plaintiff's action must be dismissed.

Once more the Court remarked that the judgment had been rendered on purely civil principles, as affecting ordinary cases, and in no way going into the merits of ecclesiastical authority.

**THE CONTRACT AWARDED.**

The contract for the decoration of the body of St. Patrick's Church has been awarded by the Advisory committee to Messrs. Arnold and Locke, of Brooklyn. The firm have proved themselves, by their work in the churches of New York, Brooklyn and other places, to be fine artists. It may be of interest to know that Mr. Locke, the artist of the firm, is a sister's son to the late Monsignor Conroy, Papal delegate to Canada.

**A HYPOCRITE.**

Hypocrisy is always the pretence of other people—not our own. Witness this little dialogue:

"I despise a hypocrite," says Boggs.  
"So do I," says Cloggs. "Now take Knoggs, for example; he's the biggest hypocrite on earth. I despise that man."  
"But you appear to be his best friend."  
"Oh yes; I try to appear friendly towards him. It pays better in the end."

Sporting Husband: "Now I'll be off. See if I don't bring you home a brace or two of partridges, my dear." Wife: "No, no; a couple of ducks will do me just as well. They come cheaper, you know."

Home is the first and most important school of character.



**WEARINESS**  
in women, that nervous, aching, worn-out feeling, comes to an end with Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. It restores your strength; it puts new life into you; it brings you back into the world again. It is a powerful general, as well as uterine, tonic and nerve, especially adapted to woman's delicate wants. It regulates and promotes all the natural functions, and builds up, invigorates, and cures.

*Creston, Iowa.*  
DR. R. V. PIERCE: Sir—My wife improved in health gradually from the time she commenced taking "Favorite Prescription" until now. She has been doing her own housework for the past four months. When she began taking it, she was scarcely able to be on her feet, she suffered so from uterine debility. I can heartily recommend it for such cases.

*H. H. Snyder*