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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION. UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA.

Dear Sir: For some time past I have read your estimable paper, THE CATHOLIC RECORD, and congratulate you upon the manner in which it is published.

Mr. T. W. Russell, M. P. for South Tyrone, Ireland, though a Unionist and an Orangeman, has publicly declared that it is but justice to establish a State-endowed University for the Catholic majority of the Irish people, as the Protestants have already two such endowed universities.

A STATE-ENDOWED UNIVERSITY.

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CUBA TO BE SELF GOVERNED.

We are not of those who would accuse President McKinley of anti-Catholic bigotry, yet we cannot but observe that under his policy of assimilation of the territories acquired by conquest from Spain, numerous have been the instances in which the liberties of the people, civil and religious, have been set aside as if they are not worthy of a moment's thought or consideration.

ANOTHER FANATICAL SECT.

A new sect is reported to have been recently started near Demorest, Georgia, to which the name of "The Fire Baptized Association" is given. The peculiar doctrine of this sect is that its votaries must be baptized by passing through the fire, and this belief is founded on the words of St. John the Baptist: "He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire."

indicates a return to the methods of George Fox and Johanna Southcote in the exercise of private judgment on the interpretation of scripture—and this in the full blaze of the enlightenment of the nineteenth century!

THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA.

The time appears to be within sight when the people of Cuba will have the opportunity afforded them of deciding in what way their country shall be governed. It was ordered by a joint resolution passed in Congress, April 20, 1898, that a general election should be held throughout the island for the choice of delegates to a convention to meet in Havana in November to frame and adopt a constitution, and to confer with the Government of the United States in regard to how the island's Government should be carried on.

There are many features in the foreign Government to which it has been subjected since the war, to which the people are opposed, and it may be hoped that the new order of things will secure without delay one or two of the things, at least, of which the Cubans have been deprived since the occupation by a United States army—religious marriage laws, and a system of political religious education.

ANOTHER SPIRITUALISTIC FRAUD.

Professor James H. Hyslop of Columbia University read some time ago before the New York Society for Psychological Research, a paper in which he maintained that he had discovered a Spiritualistic Medium named Mrs. Piper who may be relied on implicitly as not being a fraud in connection with the intercourse she holds or pretends to hold with disembodied spirits. The Professor asserts that he was positively put into direct communication with his deceased father, whom he identified by the minuteness with which the father related incidents known only to himself and his son.

THE COLOR QUESTION IN NORTH CAROLINA.

It has been a serious problem in several of the Southern States how to ensure the supremacy of the whites for all time by securing to all whites, as far as possible, a right to vote, while the franchise is taken from the negroes. The difficulty to be overcome is the general laws passed as Constitutional amendments, and known as the 14th and 15th amendments to the Constitution of the United States, whereby it is prohibited for any State to pass any laws inflicting disabilities on its citizens on account of color or race.

Many white men were found to fall when the test was employed in their case, and those negroes who have by any means acquired a fair elementary education are, of course, able to pass the test successfully, so that where the proportion of the colored population is large, there exists always the danger lest from some unexpected cause, the colored vote may predominate at some general State election, and the power be thrown temporarily (if not permanently) into the hands of the colored population.

To North Carolina belongs the distinction of having brought forth a draft of an amendment to its Constitution which is the most ingeniously devised of any which have yet been framed for the purpose we have indicated. The amendment now under consideration of the Legislature of that State prescribes that the poll tax of any intending voter must have been paid for the previous year or before May 1st of the year in which he proposes to vote, and also that he must be able to read and write any section of the Constitution in the English language, otherwise he shall not be registered as a voter.

So far the proposed measure only reiterates what has been the law in North Carolina and several other States. But another clause is added which is replete with important consequences. So far the proposed law would operate with a degree of apparent fairness, as it would exclude illiterate whites as well as illiterate negroes, though the main end of disfranchising negroes would be partly gained from the fact that the negroes have been purposely kept in ignorance as well since as before the emancipation of the slaves by Abraham Lincoln's proclamation.

The new clause provides for the enfranchisement of all whites who were voters before 1867, and for all their lineal descendants. That is to say, practically, all white illiterates shall have votes, unless their forefathers, whereas colored natives illiterates shall have no votes, because they and their ancestors before 1867 were not voters. The evident purpose of this proposal is to perpetuate the pre-dominance of the white population, if not for all time, at least for as long a time as it will be possible to evade the force of the 14th and 15th amendments.

It seems to us that, cunning as the proposed measure is, it would be easy to over-reach the designs of its promoters if the negroes had in Congress a few determined friends to espouse their cause. It would seem that the measure is a plain evasion of the Federal Constitution and that the second section of the 15th amendment gives to Congress full authority to deal with the matter, without referring it to the States individually. This section was evidently written for the purpose of counteracting attempted evasions of the law. It is as follows: "Sec. 2. 'The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.'"

THE DIVORCE EVIL.

Periodically the attention of the people of the United States is directed for a while to the consideration of the question of divorce, and recent statistics have once more directed discussion to the same subject. The official records show that within the last twenty five years, 400,000 divorces have been granted by the courts, being an average of 16,000 per annum.

A large proportion of these have been granted for serious reasons; but it is still true that a large percentage of the divorce decrees were granted for most trivial causes, and so large is this proportion, which is increasing rapidly from year to year, that the very existence of an indissoluble marriage tie is threatened, except to the extent to which the example of the Catholic Church in upholding the inviolability of the marriage laws, operates in maintaining the sacredness of marriage, and in shaming those who would treat it merely as a business or a jocos contract, so that they show at least some little deference to its sacred character.

In some of the States, the frequency of divorces has become a terrific evil, and its magnitude is especially seen in the large cities. Thus in Pittsburg there are more than ten divorces every

week. In Cleveland, Ohio, there were for the year ending June 30, 646 applications for divorces to 3,285 marriage licenses issued, being one divorce application to every five marriages. In Chicago, during the last six months there were 1,912 petitions for divorce, against 9,340 marriage licenses issued. The proportion of divorces in this case is considerably greater even than in that of Cleveland, and as in all the instances the rate is constantly increased, there is a certainty that after a few years, the divorce rate will be very much greater than it is at present.

In Massachusetts and other Eastern States, the increase in the number of divorces has not been so great as in the West. Thus in Massachusetts the proportion to marriage licences issued is one to fourteen; but even there it is on the increase, and that increase would be much more rapid only that in these localities the influence of the morality of the Catholic Church is being more and more felt every day as a restraining force on the irreligious tendencies of the bulk of the population.

The trivial character of the pleas on which divorces are granted may be imagined when we mention a few cases called for the records:

One was that of a wealthy young woman who felt herself under too much restraint in being under control of a guardian. "In the belief that as a widow she would be relieved from this restraint to a very great extent, she went to a hospital where a very ardent admirer of hers was dying, and married him. But the sick man did not choose to die so easily as was expected. Perhaps the fulfilment of his desires operated as a panacea; but at all events he recovered to the great disgust of the would-be widow, as she found the matrimonial yoke which gave her a husband for a boss, instead of a guardian, was the hardest of all yokes imaginable, so she petitioned for a divorce. She obtained a decree on the grounds of cruelty and fraud."

A woman in Milwaukee obtained a divorce on the complaint that "her husband married her to make a meal of her, and forced her to blacken his boots." Another plea was that "defendants goes gadding about town leaving the children to go supperless to bed." Mrs. Jellaby would have fared badly if her much-neglected mate had brought up her matrimonial delinquencies before the court which pronounced sentence on this occasion.

One lady was divorced because her husband complained: "my wife wouldn't walk with me on Sundays;" and a wife obtained a decree because "her husband would not allow her to walk with her relatives on the street." A lady obtained a divorce because "her husband hurt her feelings by accusing her sister of theft." Another woman obtained a divorce because her husband drank a bottle of paregoric in her presence to frighten her by making her believe he was drinking poison." A husband found the court willing to grant him a decree because "his wife refused to keep his clothing in repair."

Another wife subject to sick headaches was made sicker by the smell of tobacco which her husband sometimes used; and still another considered her husband guilty of cruelty for not supplying the house with water, and otherwise making their home comfortable. Both obtained divorce decrees.

We might add many other reasons equally trifling, but there will show that the marriage contract has ceased to be considered as a sacred tie. There will be no correction of the evil until the Catholic teaching of the indissolubility of marriage is accepted as the law of the land.

A SO CALLED "DIVINE HEALER."

A personage has made his appearance in Toronto, who calls himself "the Rev. Chas. McLean, M. D., otherwise known as Schlatter, the divine healer." He announces that he has made his appearance in the city in obedience to a command given him by Almighty God.

A reporter of the Globe newspaper had an interview with this strange person, who called at the Globe office evidently for the express purpose of having himself advertised. He was attired in a clerical suit, and wore long hair and a flowing beard running to a point. He exhibited a bundle of extracts from American papers, descriptive of his alleged successes in preaching the gospel and healing the sick in many large cities of the United States. He declares that since he was twenty

years of age, he has been healing the sick and preaching the gospel in obedience to Christ's command to His disciples to go forth and spread the Word of God. He was born in New York in 1846, and when he was a boy, his mother had told him he was destined to make wonderful cures. Acting upon the divine impulse conveyed by Christ's command, he had travelled five times around the world, and he must still go twice more, because "seven is the sacred number mentioned in the Bible." He, therefore, deems it his duty to go yet to Tibet and other places where the gospel has not yet been preached.

"Yes," he said, "I claim that I have a divine mission in this world. I do not say that I am any better than any other person, but I claim to be Christ's messenger, and everything that I do is done under the direct inspiration of God. My mother told me she had been informed by God that her son would be the greatest divine healer, and the most famous preacher, next to Christ Himself, that the world had ever seen. She foretold that I should be dead and buried and rise again, and much of this has come to pass."

We do not clearly see why this gentleman quotes the authority of his mother so confidently, unless she were also a prophetess of God. In fact, he implies that she was all this, inasmuch as he quotes her as making true prophecies of events which certainly no human science or foresight could have enabled her to predict.

Why, then, does he modify the extent of her truthfulness by saying "much" of her predictions "has come to pass"? Why not all if she is the mouthpiece of God?

When the reporter asked this Mr. Schlatter, alias McLean, "Do you mean to assert that you have actually been buried and risen again?" he answered: "Yes; it occurred in this way. I had been preaching in Denver, and had been threatened with arrest for blocking the streets. I had failures in hearing, and I thought I had done some wrong, and I would have to go back to God and do penance and ask His forgiveness. In obedience to the divine command, I retired to the mountains of Colorado and there spent forty days and forty nights. Nobody knows the spot but myself. I can not reveal the place, for people would then go there and worship me, and that would be idolatry. While there my soul left my body and went to Heaven. I saw God and the Angels, and the glories of Paradise, but I am not at liberty to reveal what I witnessed or what transpired. I am again to be buried for forty days and nights, and afterwards to write the history of God, of Christ, of the Holy Spirit and the Angels."

Further, he claims to have raised seven persons from the dead—four in London and three in Chicago—beside effecting many wonderful cures.

We shall not further transcribe these dreams, and we record them here only for the purpose of pointing out what a difference there is between the miracles of Christ and His Apostles, and those which Schlatter professes to have done. The miracles on which the truth of Christianity rests as on the Divine sanction, were accomplished in public, before multitudes of people, and are attested by witnesses possessing all the characteristics of sincerity—witnesses who were evidently not only not themselves deceived in regard to the facts, but who had neither the desire to deceive, nor the power to deceive even if they had wished to do so. But Schlatter's miracles rest solely on his own unconfirmed testimony, or if they have been confirmed in part, by other witnesses, they are not attested by witnesses whose word can be relied on to a certainty, and no confidence is to be placed in them. In fact, we have before now pointed out in our columns that all investigations which have been made into Schlatter's doings in Chicago and Denver, have failed in finding a single case which may be relied on as a sure miracle from God. On the contrary, he now assures us that he met with many failures in his attempted miracles, and we are justified in regarding them all as either an hallucination or a fraud.

We notice that Mr. Schlatter tells that his healings are done gratuitously, yet he admits that he has an enormous income through presents sent him by rich people. His profession is therefore quite lucrative enough to induce one to stick to it on pecuniary considerations. The healer make some other extraordinary assertions which lead to the suspicion that he is not sound in mind, though we admit that we are not sufficiently informed regarding his personality to make positive statements in regard to this matter. He asserts that Hetty Green, the New York millionaire, offered him \$5,000,000 to marry her, but he refused, as he is vowed to a life of celibacy. He also claims to have cured Rudyard Kipling and Mr. Croker of maladies supposed by the physicians to have been incurable. These stories have a very fishy odor.

We notice also that a very different account is given of Mr. Schlatter now from that which was given of him when he was operating in the West. He was then said to be a German, who

had been a Catholic when living in Germany. It is somewhat of a surprise for us to learn now that his parents were Scotch, and he was born in New York, and that he is a Presbyterian clergyman, having graduated as such at Glasgow University, and that he obtained a medical degree in Chicago Medical College.

We apologize to our readers for writing so much on this matter; but as Mr. Schlatter had many followers in the West, where people are so easily carried about and tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine, we wish to set them on their guard against being dupes of a dangerous hallucination. We would be sorry if any of our readers should be hypnotized by the long hair and pointed beard of a dreamer.

SPANISH AMERICA.

The question of the future of the Spanish Republics of South and North America is being considerably discussed at the present moment by the Mexican, South American, and Spanish press.

Before the collapse of Spain's military renown through the Spanish American war, it seemed a thing scarcely to be believed that the United States would look toward the Spanish-speaking republics of the two American continents for an extension of territory.

Though naturally the numerous small but independent Spanish speaking States look with wonder at the unparalleled growth of their English-speaking sister Republic of the Northern continent, and with admiration at the spirit of progress of her population, it could scarcely be expected that widely differing as they do from the population of the United States, in race, language, religion, habits and manners, and having a country also entirely different in climate and productions of the soil, they should place themselves at the mercy of a majority who would in all probability look down upon them with contempt, and would treat them as serfs rather than as equals.

On the other hand, the great Northern Republic, based, according to the designs and principles of its founders, upon the natural equality of all men, should be above being suspected of any design to acquire new territories by conquest, and of ruling them against the will of the conquered people, or at all events without their consent.

From the Mexican and other Spanish-American papers, however, it is clear that the nations which these papers represent do not place implicit confidence in the entire disinterestedness of their northern neighbors. They have not forgotten the wily methods pursued to make Texas, and a large portion of Mexican territory become part of the United States, and later the assumption by the United States of the sovereignty over the projected Nicaragua Canal is another object lesson which proves to them that the greater the power acquired by the United States Government, the stronger becomes the desire to extend its territory into new lands. The same lesson is to be learned, as they think, from the result of the war with Spain. The annexation of Hawaii, to which President Cleveland would not consent, was made by President McKinley as soon as strategic reasons convinced him that an island thousands of miles distant from the mainland was needed to enable the country to fulfil its manifest destiny in relation to the rest of the world, and when the war with Spain was concluded the desire of an expanded territory was so great that the annexation of Porto Rico, Guam, and the Philippine islands, became a matter of course, and there is but little doubt that Cuba too, and perhaps a slice of China, will also become integral parts of the new Empire which is being built on the foundation of the American Constitution.

In fact, the Mexican papers, such as the Universal and the Times (Tiempo), say: "If any one supposes that the Yankees have the slightest intention to respect the independence of countries not able to defend themselves, we need only point to the experience of Costa Rica and Nicaragua. The Nicaragua Canal is to be built under the auspices of the United States War Office, and the fact is that the founding of an immense empire, an empire such as the world has never seen, is dreamed of by American politicians."

Hence these same journals sound a note of warning to the Spanish-speaking republics to take their stand before it is too late:

"From the North to the South, America is to constitute a single empire in which the Anglo Saxon is to be master; and in which English is to be the only language. The idea is grand. It has its fascinations, but Spanish Americans realize that their own position in such an empire would not be enviable, and they prepare to resist while it is yet time. It is certainly necessary to pre-

sent a united front in the face of the danger."

There are nearly always two opposite opinions held by those who are most interested in the result of proposed civil policy, and we are surprised that even among the cans there should be a few who imagine that it would be a thing to be desired that their country should become part of the United States. Thus Dr. E. Zaballos of Buenos Aires has openly expressed in a paper that city, the opinion that the United States might well be constituted supreme arbiter for the settlement of all disputes between the countries of South America.

But this is far from being the general opinion either of Mexican or of citizens of the Southern republics. These are mostly of the opinion that it will be preferable for them to shape their destiny in their own hands. Some of the political writers of the United States, however, are doubtfully of the opinion that the country has a mission to introduce ideas of civilization and progress into all the countries of the two American continents, if not of the whole world, and if this cannot be attained by peaceful negotiations, they are to carry out their policy by a sword to the sword if that be necessary.

The South Americans and the cans are not all convinced that the United States could conquer Spanish America if they were minded to do it by conquest, yet it will be conceded that if the United States put forth its strength to that end, it might succeed in the long run in reducing to submission any single one of the Spanish-speaking republics. Yet a lesson which has been taught by the war in the Philippines shows that could not be effected against the will of the people without a great sacrifice of treasure and human life; and difficulty would be increased by measure if the South American republics were united in one Confederacy. We may also suppose that whole of the Latin republics united, it would be practically impossible to subjugate them as a whole, though, no doubt, the United States might certain strips of territory in the that a war of this kind should place, and might even gradually reduce several of their republics to extinction.

The fear that some effort made by the United States to extend its territory by annexing one or of these Spanish republics has caused the question to be seriously considered between the latter, whether such Confederacy as we have referred to should not be established. The cutties of uniting so many varied interests as occur in these States undoubtedly be very great, but do not appear to us to be insuperable. At all events the matter is being discussed, and it would not be surprising if within a few years a union of some of the most powerful these republics, at least in South America, should take place, though we would be hoping for a Union which would be scarcely practical if we were to suppose that they all, or nearly all, unite within an finite period of time.

AN OBERAMMERGAU FUNERAL.

A Burial and a Birthday Ceremony After Quaint Bavarian Custom.

London Pall Mall Gazette. The funeral of the Burgomaster Herr Lang was most touching impressive; he had given his life strength to the furmance and formance of the Passionsspiel, year, alas! he was absent for a while in Munich, where his son is buried, and after much suffering was sent back here for burial. The house side and out was covered with wreaths as is customary in Germany, and, course, every person in the vicinity surrounded it. The solemn procession started at 9 o'clock, in front of the music, followed by the Schützengel or chorus of the Passionsspiel, the little girls dressed in white with scarfs, and white flowers in their hair. The coffin was borne by soldiers (there are no bearers in Oberammergau), and beside it walked the procession preceded by the acolytes bearing cross and swinging censers, the mourners with their lighted candles and the townsfolk, while at the followed the women, in deep mourning praying audibly. One followed mourning procession to the grave where the coffin was reverently touched only by holy water after service had been read by the priest and chanted by the choir, and were spoken by those who knew him. After the sprinkling of holy water all fled into the church for the Solenne. When it was over, an hour later, the grave had been in, and only a bank of flowers wreaths was visible. Surely not