

AN IMPORTANT ARTICLE.

THE COMING SOCIAL STRUGGLE.

THE CRISIS MUST COME—CAN ONLY BE PREVENTED BY THE ACTIVE CO-OPERATION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH—THE FOREMOST STATESMEN OF EUROPE "ON THE ROAD TO CANOSSA."

Under the above title, Charles Robinson contributes to the February number of the American Magazine of Civics, an article which possesses a special interest in view of the recent revolt of the social revolutionists in France, as well as of the onset of organized labor in Brooklyn. Mr. Robinson considers that these recurring outbreaks are a plain indication that we are fast approaching another revolutionary epoch. "We shall not fall into chaos to-morrow," he says, "nor at the next Presidential election. The counsels of the wise and patriotic will avail to postpone the evil day. The conservative influences of wealth may, if wisely employed, steady the decaying fabric for a time. But the crisis must come sooner or later, and when it is reached complete disruption can only be prevented by the active co-operation of the Catholic Church."

In making this prediction, Mr. Robinson disclaims any desire to "underrate the importance of any of the various religious bodies separated from the Catholic Church; but these churches, he declares, "have yet to take the first step that is necessary to enable them to deal effectually with the great problems with which modern society is encompassed—they must unite in order to create a sufficiently strong association." "The Catholic Church," he says, is "strong enough to do so because it is the only variety of religion that possesses or indeed claims the attribute of universality as a perfect society, a visible kingdom extending throughout the world and which is able therefore to take a definite part in respect to a world-wide movement."

Mr. Robinson points out that every time the Vatican has attempted to restore peace to those nations deprived of it, its efforts have been successful. He describes how when France, torn by partisan dissensions, was in a fair way to repeat the chaotic interregnum of the first revolution, Leo XIII. counselled his prelate to turn their backs upon the monarchical pretenders and to aid the masses in firmly establishing the government of their choice. Thus, what the genius of the greatest Frenchmen was not able to do, the Pope did by a simple recommendation. As a result, the Republic is secure. Without the intervention of the Catholic Church it could not have weathered the storm. So again during the uprising in Sicily last year, the Holy Father sent secret instructions to the bishops and clergy to pacify the minds of the people, with the result that the force of the insurrection was completely and immediately broken. Only last week it was announced that the Sultan had appealed to the Pope to arbitrate the Armenian question as the sole method of settling the difficulty.

Continuing, Mr. Robinson comments on the fact that "one after the other the foremost statesmen of Europe are seeking shelter from the approaching storm by gathering under the canopy that surmounts the chair of Peter." "They plainly perceive," he says, "that the great ethical and religious force of which Leo XIII is the head, is the only one capable of stemming the socialistic current which they themselves are unable to arrest with their half and half measures of social improvement."

Pre-eminent among those who have recently betaken themselves "on the road to Canossa" is Premier Crispi, who declared the other day that the civil power alone is unable to cope with anarchy. That this old-time persecutor of the Papacy should suddenly veer round and confess that his government is impotent to save Italian unity and to restore prosperity without the concurrence of the Church he formerly affected to despise, is indeed remarkable. Emilio Castelar, Jules Simon and Eugene Spuller, among other great political leaders, have also lately capitulated before the "Prisoner of the Vatican," whose importance they have for years underrated and whose influence they have sought in vain to cripple.

"This tacit acknowledgment of the religious primacy of the successor of St.

Peter," says Mr. Robinson, "is one of the clearest signs of the times. It is a significant recognition of the fact that the Catholic Church holds the solution of the terrible problem which lies on the threshold of the twentieth century and that it belongs to the people alone to pronounce our *Pax vobiscum*."

TWO FUNERALS IN PARIS.

CONTRAST BETWEEN THAT OF M BURDEAU AND THE COUNT DE LESSEPS.

Above all other cities is Paris one of strange contrast. Two funerals have been the chief theme of conversation here for several days. They took place within twenty-four hours of each other. The first was that of M. Ferdinand de Lesseps, and the second that of M. Auguste Burdeau, the late President of the Chamber of Deputies. One man had been famous throughout the world for thirty years, and had entered his 90th year when he died; the name of the other was scarcely known beyond the French frontiers, and his age was 44. The funeral of M. de Lesseps was religious, but austere simple; it was marked "third class" on the books of the *Pompes Funebres*; no representatives of the Government attended, and there was a complete absence of military display, although with other insignia, which accompanied the body to Pere Lachaise, was the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor. On the other hand, M. Burdeau's funeral was a "civil" one—a denial of and a protest against religion, but it was attended with all the pomp and circumstance associated with public obsequies at the expense of the State. All the principal personages of the official world and several regiments of infantry, cavalry and artillery followed the remains of the Free-thinker from the Palais Bourbon to the same cemetery where, the day before, the aged de Lesseps was buried. Both corpses were dumb witnesses of the vanity of honors and success. M. de Lesseps, after being the idol of his countrymen and the admiration of the civilized world, died broken down in intellect, fortune and reputation; and M. Burdeau, from being the son of a workman, and himself an artisan in his youth, had risen through all the trials of poverty to be President of the Chamber of Deputies—a position that Gambetta preferred to that of Prime Minister—with a once royal palace for his residence, and this at an age when politicians are generally considered young and inexperienced. The predictions of his friends set no bounds to the honors still awaiting him, but the romance of his career was suddenly changed to tragedy, and instead of leaving the Palais Bourbon for the Elysee he left it for Pere Lachaise. His last hours were clouded with the knowledge of the approaching rupture from a world that had begun to give him all he desired, and which he was compelled to leave for night and nothingness. Very different was the end of M. de Lesseps. He passed quietly out of life untroubled by the knowledge of his misfortunes, and as long as reason lasted he kept his Christian and Catholic faith. The musical portion of the services over his body at the Church of St. Pierre de Chaillot included Rossini's "Proficere anima Christiana," Mozart's "Lacrymosa," Chopin's "Pie Jesu," Charles Gounod's "Mors et Vita" and "Ego Sum," and Samuel Rousseau's "Libera me Domine." —Catholic Standard.

AN UNSANITARY SCHOOL

DISCUSSED BY THE CATHOLIC COMMISSIONERS.

The Catholic School Commissioners, at their meeting, last week, discussed the condition of the school for girls on Cadioux street, near Roy. Dr. Brennan submitted a report showing that the school is in a very unsatisfactory condition from a sanitary point of view. It should be only attended by 77 pupils, and still 211 are crowded into it. The ventilation and heating are very bad and it is plainly cruel to compel children to attend it. There is no playground and the children have to play in the street. The nuns are to be communicated with to see if some temporary improvements cannot be made. On motion of Rev. Abbe Leclerc it was decided to give \$1000 a year for fifteen years to the parish of St. Louis de France to erect a new building on the corner of Cadioux and Roy streets. It will be 50x75 feet, three stories in height, brick and stone founda-

tions and able to accommodate 250 children. The legality of this arrangement is to be submitted to the Attorney-General.

The secretary treasurer stated that the receipts of 1894-95 would probably reach \$191,000, and the fixed expenditure \$174,000. This showed a surplus of \$17,000, but as \$27,000 had been spent on the Montcalm School there will be a deficit of \$10,000.

The allowance of \$1100 to the Jardin de l'Enfance was reduced to \$800. After some discussion as to the grants made to private schools, the meeting adjourned.

CHRISTMAS TREE

AND GRAND ENTERTAINMENT.

[This letter, which appears late, by some accident only reached us last week, and evidently was written long after the events recorded took place.—ED. TRUE WITNESS]

To the Editor of THE TRUE WITNESS:

DEAR SIR,—For five weeks previous to December 27th active preparations had been made by the young ladies of the Society of the Children of Mary of this town, in anticipation of the Grand Xmas Tree and Entertainment, which was to take place on that date. Not a little anxiety mingled with their thoughts, for this was to be, in truth, the first attempt made by the society to assume the sole management of any parochial affair.

The glorious weather which promised so many visitors from neighboring parishes suddenly changed, and it was in a real Canadian blizzard the morning of the long looked for day dawned. The prospect was most discouraging; postponement was hinted at, but nothing daunted the young ladies continued their work, assured that success must crown efforts in so good a cause.

The decoration of the hall went rapidly forward under the capable direction of a number of young gentlemen of the parish who had kindly volunteered their aid. Two towering trees were placed in position on the stage, and quickly loaded with articles of most varied use and beauty, they presented a most pleasing appearance, and certainly reflected great credit both on those who contributed to their adornment and on those young ladies who had the task of decking them. This part of the work was under the charge of Misses Katie McInnis, vice-president, Nellie Casey and Kate McAteer, assisted by a number of younger members of the society.

The candy and cigar table, artistically draped in the society colors, blue and white, attracted much attention, and certainly deserved the compliment it received of being the most beautiful fancy table ever seen in the hall, it was universally admired and praised.

The Fish Pond was in most efficient hands, and made many young hearts happy by its treasures large and small. The lunch tables were well patronized and made a fine display of delicacies to tempt the appetite of the visitors, and with good success, for they were filled long after the hour for serving meals was past.

At half-past eight the entertainment commenced with a grand chorus, "The Mountain Rider," by a number of the society, accompanied on the piano by Miss Lillie Fournier. Miss Nellie Broderick sang the solo. Miss Julia McDonnell the soprano solo. Miss Broderick's voice is one of rare power and sweetness, and won much praise from music lovers in the audience. Miss McDonnell is too well known to need any remarks; she is a favorite with all. The chorus was followed by something decidedly new. Nothing less than a Gipsy dance by ten young ladies attired in costumes of great picture-queeness and beauty. They sang a song telling how to obtain a glance into the future, and learn it "The loved ones truly love you." They were encored and repeated the dance in part, before leaving the stage for the fortune telling tent, which I did not mention before; here four clever young ladies, skilled in reading the stars, imparted to eager listeners glowing forecasts of the future, and reaped a plentiful harvest to swell the funds. In fact, the gipsies and their tent were the feature of the evening. Miss Teresa Cavanagh presided at the piano during their dance and song. This was followed by a charming selection by Mr. Fieck's orchestra. A piano solo by Miss Aggie Pearson was most admirably rendered and met with sincere appreciation.

Mr. J. A. Chisholm then called on Mr. John McPhee to sing "The ship I love," which he did in his own inimitable manner. Then commenced the work of unloading the tree, when Mr. Henry Thompson, Mr. Chisholm and other young gentlemen gave able assistance in distributing the gifts to ticket holders. At midnight it was found impossible to finish the work, and it was decided to transfer the article to the Forrester's hall, where the final distribution was held, Thursday, January 3rd. The Children of Mary are to be congratulated on the signal success of this their first entertainment. Had the weather been favorable it would certainly have been one of the largest attended affairs ever held in the Music Hall; as it was the handsome sum of two hundred and sixty dollars was realized in aid of the St. Columbian's Church building fund.

ARCHBISHOP-ELECT.—Sir Hector Langevin is to present Mr. Langevin, the Archbishop-elect of St. Boniface, with the gold cross of his late brother, the Bishop of Rimouski, on the occasion of his consecration, which will take place at Ottawa in February.

The new Archbishop is a distant cousin of Sir Hector Langevin.

Lumber companies whose yards were swept away by fire last August at Chicago are preparing to file suits against the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad for \$1,250,000 damages on the ground that the fire was started from a spark from one of that company's locomotives.



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THE WORLD AROUND.

The Patrons of Industry have reached New Brunswick, having established a lodge at Middle Sackville.

Among the new aides-de-camp to Queen Victoria is Captain Louis Beaumont, ex-navy, who married Miss Forbes, of Boston.

An unusual spectacle of a jury refusing to give a verdict under peremptory instructions was witnessed last week in Chicago.

The eldest son of Mayor Holms, of Clinton, Ont., a boy 12 years of age, fell upon a nail while at school, and his death resulted from blood poisoning.

Kuchau, in Persia, which was destroyed by an earthquake and then rebuilt has again been destroyed by an earthquake. One hundred women were killed by a falling bath house.

The total cotton crop movement since the beginning of the present season up to Friday night was 7,425,075 bales. The movement for the corresponding period was 5,922,940 last year and 5,149,744 in 1893.

Canadian wood pulp has succeeded in gaining a foothold in England, and some 30,000 tons have been sold in the British market. To retain its good name the pulp must be made entirely of virgin wood.

Mrs. Dalton, of London West, a patient at the insane asylum, committed suicide by strangulation on January 12. Her mind became affected on religious matters about a year ago. Her family reside in that city.

The Spanish Chamber of Deputies has finally adopted the modus vivendi with the United States. It is believed that the government proposals regarding reforms in Cuba and the tariff on cereals will be carried out.

The fate of Barrett Scott, the defaulting treasurer of Holt county, Neb., who was carried off by a mob, December 31, has been disclosed by the finding of his dead body in the river at O'Neill, Neb., with a rope around the neck.