

OUR "RELIGIOUS" COLUMN.

Rev. J. G. White was arrested in Macomb, Illinois, recently on the charge of using indecent language in a public meeting—charge being brought by Romanists. The judge acquitted him, as it was shown that he was simply reading from Roman Catholic books.

An ex-Romanist named Patrick Welch recently hired the Odebolt, Iowa, Opera House for two lectures. Priest Perchong and a crowd of his parishioners broke up the lecture the first night. As a result Priest Perchong was arrested and fined \$50. The second night Mr. Welch had a crowded house.

The criminal statistics of Canada, as shown by the Dominion Government returns, give the number of Roman Catholics convicted of indictable offences in 1891 as 1,952, Baptists 87, Church of England 651, Methodists 417, Presbyterians 269, and all other denominations 598. So that Roman Catholic criminals number within 70 of all the other religious bodies combined.

We have stated it more than once, but it will do no harm to repeat it, the gates of the World's Fair swung open on Sundays the moment the Catholic bishops, with Cardinal Gibbons at their head, decided that an open fair was no desecration of the Sabbath, but owing to the united efforts of the Protestants the gates are now closed on Sundays, and a day's rest secured for the employees.

Recently at Milwaukee the Romanists undertook to boycott the members of the A. P. A., but the boycott is like a two-edged sword, which cuts both ways, and now some of the Romanist business men are begging the priest to declare the boycott off before their business is entirely ruined. The time when the Romanists could bring the Protestants under submission by means of the boycott is a thing of the past.

The Rev. W. P. Elsdon, Baptist minister, of Waterbury, Conn., says of that city: "Roman Catholics make up nearly half of the population of 40,000. They denounce the free schools as Godless, but have managed to get a majority on the governing body and appoint a number of Roman Catholic teachers. Of the 165 saloons, 158 are kept by Roman Catholics. Ninety-six of the 103 paupers in the city poor-house are Roman Catholics. Rome, rum and ruin are closely associated in Waterbury."

The *Catholic Times* expresses its surprise that the British and Foreign Bible Society "still wastes its subscribers' money in printing and throwing away—there is no other word for it—copies of the Holy Scriptures." And in regard to the circulation of the Bible in China the editor goes on to say, "They might just as well send the Chinese copies of Beethoven's Sonatas, and imagine that by so doing they were teaching them music, as think that they were spreading Christianity in spreading Bibles." This shows how Roman Catholics hate the Bible.

Macaulay, the great historian, has written: "It is impossible to deny that the polity of the Church of Rome is the very masterpiece of human wisdom. In truth, nothing but such a polity could, against such assaults, have borne up such doctrines. The experience of twelve hundred years, the ingenuity and patient care of forty generations of statesmen, have improved that polity to such perfection that among the contrivances which have been devised for deceiving and oppressing mankind it occupies the highest place. The stronger our conviction that reason and Scripture are decidedly on the side of Protestantism, the greater is the reluctant admiration with which we regard that system of tactics, against which reason and Scripture were employed in vain."

The Rev. Thos. Connellan writes to the *Christian*, from 18 Bachelor's-walk, Dublin, as follows:—"A Protestant trader, living in a western Irish town, has been so rigorously and systematically boycotted that he and his family are upon the brink of ruin. His crime has been a heinous one in the eyes of Romanism. He had the audacity to retain in his service a Roman Catholic employee who had left the Church of Rome. The local priest ordered him to drive the convert from his employment, but this honest and sturdy Protestant, having no fault to find with his employee, declined to do so. In consequence, his shop has been put in a state of moral quarantine, even Protestant customers having been threatened with personal violence for frequenting his place of business."

The immorality of the peoples in Spanish Roman Catholic countries is universally known. In Chili the legitimate births out of ninety thousand are only sixty-eight thousand, while between twenty-one and twenty-two thousand are illegitimate. In Ecuador seventy-five per cent. of the children are born out of wedlock; and Ecuador is the most thoroughly under the control of the priests of any country in South America. What is the reason for this immorality? We are told that there are very few marriages there, for the reason that the charge made by the priests is so great that the people in their poverty cannot afford to have the ceremony performed; and yet wherever the governments have undertaken to introduce civil marriage so that by law poor people could be married and their children be born in wedlock, the governments have, in every case, been cursed and excommunicated by the Roman Catholic Church.

The following extracts are from reports by itinerant Protestant missionaries in Ireland:—"We had a grand time in the Fair, which was attended by crowds of people, to whom we spoke and read. The priest listened for awhile, as my comrades spoke on justification by faith from Rom. iv. Some came and looked at the penny (authorized) Testaments, but let them drop as though they were hot coals. One man said, 'The Devil is the author of that book. I wonder you sell it.' But in spite of all we sold large numbers." "To-day we went into a neighboring town and opened our tables by the roadside, where we began to read and speak. We were not there long before the children came running out of school and surrounding us, listened to all we said. The priest heard of it, and ordered the schoolmaster to get the children in. So he came out and beat the poor little things, and made them fly before him. This is another instance of the way in which the Church of Rome treats those who desire to hear the word of God."

The *Monde*, Montreal, publishes this despatch from its Quebec correspondent: "The congregation who attended eight o'clock mass at the Jesuits' church on a recent Monday morning had a slight surprise. In the course of his remarks the officiating father, making a comparison between the leaders of the Roman Catholic Church and those of the Anglican Church said: 'And who is the head of the Church of England?—a woman, a queen, if you will, but a woman after all, who even in the eyes of her own subjects is certainly not a model for her sex.' A slight murmur of surprise was heard from the pews." This statement, if true, should lead to the arrest and trial of the priest. Sir John Thompson has now a fine opportunity to put his own act in operation for the punishment of those who use such abominable language about our beloved Queen. Let him order the Dominion Government lawyers to prosecute, and if he does they will be better employed than in trying to force Separate Schools on Manitoba.—*Orange Sentinel*.

La Croix is the name of a paper in Montreal which was founded to represent the Roman Catholic hierarchy and spread the benign light of Catholicity. In the course of a three column article on the Christian Endeavor Convention it says:—"Is it truly charity to tolerate a Protestant manifestation, that is to say, favor the spreading of error and heresy? No. In civil society malefactors are punished, locked up, and even put to death. What great evil after all does the one who steals from his neighbor a little gilt dirt as compared with the miserable being who robs the soul of the most precious of riches—truth? Our Lord Jesus Christ has said in the Bible: 'Fear not those who kill the body, but fear those who can cast the soul into hell.' Let those dear Protestants answer then. It is for them more than for anybody else that the Holy Ghost has dictated the words, 'The truths have been diminished by the sons of men.' What is diminished or lessened is not complete. Such tolerance on the part of Catholics is prudence, if you will, in view of the peace to be preserved; but as to its being charity, not that I know, except that it be indirectly. For Protestants to call such tolerance charity is to furnish proof of having understood nothing of the doctrine of Jesus Christ on charity, and is also to admit that truth and error have the same rights, by virtue, no doubt, of the liberty of thought, a principle which, when wrongly understood, as it nearly always is, leads to this conclusion, that good and evil are equal." It is not hard to gather from the above how Protestants would be treated if the lovely spirit of the *Croix* should ever become dominant.

CHURCHES IN CANADA.

OVER TEN THOUSAND PLACES OF WORSHIP IN THE DOMINION.

Ottawa, July 21.—George Johnson, Dominion statistician, has just prepared an interesting statement from the census returns, which shows that church goers of the Dominion have 10,480 church edifices throughout the land. Nearly 32 per cent. of these belong to the Methodists, 17 per cent. the Presbyterians, 17 per cent. to the Roman Catholics, 16 per cent. to the Church of England, 12 per cent. to the Baptists, and 6 per cent. to all other denominations. During the ten years the Baptists have increased the number of their churches by 324, the Catholics by 299, the Church of England by 415, the Methodists by 322 and Presbyterians by 411. The Church of England appears to have been the most active in providing places of worship for the people during the last decade. The Presbyterians come next, the Baptists third, the Methodists fourth and the Catholics last.

Territorially considered, Port Arthur being taken as the dividing line between east and west, the Church of England in the eastern provinces has provided 337 additional churches, and in the western 78; Methodist have provided 227 in the eastern and 95 in the western; Presbyterians have provided 302 in the eastern and 109 in the western; Roman Catholics have provided 257 in the eastern and 49 in the western; Baptists have provided 305 in the eastern and 19 in the western. Of the total increase (1,828), 408 belong to the western provinces, equal to over 22 per cent. In the five eastern provinces, there is one church for every 455 persons, and in the western provinces and the territories there is one church for every 500 persons. In churches the denominations have about kept pace with population in Manitoba, British Columbia and the territories.

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Friday, 18th August, 1893,

for the conveyance of Her Majesty's Mails, on a proposed contract for three years three times per week each way, between JOCKVALE and OTTAWA, via the Post Office at City View and Merivale and six times between OTTAWA and RICHMOND, via the Post Office at Hintonburg, Skedd's Mills, Mosgrove, Bells Corners, Fallowfield and Twin Elm, and six times between SOUTH MARCH and STITTSVILLE, RYSTON via the Post Office at Carp, Marchburg, Huntley and Stittsville, from the 1st October next.

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Offices of Ottawa, Jockvale, City View, Merivale, Hintonburg, Skedd's Mills, Mosgrove, Bells Corners, Fallowfield, Twin Elm, Richmond, South March, Marchburg, Huntley and Stittsville, and at this office.

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Post Office Inspector.

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