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CURRENT COMMENT

There has recently been published by McClure a book entitled "The Nation of Fatherless Children." It treats of Socialism and is from the pen of David Goldstein, one who for eight years belonged to that order. Coming as it does from one so well acquainted with the teachings of Socialism, one too who voluntarily left that cult, the work is entitled to some consideration. The author, as his name would imply, is a Hebrew, yet this does not prevent him contrasting the materialistic postulates of Socialism with the principles of Christian philosophy to the disadvantage of the former.

Mr. Goldstein asserts what we pointed out last week, that Socialism leads to Atheism and, indirectly to anarchy. He states emphatically that it is the avowed object of all the Socialist leaders to sap the foundations of revealed truth, and revolutionize family life by substituting for the marriage bond the detestable principle of Free Love.

Speaking of the Catholic Church as the greatest obstacle to Socialists he makes use of the following truly remarkable words when one considers that they emanate from a non-Catholic and a Hebrew at that:

"It is my personal conviction that upon the religious aspects of this great issue the fight now centers around the Catholic Church, which is the only Church which has boldly taken up the gauntlet thrown down with scorn and defiance by Socialism. This Church is not only international, or rather universal, and so equipped to meet the power of the international enemy, but it is erected upon a basis—upon religious science—which gives it the strength to cope with the aggressions of the approaching foe. There are, I am aware, many persons who would rather see hell reign than that the Catholic Church should be the victor in so great, so masterful a struggle. They may be assured that if this institution fell in the fight (if that were possible) all religious sects and cults would collapse in its ruins."

Proofs are not wanting that we have entered upon an era of good feeling among Christians. Everywhere it is recognized that the chief obstacle to the progress of the gospel and the conversion of the world is the existence of divisions among Christians. The desire for a reunion of Christendom is a striking characteristic of our times. Separated bodies of Christians are making efforts to agree on some compromise by which union may be attained.

The desire for union finds expression in the tone of the denominational press and pulpit; in the action of church bodies looking to union and in many other ways. Until this unity exists the force and directness of the arguments in favor of Christianity are lost on some minds. There are too many who avail themselves of the divisions and differences which exist in the great Christian body to say that it is useless trying to find out where the Truth, as taught by the Divine Teacher, is.

Every honest man recognizes the lasting injury and weakness that the Christian religion suffers from the existence of sects. No one is more ready to admit and deplore this than many Protestants. They clearly perceive this want of unity. Hence many of them are making efforts today towards the securing of at least organic union. But can organic union exist with doctrinal diversity? We fear not. Outside of

the Catholic Church there is no solid ground upon which the different Protestant bodies can securely rest.

The words of Leo XIII. are as timely today as when he uttered them just ten years ago. Addressing those outside the Church he makes use of the following touching and impressive words:

"Our heart appeals to you even more than Our words; to you, Our brethren, who for three centuries and more differ from Us on Christian Faith; and to you all likewise, who in later times, for any reason whatsoever, have turned away from Us; let us all meet in the unity of faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God. Suffer that We should invite you to the unity which has ever existed in the Catholic Church and can never fail; suffer that We should lovingly hold out Our hand to you. The Church, as the common mother to all, has long been calling you back to her; the Catholics of the world await you with brotherly love, that you may render holy worship together to God with Us, united in perfect charity by the profession of one Gospel, one faith and one hope."

The Presbyterian general assembly of the United States voted unanimously, the other day, in support of a resolution enjoining on its ministers to refuse to marry divorced persons, except those recognized as scriptural in the standards of the Presbyterian church. "We are confronted by a damning, devilish, horrible condition," said Dr. Charles A. Dickey, the Chairman of the committee that brought in the report. "We wonder how many of our Presbyterian friends ever pause to consider the causes which brought about this 'damning, devilish, horrible condition.' Is it not directly traceable to the teachings of sects which allow each and every one to think for themselves in matters of faith. Our Presbyterian friends deplore the evils of divorce and well they may. But they must, if they be honest, admit that divorce is but the reaping of their own sowing. The so-called Reformation, as the Protestant historian Cobbett pointed out, was 'engendered in lust.' What, therefore, can they expect? It is an easy step from divorce to free love. Read what the Chicago Tribune one of the ablest secular journals in the United States has to say in praise of the Catholic Church, as regards its position on the question of divorce:

"Fifteen hundred years ago when turbulent barbarians settled within the confines of the Roman empire, it was the Catholic Church that coerced the vagrant lust of the barbarian heart and bound one woman to one man till death did them part. Today, when the sacrament of marriage is threatened, not so much by savage boisterousness of passion as by the frivolity and insincerity of men and women to whom unshaken belief has become impossible, it is the Catholic Church that still refuses to make a single concession to legalized promiscuity, and that still keeps unblemished the ideal of an indissoluble spiritual union between man and wife. If we cannot subscribe to the theology of the Catholic Church in this matter, neither can we fail to subscribe to its practical morality."

Arrangements are now completed for the tercentenary celebration of the landing of Sieur De Monts, at Annapolis, Nova Scotia, in 1604. It is proposed to erect a monument in honor of De Monts, and the Dominion Government will be asked

for an appropriation. The celebration is to take place this month when a French, a British and a United States warship will participate.

We have received from the passenger department of the Great Northern Railway, a little booklet entitled "Business Openings" or "Opportunities in the (American) Northwest," with a request that we review it. The object of the book as set forth in the preface is to give the best information available for those who may be interested in locations along this line of railway. The strenuous efforts of the Americans to check the enormous emigration of their people to Canada, particularly to the Canadian Northwest, may be seen when they have resorted to such literature in order to offset the growingly successful efforts of the Canadian government to attract high-class settlers, from the United States to this country.

A recent number of the Pittsburg Observer, one of our Catholic exchanges, indulges in a cheap sneer at something we wrote about the way in which sets of the "Messages of the Presidents" were sold here. We beg to remind our generally interesting contemporary that when one journal criticizes another the most elementary fair play requires that all the facts of the case be honestly stated. The facts in this case are not stated by the P.O., either honestly or otherwise. An additional proof of the P.O.'s honesty is the fact that two-thirds of the "Literary Notes" column in which its strictures on the Northwest Review appear, are copied bodily without acknowledgment from the London "Tablet," and they are, of course, the only "literary" feature of that column.

The Free Press evidently attributes to the students of St. Boniface College powers of rapid locomotion that surpass the wildest dreams of the most up-to-date inventors; for it asserts that on the morning of Tuesday last they went on a pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Anne de Beaupre, "returning in the evening." As the Tribune naively copies this item, it may be well to remind our benighted contemporaries that St. Anne de Beaupre, below Quebec, is sixteen hundred miles away. Allowing, therefore, three or four hours at the shrine, these marvellous students must have travelled at the rate of at least 250 miles an hour.

Mr. J. M. Niven, a "minister evangelist" of the Presbyterian body, attempted, last Sunday, a reply to Father Cunningham's lectures to non-Catholics and succeeded, after two or three days effort, in getting that reply inserted in two of the daily papers. It is an ignorant rehash of the most threadbare Protestant objections, with several distortions of Father Cunningham's words and at least one manifest fabrication. This last will serve as a specimen of Mr. Nevin's honesty. He says that in 1840 the then Pope granted an indulgence of 100 years to everyone who would recite the following prayer: "O Immaculate Queen of Heaven and of Angels, I adore you. It is you who have delivered me from the flames of hell! It is you to whom I look for all my salvation." Mr. Nevin quotes no authority nor reference for that fabrication. We pronounce it a lie made out of whole cloth. Controversy with such a man would do no good. He has no logic, no learning, no sincerity. Sincere people who listened to Father Cunningham or read the fair reports of the Free Press and Tribune will promptly detect the difference between a logical reasoner and a man who, instead of replying, flies off at a hundred tangents.

Persons and Facts

Pius X. has announced that he will this year proceed with the beatification of four new saints, who are the Cure d'Arce, a Jesuit martyr of Japan, a member of the Barnabite Order, an Augustinian who was once Curate of Genazzano, near Rome. As to Jeanne d'Arc, Pius X. says that, notwithstanding his personal desire, he has been compelled to set aside certain supposed miracles of the French heroine as not sufficiently proved.

The Emperor of Germany has again manifested his friendship for the Holy See by the presentation to the Pope of a beautifully bound copy of the first volume of the important work on the Sistine chapel which is being edited by Dr. Steinman. On receiving the book from the Prussian Envoy Pius X. expressed himself warmly in appreciation of the friendship of Emperor William, speaking not only of this most recent evidence, but also of previous actions of deference on the part of the German Emperor.

The semi-annual envelope collection at the Church of the Blessed Sacrament, New York, of which the Rev. Matthew A. Taylor is rector, amounted to \$12,000. Six months ago a similar collection was taken up in the same church amounting to \$11,500, making a total of \$23,500 in one year. Only \$25,000 debt remains on a property valued at over half a million dollars. Father Taylor has taken off a debt of \$250,000 in seventeen years.

The largest class in any branch ever sent out by the St. Louis University graduated in medicine recently. Ninety-three diplomas were awarded to physicians representing sixteen states, and one was given by His Grace, Most Reverend Archbishop J. J. Glennon, and was followed by a few remarks by Dr. John H. Bond, dean of the school. Addresses were made by Rev. W. B. Rogers, S.J., president of the University, and Judge Shepard Barclay. After the distribution of diplomas, the class proceeded to the Mercantile Club where a banquet was served.

In digging in the ruins of the recently burned Catholic university at Ottawa the seal of the institution was found intact, and scores of precious manuscripts, and books supposed to have been burned, were found to be but little damaged. Of these are a number of rare volumes in the Irish language that Father O'Boyle had in his office. The explanation of their preservation is this, that when the corner fell in that contained Father O'Boyle's books, desk, safe, etc., the entire wall fell upon them, buried them too deep for the flames to get at them and thus they were saved for future use.

John D. Crimmins, the New York millionaire, celebrated his 60th birthday in an estimable manner lately. First he entertained twenty of his old workmen, some of whom entered the employ of Mr. Crimmins's father as far back as 1849. Each man received a substantial present of money. Mr. Crimmins also made a contribution to the Catholic University of America at Washington, and forwarded a sum of money to St. John's Guild to meet the expenses of a trip of the floating hospital for the little ones. He also sent a contribution to the St. Vincent de Paul Society to provide an outing for the children.

Sixty-two Chinese were recently received into the Church at Montreal by Father Martin Callaghan of St. Patrick's Church. Father

Callaghan comes of a family famous for having given three sons to the Church as priests, and four daughters as religious. Through his zeal no fewer than 5,000 converts have been received into the Church. Through the instrumentality of Father Callaghan a Chinese speaking Jesuit Missionary is coming to Montreal to assume charge of the Chinese Mission.

Last Wednesday Dr. P. P. Renaud and Mrs. Renaud celebrated at St. Jean Baptiste their silver wedding. High Mass was sung by Rev. Father Fillion and the sermon was preached by Rev. Father Giroux, of St. Anne des Chenes, a relative of Mrs. Renaud. Among the guests from a distance were Rev. Fathers Perreault, Sauve, Bouillon, Dumoulin and Dr. Lambert. Dr. Renaud was presented with a gold watch, Mrs. Renaud with a diamond ring, and both with a well filled purse.

Several St. Boniface college students are meeting with deserved success in the east. At the Polytechnic School in Montreal Elzear Beaupre and Marius Cinq-Mars lead their class. The principal of that school of applied science is reported to have said that he wished he had a dozen such students. In the great theological seminary of Montreal, "Le Grand Seminaire," Adonias Sabourin, who with Elzear Beaupre, won in two successive years, against all competitors in the University of Manitoba, the previous medal, which was thereafter abolished lest the successes of St. Boniface College should become chronic, is first in his class of 80 seminarians. Our hearty congratulations are also tendered to Fortunat Lachance who recently graduated Doctor of Medicine from Laval University. In spite of his mysterious failures here his friends, who had witnessed his proficiency in the college and the university, always had faith in his ultimate success, and now wish him a long and successful career in his noble profession. After he will have spent one year as house surgeon in Notre Dame Hospital, Montreal, he will very likely return to Manitoba.

A generous benefactor, who at one time lived in Manitoba, and now resides in Montreal, has lately been showering presents on the shrine of Ste. Anne des Chenes, which he hopes some day to see rival the pious fame of St. Anne de Beaupre. Father Giroux, the worthy pastor of our Manitoban St. Anne's, says that these gifts of vestments, statues and other church ornaments, amount to several hundred dollars. We hope this good example will become contagious.

The new and beautiful church of the Trappists of St. Norbert will be dedicated on July 6. On this occasion the entire monastery, which is generally closed to women, will be open to inspection to persons of both sexes.

In the evening of June 26th Fathers Plante and Drummond, S. J., will begin a one-week Jubilee Mission in the Church of the Immaculate Conception in this city.

Clerical News.

Rev. Father Mireault is back after a sojourn of a few weeks in the Province of Quebec.

Rev. Father Hogue, pastor of St. Adelard, was here last Sunday.

Rev. A. Chossegros, S. J., left on the 5th inst. for Rat Portage where he will make arrangements for building a summer residence on one of the islands of the Lake of the Woods for the Professors of St. Boniface College.