

The Catholic Record

Price of Subscription—\$1.00 per annum. TERMS: COFFEY, L.L.D., Editor and Publisher

Advertisement for teachers situations want ad, etc., 50 cents each insertion. Remittance to accompany the order.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION.

Mr. Thomas Coffey:—Since coming to Canada I have been a reader of your paper. I have noted with satisfaction that it is directed with intelligence and ability, and above all, that it is imbued with a strong Catholic spirit.

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

LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1908.

THE PROTESTANT ALLIANCE.

The attendance of His Majesty, King Edward and of the Queen at the memorial Mass for the murdered King of Portugal, could not be allowed to pass in silence. What would be the good of a Protestant Alliance if no objection was made? A resolution—the most natural thing in the world—was accordingly passed by the Alliance.

A PRESBYTERIAN ON THE ENCYCICAL.

The Presbyterian of the 27th ult. contains a criticism of the Papal Encyclical by a correspondent from Montreal. Whether this writer has understood the historical document seems very doubtful. The very reading of it gave him a pain in what he calls his innermost nature.

leave God's Book alone. He was so blinded by prejudice against Papal acts of all kinds that when he should hail the Pope as the defender of Christianity he sees in him only a reactionary. The document, he thinks, carries us back to the middle ages. So it does, and far beyond the middle ages, to the fourth century, when Arius denied the Consubstantial Sonship of Christ.

THE PAINS OF HELL.

In our previous article upon hell we touched chiefly upon its eternity. We come to consider its two punishments of damnation and sense. Both are expressed in the judgment which our Lord gives as the sentence of those who die enemies to God: "Depart from me into eternal fire."

Besides the pain of loss and damnation there is the punishment of sense. As our senses form part of our human nature, and as they by illegitimate gratification contribute no small share to the guilt of sin, so must they share in the punishment. Let us, however, limit ourselves to the question of hell fire.

gravest objection of reducing God's punishment to an absurdity. The Church has not defined it, so that we may hold either opinion. Two points are, however, clear. In the first place, the term fire, even when taken in a metaphorical sense as one of the punishments of hell, signifies all kinds of tribulations: "Thou, O God, hast proved us; thou hast tried us by fire as silver is tried. We have passed through fire and water." And again: "Gold and silver are tried in the fire, but acceptable men in the furnace of humiliation."

CHURCH RE UNION.

We publish elsewhere a lengthy account of a movement on the part of some Anglican clergymen in the United States towards union with Rome. The leader is known as Father Paul—a devoted follower according to his light of St. Francis of Assisi. He lives on the top of one of the mountains near Garrison, N. Y., where he publishes a small periodical advocating the cause he has so much at heart.

the Peacemaker, the Emmanuel, came. So will it be with the union of the Churches. When they feel their weakness—when in submission they seek union where alone it can be found—in the fullness of time there will, we hope, be once more a Catholic, United Christianity.

BARONESS VON ZEDWITZ ON CATHOLIC DOCTRINE.

It is well to mention that Baroness Von Zedwitz was Miss Caldwell, a contributor to the University of Washington. Not very long after her marriage she left the Church. Since that time she has taken up her pen to vilify the doctrine and practices of the Catholic Church, with the idea, we presume, of exorcising her own conscience.

CANADIANISM.

The visit of Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, Postmaster General and Minister of Labor, to this city, as the guest of the London Board of Trade, is an event which will be of prime import in its annals. The hon. gentleman is a typical French Canadian, a worthy descendant of the brilliant Frenchmen of the old regime in Canada, a period when patriotism and high ideals were held in honor.

ESPOUSALS OR PROMISE OF MARRIAGE.

By the term Esposals is meant a mutual promise of marriage between two persons who engage to marry each other at some future time. It is of the essence of Esposals that there be a deliberate promise, and that this promise be mutual, not merely a promise on the part of the man, while the woman has no intention of binding herself by promise, though she accepts the promise made to her.

THE LONDON FREE PRESS.

The London Free Press, an influential Conservative paper, while usually differing from the Postmaster General on public questions, pays him a graceful tribute which will be appreciated as fair dealing, not alone by Liberals but by Conservatives. In its report of the proceedings it states that "the Postmaster General's speech flowed like a clear stream for sixty minutes, and that there was the crystal splinter of deft confidence and the quiet depth of conviction in that smooth flow of language."

ity of irrepressible interviewers and news-mongers. Courts recognize its legitimacy and decide with equity when questions should be answered. A just cause is necessary, for otherwise no one could, or would, believe another. Truth must be observed and secrets preserved. It would have been better for her own reputation and the strength of her argument if Baroness von Zedwitz had been more careful in not practicing pure mental reservation herself.

CANADIANISM.

The visit of Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, Postmaster General and Minister of Labor, to this city, as the guest of the London Board of Trade, is an event which will be of prime import in its annals. The hon. gentleman is a typical French Canadian, a worthy descendant of the brilliant Frenchmen of the old regime in Canada, a period when patriotism and high ideals were held in honor.

ESPOUSALS OR PROMISE OF MARRIAGE.

By the term Esposals is meant a mutual promise of marriage between two persons who engage to marry each other at some future time. It is of the essence of Esposals that there be a deliberate promise, and that this promise be mutual, not merely a promise on the part of the man, while the woman has no intention of binding herself by promise, though she accepts the promise made to her.

THE LONDON FREE PRESS.

The London Free Press, an influential Conservative paper, while usually differing from the Postmaster General on public questions, pays him a graceful tribute which will be appreciated as fair dealing, not alone by Liberals but by Conservatives. In its report of the proceedings it states that "the Postmaster General's speech flowed like a clear stream for sixty minutes, and that there was the crystal splinter of deft confidence and the quiet depth of conviction in that smooth flow of language."

formation of that national spirit without which no union is possible in a country like ours." The following eloquent reference to his French Canadian fellow countrymen sounds a note which will be recognized as the simple truth by all who have made a study of the country's history:

"Sir, I belong to the minority and you to the majority. This country, however, is fast developing. Our far West is being invaded by a peaceful army of settlers. The immigrants are coming in large numbers from all over the world. I believe that in the course of time all these various elements will be absorbed or assimilated, but this is a problem more complex than one would imagine. In the meantime, we do not know what conflicts may arise. This, however, I know, that my countrymen will never lose their identity. They will always be Canadians. In the union and friendship of the two races—French and English—lies the salvation of Canada."

But the London Free Press has gone even farther than paying a compliment from the pen of the reporter. The following extract from its editorial columns is a tribute to a political opponent which we would like to read more frequently in all the party organs of the country:

"Few among the younger generation of politicians have risen so rapidly as has the brilliant Postmaster-General. This has been due to no mere circumstance. Rodolphe Lemieux has climbed the ladder rung by rung. He has applied himself in each case to the task at hand, and while there are differences as to the measure of his success, it is not disputed that he has invariably given to the accomplishment of that task the best that was in him."

Of one thing the Postmaster General may feel assured, he will always receive a right hearty welcome, not only in London, but in all other parts of Ontario which he may honor with a visit. He is a brainy, broad-minded statesman, gifted with an eloquence of the most captivating mould. A brilliant future awaits such men as Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, and we make no mistake in predicting that his life work will mean much for his native country.

A TIMELY PASTORAL LETTER.

His Lordship, the Right Rev. Richard Alphonsus O'Connor, Bishop of Peterborough, has published a Pastoral Letter on the Decree of the Congregation of the Council, concerning Spousalia and Matrimony. We have already published the Decree, but we take pleasure in transferring to our columns the following pronouncement of the Bishop which accompanies it:

The two subjects dealt with in this Decree are Betrothals or the Solemn Promise of Marriage and Matrimony. This matrimonial legislation relates to the external form that is required by the Church for the validity of Christian marriage, or in other words, to the law against clandestine marriage. A clandestine marriage is one that is contracted without the solemnity prescribed by the Church. This solemnity consists in the celebration of the marriage before the parish-priest or a priest appointed by him, and in presence of at least two witnesses. The absence of this solemnity makes the marriage clandestine.

1. ESPOUSALS OR PROMISE OF MARRIAGE. By the term Esposals is meant a mutual promise of marriage between two persons who engage to marry each other at some future time. It is of the essence of Esposals that there be a deliberate promise, and that this promise be mutual, not merely a promise on the part of the man, while the woman has no intention of binding herself by promise, though she accepts the promise made to her. Esposals constitute a two-sided contract, binding both parties to fulfil the promise in due season. According to the present Decree, all private and clandestine engagements are declared to be canonically invalid. Henceforth promises of marriage or engagements will be valid and binding only when they are made in writing, signed by the parties engaged and by the parish priest or at least two witnesses. Engagements contracted with these formalities, and so other engagements of any kind will be recognized by the Church, and such engagements will have the canonical effects, viz.: the impediment of public honesty with any third person, and the illicit impediment of public honesty to the marriage of one fiancée with a blood relation in the first degree of the other.

There is no obligation on parties about to be married of entering into this formal engagement, but if they wish to bind themselves before their marriage, they should subscribe to a formula in the manner prescribed. Experience has shown that many dangers and inconveniences have arisen from promises of marriage privately made; such as being an incitement to sin and causing the deception of inexperienced girls, and afterwards giving rise to dissensions and disputes. If MARRIAGE. The Decree provides that only those marriages are valid that are contracted before the parish priest, or the Ordinary, or the delegate of either, and in the presence of at least two witnesses. By parish priest is understood in general, any priest who has been legitimately entrusted with the care of souls in any specified district by his lawful Superior. Henceforth, the competent priest for the valid and lawful celebration of espousals and marriage is, not the parish priest in the canonical sense of the term. Every priest who has the care of souls in a specified district, and in missionary lands, every priest who is deputed by the Superior of the mission for the general care of souls,