

The Catholic Record

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LETTER FROM HIS LORDSHIP BISHOP WALSH.

London, Ont., May 23, 1879. DEAR MR. COFFEY—As you have become proprietor and publisher of the CATHOLIC RECORD, I deem it my duty to announce to its subscribers and patrons that the change of proprietorship will work no change in its character or principles.

LETTER FROM BISHOP CLEARY.

Bishop's Palace, Kingston, 19th Nov., 1882. DEAR SIR—I am happy to be asked for a word of commendation to the Rev. Clergy and faithful laity of my diocese in behalf of the CATHOLIC RECORD, published in London.

LETTER FROM BISHOP WALSH.

Not Rev. Dr. Walsh, I am a subscriber to the journal and am much pleased with its excellent literary and religious character.

LETTER FROM BISHOP CLEARY.

I shall be pleased if my Rev. Clergy will condescend your mission for the diffusion of the RECORD among their congregations.

LETTER FROM BISHOP WALSH.

Mr. DONAT CROWE, Agent for the CATHOLIC RECORD.

Catholic Record.

LONDON, FRIDAY, MAY 25, 1883.

IRELAND AND THE VATICAN.

To Rome the Irish nation has ever been the object of the deepest and heartiest solicitude. In the worst days of persecution, when none other of the sovereigns of Europe could be found to lend the Irish sympathy or assistance, when the Irish appeared the abandoned of all nations, the Supreme Pontiffs were their fearless protectors and wisest counsellors.

Hence, on account of Rome's solicitude for Ireland and Ireland's fidelity to Rome, the ties binding the one to the other have ever been of the closest character. And we venture to assert, fearless of contradiction, that the very closeness of these ties, of paternal solicitude on the one hand and filial submission on the other, have tended to promote the highest interests of Ireland, while materially, nay, marvellously assisting in the propagation of holy faith throughout the world.

Which is the nation that subordinated assassins and conspirators to rob the Holy See of its patrimony? England. Which is the nation that aided and abetted the House of Savoy in all its deeds of shameful spoliation and in its violations of international law? England.

Which is the government that refused the request of thousands of its loyal subjects to intervene for the protection of the legitimate rights of sovereignty in the case of the Supreme Pontiff? The British government. Who forgets Lord Palmerston's criminal connivance at the machinations of the sworn enemies of the Papacy and of religion? Who is it that does not know that this powerful British minister consorted with, counselled and assisted the foes of Christianity to accomplish the destruction of the Papal sovereignty. Who does not remember Mr. Gladstone's fierce and fiery onslaughts on the government of the Papal states, and his later declaration that the faithful Catholic cannot be a good citizen or a loyal subject? What people received with open arms and glad acclaim the enemies of order, authority and religion? The British people. Mazzini and Orsini were accorded a sympathetic welcome, Garibaldi and Victor Emmanuel almost deified by the English people.

THE CONGO. No sooner does any Catholic nation assert its rights abroad than Britain's innate jealousy at once forces her government into an attitude of offensive interference. According to British theory it would indeed seem that no people but the English have any right to establish colonies or possess dependencies abroad. When France insisted on its just rights in northern Africa England spared no means to excite discontent throughout Europe. The purposes of the French government were so distorted and misrepresented that at one time it did appear impossible that France could reap any solid benefit from the victories of her troops. But the justice of its course was so easily shown by the French government, that no interference was permitted with its regulation in its own interests of the Tunisian difficulty. But besides its claims in Tunis, France has claims to maintain in other parts of Africa, notably in the now famous Congo territory. This region, now known to be of incalculable value, was first explored by Portuguese and French discoverers. Amongst the first, if not the very first, European explorers who visited this portion of Africa were members of the Society of Jesus. Other missionaries of the Catholic Church have since penetrated the territory watered by the Congo and its tributaries. We have no desire to decry the labors of such men as Stanley and Livingstone, who displayed so much heroic intrepidity in their travels through the "dark continent," but we cannot help reminding those who indulge in such loud protestations of admiration over these distinguished men, that Catholic religious bodies have produced multitudes of men with qualities of courage and endurance at least equal to theirs, and yet no one sounds their praises or belauds their virtues. France, no doubt, intends to claim possession of a portion of the Congo country, but Portugal has also designs upon portions of that valuable territory and has taken active steps to assert its claims. The people are urging the government to activity in the matter, and there is little doubt that before the close of the year Portugal will have taken some decisive steps to establish its just rights in that portion of Africa.

INTERESTING FIGURES. In the United States, during the last forty years, the number of Catholics has increased in a most extraordinary degree. There are now in the neighboring republic 5,606 churches; 614 colleges and convents; 6,057 priests, and a total Catholic population of 6,143,000. In Australia there are actually 16 bishops, 400 priests, 800 churches, 640 religious institutions and 600,000 Catholics. In India there are 1,318,000 Catholics as against 325,000 Protestants. Turning our attention to France we find that the Minister of Worship has lately had prepared statistical titles of the secular clergy of that country. The total number of these ecclesiastics is 55,385 divided as follows: Archbishops and bishops 87; vicars general 182; canons 751, episcopal secretaries 130, retired rectors 3,397, rectors in service 29,752, vicars 10,379, assistant priests 4,617, chaplains 2,686; superiors, directors, and professors of grand seminaries 703, superiors, directors and professors of minor ecclesiastical schools 3,101, making an aggregate of 55,385. There are besides 5,538 pupils in the minor and 2,134 in the grand seminaries.

THE MARQUIS OF RIPON. It is stated that the Marquis of Ripon will soon be raised to the high dignity of a dukedom. This high honor will be nothing but a recompense for the eminent services rendered by the noble lord in his administration of affairs in India. It is affirmed in connection with Lord Ripon's promotion that it is to take effect through Her Majesty's special desire and pleasure to testify her regard for her distinguished servant. The Marquis has, since his appointment to the Indian vice-royalty, been made the subject of such severe and unjust criticisms on the part of the fanatical Protestant writers as to excite a deep feeling of indignation amongst the people of India, in whose affections he deservedly holds a very high place. At a public gathering, held in that country some time ago with an attendance of 25,000 persons, it was decided to publicly celebrate the anniversary of the viceroy's birth. The cause of Lord Ripon's popularity is that both in public and in private his every action is controlled by that spirit of justice and uprightness becoming a Christian gentleman.

GERMAN CATHOLICS. It is not alone in Alsace that Catholicism asserts itself with becoming energy in spite of every obstacle. Even in the midst of heretical bodies, and despite governmental persecution holy faith is making rapid progress in the city of Hanover. From that place come the good tidings that the population of the Catholic parish has grown so large that one church will not suffice for its accommodation. The necessity of further church accommodation has been for a long time felt, and now the means required for the construction of a new temple of God are on hand. But the Hanoverian Catholics are troubled with anxiety as to the future. When we have churches, say they, will we have priests to minister in them? This anxiety on their part, legitimate, indeed, under the circumstances, demonstrates the

THE EXECUTION OF BRADY. The unfortunate man Brady, executed on the 14th inst., was the first to pay the penalty of an atrocious crime. We deplore and condemn crime in every form, but more especially when committed in the sacred names of patriotism and freedom. We hold, too, that all men should rejoice when criminals are brought to justice and made suffer for their misdeeds. But while deeply impressed with these convictions, we cannot, under the peculiar circumstances of the case, congratulate the government on the execution of Brady, nor look upon his death as a veritable triumph of justice. We shall speak not a word as to the selection of the judge or jury, though much might be said in regard to these very important factors of the trial. Were we to say anything at all thereunto pertaining, it would simply amount to this, that their selection was not calculated to enhance the respect of Irishmen at home or abroad for the administration of justice in their unfortunate motherland. What we desire to draw attention to is that the condemnation of Brady was brought about chiefly through the evidence of a man who, by his own testimony, is far more guilty than Brady or any of the unhappy men whom he, the base informer and sacrilegious hireling, seduced into a deed of appalling cruelty. The ends of justice can never be reached while this wretched being, Carey, is permitted to go unwhipped of chastisement. He planned, fomented and instigated crime, and after its commission, to save his own blackened and worthless life, betrays the men whom he had led from paths of virtue and truth into the dark and bloody path of murderous criminality. One lesson that our fellow-countrymen everywhere may take from this whole shocking business is, that the sleek and shining "patriot" is often to be distrusted; another, that the man who, in disobedience to the commands of Holy Church, joins any secret society, however good its object may seem in his eyes, sins against God, his country and himself.

A CONTRAST. The Monitor Universal says that just fifteen days after the revolutionary manifestations in Paris another and a quite different spectacle was witnessed in that city. It was Good Friday, and pious Catholics crowded the various churches of the metropolis to kneel at the tomb of Christ begging of Him the gift of patience under affliction. This manifestation of Christian piety was far more imposing and more serious than any organized by the radicals. Between seven and eight hundred thousand people visited the Parisian churches on Good Friday last. When the radicals of the French metropolis will be able to bring out a multitude so large, so intelligent, and so disciplined as that which flocked to the churches on Good Friday, we may begin to fear for the future. Meantime we have faith in the destinies of a country which after all remains so profoundly attached to its religious faith. From every portion of the French capital the faithful came to adore Christ and pray to Him. It is not a vain surmise we indulge in when we express the belief that among these solemn and fervent prayers were many for the deliverance of France from the infamous regime which has inflicted so much disgrace and such lasting injury on its people.

THE BLACK HAND. The conspiracy known as the "Black Hand" continues, notwithstanding the repressive measures of the government, to do its sinister work in the Spanish peninsula. At Arcos four men have been arrested for intimidating a comrade who refused to join the conspiracy. In the same place several of the conspirators combined to kill an individual whom they suspected of betraying their secrets. After having succeeded in poisoning this unfortunate man they attached a stone to his body which they cast into the river. It is stated that the father of the luckless victim of Black Hand vengeance was aware of the proceedings of the guilty parties, but stood so much in fear of the conspirators as to be unwilling to impart his knowledge of their criminal doings to the authorities. In the commons of Rogilan, near Xeres, the dead body of a man was also recently