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Catholic Record.
LONDON, SATURDAY, DEC. 26, 1885.

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER.

24. Fast, Vigil of the Nativity of Our Lord.
25. CHRISTMAS DAY.
26. St. Stephen, Protomartyr.
27. St. John, Apostle and Evangelist.
28. St. Thomas, Apostle.
29. St. Thomas of Canterbury.
30. Sunday within the Octave.
31. St. Sylvester.

THE OLD YEAR AND THE NEW.

We cannot permit the last days of this year of grace, 1885, to pass away without an expression of hearty good wishes to friend and foe, for the new year. We wish them all not only a bright and peaceful year, but many returns of this holy yuletide, those days of rejoicing because of the coming of Christ, the Redeemer. Yes, a right, merry and joyous Christmas do we wish all the readers of the RECORD, whether in its views they concur, or from its principles and sentiments dissent. During the year just merging into the past, a year eventful for this, and for other countries, we have, we know, dealt some hard blows, not however, so much against men as against actions, principles and systems, that we felt bound in duty to rebuke and condemn.

To no man or body of men have we knowingly done injustice. To hypocrisy, bigotry, deceit, self-seeking and fraud, in every quarter we have been unsparing in denunciation, but of rectitude, patriotism, merit, candor and honesty, wherever and in whomsoever shown, we have, in so far as we know, been as laudatory as circumstances demanded. The interests of holy faith we have sought to promote, and the just rights, especially of the Catholic body in every part of Canada, we have affirmed and advocated without fear, favor or affection. For our attitude upon some questions, we have been, we know, severely censured, and every species of sinister motive, as well oblique and doubtful purpose ascribed to us. Of calumny and misrepresentation, we have, indeed, had, we think, at least a fair share, and even from some few from whom better things might have been expected, there has been shown towards us a malignity and intolerance that in most cases we passed over in silence. One of the most painful of a Catholic journalist's experiences, is undoubtedly honest difference of opinion from men whose good will he values, and whose approval he covets. In one or two instances, this has during the past year been our experience.

But amidst obloquy, misrepresentation and calumny and against every species of opposition, we have sought to do our duty as our conscience told us we should do it. Individuals, and factions, and parties, we have viewed in themselves and in their actions, without fear, or favor or affection, and to-day, at the very close of the year, enjoy the consciousness of duty done, feebly and falteringly in too many cases, if you will, but done, with all the forces that limited talent and intense love for the right could in every exigency command.

With courage we stand ready to enter the New Year, determined to do our duty as we have done it in the past, but with, if possible, more fervor and fidelity. Nerved as well by a sense of right as by the opposition of foes, placent, pecuniary, tuft-hunters and mouthing patriots, we will in all things seek during the year that is dawning to do fearless fight for the good cause, the cause of Catholic truth, the cause that enriches and strengthens nations, beautifies and people wildernesses, enlarges and defends the bounds of civilization's empire.

It was at this moment, when we feel ourselves under such deep and never to be forgotten obligations to devoted friends, to omit an expression of gratitude for their kindly endorsement and encouragement. From the many letters of warm approval received, especially during the past month, we select the following, as expressive of the uniform sentiments of all.

Pakenham, Dec. 12.

To the Rev. J. F. Coffey, London, Ont.

REV. DEAR SIR:—I renew with pleasure my subscription for the RECORD. I am pleased with your beautiful paper.

JOHN O'NEIL.

West Las Animas, Colorado, Dec. 14, '85.
Rev. Father Coffey, Catholic Record, London, Ontario.

DEAR SIR:—Please send me my bill for the RECORD up to date and also add another year's subscription. The RECORD is the best paper that I receive, it is free from all sensational reading.

I remain, your obedient servant,

LUKE CARILL.

Pelican Narrows Mission, N. W. T.

Oct. 28, 1885.

VERY DEAR SIR:—I write you these

few lines to thank you very much for

your very good paper, the CATHOLIC

RECORD. Sometimes, I quote examples

from it in my instructions to the Indians.

For a long time I have liked the read-

ing of the CATHOLIC RECORD. Although

I am a French man, I like particularly

Irish people who are so deeply rooted in

our faith and doctrines of our Mother the

Catholic Church of Rome. And how

many times you help our young society

of Oblate Fathers, of which already many

Irishmen are members. Excuse me,

dear and reverend Sir, if I write you at

such length, but you can believe in my

sincere affection towards you and those

who work in the same purpose for the

defence of our Mother the Roman Catho-

lic Church.

I am your humble servant,

Julius Tesson, O. M. I., priest.

Montreal, Dec. 14, 1885.

To Rev. Father Coffey "Editor Catholic

Record."

DEAR SIR:—I must not allow the

present opportunity to pass without con-

gratulating you for the splendid start you

have taken. It is in such times as these

that the people find out who their friends

are. We have found persons who have aspired

to the leadership of our race and creed in

times of peace and who believe they are

moulders of public opinion, but who, when

the first storm comes and the time arrives

for them to assert their manhood and

stand out and defend their own and their

people's rights, shrink their responsibilities

and by their apathy and cowardly

conduct make themselves hated and de-

spaired by all right minded people. But

with the people lie the weapons with which

to lash our recalcitrant leaders into the

traces or drive them forever from the

place they once held in our hearts. Not-

withstanding anything said to the contrary

you have the well-wishes of all Catholics

in this part of the country. Go on with

your noble work.

Wishing all success to your noble paper

and a happy and prosperous New Year

to yourself and staff.

I remain yours truly,

THOS. PRICE, 150 Prince St., Montreal.

Toronto, Dec. 14, 1885.

DEAR SIR:—I have much pleasure in

enclosing you the amount of my subscrip-

tion for your valuable paper, the CATHO-

LIC RECORD, that I anxiously look for

every week. The knowledge, the satis-

faction, the real enjoyment, that I

receive in reading your paper, makes me

say, no man "whether married or single"

no Catholic family should be without it.

Wishing you every success in your noble

work. I remain yours respectfully,

PETER J. ROONEY.

Merriton, Dec. 16, 1885.

DEAR SIR:—Here with you will find two

dollars subscription for the RECORD for

this year. Continue to send it, it is

always a welcome guest. I would like to

see it in every Catholic family, particu-

larly among the young, go on and prosper.

Yours faithfully, with the best compli-

ments of the season.

AND. P. FINAN, Priest.

Cote des Neiges, Montreal,

Dec. 14, 1885.

Mr. Thos. Coffey, Catholic Record Office, Lon-

don, Ont.

MY DEAR SIR:—I must tender the

Rev. Father Coffey and you, a few words

of commendation for your elegant paper

and in the manner in which it is pub-

lished. Bravo to the noble and indepen-

dent spirit shown by the RECORD.

Please continue to send me

along your valuable paper, it is worthy

of encouragement and support. I will

do my best in the interest of the RECORD

and I send you my best wishes for a

Happy New Year and for the success

and prosperity of your journal. I am

resolved to continue taking it as long as

I can see to read.

Yours faithfully, P. CLARKE.

Galt, Dec. 15, 1885.

To the Editor of Catholic Record.

REVEREND DEAR SIR:—Permit me

to extend my humble appreciation of

your manly and patriotic position on the

Riel question and your fearless denuncia-

tion of Orange fanaticism. The stand

you have taken in this matter is at once

truly Catholic and Canadian and entitles

you to the warmest praises of every

right-thinking citizen. It is at such

conjuncture as this, when the men whom

we want to expect to be foremost in the

battle for Catholic rights and interests,

fail us owing to party exigencies that

the paper of which you are the worthy

editor, demonstrates its necessity and

raison d'être. The letter which you pub-

lished of Mr. Curran was a humiliating

example of this. In that letter, as you

remarked, there is no trace of that

"Curran" and the eloquence which char-

acterized him on a former occasion, when

the ill-begotten species of insolently de-

manded recognition at the hands of the

State. Then it was the man that spoke,

but now it is the lawyer that speaks try-

ing to defend himself and his party by

paltry squabbles and hair-splitting sophis-

try. Once more I offer you my humble

thanks as a humble citizen and a Catho-

lic, and trust that nothing will occur to

prevent you from continuing to exercise

that potent beneficial influence which

has marked the CATHOLIC RECORD from

its inception. Wishing you truly val-

uable paper unlimited circulation.

I remain, rev. and dear Sir,

Yours respectfully,

M. T. McSWENEY.

With endorsement and encouragement

such as this we close the old, and with

the hearty support of thousands of

patrons scattered from the Atlantic to

the Pacific, we begin the New Year. We

stand at the threshold of the year of

1886, resolved, as a child of Holy

Church, to uphold her rights and contri-

bute to the propagation of her doctrines,

and as a citizen of this free Canada

to insist upon the maintenance of

and adherence to the principles of good

government. With the greatest of modern

statesmen the immortal Burke, we hold

that in human affairs the untempered

spirit of madness, blindness, immorality

and impiety deserves no commendation

from men; that he who sets his house on

fire because his fingers are frost bitten

never be a fit instructor in the method

of providing our habitations with a cheer-

ful and salutary warmth; that we want

no foreign examples to rekindle in us the

flame of liberty the example of our own

ancestors being abundantly sufficient to

maintain the spirit of freedom in its full

vigor and qualify it in all its exertions;

that the example of a wise, moral, well

matured and well tempered spirit of free-

dom is that alone which can be useful to

us, or in the least degree reputable or safe;

that our fabric is so constituted, one

part of it bearing so much on the other,

the parts being so made

for one another, and for nothing else,

that to introduce any foreign matter

into it, is to destroy it. With him like-

wise we hold that our splendid inheri-

tance of freedom we should improve with

zeal, but with fear, that we should fol-

low our ancestors, men not without a

rational, though without an exclusive

confidence in themselves, who by look-

ing backward as well as forward by the

modesty, as well as by the energy of

their minds, went on insensibly drawing

the constitution we enjoy nearer and

nearer to its perfection, never departing

from its fundamental principles, never

introducing any amendment which had

not a subsisting root in the laws, consti-

tution and usages of their ancient com-

monwealths. Moved by these considera-

tions, animated by these convictions,

nerved and emboldened by our sense of

right we will throughout the year that

is about to open, please or offend whom

it may, advocate and support every

measure tending to bring the blessings

of the constitution more and more within

reach of every class of the people, and

sternly rebuke every proposal and every

action looking in the direction of their

curtailment or restriction.

THE JUDICIARY OF ONTARIO.

We lately recommended in urgent

terms the appointment of Hugh Mc-

Mahon, Esq., Q. C., to fill the vacancy on

the bench of Ontario caused by the

death of Judge Morrison. We desire

to-day to once more call attention to

this subject, without however, disparag-

ing the claim to promotion of the worthy

gentlemen recommended by our re-

spected friend Mr. O'Meara, of Peterboro.

We may, however, mention that our

Peterboro correspondent seems to for-

get that Mr. O'Connor was promoted to

the Bench from the Bar of Ottawa, of

which Mr. O'Garra is also a distinguished

member. While we should rejoice in

Mr. O'Garra's appointment, we must

still adhere to our recommendation of

Mr. McMahon, whose claims, merits and

qualifications are such, as in our estima-

tion, to fairly entitle him to this honor.

What is the position of things in regard

of the Bench of Ontario? Until the