

# The Union Advocate

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## THE NE TEMERE DECREE

The Catholic Truth Society Defines the Position of the Catholic Church on the Marriage Question.

As there has been much misunderstanding and not a little misrepresentation of the position of the Catholic Church on the Marriage Question, the Catholic Truth Society of the Archdiocese of Halifax authorizes the following statement:

1 The Catholic Church does not, as has been falsely stated, regard as invalid the marriage of two Protestants by a Protestant minister. On the contrary, she has always upheld the validity of such marriages as being contracted in good faith. The best proof of this is the fact, when married Protestants decide to enter the Catholic Church, they do not have to be re-married.

2 The Catholic Church does regard as invalid the marriage of two Catholics, or of a Catholic and a Protestant, by a Protestant minister or by any civil authority, which has been contracted since the promulgation of the Ne Temere decrees. The main object of that decree is to prevent hasty and ill-considered marriages and the many evils admittedly resulting therefrom. Matrimony being a Sacrament of the Catholic Church, she has the right to lay down the conditions for its valid reception by her own children.

3 The Catholic Church does not and cannot interfere with the civil law. Consequently, a mixed marriage contracted before a Protestant minister, though invalid in the eyes of the Catholic Church, is not illegal, except in the Province of Quebec for the reasons stated below. Outside of that province, if one of the parties were to desert the other or attempt to marry again, he or she would be liable to the penalties prescribed by the civil law.

4 It is not true that, when the Catholic party to a mixed marriage desires reconciliation with the Church, he or she is required or advised to abandon the partner to the union and the children that may have been born of it. In such cases the parties are urged to have the union validated in accordance with the laws of the Church.

5 As regards the Hebert case, about which so much has been said, the Catholic Church did not, as has been falsely stated, appeal to the civil law to annul the marriage. That appeal was made by one of the parties to the union who desired to desert the other. When French Canada, now the province of Quebec, was ceded to Great Britain, the Catholic Church was guaranteed the free exercise of her laws, and subsequent Acts of Parliament enacted that the marriage regulations of any religious body in the province should be the civil law as affecting members of that body. Consequently, the marriage of these two persons, who, be it remembered, were both Catholics, by a Protestant minister, being null and void in the eyes of the Church, was decided by the courts to be also null and void under the civil law. The case is unfortunate, but the Catholic Church is in no way to blame, the parties themselves and the clergyman who aided and abetted them in performing an illegal act being altogether responsible for the sad results.

It is worse than useless to take any medicines internally for muscular or chronic rheumatism. All that is needed is a free application of Chamberlain's Liniment. For sale by all dealers.

## HARKIN'S HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT

Was a Decided Success, Reflecting Great Credit Upon the Youthful Actors.

The pupils of Newcastle High School presented the play, "Mrs. Briggs of the Poultry Yard," to a packed audience in the Opera House, Friday night, giving a fine example of budding theatrical talent and reflecting great credit upon Miss Sadie B. Hogan who superintended the training of the boys and girls who took part.

The duets and solos by Misses Quinn, Sullivan and Bertie Ferguson and Master James Sullivan, all well known to Newcastle audiences, and the excellent reading by Mr. F. S. Henderson displayed the superior ability which their hearers have come to expect as a matter of course.

The synopsis of the play was as follows:

Act I—Living room in Mrs. Briggs' cottage.

Act II—Same place. Xmas day.

Act III—Same place. "Mrs. Briggs' Poultry Yard." Chickens bought and sold and made to order.

The cast of characters were:

Mrs. Briggs, a woman of business, Muriel Bate  
Ralph, Jimmy, Alvira, Melissa—her family—Joe Lawlor, Mike McCabe, Ruth Benson, Marion Rundle.  
Silas Green, "a near relation"

Jimmie Sullivan  
Mr. Lee, a wealthy neighbor,  
Herbert Morrell

Virginia Lee, his daughter,  
Lyle McCormick

Daisy Thornton, her friend,  
Dorothy Nicholson

Mrs. O'Connor, "with no liking for goats,"  
Ethel Allison

Mandy Bates, whose tongue will stumple,  
Mildred Reid

The proceeds go towards Harkin's Academy, and all who took part are to be congratulated upon the great success of the evening's entertainment.

## SAFETY FOR CHILDREN DURING HOT WEATHER

Every mother knows, or should know, the danger her baby runs during the hot summer months. Summer complaints come quickly and develop so rapidly that often before the mother realizes her baby is ill he is beyond all help. Every mother of small children should keep a box of Baby's Own Tablets in the house. A Tablet now and then will keep baby's bowels working regularly and his little stomach sweet—this is the secret of keeping baby healthy and of warding off cholera infantum, diarrhoea, dysentery and all other dreaded summer complaints. The Tablets are guaranteed free from all injurious drugs and may be given to the newborn babe with perfect safety. They are sold by all medicine dealers or by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

## TO ELEG U. S. SENATORS BY POPULAR VOTE

Washington, June 12—The senate tonight by 64 to 24 passed the resolution amending the constitution to provide for election of senators by direct popular vote. The Bristow amendment giving to the federal government supervision of such elections was adopted 44 to 44, the vice-president casting the deciding ballot. The house has already passed the resolution.

## THE U. B. CONVENTION AND NE TEMERE DECREE

### A STATEMENT

The Editor of the Union Advocate: Sir,

Had the gentlemen convened in annual session at the United Baptist church followed the advice recently given the Anglicans by that redoubtable champion of Evangelical Anglicanism, Samuel H. Blake of Toronto, they would not in the eyes of educated men occupy the ludicrous position which they now do.

When Archdeacon Warren proposed the regular Resolution of the Conferences and Synods against the Ne Temere decree, Mr. Blake rose and remarked that it might be well to read the Decree before condemning it. The advice then tendered is golden in its way, and could have been followed to advantage all through the country by gentlemen who appear to be as deficient in learning as they are in good judgement and in the proprieties. We are told that "after Dr. Cousins had moved a resolution, seconded by Hiram Whitney, condemning the Ne Temere marriage law, the meeting adjourned." Were Mr. Hiram Whitney questioned as to the nature of these marriage laws, what would be his answer? His answer would be:—"I know nothing of them." Were the incumbent of the Baptist church questioned, his answer could not be, I rather think, much more satisfactory. He would have read, no doubt, garbled extracts and much declamatory denunciation concerning the Decree; but that he has any correct notion with regard to its contents and bearing on people in general, very few will admit.

There is a feeling among some non-Catholics that the Decree in question is an attack on Protestants, and, as was said at the Baptist District Session, "an encroachment on the part of the Catholic church."

There is no foundation for such feeling.

The Catholic church has at all times regarded the marriage of Christians contracted in due form as a sacrament. She bases her belief in that doctrine on Scripture, on the constant tradition of the church from the earliest ages, on the testimony of the Fathers, and on the clear and explicit teaching of the church in the East as well as the West. There have been objections raised to it; but they have been answered and refuted where ever they have been met. Marriage has never been considered as a purely civil contract. The first marriage was a natural contract; and such it continued to be until the advent of Christ on earth. Christ raised it and consecrated it by making it one of the seven sacraments. As a natural contract, marriage was indissoluble. "Wherefore a man shall leave father and mother," said the inspired Adam, "and shall cleave to his wife, and they shall be two in one flesh." The same truth is inculcated in the New Law. "And there came to him the Pharisees tempting him and saying: Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? Who answering said to them: Have ye not read that he who made man from the beginning, made them male and female? And he said: For this cause shall a man leave father and mother and shall cleave to his wife, and they shall be two in one flesh. Therefore, now they are not two, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder. Matthew XIX. If divorce was granted for

a while during the Mosaic dispensation, it was granted, as Christ said "because of the hardness of your heart; but from the beginning it was not so."

Because of this divine decree, the Catholic church has thrown around it safeguards, and has used her great power all along the ages in seeing that the marriage tie was held inviolate, condemning prince and peasant alike who in obedience to the lusts of the flesh or their beastly passions, dared to prove recreant to the vows they had made before God's altar. The church lost England to the faith because Henry VIII was not permitted to repudiate Catharine of Arragon in favor of a new and unlawful passion. She enforced the same laws in Germany, in France, in a word all the world over, regardless of the personality of him who would fain rid himself of the yoke that bound him. In this way the church saved woman and made her the equal of man, his companion, instead of being a slave and one of a harem of countless women. Woman does not always recognize, is not, it may be, aware of, this her indebtedness to the Catholic church. She does not, as did Martin Luther when he permitted the Landgrave of Hesse to take to himself two wives, although the good Martin feared it would give some scandal. But he was forced to do it; otherwise, the punishment would be condign, for Luther was a weakling; but the Catholic church must see to it that the divine ordinance be enforced. What then does the Ne Temere decree? Is it an encroachment upon "the rights and liberties of our people" as the Baptist convention puts it. It is merely a modification of a law already existing, made by the council of Trent in the early days of the Protestant Reformation. That Decree known as the Decree Tametsi was issued because of the strange, loose and erroneous doctrines that were being then preached. That decree forbade clandestine marriages not contracted in presence of the parish priest (or his deputy) of one of the contracting parties and two or three witnesses. That decree was only to come in force, however, in places where it was promulgated. Speaking generally, Protestants were not regarded as bound by this law, nor were clandestine marriages annulled by it in those places where the decree was not promulgated. The object of the council and of the Popes who saw to the application of the decree, was in the main, to safeguard the moral and religious life of Catholics. A good deal of uncertainty arose from the fact that at times it was difficult to determine who the parish priest of the party was, whether the Decree was ever published, as it must have been in accordance with the legislation of Trent, and to do away with this uncertainty and to simplify legislation, as the Ne Temere tells us, Bishops and theologians have been asking for a modification of the Tridentine Decree. After much consultation and the expenditure of much Canon Law lore, the Decree Ne Temere was published, thus modifying the Tridentine Decree known as "Tametsi." The Decree Ne Temere does not deal with Protestants, "encroaches upon no rights or liberties" of theirs. It is expressly declared that this law has nothing to do with those who are not Catholics. Referring to Bethrothals, the De-

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## A KNIGHTHOOD FOR MAX AITKEN, M. P.

Other Canadians Who Figure in Coronation Honors Given Out by King George.

London, June 20—The Canadians, included in the Coronation are:

Honorary Surgeon-General—Sir Frederick W. Borden, minister of militia.

Knights Bachelor—Hon. L. M. Jones, president of Massey-Harris Company, of Toronto; Justice Rouahier, of Quebec, retired; Wm Whyte, vice-president of the Canadian Pacific Railway, Winnipeg; W. Max Aitken, M. P. for Ashton-Under-Lyne, of Montreal, financier.

Companions St. Michael and St. George—James Adam Shortt, civil service commissioner, Ottawa; A. F. Sladen, governor general's secretary, Ottawa.

Privy Councillor—Bonar Law, M. P.

The Order of Merit is bestowed upon Sir Edward Edgar, musical director at Cambridge University. Sir George Otto Trevelyan, historian of the American revolution and Major Ronald Ross, who first established the relation between the mosquito and malaria.

London papers make many complimentary references to Sir Max Aitken.

## WEAK STOMACHS MADE STRONG

Through Tonic Treatment With Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

After all has been said about indigestion and stomach trouble, there is only one way to get a real cure. The stomach must be made strong enough to do its own work. Indigestion disappears when the stomach has been made strong enough to digest ordinary plain food. This strength can only be given the stomach through the tonic treatment supplied by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, which enrich the blood, strengthen the nerves and thus enable the stomach to perform the duties which nature intended it should. In every neighborhood you can find people who have been cured of indigestion or other stomach troubles after a fair use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and this is the best proof that they are the one remedy to successfully do this. Mr. D. B. McLean, Sterling, N. S., says:—"For a couple of years I suffered very much from indigestion with most of the accompanying painful symptoms. As a result I became very much run down, and as the medicines I tried did not give me any relief I grew melancholy and unhappy, and felt as though my constitution was breaking down. Quite accidentally my attention was called to Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and I decided to try them, and I am happy to say that they effected a complete cure, and made my stomach as strong as ever it had been. I am glad to say a few words in praise of the medicine that cured me, and I hope my experience will benefit some other sufferer."

Enrich the blood and you banish most of the every day ailments of humanity, and you can enrich it quickest and best by the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Sold by all medicine dealers or by mail at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50 from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

Rev J A McGlashen and little daughters, Marjorie and Agnes, left for their home in Dominion, N S, on Wednesday afternoon, after a pleasant visit with Rev and Mrs F C Simpson of Douglstown

## CORNATION DAY SERVICE

All the Churches of the Town Appropriately Observed the Day.

On the 22nd, the united service of the Presbyterians, Methodists and Baptists was held in the St. James' Presbyterian church, opening at 10.30 o'clock and was well attended. Rev. S. J. MacArthur conducted the service and Rev. W. J. Dean also took part. The sermon of the day was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Cousins, who reviewed the life of King George V, expressed the hope that his reign would be a long and happy one and he would ever have the best wishes and prayers of his loyal subjects.

In St. Mary's Church, the pastor, Rev. P. W. Dixon, sang high mass at 9 p. m., and presented an eloquent sermon, appropriate to the occasion.

There were two services in St. Andrew's church, conducted by Rev. W. J. Bate. The first at 8 a. m. was the offering of the Holy Eucharist with a special intercession for the King and Queen, and the second at 10 o'clock, was largely attended when a Form of Prayer with Thanksgiving to Almighty God commended by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York for general use on the 22nd day of June was used, concluding with Te Deum and National Anthem.

## NEWCASTLE IS PROUD OF SIR MAX

Mayor Pedolin Cables Congratulations to the New Knight

"Newcastle, N. B., June 21, 1911

"Sir Max Aitken,

"75 Lombard St., London,  
"Your native town extends congratulations on your knighthood.  
(Sgd) "PEDOLIN,  
"Mayor."

## PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Declare For Civil Marriage Arbitration and Greater Interest in Sociology.

The Presbyterian Assembly closed its sessions on the 17th. Action was taken towards making effective the stand of the assembly on the "Ne Temere" decree, the assembly declaring for uniform civil marriage law, and a committee was appointed to co-operate with other Protestant denominations.

Queens University at Kingston was separated from the church. The question of church union was sent down to the congregations to be voted upon and final returns to be made by March 31st next.

Three questions will be submitted, "Are you in favor of organic union with the Methodists and Congregational churches?"

Do you approve of the proposed basis of Union?

"Have you any suggestions or alternatives to offer?"

The assembly declared against war and in favor of Arbitration.

Over 400 Commissioners were in attendance.

Ministers were instructed to pay careful attention to social questions.

## BORN

To Mr. and Mrs. Neil O'Brien a son.

At Newcastle June 24th 1911, to Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Paulin a son.

At Douglstown, to Mr. and Mrs. James Craig a son.