The Evening Mercury.

WEDNESDAY EVE'G., DEC. 30, 1896

Clerical Intervention in Quebec

It was Mr. Tarte, if we mistake not, who said that the opposition of the Bishops of Quebec to the Liberal policy on the Manitoba school question was at bottom a struggle to retain the supremacy in temporal affairs which seemed to be rapidly slipping away from them. From this point of view, the placing of L'Electeur, the Quebec City Liberal organ, under the ban, which has resulted in its suspension and the stepping out of its editor, Mr. Pacaud, has evidently been no hasty step, and it looks as if a grave crisis, a notable struggle as to whether the Church or the State shall be supreme with the Roman Catholics in Quebec, has been precipitated. We should not be surprised to hear that the Bishops of the Montreal diocese follow suit by placing Mr. Tarte's organ, Le Cultivateur, and Mr. Beaugrand's paper, La Patrie, also under the ban, for their outspoken comments on clerical intervention.

"We must be under no illusion," declares La Patrie. "It is Mr. Pacaud who was struck, but Mr. Laurier who was aimed at." And certainly, if the Bishops have set out to maintain the doctrine of the right of the Church to control the political action of Roman Catholics on any question into which they consider religion enters, they could have no fairer mark than the Roman Catholic Premier, who formally and publicly in the House repudiated the claim that he should be compelled to shape his action on public matters from a Roman Catholic standpoint rather than from that of a common citizenship. For this he was condemned by Bishop Blais, who declared the doctrine enunciated by Mr. Laurier as subversive of religious authority. This mandement against L'Electeur simply emphasizes Bishop Blais' contention, and brings to a straight issue for the Roman Catholics of Quebec whether they shall define for themselves the limits within which the Church shall have authority, or have the Church define the limits within which the State shall rule, thus making the Church supreme.

At the present time there is a civil law which prevents clerical intimidation or coercion in elections, under which members have been unseated, and to which the Liberals have appealed against the action of Bishop Lafleche, of Three Rivers, in the recent Champlain election. This law declares and sustains the supremacy of the State in its domain. It is not the duty of the State to interfere with the right of the Church to order its household, its ordinances, and its discipline as it thinks best, but if a powerful organization within the State determines not to bow to the voice of the electorate, freely and openly spoken, and sets about to cripple the dominant political party, whose policy is not to its liking, by suppressing newspapers which advocate that policy, there will be as nearly as possible Church domination of politics. The claim is only as to questions involving religion, but religion enters into nearly every public question, and, as between the State defining the limits of the Church, and the Church defining the limits of the State, there can be only one choice. And, even in Quebec, though many Liberals may have to bow to the present storm, or lose their all, the State, or the people, will, in the end, reign supreme, and will reign the more securely the longer the inevitable conflict is staved off.

More than five hundred tickets have been disposed of for the banquet to Mr. Laurier in Montreal Thursday evening, under the auspices of the Club National.

Bradstreet's says that trade this December has been the worst the States has had for many years.

There will be no more political contests in British Columbia for the present Federal House, as far as protests are concerned. It is understood that they have been all dropped. There were five protests, three against the Liberals and two against the Conservatives. In other words, all the sitting members for the Province except one, Mr. Morrison, New Westminster, were protested against. The two Conservative seats are in Victoria. The Liberals hold the rest of the Province.

The World's Montreal correspondent ridicules L'Electeur for bowing to the bishops' mandement. Mr. Pacaud, in announcing his appeal to Rome, showed that he could not easily place his readers who were exclusively Catholics in the awkward position of disobeying the episcopacy, and therefore suspended his paper. The Quebec courts have held, in the Canada Revue case, that a Bishop is within his rights in interdicting the reading of any book or paper. The appeal to the Privy Council against this decision failed for lack of funds, but should the present case be taken there it is by no means certain that the law will allow the property of a citizen to be destroyed, his means of livelihood taken away and the freedom of the press converted into an empty name by the fiat of persons possessing no civil authority whatever. Though L'Electeur has disappeared, Le Soliel has been born and will continue to defend Liberal principles.

Anybody who makes a practice of marking each returning Christmastide by distributing gifts among his friends will appreciate the fact, says the Toronto World, that it is oftentimes difficult to select presents suitable to the prospective recipients. The 10-year-old son of a Presbyterian clergyman, resident not far from Toronto, found himself in such a quandary prior to the 25th of December just passed, and the decision with which he emerged from the dilemma proved rather startling to his reverend parent. Imagine the surprise of the pastor, learned in the Hebrew, and heavyweight theologian, who is wont to cater to the intellectual requirements of a congregation of critical Celtic sermon-tasters, when his precocious son and heir presented him with a luridly-illustrated copy of "Jack the Giant Killer." With the compliments of the season the same boy favored his mother with a handsomely gotten up shaving ball. That youth would find a sympathizing chum in the woes of the enterprising son of a Guelph merchant, who, in his perplexity at Christmastime, presented his mother with a moustache cup. She did not hear the last of that for some time.

Fine leather goods, writing folios, card cases, purses, wallets, fine assortment, and at Day's low prices.

THE MANDEMENT

Full Text of the Charge Against L'Electeur.

The following is the text of the Bishops' mandement against L'Electeur:

Pastoral letter of the Archbishop and Bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of Quebec, respecting the newspaper L'Electeur.

We, by the grace of God and the Apostolic See, Archbishops and Bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of Quebec.

To the regular and secular clergy, and to all the faithful of this Province, Greeting and benediction in our Lord.

Our Dear Brethren:

The Catholic bishops, intrusted by Jesus Christ Himself with the protection of sound doctrines and Christian morality, not only have the right, but it is also their duty to warn the faithful against all dangerous publications and even to interdict the reading of newspapers which they consider detrimental to the interests of faith and the Church.

Therefore, we come before you today to publicly denounce to the faithful intrusted to our pastoral care the newspaper L'Electeur, published at Quebec, whose unwholesome ideas and false articles, especially for some time past, constitute a religious and social danger. On the 28th of January last this paper published against a member of the Catholic hierarchy of this Province a false and scandalous article and subversive to ecclesiastical authority, which the proprietor was later on obliged to disavow.

Two weeks later the same newspaper, under cover of the authority of a pretended theologian, emitted the same principles of insubordination towards the chiefs of the Church and their teachings, and went as far as denying to the Canadian Episcopacy the right to judicially intervene in the question of remedial legislation then submitted to the discussion of Federal Houses.

These doctrines of L'Electeur, at the request and with the formal approbation of the authorities of the diocese were censured by a theologian of Laval University, which, however, did not prevent the same journal continuing, by insults, ridicule and false reasoning, its crusade undertaken against the direction of the Episcopacy on the question of the Catholic schools of Manitoba.

To this were added further insults, recriminations and invectives against some bishops who, using their rights to do so, considered it their duty to comment from the pulpit the last collective letter published by the Episcopacy on the occasion of the Federal elections. The diocesan authority was forced to again intervene and publicly protest against this unworthy conduct of a Quebec newspaper. Notwithstanding these repeated censures, false insinuations, lies and sensational despatches were spread among the public to deceive the opinion of its readers and to neutralise the effect of the direction of the Episcopacy. Moreover, L'Electeur reproduced with condensation, without any rectification, the pages of a pamphlet wherein we are openly taught:

1st. The right of aggression and revolt of subjects against a power lawfully constituted, but which they consider tyrannical in its exercise, a doctrine which the church condemns.

2nd. That a Catholic may and should sometimes in matters respecting politics and religious legislation, set aside the direction of the bishops and follow the advice of a lawyer or that of a professional politician, a doctrine which is manifestly contrary to the teachings of Leo XIII.

Finally, on the 27th November, this same newspaper contained an article written after so many others to mask, in the eyes of the people the violation of promises made to the electorate, an article in which were reproduced the doctrines already condemned by the Episcopate and particularly so in the last collective letter, the ecclesiastical authority is denied:

1st. The right to determine the nature, the means and the sufficiency of the religious instructions which should be given to Catholic children.

2nd. The right to exact anything or command so as to assure the efficacy of that instruction.

3rd. The right to forbid Catholic children from attending mixed, Atheist or Protestant schools, when civil power concedes one half hour's religious instruction after school hours,

Which pretensions are as contrary to the sacred rights of the Church as they are prejudicial to the interests of souls.

That is sufficient, our dearly beloved brethren, and after mature examination we consider it an imperious duty for us to protect by a definite act your conscience as Christians and Catholics against the writings of such a dangerous sheet. Therefore, after having invoked the Holy name of God and using powers formally assigned to our Episcopal authority by the tenth rule of the index published by order of the Council of Trent we, Archbishop and Bishops of the ecclesiastical Province of Quebec, formally forbid, under pain of grievous fault and refusal of the sacraments, the reading of the newspaper L'Electeur, the subscribing thereto, the assisting in the editing thereof, the selling or encouragement in any manner whatever.

The same prohibition applies to all ecclesiastics without exception, even those who have permission to read books on the index, under pain of suspension ipso facto, and because by the condemnation we desire not only to reach the title of L'Electeur but also the pernicious doctrines that that paper circulates in the minds of our people, we at the same time earnestly request the faithful to cease to receive any paper which dares to give expression to the same unwholesome ideas, and manifest the same spirit of insubordination to religious authority.

You are careful to banish from your homes anything that could injure the health of your families. Be still more vigilant when it is a question of protecting yourselves and your children against the worst of contagious diseases, that which attacks the soul, to lessen and in some cases extinguish its faith. The present pastoral letter shall be read in all parochial churches and chapels where public service is held on the first Sunday after its receipt.

Given at Quebec under our signatures and the seal of the Archdiocese and countersigned by the secretary of the Archbishop this 22nd of December, 1896.

L. W., Arcb. of Cryene, administrator of the Diocese of Quebec; L. F., Bishop of Three Rivers; Elphege, Bishop of Nicolet; Andre Albert, Bishop of Rimouski; M. T., Bishop of Chicoutimi.

L'ELECTEUR'S EDITORIAL.

One of the Articles of Which Complaint Is Made.

Following is the L'Electeur article of November 27th, upon which the mandement was based, and which is one of those complained of by the bishops:

MGR. LANGEVIN AND THE SCHOOL QUESTION.

It is reported that Mgr. the Archbishop of St. Boniface is much displeased for not being consulted by Mr. Laurier on the settlement of the School Question. His Grace should not be surprised at that.

Having so energetically supported the idea during the last campaign that Mr. Laurier had nothing to do with this misunderstanding, it would have been an indelicacy on the latter's part to approach His Grace to consult him. Mr. Laurier would have exposed himself to a refusal. Monsignor could have answered him as the Cure of St. Tite answered the representative of The Herald, that the laymen had nothing to do with the education of their children, that it was the exclusive right of the bishops.

Nevertheless, the Archbishop of St. Boniface could do nothing in the matter, and the Premier alone could bring for the Catholic minority the help which it had so ardently called for during the past six years. It is in the application of the law and in the working of our political organizations that the exaggerated pretensions are better seen. We certainly do not contest Mgr. Langevin's jurisdiction. He had the right as archbishop to insist on having religious education for the children which he has under his care, and for whom he is responsible before God.

But from the moment that that same education was conceded, he had only the right to advise and not to command on the means of rendering such education as efficacious as possible.

The ecclesiastical authorities may force a father of a family to give his children an education conformable with the Catholic faith under pain of excluding him from the community of the faithful.

The organization of the Catholic Church provides for that.

But from the time that the father of a family manifests the desire to give to his children the education prescribed by the Church, have the authorities the right to further impose their will?

Would a bishop have the right to say to a father of a family: "I oblige you to send your children to the college of Three Rivers rather than to the Seminary of Quebec?" Has Mgr. Langevin the right to say to his parishioners of St. Boniface: "They offer you the privilege of sending your children to public schools where education will be given by a Catholic priest without it costing one cent extra, but I forbid it because there are Protestant children there, and I oblige you to send them to separate schools which I will open, even if I must, to obtain that end, pawn my jewellery?"

We contest this right to Mgr. Langevin with all the respect that we owe him as Catholic journalists. His Grace may open schools where he may wish, but he has not the right to command the Catholics to follow him if they can find elsewhere the obligatory Catholic education at conditions more acceptable to them.

His Grace has no more that right than that of establishing the figure or the mode of scholastic repartition, the salaries of the teachers, etc.

His Grace threatens to come and rouse up the Province of Quebec against a Government which had dared to re-establish without him the Catholic and French education amongst his people. Let him not attempt the venture, for his rebuff will be more humiliating than that of the 23rd of June.

There is not in the world a people more faithful to its clergy nor more profoundly religious than the population of the Province of Quebec. But that population does not wish that this faithfulness be exploited to satisfy political animosities nor the rancor of who it may be. We may guarantee that for the district of Quebec.

REFORMS IN TURKEY.

They Must be Enforced Without Delay Says M. Nelidoff.

The financial scheme formulated by M. Nelidoff is understood to involve the revision of the entire Ottoman debt under a guarantee of the European powers signatory to the agreement. The plan also contemplates the full control of the European powers over the Turkish revenues, with the allotment of a fixed sum for the maintenance of the army and navy, for the purposes of the Sultan's private purse, and further provides that the Sultan's appointment of his Ministers shall be subject to the approval or veto of the representatives of the powers in Constantinople.

Protesting Against Excessive Taxation.

Dublin, Dec. 29.—A meeting was held at the Mansion House yesterday for the purpose of formulating a protest to be submitted to Parliament against the excessive share of taxation which Ireland is compelled to bear toward the total contribution of the United Kingdom to the imperial exchequer. The meeting was presided over by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, and the speakers comprised both Unionists and Nationalists. Among those who addressed the meeting were the Most Rev. Lord Plunkett, Episcopal Archbishop of Dublin; the Most Rev. Wm. J. Walsh, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin; the O'Connor, John J. Clancy, Nationalist member of Parliament for the North Division of Dublin, and others.

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New Year's Trade

is upon us and as we are still too heavily stocked in many departments, we smash the prices to CLEAR THE LINES.

OVERCOATS.

About 25 Men's Beaver Overcoats, Good Coats and well worth $5 go at....$3.50

About 33 fair BEAVER COATS, nice Coats at $7 for $4.75

About 60 Men's Frieze Ulsters at various prices. All at big reductions from regular values.

About 30 Boys' and Youths' Coats, all sizes at discounts of one third to one half.

MANTLES and JACKETS.

We have still several hundred Jackets, Capes, Ulsters, Opera Cloaks and Wraps. a splendid range of sizes and materials. It is useless to quote prices—the range is so large—but every Garment will, during this week, be offered at a great cut in price. We invite you to see them.

FUR CAPES.

3 Greenland Seal Capes—very full size—regular $22 Capes for $13.50.

6 Elegant Caperettes in Thibet and Electric Seal, at one-third less than value.

14 Grey Persian Lamb Muffs, worth $6 for $3.

Lamb, Astrachan and Seal Gauntlets at clearing prices.

10 Mink Ruffs, worth $5, for $3.50 each.

DRESS GOODS.

Among others—

1 piece 52 inch wide Black Soliel, very fine, regular $1.75, for $1 25

1 piece do., heavy, regular $1.50, for 1 10

1 pc. 52in. Black Satin Diagonal, regular $1.75 for 1 25

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For the next TEN DAYS, beginning Thursday Morning, Dec. 31st, we will give a straight discount of Ten per cent off Carpets, consisting of Axminsters, Brussels, Tapestries, Wools, Unions, &c.

For the next TEN DAYS we will give a straight discount of Ten per cent off our Linoleums, Cork Carpets and Oil Cloths.

For the next TEN DAYS we will give a straight discount of Ten per cent off our Lace Curtains, Chenille Curtains, Curtain Lace by the yard, Table Covers, &c, in fact everything in this department will be subject to Ten per cent discount.

This Sale affords a grand opportunity for buying Carpets and House Furnishings, as these prices (for TEN DAYS) will be actually Ten per cent lower than you can buy these goods at any other time of year.

G. B. RYAN & CO.

Dec. 30, 1896. GUELPH. OWEN SOUND. REGINA.

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J. W. KILGOUR, Fire, Life and Accident Insurance Agent. Money to loan. Office in McLean's New Block, Douglas Street, Guelph. dw

COFFEE & BUCKINGHAM, Barristers, Solicitors, etc. Money to loan. Office—Brownlow's Buildings, opposite the Post Office—upstairs. T. P. Coffee. dw W. B. Buckingham.

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J. W. HANNON, Barrister, Solicitor, etc. Office over C. P. R. Ticket Office, corner Wyndham and Macdonnell Sts. Guelph. Entrance on Macdonnell Street. dw

McLEAN & McLEAN, Barristers, Solicitors, etc. Office in McLean's New Block, Douglas street, Guelph. Private funds to loan on good security and easy terms. Wm. A. McLean, dw John A. McLean.

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