

the Most Rev. P. F. Stagni, O.S.M., D.D., Apostolic Delegate, and from His Eminence Cardinal Bégin, which clearly set forth the position of the Catholic Church:—

The Most Reverend P. F. Stagni.

Dear Sir:—

Ottawa, January 6th, 1915.

I have already had the honour of expressing to you my full and cordial sympathy with the aims of the Canadian Peace Centenary Association, and especially with the proposal that public thanksgiving be rendered Almighty God for the inestimable blessing of the hundred years of peace that has been enjoyed by the people of this Dominion and of the great neighbouring Republic.

Since my last communication with you, war has broken out in Europe, involving the most powerful nations of the world.—a war so terrible in its extent and in its horrors that we stand aghast at the havoc that is being actually wrought, and are filled with dismay at the dreadful consequences, which no man can estimate. The present may indeed, for this reason, seem a very inopportune moment for a celebration of peace, but is there not at least a peculiar timeliness in the very contrast itself? In this hour of strife, is it not something to be particularly grateful for, that two nations have for one hundred years lived side by side without soldier or fortress to guard their boundaries, and that, in accordance with the spirit of Christianity, they have found better means for settling disputes than the awful arbitrament of war?

God is "the Author and Lover of Peace." It is most fitting, therefore, even at this time, that our hearts should be directed to Him in gratitude, in order that, by His mercy, we may continue to dwell in the security of His protection.

Believe me,

My dear Mr. Scammell.

Very truly yours,

+ P. F. STAGNI, O.S.M.,

Archbishop of Aquila.

Del. Ap.

His Eminence Cardinal Bégin.

My dear Sir,

Quebec, December 22nd, 1914.

Notwithstanding the sad coincidence of the cruel war afflicting the mother-countries of the two races that have labored in the upbuilding and betterment of Canada I concur with those of your honorable correspondents who deem it preferable not to postpone the proposed celebration of the Peace Centenary. It will serve as a hopeful contrast to witness this rejoicing over a century of peace and friendship between two great nations, who, by the grace of Divine Providence and the good-will of men, have lived in harmony with each other, and wish to do so for an indefinite number of years more. Thankful to the Almighty we surely should be, and it is just that we give fitting expression to our gratitude.

This long period of peace has enabled over a million of my French-Canadian compatriots to make their home in the neighboring Republic, and, although the loss to our own country must be deplored, it is reassuring and consoling to know that, under the protective aegis of American institutions, they have thriven and prospered, and above all, have remained, with few exceptions, true to the faith and traditions of their fathers, and, without any detriment to their loyalty and social efficiency, faithful to the language that has helped them to safeguard and preserve their sacred inheritance.

Between the United States and our own country there have been, time out of mind, many ties of relationship. Over the vast Mississippi