

FOUR

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that Christians would have us believe is the Word of God!

It is very superficial, very silly, but it is very Protestant when it helps to score a point with ignorant prejudice against the Catholic Church.

EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

The great Eucharistic Congresses that have developed during the last quarter of a century are now events attracting or compelling the attention of the world.

Last week the Eucharistic League of the diocese of London held their annual congress in the episcopal city.

One of the most touching features of the celebration was the Children's Hour, when all the children of the city gathered at the feet of Jesus in the tabernacle.

But no Catholic cares two straws about the fact that some of the Popes, even after their elevation to the Chair of Peter, lived far from edifying private lives.

The conference at which His Lordship the Bishop presided was a feature that deserves special mention. A large number of priests together with the seminarians, their future colleagues, assembled in St. Peter's Hall to hear carefully prepared papers read on different phases of the priests' work in spreading and deepening devotion to the Blessed Sacrament.

A FUTILE METHOD?

It is for this reason that the condemnation of the Index seems to be so futile. But it is very sad as well, for it shows how entirely the Church of Rome misjudges the true Church of meeting error.

With this assurance of condescending pity for the obsolete methods of "the Church of Rome" the Canadian Churchman concludes an article on the Index of Prohibited Books.

The censorship of books is not confined to the Congregation of the Index. Censorship of books did not even originate with "the Church of Rome."

siders unsuited to the moral condition of Toronto. There is, or was recently, even a Congregation of the Index in Toronto, a Committee of Forty, self-appointed, to aid and abet the official censor, Mr. Banks, in prohibiting plays.

Really the Anglican who finds the methods of Rome so futile and so very sad as well, should suggest something a little less vague than "the presentation and protection of truth" as an effective substitute.

Before the Public School Department of the Education Association, recently held in Toronto, Dr. John Seath, Superintendent of Education, dealt exhaustively with his proposed plan to make Holy Scripture a bonus subject at the Entrance examination.

Now of the making of books on every conceivable subject, even on every phase of faith and morals, there is no end. It is not childish, nor futile nor foolish for one who wishes to read up some medical subject to get the opinion of a well-read medical friend on the choice of the work or works to read.

"Indeed," continues the Churchman, "as the Index includes every classic of French literature it would seem impossible for French Roman Catholics to attend school, to pass public examinations, or even to receive a Degree if they trouble themselves about ecclesiastical prohibitions."

This is another case of self-complacent ignorance posing as doctor in Israel. As a matter of fact the Index permits the use of the classics, ancient as well as modern, though not free from immorality, in consideration of the elegance and purity of their style.

The Churchman writer thinks that Dante, Milton, etc., are on the Index. The Index is a list of books, not of authors. Moreover, the preface to the revised edition, which has the same authority as the text, expressly states that the phrase *Opera omnia* in connection with an author is intended to include only those works which treat of religious matters.

It is useless to follow and correct the amazing amount of misinformation the Anglican organ deals out to its readers on the question of the Index.

But let us take an example. There is an Anglican theological work called "Foundations" against which the Anglican Bishop Weston vigorously protests.

the official list of Open Questions, what is there left in the Deposit that we are here to hand on to the Africans?" "Foundations" is not on the Index, not at any rate by name; but if the authors were Catholics a title of the wholesale denials of Christianity would have secured it a place on the list.

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THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

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Teaching the Bible intelligently would necessitate an answer to the question: On what authority do we receive the several sacred books as the inspired Word of God? That might lead to awkward consequences for an honest, studious and unprejudiced teacher.

"The word 'phenomenal,' said Inspector McIntosh, of Madoc, 'was not strong enough in referring to ignorance of the Bible in Ontario; 'appalling' was the word. If the Church is not doing its duty the teachers should do something, or there is a bad lookout for the country."

This is interesting if not edifying reading. It is safe to predict that it will not be the text for the sermon when the object is to collect funds for the "evangelization" of the French Canadians and South Americans.

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Just now, when we are having on this side of the ocean an echo of the shallow and scoffing attacks on the Congregation of the Index occasioned by its condemnation of the works of Maeterlinck, this bit of information by a correspondent of America is interesting:

A penny weekly, Everyman, having been taken to task for such an attack printed a "postscript" in which the editor disclaimed all intention of making any attack on the Church.

seldom allowed to see a copy of the Index, as they are seldom permitted to see a copy of the Gospels."

The coupling of the Index with the Gospels suggests another consideration which is also quite relevant to our subject.

At a very early period there was a great mass apocryphal Scriptures. St. Irenaeus referred to them in the second century. Warnings against false teachers we find in the inspired writings of St. Paul, St. Peter and St. John.

Dr. Seath is right when he proceeds on the principle that no teaching of the Bible shall be conducted in the schools.

A GREAT SERVANT OF GOD

Noble deeds impress the imagination and tend to purge us of low aims and self-gratification. The men who brave the dangers of the waste places of the world and spend themselves in order that they may add to the conquests of sciences, lift us out of the rut and set us upon the highway where we can feel the glow of excitement, of noble striving, of courage and unwavering fidelity.

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THE STIGMATA

Sometimes Our Lord appeared to her and showed her His bleeding wounds. But all the graces granted her seemed to be intended to prepare her and dispose her soul for the reception of the culminating proof of Our Lord's special love for her—the bestowal upon her of the sacred stigmata on June 8, 1899.

Her confessor, a man of acknowledged learning and tried prudence, determined to ascertain whether the marvels he had witnessed might not be explained on natural grounds.

Her life, written by her confessor, Father Germano, has had a wide circulation. The first edition, in 1907, was soon exhausted. New editions were called for and the work was read not merely in Italy but also in most foreign countries. Through his Cardinal Secretary of State Pope Pius X has expressed the highest admiration for the servant of God.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

A BAPTIST preacher of Orangeville communicates to the Mail and Empire a prayer which he delivered "last Sabbath evening" for the defeat of Home Rule for Ireland.

The Government of Bengal recently turned over to the Anglican officials in India the famous Hastings House at Alipier, once occupied by Warren Hastings.

We are indebted to a Scots contemporary for the following. A football match was "pulled-off" a short time ago at Belfast between teams representing Scotland and Ireland.

This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Adelaide Proctor, that sweet laureate of Catholic devotion and love of home.

wrote: "I observed a short poem among the proffered contributions to our journal, very different, as I thought, from the shoal of verses perpetually setting through the office of such a periodical, and possessing much more merit. Its authoress was quite unknown to me."

DICKENS THEN RELATES the series of events through which Miss Berwick's disguise was penetrated, and she became known to him as Adelaide Anne Proctor, daughter of one of his closest friends, Byran Waller Proctor, celebrated in literature as "Barry Cornwall."

It is to be feared that the present generation is not as familiar with Miss Proctor's poems as the two which have preceded it. Twenty-five years ago her name was a household word, not only to Catholics but to the lovers of poetry and to the devout of every persuasion.

"The crown must be won for Heaven, dear, In the battle-field of life: My child, though thy foes are strong and tried, He loveth the weak and small; The angels of heaven are on thy side, And God is over all!"

OUR METHODIST contemporary, the Christian Guardian, tells of a "good Presbyterian brother," who, expatiating upon business honesty, had a little tale to unfold regarding a French Canadian Catholic.

THIS INCIDENT IS, perhaps, a trifling one, and scarcely a peg to hang a sermon upon as the Guardian editor