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EPISCOPAL APPROBATION. .

"If the English-speaking Catholics of Montreal and of this Province consulted their best interests, they would soon make of the "True Witness" one of the most prosperous and governal Catholic papers in this country. I heartily bless those who encourage this excellen with PAUL, Archbishop of Montreal."

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

15th December the diocese of Montreal-the clergy and faithful combined-will celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the ordination to the priesthood of His Grace the Archbishop. The actual day of the anniversary is the twenty-first of December, but owing to the nearness of that day to Christmas, it was considered advisable to celebrate the occasion on next Tuesday. We will give our readers, next week, a full account of all the ceremonials on that occasion, but we cannot allow this issue to go to press without stating, in the name of all our readers, well as in our own, how heartily we congratulate His Grace, and how sincerely we hope and fervently pray that God may grant him many long years to come, in health and happiness, to carry on his mission, and to devote his great talents to the cause of the Church, for the benefit of the faithful of his diocese, for the good of our young country and for the glory of God.

THE ROOT OF CRIME. - Under the sensational heading—"Only Fools Take to Crime," one of those New York dailies, that present the reading world with a score of pages, each Saturday, of all manner of articles, regardless of their moral, social, or educational effects, has displayed the wisdom of the age-a wisdom that is so shallow that the lead of reason is scarcely needed to demonstrate how muddy and close to the bottom it really is. Out of this peculiar article we will select one passage; and the one that we select is about the wisest of them all, for it rises higher than the others above common place. Mark this wisdom:-

"The truth is that the ordinary criminal is always lacking in mind."
The word "mind" is written in large characters, in order to emphasize it the more. "He feels immensely superior in shrewdness to the honest people around him, regarding them simpletons. He may be endowed with plenty of rat-like cunning, which he and others are apt to mistake for intelligence. But in cold fact he is the stupidest of men, since he is destitute of imagination (imagination in capitals), the intellectual faculty which enables one to picture in advance the consequences of acts which one may be tempted by the lure of immediate advantage. because he is without imagination that the criminal has the courage to do things from which a man with imagination must shrink, for with the eye of imagination the prison er's dock, the judge and jury and the The rest of the article consists in advice to insist upon the folly of crime and to show the criminal that it does not pay.

Here we have the writer, who sets himself up as a monitor, discarding the very principles that alone car cope with crime and reduce the num ber of criminals. It is not a matter of "mind," nor yet of "imagina-tion;" it is rather a question of "soul" and of "heart." The faculty of foreseeing the consequence of foreseeing the consequences of crime is not going to deter the hard-ened criminal from performing the deed that tempts him. He does not need imagination to be brought into play—for he knows, just as well as does the writer of that article—that the prison lies beyond the robbery and the gallows beyond the murder. It is upon his chances of escaping de-

ARCHBISHOP JUBILEE .- On the tection that he calculates. He has mind and intelligence enough, often more than enough, to pave the way to impunity in crime. Were he to have the most elastic imagination conceivable, and were he able with a perverted poetic vision to contemplate all the results, to himself, of his crime, he would commit it just same; especially if he had an idea that there were chances of being undetected. You are not going to reduce the number of criminals, nor deminish the lists of crimes, by cultivating minds and fostering imaginations. There is but one means of successfully coping with criminal inclinations, and that is by the inculcation of religious principles, by the cultivation of the soul, by the moulding of the heart, by the awakening of the conscience. There is the source to which all reformers of the criminal world must return.

The criminally inclined, under the guidance of the writer of the foregoing passage, would first ask himself, am I likely to be caught, and to come under the rod of the law?" The criminally tempted, under the guidance of the true Christian educator, would ask himself: "Does God see me, and am I going to blacken my soul with that sin?" In the former case the mentally trained and morally deficient creature will proceed without hesitation to his deed and will look back upon it without remorse, ready to follow it up with a second like deed. In the latter case the severely tempted one will pause, will shiver, and if he falls, it is with horror and fear, sorrow and repentance that he will gaze upon his own deformity-and before taking a second step down the stairway crime, his heart, his conscience, and his faith will combine to drive him to the retracing of the step already taken. In matters of a moral char acter it is not the mind that governs, it is the conscience that sways, The former is a pagan manner of regarding the subject, the latter is the Christian way of contemplating it.

This brings us to our oft-repeated conclusion, that in matters affecting crime, as well as in all others, the Catholic Church affords the only safe-standard and the only infallible guarantee for society.

A SEVERE INDICTMENT .- Rev. Dr. Morgan Dix, of old Trinity Church, New York city, delivered a sermon on Thanksgiving Day, which he drew a fearful picture of the and moral condition up to date in America. One passage is certainly deserving of reproduction, for it is an indictment that almost surpasses belief, were it not that facts substantiate every item in its brief but comprehensive compass.

Dr. Dix says:-

"The State is secure from foreign ssault and domestic disaffection. What casts some shadows? Class alienation; the insolence of wealth and the angry discontent of the poor he growth of luxury, riotous living the misuse of money, and its reckf squandering on pleasure and pride; education without religion; the steady breaking up of homes, by diorce, and adulterous remarriage; the appearance of vast systems religious imposture, and their sucess in making converts; the spirit of gambling in every place where it can be practised; the cold-blooded assaults on private property by those who attack corporations and drag them down to bankruptcy for their own advantage, in order to enrich themselves by the losses which their acts bring about; the insecurity of life, through contempt for the law, and the freedom of assassins, whether same or insame, to wreak their will upon their innocent victims; the steady decline of womanhood from its old ideals, and its deterioration through copying the ways and invading the sphere of men."

What could be stronger than this series of statements? Taking each item of this great national indictment separately we find that it accords exactly with facts, as we see them, as we read of them, as we know them to exist. And on each point that this preacher has placed before us, what the Church has been fighting not only the great battle of morality and of religion, but also the battle of the State. No other power within the State can stand forth and proclaim that it has consistently, and under all circumstances and conditions, kept up the struggle against the hydra-headed monster of corruption that has been

thus forcibly pictured for us. No doubt such able and energetic men as Dr. Dix, and hundreds of his character, can see clearly the mighty influence for good that the Catholic Church exercises in all the great Republic; but it is quite possible that they do not feel it to be to their own interest to make the avowal, or to draw attention to this special phase of the subject. Nevertheless, the time is coming very rapidly when all this will become known, will be admitted, accepted, and acted upon in accordance; and that will be the hour of the Church's mighty triumph over all her enemies, both on this continent and the world over.

ABUSED MONASTERIES .- There certainly no more anti-Catholic publication in England, to-day than "Reynolds." Yet a writer, in a refuted some of the old stock-in-trade calumnies against the Catholic monasteries of the earlier times. After telling of the "right of sanctuary," and the protection thereby extended to the persecuted, the writer closes his reference to this phase of subject by saying:

"In a word, the Celtic monasteries gave to the people what was not to be obtained elsewhere—protection to person and property."

Passing along the city streets the other day we noticed some theatrical placards that represented the monks of Mount St. Bernard, with great dogs, going forth to rescue, at their own peril, the unfortunate traveller lost in the mountains. Although this placard was simply intended to advertise a play, still it told a great, a wonderful, a much ignored truth. The work performed only one of the many-phased blessings bestowed by the inmates monasteries on the world. And when we contemplate the mere fact that that monasteries were the shrines of learning, the refuges of science, the homes of true education, the depositaries of the priceless archives of the centuries, we cannot but wonder at the ingratitude that could the slanders that are poured out upon them and upon their inmates And yet we cannot well call it gratitude; rather is it a sentiment of hostility that springs from ignorance. We do not like to use this last word, for it conveys to us something akin to a harsh and repugnant feeling; but, what other word can we use to characterize the lack of know ledge concerning those institutions that their detracters exhibit.

Cast your eye over the ways Europe during the Middle Ages: be hold the rocking of thrones, the the shattering of sceptres, the uptearing of the roots of empire; behold the wild tide of barbaric invasion from the north; follow the destructive march of Hun, Goth, Vandal and Visigoth; watch the torch of incendi-arism placed in the libraries of science; behold the richest relics of anticuity trampled into dust be-

neath the hoofs of their chargers: and then gaze upon the subline work of the humble monks as they gather in the debris and hide them away from the reach of the ravagers.

It is thus that we can form some small idea of the services rendered to humanity, to the world, to the past, the present and the future, by the monasteries and the monks. And, certainly, if any exception can be made to the general rule, it must be in favor of the Celtic monasteries. Out of their doors poured the tide of Christian enlightenment and civilization that spread over the whole of Europe when the night of barbarism seemed to rush over space and to engulf in its black waves the priceless treasures of the bye-gone. It is certainly a relief to find that, amongst the detracters of the Church, honesty has found one to do partial justice at least, to the Celtic monks

LESSONS OF THE NEWS,

A SAD OCCURRENCE,-The Leautiful Church of St. Peter's, at Rosendale, New York, was destroyed by fire on the 8th December. It was the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, and its celebration will be long remembered by the faithful of that parish. In trying to save the sacred vessels, the parish priest, Father Lunez, was overcome by the smoke and would have infallibly perished in the flames had it not been for the heroism of his curate, who, partly overcame himself succeeded in carry ing the priest out of the burning edifice. We regret that the name of the curate is not given; his heroic action deserves recognition.

DISORDERS IN FRANCE. -

Combes and his Government must surely be insane. Not satisfied with

passing laws for the tearing down of

he most beneficent institutions in

France, when they try to create they merely form laws for the erection of institutions that are contrary to every wish and interest of the people. The last feat of this peculiar Cabinet has been the creation 'employment offices''-called official-"bureaux de placement." On the 8th December demonstrations were held in almost all the important centres of France, against the establishment of these offices. And in a few instances very serious conflicts took place between the workmen and the police. At Brest over a thousand workmen, after a meeting of their labor organization, made a demonstration in the streets and two pothose devoted monks represents devoted monks represents deaux, a very large crowd made public demonstrations in protest against the employment offices. The police had to be called upon to break up processions. At Clermont-Ferthe rand, near Paris, a free fight took place between the police and the workmen, who had organized a de monstration of protest against the employment offices. Several police officers were wounded, but the rioters were finally forced to abandon their procession. At Lyons, immediately after a meeting held by the strikers, they organized a demonstration a gainst the "Bureaux." The police The police were obliged to charge the striker with a great force, and to wound many of them before the display o ill-feeling against the Government could be stopped. At Brest, in the evening the military had to be called out to quell a fresh and more serious riot, and at Bordeaux during the latter part of the day the cavalry had to be called to the assistance of the police. This is the sad state of affairs in France under the present in competent and perverse government

And, side by side, with this news, do we read despatches that tell how the Holy Father, Pius X., is concen-trating all his attention upon the re-lations between the Vatican and

France, and that his most ardent wish seems to be to find some way of putting a stop to the anti-Catholic campaign carried on by the French Government. He hopes that the beatification of Joan of Arc. which will be the first function that kind, during his Pontificate. may help to realize his desires. At all events, it is clear to the world that France, under its present Government, is actually rushing head-long to national suicide, and that the Head of the Church, as has ever been the case, will yet prove to be the redemption, protection and sole hope, on earth of the "First Daugh-

ter of the Church."

SPAIN SATISFIED. - The new Conservative Cabinet of Signer Maura has been well received by the peo ple. The principal ministers members of the Silvela Cabinet. One of the planks in the platform of this new Government, is a project of law to allow all citizens the right to vote. They propose to remodel entirely the election laws of Spain, and to make voting obligatory. Universal suffrage is likely to be most popular, but it remains to be seen how the people will look upon of ligator voting. There is a vast difference between the two proposed clauses of the new law.

QUEER SENTENCES.-In one of his fables Lafontaine tells of a mar who had heard that a crow generally lived one hundred years, and who caught one for the purpose of keeping it and finding out if it were true that it could resist death for a cen tury. There is a negro, named Alen Brown, down in Cherokee Coun ty, Texas, who might enjoy the reading of this fable. Brown was found guilty of a serious criminal offence and as the law of that State does not allow capital punishment. judge condemned the prisoner to one thousand years in the State prison. There had been talk of lynching; but in view of the "terrible severity of the sentence," the angry citizens resolved to leave Brown to his fate and to let him suffer the penalty inflicted by the law. There was, how ever, one dissatisfied man, who declared that when Brown got out he would organize a gang, and either lynch him then, or see that he wa driven out of the State forever. In all probability Brown welcomed his sentence of a thousand years, as it was the means of securing for that oblivion which is ever to be desired when lynching is in the air.

A NEW REPUBLIC.—There are all kinds of rumors afloat regarding Panama and the likelihood of invasions and revolutions in the infant Republic of the Isthmus. But no faith can be placed in any of these flying reports. From a more certain source than Colon, from St. Petersburg, we learn that Mr. Mac-Cormick, the United States Ambassador to Russia has been of the recognition of the Panama Re public by the Russian Government The signing of the decree was one of the first official acts of the Cza nis return from Skierniewice, in Russian Poland. It is also stated, on the most reliable authority, that the Cabinet at Copenhagen has advised King Christian to also recognize of ficially the Panama Republic: All this clearly indicates that there has been European voices behind the curtains, when the handful of people ir little Panama undertook to establish an independent State, or Republic, for themselves. It looked ridiculous at first; but in view of the paramount importance of the situation inter-oceanic trade, and the haste shown on all sides to recognize the new Republic, it is clear that the movement was one of grave importance.

A FAMILY QUARREL. - A prominent Protestant newspaper of London, England, thus refers to a recent scene in a Protestant church

"The Bishop of Chester,, kn Monday evening, was the victim of a wanton outrage at Birkenhead. His Lordship was presiding at a meeting in connexion with the Church Pastoral Aid Society, when he was assailed with a storm of hisses and uproar, in con-

hearing for half an hour. Peace was at length established, and the meeting went forward to its close, but a large and excited crowd assen bed in the street for the purpose of further molestation, from which, however, the Bishop happily escaped.

It is said that, in a recent speech, he had spoken of the extreme Protestant section as a reforming mob; hence these reprisals. It really looks as though liberty of opinion speech is going to be denied to Churchmen. Dissenters and other Protestants can say with impunity what they choose, but a Churchman may not open his lips.

We should have thought that, if anywhere, the Bishop of Chester would have been safe from Protestant rancour at a meeting of the Church Pastoral Aid Society. His presence there was an emphatic proof of tolerance and even-handed rule, and we are sure that the Society, whose guest he was, would be as indignant as other Churchmen are at the rude treatment he received.

The Protestantism of Birkenhead and Liverpool seems to be of a peculiarly virulent type. If it had way, it would be impossible for the Church to exist at all in such an atnosphere'.'

WILLIAM O'BRIEN, according to ecent advices persists in his resolution, made some weeks ago, to retire from public life in Ireland. He has written to Mr. John Redmond, M.P., refusing to withdraw hs resignation as member for Cork city.

This is Ireland's loss as few men have done more for the cause than Mr. O'Brien, and few men are better quipped in every manner than he to do effective work in the future.

A SAD END.-Volumes could be written to illustrate the methods of a certain class of so-called Christians, Catholics among the number, who are ready to sacrifice their fellowman to feed their own ambitious passions—love of power and envy.
The death, the other day, in New York, of an Italian diplomat, who was set aside by a political party, in a poverty-stricken home is a striking illustration of that fact.

TREATMENT OF INSANE.-This is evidently going to be a century of invention, if we are to judge by the various reports of new devices to cope with disease. A writer in referring to the insane and their treatment says:-

"Within a year or two we will have the locks off every door and the bars from every window in this hospital. Instead of the padded cell, the bathtub; instead of the straight jacket the Scotch douche.'

A RELIGIOUS DAILY .- Mr. Stead is made the object of many shafts from the big guns of the yellow press as a result of his recent announcement that he intended publishing a religious daily journal in London, England.

The day is coming when the vellow press will exercise but little influ-

A MEAN ACT .- The effort to inluce women to remove their hats Paris theatres is strongly opposed by many fair ones who desire to the triumphs of their milliners in full

COSTLY EXPERIENCE. - There are some people who fancy they car run educational establishments, dining rooms and banks without previous years of experience. The recently announced deficit of \$20.0 in connection with the dining hall of Yale, an American college, is a case in point. The pity is that the experimenters escape ''paying the piper."

ONE MAN, ONE OFFICE .- In various parts of Europe there is a vig-orous attempt being made against public men accepting two and ofte three mandates of a public charge ter, such as representation on school and proper in the opinion of a lection. No man can faithfully his duty in so many offices is cry which has been popularly co into the apt phrase "One man, office."