

# The True



# Witness

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## Judge Grosscup Scores French Government.

In a scathing denunciation of the Government of France, Judge Peter S. Grosscup of the United States Court of Appeals, on Tuesday night, in Chicago, predicted that if this policy of state repudiation of contract were condoned, every church in the universe was threatened.

### SPEAKS AS A PROTESTANT.

Judge Grosscup, who was the principal speaker at the celebration of Lincoln's birthday, held under the auspices of James Shields Council of Knights of Columbus, in Congress hall, Chicago, declared that he spoke on behalf of Protestants.

Through every phase Judge Grosscup traced the development of church and state in France and announced his belief that when the Protestants of America understood the principles involved in the deplorable controversy they would be unanimous in their arraignment of the policy of the government party.

"It is not as a Catholic, therefore, or a Protestant speaking to Catholics, that I chose to raise my voice against this invasion of the rights of the church, nor as a Protestant merely interested in seeing that the great sister church is not despoiled.

"I speak as a Protestant, and in the interest of Protestants, because if such things could be done outside of France the great Protestant Church to which I belong, secure now in the enjoyment of the property it has created, as the human interest through which it is working out its faith, would be no longer secure.

### AS AN AMERICAN.

"I speak, too, as an American, who, though irrevocably opposed to a church controlled state, is as irrevocably opposed to a state controlled religion. I speak as a man to whom breach of faith is none the less odious because it may emerge from high altitudes. And I speak as a believer, who sees in what is transpiring in France an organized movement against belief in God after any faith.

"Happily what is transpiring there is not likely to transpire here. Republican America would not tolerate it. Protestant America would put herself against it. Liberty loving America would overwhelm it, or perish; for what France is doing to the Catholics of France, if accepted by the world as a thing rightly done, would be looked back to some day as the first great step towards the extinction not merely of the faith of men in God, but of liberty also as individual men.

"It is not alone the right of the Catholics of France to hold that which they have created that is on trial. The whole cause of individual property is on trial. Individual liberty of conscience is on trial. And on issues such as these the attitude of America ought not to be in doubt."

"But it is said that the repeal of the concordat is only putting into effect in France the principle of separation between church and

state that prevails in America. But what is there in the American principle that deprives the church of the right to hold the property that the church has from time to time created, or that justifies the taking by the public of that property without full compensation for the thing taken?

### THE AMERICAN PRINCIPLE.

"Indeed, the American principle contemplates that the churches shall hold their own property, to be used according to their own interpretations of their religious duties; and it prohibits the state, by the solemnity of constitutional guarantees, from taking any property, either church or secular, except upon full compensation first made.

"As a final apology it is said that the act of separation still preserves to the people who reside in the vicinity of the individual churches taken, the continued enjoyment of such churches as houses of worship—that all these several communities have to do is to apply to the state for permission to use the church buildings, whereupon permission will be granted, as a matter of course, without charge.

"But do the people who offer this argument realize that under the French law as it now stands, three, five, a score of associations may be formed in the specific community surrounding the church edifice asked for—Catholic, Hebrew, Methodist, Mohammedan—whereupon each will be entitled to the use of the edifice, transforming it thus from a place consecrated to some concrete faith into a sort of town hall, where every character of faith will be housed.

### CITES PARALLEL CASE.

"What would the Methodists, or the Lutherans, or the Jews, each perfectly tolerant of the Catholic Church as an organ of religion, think of it if our government were to compel them to stretch that toleration to the extent of dividing with that church the rights in the church edifices erected with their own hands and dedicated to their own faith?

"Besides, what assurance have the Catholics of France that a public that will seize without right what belongs to another and withdrawing under which that seizure for a century was condoned, will observe any later or less substantial promises that it will make?

"What assurance have the Catholics of France that step by step, as it is now going on, this process of elimination will not result in the end in the total elimination of the Catholic faith from the properties that their ancestors have created?"

"Indeed, every attempt at justifying acts of the French government dissolves the moment it is put under the lens of any honest applications of the axioms of law or morals—dissolves instantly when one applies to it that highest test of fair judgment. 'Have you done unto others what you would have them do unto you.'"

## Rev. Father Lacombe Celebrating 80th Birthday.

Rev. Father Lacombe is to-day (Thursday) celebrating his 80th birthday anniversary at the Episcopal Palace, His Grace the Archbishop having placed the table at the pleasure of his old friend. A number of citizens are doing honor to the venerable pastor of the Canadian clergy in the Northwest.

Father Lacombe has spent more than half a century between Lake Superior and the Rocky Mountains. No one else has had so wide an experience in that country as the rev. father, and he certainly knows whereof he speaks.

"They can talk as they like," he said, "about a foreign invasion, but the English-Canadian element will always predominate in those provinces, and the British flag, the protector of us all, will never be hauled down. I am a French-Canadian, as you know, and these are my sentiments. I cannot begin to describe to you the truly wonderful transformation that is going on in Alberta and Saskatchewan."

"And the future?" "Well, Americans, Germans, Galicians, French-Canadians are coming in rapidly; but as I have just told you, the English-speaking Canadian element will prevail over all the rest, and their influence will be all powerful."

The aged Oblate was then questioned regarding the loss of French influence in these provinces, and he replied quite frankly. "We missionaries," said he, "as you are aware, brought a good many of our people into the western country, and they are doing well, but I will go back a good many years if you want to know the whole truth. I foresaw what the West would be, and my dream was to induce my compatriots to go and take up the fertile lands of the Northwest. But do you remember Mr. Tardival, of La Verite, who wrote against my project, frightened the parish priests, and we see the result to-day."

However, Father Lacombe says the Catholics have nothing to complain of in the new provinces, and everything is going along very well. The Protestants, he adds, are exceedingly generous in their dealings with the Catholic minority. Catholics and Protestants, he says, understand each other's aspirations and respect each other; hence the bonne entente all along the line.

He then referred to the great project of establishing the University of Alberta at Strathcona, just over the river from Edmonton, the capital, and they have invited the Roman Catholics to found their college there also, with a view, no doubt, to affiliation, as is the case in Winnipeg.

As a further evidence of the good feeling between Catholics and their separated brethren in the West, Father Lacombe told of the decision of the people of Regina to erect an hospital, and they asked the Catholic religious authorities to secure sisters for its direction. This is one of the reasons of his visit eastward. He believed, however, that no community of nuns could be induced to take hold of an institution of that kind without securing pretty general control. Would the promoters of the hospital give the sisters the desired control? That was the question.

Father Lacombe felt the death of Sir William Hingston very deeply. They had been very good friends. The Rev. Father touchingly related instances of the large-hearted philanthropy and kindness of Sir William, which had come under his observation.

## THE GENUFLEXION.

San Francisco, Feb. 1.

Editor Leader: What is a genuflection? Non-Catholic.

Answer—Something very seldom properly performed by many Catholics on entering a church. In reality a genuflection is bending the knee in adoration before the blessed sacrament. As executed by some persons it is an exhibition of rheumatic twinges in the knee cap.—San Francisco Leader.

## DEATH OF MOTHER M. ASSUMPTION.

Mother M. Assumption O'Keefe died Saturday morning, February 16, at St. Joachim's hospital, Watertown, N.Y. She was born at Harbor Grace, Newfoundland, October 22, 1868, entered the Order of Mercy at Hogsburg, N.Y., in 1891, and was professed there January 4, 1895. The greater part of her religious life was spent at Sanitarium Gabriels, where she held the office of postmistress at Gabriels, and was telegraph operator for the sanitarium. Two weeks ago she came to St. Joachim's for treatment.

The funeral took place Monday morning at St. Patrick's Church. Solemn High Mass was celebrated by Rev. Father Burke, Dr. Kenney, of the Holy Family acted as deacon, Dr. Zimmerman of the Sacred Heart Church as sub-deacon, and Father Lehan as master of ceremonies. Father Glynn preached a very impressive sermon on the text, "Well done, good and faithful servant. Because thou hast been faithful over few things I will place thee over many." In affecting language he spoke of the life of the departed sister as a life consecrated and sanctified for God. Mrs. Whearty sang the Profession hymn, and the hymn "Let the Dead and the Beautiful Sleep."

The only surviving members of Mother Assumption's family are her sister, Sr. M. Bernard of Brasher Falls, and her brother, Mr. Charles M. O'Keefe, of Jersey City, who were present at the funeral. Besides the Sisters of her community, the Sisters of St. Joseph and Rev. Fathers Zimmerman and Kenney accompanied the remains to Glenwood cemetery. The body was placed beside that of her sister, Mother M. Vincent, who died in Watertown in February, 1891. Newfoundland papers please copy.

## Third Order of St. Francis.

At St. Patrick's Fraternity of the Third Order of St. Francis meeting last Sunday, Rev. Father Ethelbert preached, very eloquently, in part as follows:

"To-day's Gospel sets before us a very beautiful mystery, a lesson for human hearts and human lives. Our Saviour took Peter, John and James into the high mountain with Him. As they were to be witnesses of the opprobrium, agony, sorrows, which were to befall Him, the three apostles should witness His divinity in order to help them in their hour of trouble. In a few days the Church will celebrate the Holy Passion. Step by step she will follow Him on the road to Calvary, and at last witness the consummation of His sacrifice. Our Saviour was a model of every virtue. Compassion was the divinest trait in the God-made man. His life was one long record of compassion. Those He cured from sickness, those whose sins He forgave, those whom He raised from the dead, bear witness to His compassion.

"The lesson of the Transfiguration teaches that our vocation must be a life of triumph, communing with God. Though the world would like to see the name of Christ erased from it, yet in the annals of the world's history the name of Christ is written forever—written with the pen of His precious blood. The efforts of the impious are doomed to eternal failure. Ungodliness and the powers of hell will not prevail. France was fighting a lost battle. Christ is yesterday, to-day, the same forever."

Referring to the demise of the late Father Hilary, whose death occurred whilst the preacher was away in St. John, N.B., he paid a glowing tribute to the life of the saintly religious whose work for God was great and whose death was a triumph into a glorious transfiguration which puts the crown and seal on every work.

After the sermon four postulants received the cord and scapular, the ceremony being performed by the director, Rev. Father Ethelbert. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was imparted by Rev. Father Wolstan.

## Abbey's Effervescent Salt

ALL DRUGGISTS, 25 and 60c. BOTTLE.

## The Sisters of Misericorde.

"Having made use of Abbey's Salt for some time in our Hospital, we are pleased to say that it is a very good medicine in cases of indigestion."

## Ireland's Envoy.

Mr. T. M. Kettle, member of the British House of Commons, who is touring the United States in the interest of the Irish Parliamentary Party, is meeting with great success. In Kansas City recently he delivered a brilliant address on the Irish cause.

Sir, said he, it is in truth possible that our hopes may vanish like snow in the desert. It is possible that what seems to us the paeon of victory may pass by some malign transformation into the wail of defeat. The cup that Ireland now raises as a festal and triumphal cup may change in the mere passage to her lips to a chalice of agony. The doors that seem to open may close sharply against us; and Ireland, the Mater Dolorosa of the nations, may be doomed to take once more the flinty and wounding path marked by the broken lives and the broken fortunes of so many of the children who died full of despair in the midnight. It may be the selfish interpretation of Irish-American sentiment will prove to be the right interpretation, and that Ireland will be stripped of your succor in her sharpest need.

Let that be as it will be, but of two things be sure. We ask you as Irishmen and as freemen to help us in our fight for Ireland and freedom; but we ask charity of no man. And be just as sure, too, that if you were to-morrow to abandon us in weariness and disgust, this battle would still go on. The flag under which we are marshalled has come down to us soiled, it is true, with the blood and mire of many defeats; marked here and there with blacker stains of treachery and weakness; but it is, when all is said, a flag of honor and of courage. It is the symbol of un speakable labor and bloody travail; of bones that lie white along the path by which our people have come out from their darkest bondage; of heroic and baffled generations who died without seeing the redemption.

We ask charity of no man. Forget the people from whom you have come; forget the breasts of your mothers; cover with derision the hope of Ireland and leave her lonely in the conflict. But of this be sure; that this old flag will still flutter in the front of a nation's battle so long as there is one Irish arm left to hold it aloft. And that battle will end only when the last soldier of Freedom shall have died, as Cuchullin died, "standing, and with his face to the war" or—and God grant the happier issue—when labor is swallowed up in victory, and the old flag waves above the capitol of an Irish Assembly dedicated to Nationality, to Democracy, and to Justice.

## Desecrating the French Churches.

In the London Saturday Review the following communication appears:

According to the Journal Officiel, 1252 of the churches and chapels in France, which a few years ago belonged to religious communities, military and civil hospitals, colleges and schools, etc., have already been desecrated and turned to profane purposes.

The chapel of the Invalides, which only a month ago was used as a parish church and had a large congregation, is now, by order of General Picquart, minister of war, closed to the public for divine service, and as recently as last week, when the Spanish ambassador inquired whether the baptism of a well-known officer's child, to which the King of Spain intended to be a sponsor, might take place in the chapel, he was informed "on no account."

The magnificent chapel of the Marist Brothers, of Plaisance, 46 Rue Pernety, Paris, one of the finest modern Gothic churches in France, built by that community and with the aid of private subscriptions in 1899 at a cost of 600,000 francs, has been recently sold for 180,000 francs to an old tradesman, who is allowing it to be turned into a cinematograph show and questionable cafe chantant of the Montmartre type, having cabinet particulars in the erstwhile side chapels. The high altar now supports the stage upon which probably blasphemous and indecent songs will be sung, and "sensational" pictures shown for the benefit of a very mixed audience. The chapel of the Blessed Sacrament is to become a supper room which will be the resort of the lowest class of demi-mondaines, and so on. This is what the paternal government of Messrs. Clemenceau and Briand allows God's house to be turned into.

## Requiem Mass For Sir William Hingston.

On Wednesday morning, at the Chapel of the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame, a solemn mass of requiem was chanted for the repose of the soul of the late Sir William Hingston. The celebrant of the Mass was the Rev. Gerald McShane, assisted by Rev. Fathers Bernard and Lafontaine as deacon and sub-deacon. There were present in the sanctuary Very Rev. Abbe LeCoq, Superior of St. Sulpice; Abbe Lelandais, Rector of the Grand Seminary; Rev. N. Troie, pastor of Notre Dame, and the director of Montreal College. The choir of the Sisters rendered Perrault's Mass, the chapel being heavily draped for the occasion, and hundreds of lighted tapers surrounding the large catafalque. The memorial service was offered by the Sisters of Notre Dame to the bereaved family of the deceased, as a graceful tribute of recognition of the eminent services rendered on various occasions to the Order of Notre Dame by the late Sir William. The family, a large gathering of relatives and friends, the Sisters of the Congregation, and the pupils of the Normal School were in attendance.

## Father Carney Takes His Congregation to Task.

Fredericton, N.B., Feb. 26.—At St. Dunstan's Church on Sunday, Father Carney made some very pointed remarks to the congregation relative to the observance of the Lenten season. His remarks especially referred to the reception on Thursday evening in connection with the New Brunswick Forestry Convention. He told the congregation that they were not supposed to go to places of amusement during the Lenten season. There were some people who caused other members of the congregation to hold their heads in shame by going to public dance halls and taking part in dancing, while others sat in the galleries and looked on at dancers in a "semi-nude" condition.

He was glad that a number of the members of the church who attended were not permanent members of the parish, and he felt that their departure from the city when the time for it came would not be any great loss to the Catholic community.

Those referred to in the latter sentence are taken to include several members of the Legislature.

## C.O.F. OF ONTARIO.

Corwall, Feb. 27.—The meeting of the Provincial Court, Catholic Order of Foresters of Ontario opened here yesterday afternoon. In the past year ten new courts have been established in Ontario, and the membership, which is now 8,397, has been increased over 500.

## SAVED BABY'S LIFE

There are many mothers throughout Canada who do not hesitate to say that Baby's Own Tablets have saved the lives of their little ones. One of these is Mrs. John Shortill, Georgetown, Ont., who says: "I have no hesitation in saying that I believe that Baby's Own Tablets saved my little girl's life. From the time my little girl was three months old she cried all the time with indigestion. She was frail and puny; her food did her no good, and I was literally worn out taking care of her. The doctor treated her for some time, and finally told us he could do no more for her, and we did not expect she would get better. It was then I learned of Baby's Own Tablets and decided to try them. Before I had given her a box of the

Tablets there was a great improvement. Her digestion was much improved, and her bowels, which had been terribly constipated, moved regularly. From that time she began to thrive splendidly, and is now as healthy a child as you could wish to see. We are now never without a box of the Tablets in the house."

Baby's Own Tablets will promptly cure all minor ailments of babies and young children, and the mother has the guarantee of a Government analyst that this medicine contains no opiate or harmful drug. Sold by all medicine dealers, or by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

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