

# The Catholic Witness

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## EDITORIAL NOTES.

EX PERE HYACINTHE, otherwise known as Mr. Hyacinthe-Loyson, proclaims his belief in the confessional, but states that he does not make use of it himself. It is a self-evident fact that he does not frequent the confessional; if he had made more use of that source of grace he would not be where he is to-day.

HENRI LASERRE, writing to Zola, states that the novelist was much touched during a visit with him to Lourdes, and promised to write nothing that would grieve his friends of Lourdes. Zola naturally forgot his promise, and M. Laserre was very confiding, credulous or simple (no matter which), to believe for a moment that Zola was man enough to keep such a promise.

THE famous Dr. Oertel, assistant at the Hygiene Institute of Hamburg, experimented recently with the infected water of the Vistula. He was very successful in breeding bacilli in this medium, but unfortunately he contracted cholera, and died in consequence. It is a good lesson to others. It is always dangerous to conjure into existence aught that menaces the lives of others. Many a one has raised a ghost that he was never able to exorcise.

ACCORDING to the Cork Examiner, Archbishop Croke, of Cashel, has stated that he is in accord with Dr. Thomas Addis Emmett, President of the Irish National Federation of America, in condemning the dissensions in the Irish party. Last week we referred to the cry of the London Times regarding the Archbishop's silence. We said that when he deemed it necessary the learned prelate would speak, and not till then. We scarcely think that his attitude suits the Thunderer. It would serve the purposes of the Times much better were it to let the Irish prelates alone and to mind its own business.

SOME people are never satisfied; the more you do for them the more they seem to demand. As a rule they forget all that has been done, and imagine that because exceptional pains have been taken to please and benefit them, it follows that the same should be eternally kept up—irrespective of every other consideration—and regardless of the interests of thousands of others, with equally strong claims. We have had recently a couple of samples of persons for whom we went out of our way to praise and assist, and who seem to imagine that we thereby gave them a special hypothec upon our columns and that we are under some special obligation to laud their work, whether it deserves or does not deserve the praise they seek. On this question we desire to be distinctly understood. When we undertake to praise or criticize any of our contributors or our literary aspirants, it is for their benefit and for the greater good of the cause that they are enabled to assist. But we will

never become fulsome in our approvals nor unjust in our censures, no matter who is in question. Because a person writes a good poem, or one able article, or does some literary work of merit, it does not necessarily follow that he or she is a genius and is able to write with the same power, exactness, or success upon every other subject. We make these remarks not so much as a chiding to the persons referred to as a piece of advice to all future literary aspirants. Keep cool, we say, and never let newspaper approval destroy your equilibrium; don't run off with the idea that the world depends upon your production; rather study and work that everything you produce may merit the praise your first attempt received.

THE Supreme Convention of the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association recently held a session in Philadelphia. During the meeting the Rev. Dr. Loughlin, Chancellor of the Archdiocese, read the following cablegram from Pope Leo. XIII. :-

ROME, October 2 1894.

To Monsignor the Archbishop of Philadelphia :

The Holy Father having learned that the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association will assemble in your city on the 9th of October, charges your Grace to impart the Apostolic Benediction to the president and members of the entire association, auguring copious fruits from their convention. CARDINAL RAMPOLLA.

This announcement was the signal for three rousing cheers for the Pope. We are happy to be able to refer to this incident as it at once shows the interest the Holy Father takes in all Catholic movements and the great faith he has in the beneficial results expected from the C. M. B. A. It is encouraging to know that such eminently Catholic bodies receive such high recognition.

THE Liverpool Catholic Times, referring to the Catholic and Protestant converts in the East, has the following very pertinent editorial note :

"So far from its being true that it is easier to make Catholic than Protestant converts, humanly speaking the chances are all in favor of the Protestant missionary. In many cases all he asks of the pagan is to abandon certain practices, take up instead a very limited creed and come to church on Sunday. The Catholic missionary exacts full instruction in the beliefs and practices of the Catholic Church and for this purpose converts are not admitted to baptism but remain in the condition of 'catechumens' for six months or a year after they express the wish to be Christians. During this time they are not only instructed but are made to practise the duties of their new religion, so far as they can be observed by one who is not yet baptized. It is only after having successfully passed this long test of his sincerity, that the pagan is baptized and his name is added to the register as a convert of the mission. The mission reports give every year the number of their converts, but the catechumens appear in a separate return. From all this it will be judged how wide of the mark are the comments of the Westminster, based as they are on the insinuations of a jealous rival of the

Catholic missionaries, and set off with a heading the 'smartness' of which is more apparent than its good taste.

IT WOULD seem that the hand of sickness has fallen heavily on the royal house of Romanoff. The Czar lies at death's door and other members of the immediate household are in danger of severe illness. There is an old saying that "it never rains but it pours." These severe lessons, if properly taken, should teach the powerful that there is yet a Power above them that they cannot ignore. No matter how potent man may be, he is ever the weak and dependent creature of an Almighty Creator. We may exult in our strength and in the wealth or position that we occupy; but the moment the Angel of Death appears on the scene, we are all reduced to a common level—Czar and peasant alike.

JAMES ANTHONY FROUDE is dead. The writer of so much history, and so many pages that he sought to pass for history, is no more. As a man—and an able man—we regret his demise; we regret still more the fact that he did not use his splendid opportunities and talents in a better cause. When Barney Wright, of Clonmel, was flogged by the famous, or notorious, "flogging Fitzgerald," the sting remained for many years in his memory. One day he heard of Fitzgerald's death, and he grew pale with excitement. The gentleman who had informed him, said: "Wright, you must forget the past; remember the saying, *nil de mortuis nisi bonum.*" Wright paused a moment and replied :-

"Nil de mortuis nisi bonum, The words are good but I don't own them."

It is even so to-day with every Irish-Catholic and every fair-minded lover of history; while unwilling to say aught injurious of the dead, still we cannot but regret that Froude left behind him several literary monuments that are not calculated to immortalize his name nor transmit his fame to posterity.

A GLOWING tribute is always admirable; but when we find such a man as Talmage pouring forth his unstinted praise upon a man like Father Damien, we see truly that the work of the great apostle of the lepers has had its influence even beyond the limits of the island upon which he labored and died. It is thus Talmage speaks of that work :

"That moral hero completely transformed the isle of lepers. It was before his work began a pen of abomination. No law. No decency. All the tigers of passion were let loose. Drunkenness and blasphemy and libertinism and cruelty dominated. The moral disease eclipsed the physical. But Damien dawned upon the darkness. He helped them build cottages. He medicated their physical distress. The plague which he could not arrest he alleviated. He settled the controversies of the people. He prepared the dead for burial and digged for them Christian graves and pronounced a benediction. He launched a Christian civilization upon the wretchedness. He gave them the gospel of good cheer. He told the poor victims concerning the land of

eternal health, where the inhabitant never says 'I am sick,' and the swollen faces took on the look of hope and the glassy eyes saw coming relief and the footless and limbless and the fingerless looked forward to a place where they might walk with the King in white and everlasting crowns upon their heads. Good and Christlike Joseph Damien! Let all religions honor his memory. Let poetry and canvas and sculpture tell the story of the man who lived and died for others and from century to century kept them in bright remembrance long after the last leper of all the earth shall have felt through all his recovering and revitalized nature the voice of the Son of God saying 'I will. Be thou clean.'"

It is rumored that the Archbishop of New York has requested the Reverend Superior of the Sulpicians, in this city, to establish a seminary in that State. Abbe Collin, it is said, placed Archbishop Corrigan's offer before the General Chapter, and again before the General Council of the Order in Paris, this summer, and that the movement received the hearty approbation of the heads of the Order. It is said that the new seminary, now being built outside of New York, at a cost of about one million dollars, will be the scene of the Sulpicians' labor. Whether these rumors are true we are not prepared to assert; but we can say that if this noble Order is extended to the Empire State the result must be of great benefit both to the public at large and the aspirants to the priesthood in particular. The majority of the priests scattered over the Eastern States to-day were trained at the Grand Seminary here, and considering the increase in population and the number of new candidates for sacerdotal orders, the establishment of a native seminary in the vicinity of New York would be of incalculable benefit to ecclesiastical America.

THE sad accident that occurred last Friday at the Canadian Rubber works, when young Master Bowen, aged ten years, of Shaw street, was accidentally drowned, should be a severe warning and a good lesson, not only to children, but especially to parents. The two little brothers were playing near the river, when the elder of the two reached out to grasp some floating wood, fell in and was carried off by the current. Great sympathy is felt for the sorrowing mother, who is a widow. Parents cannot be too careful regarding their children. It is only when such sad events occur that they begin to realize how necessary it is to keep a vigilant watch over these young boys. Often children are sent to school and no precautions are taken to find out whether they go there or not. In a city like this, where lives are constantly exposed, and where older and grown up people are constantly meeting with accidents or death, either on the street or in the river, it behooves the parents to keep as constant a guard as possible over the movements of the little ones confided by Providence to their charge. We trust that this sad event will be a warning that will not go unheeded.