

LEO XIII. ON CATHOLIC OBEDIENCE.

AN EXCEEDINGLY SERIOUS INSTRUCTION AND CENSURE—THE FILIAL SUBMISSION AND APOLOGY OF CARDINAL PITRA.

From the London Tablet. The French texts of the following correspondence, have been published by the official *Opuscolo Romano*. The first is from the Cardinal Archbishop of Paris to his Holiness Pope Leo XIII., and is as follows:

"Most Holy Father—During the serious illness, whose danger I have escaped, I believe, through the blessing of your Holiness, I have been unable to keep myself informed in Church matters. At the time of my seizure, it seemed to me that the most wise admonitions of your Holiness had restored complete union among Catholic writers, and averted the painful controversies which had previously occurred."

"But as I received strength in my convalescence and I am enabled to acquaint myself with what is written in the daily organs, I am sorely grieved to see that that union, so necessary and rendered imperative by the dangers of the day, is not as real and as assured as I had hoped. It appears to me, judging from certain polemics more or less veiled, that some very regrettable germs of division still remain, and I consider it a filial duty to express to your Holiness my deep sorrow for this. In the present position of the Church, in face of the terrible loss of the Holy Father, and in view of the good shepherds, the clergy, the bishops especially, and the dignitaries of the Church, should group themselves round the sacred person of the Vicar of Jesus Christ, and under his inspiration and his guidance sustain the good fight with persevering fidelity. The evil of dissension always proceeds at bottom from self-love and an over-weening confidence in one's self, which has not been checked. During my long episcopal career of forty-four years through many disturbances and divers events, the thought has more than once occurred to me that the members of the Church should take such a step or avoid such another. But God, by His grace, has always made me understand that I had not received from Jesus Christ the personal assistance that was promised to Peter and to his successors, and experience has proved to me that I have governed the Church wisely, as their predecessors had done for eighteen centuries."

"My wish is, most Holy Father, that all, in these evil times, may inspire themselves with those sentiments of respect, esteem which the Holy Father, and that that intimate union of the members with the Head may uphold your holy authority and afford you the consolation to which your Holiness is so justly entitled."

"Deign to accept, most Holy Father, the profound homage of a devout and obedient servant and son, J. HIPP. CARDINAL GUIBERT, Archbishop of Paris. Paris, June 4th, 1885."

To this His Holiness addressed the following weighty reply:

"LEO PP. XIII. "DEAR SON, HEALTH AND APOSTOLIC BENEVOLENCE.—Your letter, filled with sentiments of the most filial affection and the sincerest devotion to ourselves, brought gentle consideration to our heart, saddened by recent and a weighty grief. You can understand how nothing could be more deeply painful to us than to see disturbed the spirit of harmony among Catholics, or to see shaken the calm confidence, the trustful and submissive resignation which is due from sons to the Father by whom they are ruled. And thus, at the mere appearance of the first symptoms of the evil, we cannot but be greatly concerned and seek to guard against such an evil without delay. And, therefore, the recent publication of a letter from the most unexpected quarter, and which you have deplored as much as ourselves, the sensation which it has evoked, and the comments to which it has given rise, have decided us to break silence on a subject, painful indeed, but which is none the less opportune both for France and for other countries."

"Observing certain indications, it is not difficult to see that there are found among Catholics (perhaps because of the unhappy state of the times) some who, not content with the part of submission which belongs to them in the Church, think they may take a part in government. At the Holy Father's rate, they imagine that they are allowed to examine and judge according to their own views the acts of the authorities. That would be a serious state of disorder if it could prevail in the Church of God, where by the express will of His Divine Founder, two distinct orders are established in the plainest way—the teaching Church and the Church taught, the pastors and the flock, and among the pastors, one of them who is for all the supreme Head and Pastor. To the pastors alone has been given the full power of teaching, judging, directing; on the faithful has been imposed the duty of following these teachings, of submitting with docility to these judgments, of letting themselves be governed, corrected, and led to salvation. Accordingly it is a matter of absolute necessity that the faithful laity should submit themselves with heart and mind to their own pastors, and these with them to the supreme Head and Pastor. On this subordination and obedience depend the order and life of the Church. They are the indispensable condition for doing right and arriving happily in port. If, on the contrary, the laity attribute authority to themselves, they claim to make themselves judges and doctors; if inferiors prefer, or try to make prevail, in the government of the universal Church, a direction different from that of the supreme authority, they are practically overturning order, bringing confusion into a great number of minds, and departing from the right way."

"And it is not necessary, in order to fall in sacred duty, to offer an open opposition, either to the Bishops or the Head of the Church; indirect opposition is enough; and it is the more dangerous the more it is sought to veil it by the appearance of the contrary. A man falls also in that sacred duty if, while showing himself jealous for the power prerogatives of the Sovereign Pontiff, he does not respect the Bishops who are in communion with him, or does not hold their authority in due account, or interprets unfavorably their acts and intentions before any decision of the Apostolic See. It is also a proof of insincere submission to establish an opposition between Sovereign Pontiff and Sovereign Pontiff. Those who, in the case of two different directions, reject the present one, and hold to the past one, give no proof of obedience to the authority which has the right and duty of directing them, and in some respects resemble those who after condemnation, by forgetting that the condemnation could appeal from it to the next Council, or to a better informed Pope."

"The right opinion on this point, then, is that in the general government of the Church, outside of the essential duties of the Apostolic Ministry which are imposed upon all Pontiffs, each of them is to follow the rule of conduct which he judges best for the times, and the other circumstances of the case. In that he is the sole judge, having on this point not only special lights, but also the knowledge of the situation and the general needs of the Catholic Church, according to the teaching of the Apostolic Tradition, which should be regulated. His duty is to care for the good of the Universal Church, with which is co-ordinated the good of its various parts, and all those who are placed under this co-ordination must second the action of the supreme authority, and assist him in his work. The Church is one, and its Head is one, so its government is likewise one, and to that all must conform themselves."

"The result for Catholics of forgetfulness of these principles is a diminution of respect, veneration, and confidence towards him who has been given the supreme power, and the union which binds the faithful to their pastors, and the faithful as well as their pastors to the Supreme Pastor, are thus weakened. And yet on these bonds principally depend the preservation and the salvation of all."

"By forgetting, and no longer observing these principles, a broad road is open for dissensions and discords among Catholics, to the great detriment of the Union which is the distinctive mark of the faithful of Jesus Christ. At all times, but particularly at present on account of the combination of so many hostile powers, this union ought to be the supreme and universal interest, in presence of which every feeling of personal liking or private advantage ought to disappear."

"Such a duty, while incumbent upon all without exception, is most strictly so on journalists, who, if they were not animated with the spirit of docility and submission so necessary to every Catholic, would help to extend and greatly aggravate the evils we deplore. Their obligation in all that touches religious interests and the action of the Church in society is therefore to submit themselves fully with heart and mind, like all the other faithful, to their own Bishops and to the Roman Pontiff, to follow and reproduce their teachings, to second heartily their motions, to respect their intentions and to make them respected. Writers who should act otherwise in order to serve their views and interests of those whose spirit and tendencies we have blamed in this letter, would be false to their noble mission, and would as rashly flatter themselves thus to serve the interests and the cause of the Church as those who should seek to attenuate and diminish the Catholic truth, or work too timidly in its support."

"We have been led to speak to you on these subjects, dear son, not only by the timeliness that they may have for France, but still more by the knowledge we have of your sentiments and the conduct you have been able to maintain in the most difficult times and conditions."

"Ever firm and courageous in defending the religious interests and sacred rights of the Church, you have once more on a recent occasion, manfully upheld and publicly defended them with your luminous and powerful utterances. But to this firmness you have always known how to add the calm and unruffled demeanor befitting the noble cause you defend, and a pastorless mind, full of submission to the guidance of the Apostolic See, and wholly devoted to itself. It is a pleasure to us, therefore, to be able to give you a fresh token of our satisfaction and good will, regretting only the news that your health is not such as we would fervently wish it. We earnestly and fervently pray to heaven that it may be completely restored and long preserved to you. And in pledge of the divine favors, which we call down on you in abundance, we give with our whole heart—to you, dear son, to your duty, and to all your people—our Apostolic Benediction."

"Given in Rome at St. Peter's, June 17, 1885, in the eighth year of our Pontificate. "LEO PP. XIII."

The third letter is from his Eminence Cardinal Pitra, O. S. B., Bishop of Porto and Santa Rufina, Sub-Dean of the Sacred College, and is addressed to his Holiness. It is as follows: "Most Holy Father:—Prorate at the feet of your Holiness, I remain bowed under your hand, before the grief of the Vicar of Jesus Christ. This sorrow is so great that I cannot think of what concerns myself, unless to protest before God in the bottom of my heart I can only find the most entire submission to the approaches, the admonitions, to every word in your letter to his Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Paris."

"I deplore that which your Holiness deploras, I desire that which your Holiness desires, I condemn what your Holiness condemns."

interest than to live and to die for God alone. "Most Holy Father—I feel myself powerless better to express my submission to all the commands and all the wishes of your Holiness, who will deign to overlook what has not wholly depended on me, and which I hope has not been able to blot out all the proofs of devotion I have striven to give, and which, with God's help, I will always strive to give without stint. I pray that your Holiness refuse me a paternal benediction to support me in this grief, and allow me to lay at the feet of your Holiness this humble expression of the most profound and filial veneration."

"Of your Holiness, the most respectful, obedient and devoted servant and son, Bishop of Porto and Santa Rufina. "St. Calixtus, June 20th, 1885."

Correspondence of the Record.

BISHOP LORRAIN AT OSCEOLA.

His Lordship Rt. Rev. N. Z. Lorrain, Vicar Apostolic of Pontiac, has just closed here the exercises of a pastoral visit, which was at the same time a very successful spiritual retreat. On Friday afternoon at 12:30 o'clock Rev. Father Devine and large numbers of his parishioners assembled at Cobden station, received his Lordship, and escorted him to Osceola, where he was received with all the ceremonies prescribed by the Pontifical rubrics. Many fair hands of Osceola had conspired to beautify the church for the occasion, and through their industry the sacred edifice presented an appearance rarely excelled in grandeur by the more pretentious structures of large towns and cities. The ornamentation of the altar was especially remarkable for its tasteful delicacy of arrangement. Over the altar stood forth, worked in evergreen, the legend "Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini," in which all who are acquainted with the artistic work of Father Devine. Outside, the natural beauty of the surroundings was enhanced by an avenue of evergreens leading from the presbytery to the church, and an arch at the door of the presbytery."

After the usual ceremonies, His Lordship announced the principal objects of the visit, and the order of exercises. He wished this pastoral visit to be also a spiritual retreat and exhorted the people to take the opportunity of profiting by the unexampled success of the day. The year on the 6th of August, and advantage is being taken of the day, as there will be the additional inducement that many of our people who could not attend on an ordinary working day will be able to be present. By next week we will know pretty well what will be the prominent features of this season's picnic, which is intended to be something of a new departure, but it is safe to predict that it will be as great a success as any we have ever held."

Although Father Lennon has said that we must not talk about anything but the picnic for the next two weeks, still there are some things which should not be overlooked. For instance the boulevard in front of the church property on Palace Street, from Pearl Street to Queen Street. Posts and edgings have been put in, the enclosed space leveled and seeded in grass, and a very decided improvement made in the appearance of the surroundings of the church."

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At the recent entrance examination to the Brantford Collegiate Institute six pupils from the Separate School passed, some of them well up on the list. The following are the names and order of merit: Wm. Hawkins, Dan McKinnon, Walter Harrington, Annie Quinlan, Arthur Savage, Nellie Dunn."

Mr. Charles Milligan and Miss Bridget Early were married on the 14th, and Mr. Patrick Ryan and Miss Cecilia Maxwell on the 21st."

The bell of St. Basil's rang out for the dead for the first time on the morning of the 8th, when the remains of Alexander McDonald, of Oakland, were interred in the cemetery here. The deceased was a young man of thirty-two, who had been residing in the States for some time. Mr. Patrick Ryan had an infant son on Wednesday of last week."

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A Cork despatch says:—The failure of the Munster Bank has had the effect of paralyzing business here. Among the patrons of the institution was the Municipal Corporation, which had on deposit at the time of suspension £9,000. The Harbor Board had also a large sum in the bank. Individual deposits were large. A feeling of despair prevails throughout the city. W. E. Shaw, M. P., who was formerly chairman of the bank, is strongly denounced by the people, who blame him for the difficulties in which the bank is involved. At an early hour this morning depositors began assembling at the doors of the bank here and at Dublin, Limerick and other cities and towns in Ireland where the bank had branches. At noon the streets in the vicinity of the bank in this city were blocked with the crowd of people clamoring for their money. A large force of police was stationed at the bank to preserve order. The crowd hourly grew larger and more disorderly, and other cities and towns were entertained. Dispatches from Dublin, Limerick and other points where the bank has branches state that the same scenes were enacted at each of those

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The Committee of Investigation into the exposures of the *Pall Mall Gazette* have had a sitting. Cardinal Manning gave the *Pall Mall Gazette* the strongest support. I know Mr. Stead, Cardinal Manning said, and have perfect confidence in his intentions and integrity. What he has done has been done in combination with a number of trustworthy persons, and with legal advisers, so that his evidence depends not on his own, but on direct personal knowledge. The extent of the evil now exposed has long been indistinctly known, but it has been impossible to obtain legal proof. Mr. Stead is the first person who has ventured, at a great personal sacrifice and endurance, to obtain this legal proof. The evidence is certain. In publishing statements so detailed and often so virulent, he will encounter, as he has done, a great deal of obloquy, but on the other hand he has the firmest support of a very large number of men of all classes and of the highest influence in England. It would be easy to criticise the details of the articles of such a nature, and all those who desire to hush up so atrocious an evil. I find expressions and narratives on which to fasten. But it would be ungenerous, cowardly and cruel to assail a man who has sacrificed himself to expose, in the hope of checking if not of extirpating it, an evil of such portentous magnitude. He attempted to obtain a needed legal enactment, and has been continually and vexatiously defeated, yet in 1881 a committee of the House of Lords published a folio blue book, detailing in the minutest particulars, with irrefragable proof, the enormities of this abominable traffic. Year after year the bill proposed to Parliament has been weakened, defeated, or talked out. The patience of those who knew the truth has been justly exhausted. Nothing short of this last righteous and resolute action could, in my opinion, have enforced and secured the enactment of further laws to supplement our most defective statutes on this terrible subject."

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BRANTFORD NOTES. The date of the annual picnic of St. Basil's congregation has been fixed, and the people are striving to make the affair a success. Our civic holiday comes this year on the 6th of August, and advantage is being taken of the day, as there will be the additional inducement that many of our people who could not attend on an ordinary working day will be able to be present. By next week we will know pretty well what will be the prominent features of this season's picnic, which is intended to be something of a new departure, but it is safe to predict that it will be as great a success as any we have ever held."

Although Father Lennon has said that we must not talk about anything but the picnic for the next two weeks, still there are some things which should not be overlooked. For instance the boulevard in front of the church property on Palace Street, from Pearl Street to Queen Street. Posts and edgings have been put in, the enclosed space leveled and seeded in grass, and a very decided improvement made in the appearance of the surroundings of the church."

Everybody who takes notice of the improvement of the boulevard and cry out not fail to observe that the doors and wood work of the front of the church have been painted and grained, and on a little enquiry may learn that the expense of the work has been borne by a generous member of the congregation who is ambitious for the beauty of the appearance of God's House. Messrs. Moyer and Chalupa did the work."

At the recent entrance examination to the Brantford Collegiate Institute six pupils from the Separate School passed, some of them well up on the list. The following are the names and order of merit: Wm. Hawkins, Dan McKinnon, Walter Harrington, Annie Quinlan, Arthur Savage, Nellie Dunn."

Mr. Charles Milligan and Miss Bridget Early were married on the 14th, and Mr. Patrick Ryan and Miss Cecilia Maxwell on the 21st."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Cardinal Manning and Hon. Samuel Morley have begun an investigation into the charges made by the *Pall Mall Gazette*.

The London *Telegraph* says negotiations between England and Russia regarding the Afghan Frontier question have become serious. Russia is preferring new claims, and refuses to yield to Lord Salisbury, whose attitude, although studiously friendly, is firm. The *Standard* declares England will never condone a second edition of the Penjdeh outrage."

A Cork despatch says:—The failure of the Munster Bank has had the effect of paralyzing business here. Among the patrons of the institution was the Municipal Corporation, which had on deposit at the time of suspension £9,000. The Harbor Board had also a large sum in the bank. Individual deposits were large. A feeling of despair prevails throughout the city. W. E. Shaw, M. P., who was formerly chairman of the bank, is strongly denounced by the people, who blame him for the difficulties in which the bank is involved. At an early hour this morning depositors began assembling at the doors of the bank here and at Dublin, Limerick and other cities and towns in Ireland where the bank had branches. At noon the streets in the vicinity of the bank in this city were blocked with the crowd of people clamoring for their money. A large force of police was stationed at the bank to preserve order. The crowd hourly grew larger and more disorderly, and other cities and towns were entertained. Dispatches from Dublin, Limerick and other points where the bank has branches state that the same scenes were enacted at each of those

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