## The Catholic Record

Rev. James T. Foley, B. A. Thomas Coffey, LL. D.

Rev. D. A. Casey. H. F. Mackinton and Sparetti, late Apostolic Delegate, the Archbishops of Toronto, King, and St. Boniface, the Bishops of Lon. Peterborcugh, and Ogdensburg, N. Clergy throughout the Dominion. following agents are authorized to retions and carvas for the CATHOLIC RECC. al agents: Mesers. P. J. Neven, B. J. Bro. Hagarty, and Miss Sara Hanley, Resi. D. J. Murray, Montreal; Ceorge B. Hewel Mrs. W. S. Smith. Halley.

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1915

CHRISTMAS GREETING "Peace on earth to men of good

While the insatiable carnage of the War has claimed as victims, husbands, fathers, brothers, and sweethearts, bringing desolation to millions of Christian homes, while millions more are swept like chaff before the tremendous sweep of contending armies, the Christmas message of peace and good-will may seem to many a cruel mockery of their grief. And yet at no time since the first Christmas morning when the angels sang the glorious anthem did the world stand in so great need of the consoling message. And, perhaps, just because of the horrors of war its significance will be more deeply felt. To many millions the war has brought the realization of the great truth that the hopeless inequalities of this life are made right by Infinite Justice in the greater and more com-

plete life to come. In the light of this great Christian truth we wish our readers, old and young, all the graces and blessings of this holy Christmas season.

## OUR FRENCH-CANADIAN

Perhaps Mr. Bourassa is the negligeable quantity that he seems to be, or, perhaps, as we think likely, he represents a body of sentiment in the Province of Quebec much larger than the dwindling influence of Le Devoir might indicate.

At any rate he is quoted in our newspapers as having said that the position of French-Canadians in Ontario is worse than that of the inhabitants of Alsace-Lorraine : and that the problem of the two-hundred thousand French-Canadians in Ontario is more important than all the issues that underlie the present war. Well, the present war is incomparably the biggest thing that has happened in our life time, One of the most significant things in the present war is the alleged failure of Onebec to supply her due proportion of men to help win the victory. The Honorable Pierre Blondin, who represents that province in the Dominion Cabinet, says that it is not a lack of Patriotism but a lack of Organization that is the matter. He the burden of proof should lie with is so emphatic as to say that if his native province is indifferent in this great world war he would wipe it off the man of the Dominion. He would have "the name of Quebec buried in oblivion for the sake of our own children." It is worth while record. ing his speech along with Mr.

We care nothing about past utterances of this accredited representative of French - Canadians when he takes a stand so decided and

unequivocal in the present crisis. But Mr. Bourassa and others are taking a stand that is quite different.

Let us for a moment consider the grounds on which our French. Canadian friends base their school claims and their charges of Ontario Prussianism. Perhaps if such claims were voiced only the eccentric and erratic Mr. Bourassa they would not be worth while noticing. But the leading article in L'Action Catholicque (formerly l'Action Sociale) the other day was entitled "Justice pour nos Freres." And its views represent Quebec's demands in the matter of education in Ontario. It states that the Meredith judgment " constitutes au event seriously disquisting for the future of Canada."

The sooner our friends in Lower Canada get rid of such ideas the better it will be for Quebec and its

viction, of Ontario is that she has an absolute right to form her own school system.

The British North America Act permitted the Catholics of Ontario to have their own schools. which were a department of the Common School system. The development of the Catholic school system has been retarded by the exorbitant claims of the French-Canadians, who would make, if they were allowed, the Separate school system of Ontario merely the counterpart of the dissentient school system of Quebec. And they would have language as well as religion the basis of separa-

In the pre-Confederation debates any rights of the French language in Ontario schools were simply unthought of. There was a discussion as to whether or not the use of the French language was to be obligatory in the Parliament of Canada. Whether "shall" should be substituted for "may." And the substitution was not made. But it never seemed to have occurred to the French Canadian representatives of that day to ask that the French language should be recognised in either the schools

or the courts of Ontario. When Mr. Bourassa talks of twohundred thousand French-Canadians in Ontario he conveniently forgets that one hundred thousand, and perhaps one hundred and fifty thousand or more are thoroughly anglicized, and would resist as ardently as les Orang. istes or the hardly less objectionable Irlandais, any attempt to bilingualize their schools.

Just leave the French-Canadians of Ontario alone and they will settle all their difficulties satisfactorily. But when Quebec agitators, whose totally different educational ideals are formed elsewhere, get in their work there is trouble. If our able to take care of themselves they action. would hardly be worth troubling about.

Therefore we should advise our Quebec brethren to mind their own business. There are language diffi culties in many countries but in no country in the wide world has a conquered race been treated so generously as in the province of Quebec. When the exceptional privileges with regard to the French language enjoyed in that province are made the basis for arrogant demands in other parts of Canada it is at once a tribute to and an abuse of the generosity which granted them. Beyond the federal parliament and the federal courts, we repeat, French Canadian representatives at the time of Confederation had no thought of asking that French should be recognized as an official language outside of the Province of Quebec.

THE STURGEON FALLS CASE

The Railway Board has decided that the Spanish River Pulp and Paper Company cannot divert part of unless it can show that just that pro portion of its stock is held by Catholic shareholders. This decision is probably in accordance with the law as it stands, though it does seem that the plaintiffs in the case. Yet "in the opinion of the Board such proof is upon the actor, in this case the corporation and its directors."

Though, some years ago, the Sturgeon Falls case occupied considerable space in the newspapers it may not be out of place to give a history of the problem which has so recently found its way into the courts.

The Separate school at Sturgeon Falls is a bilingual school; but the tax question is in no sense bound up with the claims of bilingual extre-

mists. Some years ago when it was a question whether or not the Sturgeon Falls Paper Mill would locate in Sturgeon Falls the Public and Separate school boards agreed to share in a fixed proportion the school taxes on said mills.

Whether or not this agreement was intended to influence the vote on the exemption of the Sturgeon Falls Paper Mill from all taxes other than school taxes it may be left to the perspicacity of our readers to deter-

The by-law exempting this company passed after the agreement between the Public and Separate school boards had been entered into The ink was hardly dry on the agreement, which Catholics are pervers enough to believe was concluded to influence their votes, when the Pubinfluence in the affairs of the Domin- lie school board under the influence of the Reverend Mr. Piercey re-

The opinion, we might say the con- pudiated the agreement. Legisla- or archbishop of Winnipeg he will Class of St. Valdimir, and having Anglican churchmen will be preion was sought and passed in 1904 validating the agreement between the Public and Separate School Boards. On account of the shame less manner in which the Public School Board had been induced to act this legislation had the unique distinction of being passed without a dissenting voice on either side of the House.

The mill changed hands and was subsequently enlarged to ten times its original capacity. The old agreement - validated by act of Parlia ment-had no longer any force; but the Board of Directors of their own free will by resolution under the Act directed that one-third of their fixed assessment should be set apart to the support of the Separate school Something that is worthy of note is that this action increased the company's taxes by about \$1,500; the Public school rate being about 51 mills on the dollar while the Separate school rate is 12 mills, and the total fixed assessment of the company's property being about \$800,-

The action was taken on behalf of the Public School Board by C. W. Parliament and our old liberty-loving and fair-dealing friend, the Rev. Mr. C. Piercey. Without knowing anything about the Sturgeon Falls Public School Board we feel quite sure that only for the Rev. Mr. Piercey-and C. W. Parliament whoever he may be-no such action would have ever been entered before the Ontario Railway Board. The sense of fair-play and decency sets a limit to shameless bigotry in most places in Ontario.

It should be noted that neither the Separate School Board of Sturgeon Falls nor any other Catholics had any hand, act, or part in the case inst decided. It was not the Sturgeon Falls Public School Board, but the Rev. C. Piercey and C. W. Parliament French-Canadian friends were not on their behalf that instituted the

> There are a lot of Protestants in Ontario who feel keenly the disgrace of counting the Rev. Mr. Piercey on world work out its destiny. their side.

Before the Rail way Board the Spanish River Pulp and Paper Company swore that 87 per cent of their employees' children were receiving their education in the Separate school. These employees must bear their full share of the exemption granted to the company.

If the law is properly interpreted by the Ontario Railway Board-and we have no reason to doubt it-then the law should be changed.

PROVINCIAL BOUNDARY LINES "Rome, Dec. 9th .- At the Consistory Pope Benedict to day appointed Mgr. Matthieu Archbishop of Regins, Mgr. Belliveau Archbishop of St. Boniface and Mgr. Sinnott Archbishop of Winnipag. Mgr. Sinnott is Secretary of

of the Papal Ablegate at Ottawa."

The Northwest Review in giving this despatch adds "we have been unable to verify the report." its taxes to the Separate school So far as we are able to ascertain the unt 1775 and 1776,"-which would inof Rome respecting state and provincial boundaries. By raising Regina to an archiepiscopal see the civil limits of | holidays. Saskatchewan are recognized in creating a new ecclesiastical province. Alberta and British Columbia had already received like consideration. Everywhere throughout the world it is the policy of Rome to recognize national, state and provincial bound-

aries. The one civil boundary in Canada where such considerations imperatively demand to be taken into account is that between Ontario and Quebec. In these provinces there are not only different school systems but different languages. There is quite as much reason for respecting civil boundaries in this case as in the case of Italy and Austria or of France and Germany. Yet this is the one place where the delimitation of dicceses utterly disregard the civil boundaries.

It is hardly necessary to point out that the consequences are undesirable and that here, also, Rome's wise and prudent policy should go Order's institution by Empress into effect.

With regard to Mgr. Sinnott the Catholics of Canada will hardly need timony to the efficiency of the Adany information. He has been miral's services to his adopted Secretary to the Delegation at Ottawa country. "Your hearty and zealous for fifteen years. There is probably service," the letter reads, "shown to not a man in Canada, with the possible exception of Bishop Fallon who gave missions all over the country. who is so thoroughly conversant with | wi hing to demonstrate it to the ecclesiastical affairs and conditions whole world are graciously pleased as Mgr. Sinnott. Whether as bishop to name you a Knight of the First We doubt if the great body of

bring to his responsible office a fund with our own hands invested you of knowledge and experience that will be invaluable.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

THE PARTICIPATION of Canada in the great War has renewed interest in the many trophies of former wars scattered up and down the country, whether in private hands, or, as pub lie property, in the parks and squares of our cities and larger towns. For the most part these consist of cannon taken by the armies of Great Britain in the many wars which the maintenance of her world wide posses sions and the protection of her commerce have from time to time forced

IN FRONT of the Parliament Buildings at Toronto there are two of these pieces which, as their inscription informs us, were taken from the Russians at Sevastopol, and presented to the Government of Canada as memorials of what, in the light of subsequent events, many statesmen have come to regard as that great blunder, the Crimean War. Be this as it may, the guns and many others like them throughout the country remain as dumb tributes to the valor and patient endurance of British Irish and French soldiers under un usually trying circumstances.

THESE TROPHIES of the past may also be regarded as memorials of the alliance which then existed between Great Britain and France, and which, maintained uninterruptedly through the intervening sixty years, has been deepened and strengthened by their common championship of justice and civilization in the present titanic struggle. And it may be allowable to regard as a happy omen for the future peace of the world that Russia, against whom the Western Powers were combined in the affair of the Crimea, now stands shoulder to shoulder with them against the Teutonic aggressor. So does the

REFERRING TO war trophies we are reminded of two interesting pieces which attracted our attention some years ago. Visitors to the quaint little town of Perth, Ontario, will have perhaps remarked two brass field-pieces (three pounders) which stand in the open space in front of the court house there. These have an unusually interesting history. They were originally taken from the French in Flanders by the Duke of York. They were afterwards used by the British in the American Revolutionary War, and were taken from General Burgoyne at the battle of by the Americans in the War of 1812-15. they were re-taken by the British and Canadians at Chrystler's Farm November 11th, 1818. The two guns have still (or had twenty five years ago ) the original trails and axles, and bear the inscription on the breech: "J & R Verbruggan, fecericate them to be of Flemish manu authoritative confirmation. It has facture. They were taken to Perth the appearance of truth. It is en. at the close of the war where they tirely in accord with the wise policy have ever since remained. They used to be used-perhaps are stillfor saluting purposes on national

> ANOTHER INTERESTING fact which has been recalled by the War is that the "Father of the Russian Navv was a Scotsman, Sir Samuel Greig. who flourished in the time of the great Empress, Catherine II. On occasion of the investiture last year of the Cross of St. Valdimir upon member of the British Legation at Petrograd, it was stated that this was the first instance of the bestowal of this honor upon a foreigner. This statement was very wide of the mark for it soon transpired that the same decoration had been conferred upon Sir Samuel Greig, considerably over a hundred years ago (in 1782, to be exact ), and that another Scotsman, Captain Hew Stewart of the Royal Navy was similarly honored in

SIR SAMUEL Greig, Admiral of all the Russians, was one of the first recipients of the Cross after the Catherine. The letter conferring the decoration is an interesting tesus in the execution of affairs entrusted to your charge has entitled you to our Imperial regard, and

with the Insignia of the Order desire you to wear it in the established manner, firmly persuaded that having received this mark of distinction you, in course of your future service will merit further proofs of our good

will."

SIR SAMUEL DIED in 1788, shortly after the naval engagement off Hoghland. For his services at that battle he received the order of St. Andrew in an autograph letter from the Empress. His valor as a seaman has remained one of the best traditions of the Russian Navy. One of the new Russian battleships launched last year was named after him, "The Admiral Greig." His family had become naturalized in Russia, and the Admiral's grandson became Minister of Finance and Chancellor of the Empire under Tear Alexander II. The last Russian Greig was aide to the Grand Duke Cyril and lost his life at Port Arthur in the war with Japan. The family is still represented in the female line by Prince Oukhtemsky, Countess Stenbech and Countess Vera Tolstoi. Five great grandsons hold commissions in the British Army.

RELATING THE story of the conver sion to the Catholic Faith of a Methodist Episcopal missionary in China -aconversion brought about through reading Cardinal Newman's "Apologia," a contemporary asks : "Did the Cardinal ever imagine that his book would reach a Protestant missionary in inland China, and lead him to renounce all to gain the pearl of great price ? What, then, it may be added, about Catholic books under a weight of dust in many lib raries? It you will not read them yourselves, put them into the hands of others. In the language of Scripture, cast them as bread upon the waters, and learn of the rich return in souls in the next world if not in this.

BISHOPS OF THE Church of Eng land in England have a long-estabdecorum. As teachers of truth or leaders of men they can scarcely, in the light of history, be taken seriously, but their character for the most part, as gentlemen and scholars has been pretty well maintained for at least a hundred years. It remained reputation. Under the title "Monopoly in Religion," he has contributed to the November Nineteenth Century and After, sixteen pages of diatribe and loose thinking which Saratoga. Pressed into service again would discredit even the Kensit school, and which, if taken by itself, would stigmatize the Bishop as little better than an ecclesiastical rowdy.

THE ESSAY-if such it may be called-is not specifically directed against the Catholic Church, but it requires the merest glance to see that that is its one motif and aim. he Bighen must be one of those Anglican dignitaries who, interjecting themselves into the War zone in France, and essaying to make use of Catholic churches for the holding of Protestant services were courteously but firmly reminded that a Catholic church was a consecrated temple, set apart for a sacred rite, and not, for one moment to be diverted to other uses. This was the experience of several, and they seem not to have relished it. Consequently, on the raturn of the like to England they relieved themselves in print of their stored-up resentment.

THE RISHOP of Carlisle, we repeat

must have been one of these. At least, his Nineteenth Century article breathes pique and wounded vanity in every line. Its coarseness may be seen in its references to the Holy Eucharist; its ignorance in the worn-out calumny about absolution being a matter of price ; and its loose reasoning in that its author has failed to perceive that the same arguments which he directs against the Church may with equal or greater force be directed against Christianity itself or against its Divine Founder. If the Bishop's theory were to hold, Islam. ism, or Buddhism, or Confucianism, or any esoteric cult would have equal claim with Christianity to man's allegiance ; Christ's injunction to preach the Gospel to every creature would resolve itself into an insolent monopoly," and all the sufferings of the Confessors, the blood of the Martyrs, and the tribulations of missionaries to heathen nations would have been in vain.

pared to follow the Bishop of Carlisle in so sweeping an hypothesis.

ON THE BATTLE LINE

Perhaps while our newspapers are giving us vain glorious twaddle about the War is may be useful to read what a pro-British Military Ex pert in a pro-British paper has to say about our military achievements. The following is from the New York Times:

In justice to England it must be said that the British fleet has cleared the seas and has thereby made it possible for the Allies to control the world's markets of food and shell. England has also supplied troops in numbers at least five times as great as what her Allies and herself considered her quota at the outset. But at the same time England has fallen far below the standard set by the French and has either through disaffection at home, incompatence, or some other cause, almost totally failed to measure up to the demand that German efficiency and prepared-ness put upon her. France, with a population but little if any greater than that of the British Isles, has kept in the field an army of nearly 3,000 000 men, England not more than 1,000 000 French inefficients have been weeded out by the rubless hand of Joffre, who sees only the good of France. England's inefficients are still in command, if we may

Neuve Chapelle saw the beginning of what should have been a great victory, truly important in its re-salts. But its end saw the infantry disrupted and disorganized by an adartillery pumping shrappel and shell artillerymen could work the guns, and utter lack of co-operation between the arms.

Somewhat later the German counterstroke came and the French back around the Ypres salient, saw their first line of trenches occupied by the Germans, and the entire posi-tion at Ypres threatened, and this after numerous thrusts against the French line in the Argonne and elsewhere had been thrown back.

Then came the operations against the Dardanelles. If history com-ments on this move at all it will be only to point out its impossibility. No nation but an England led by a popular superstition to believe in a lished reputation for dignity and navy to which anything was possible pin pricks against all our military would have for a moment even con sidered an operation against land for without a thoroughly tifications worked outco operative plan between the military and naval branches of the service. England's realization Gallipoli has disposed of over three British army corps with absolutely in this generation for the Bishop of nothing to show for it but another Carlisle to seriously compromise that inglorious defeat. And now there is absolutely no chance of doing much more by way of Gallipoli than has vet been done. There remain out of his venture two considerationsfirst, how to get off the peninsula, and, second, what will be the effect on British prestige in the Far East if the troops do leave ?

The next blunder made its appearance in the latter part of September in the drive in Artois against Lens. Here the mistakes of Neuve Chapelle were repeated. The British went forward at Loos and advanced some distance east of Hill No. 60. The British commander at this part of actually. The result was that when the advance troops had penetrated deeply into the German lines and were exhausted by their efforts, British reserves were nowhere to be found, and a movement which should have and could have shaken, if not broken, the German hold on Lille was almost entirely fruitless. How the Black Watch was left unsupported to bear the brunt of the German counterattack which fol-lowed immediately was told in detail shortly after the battle. The discouraging feature was its effect on the French plans. For months the French has been preparing for this advance at a not inconsiderable sacrifice of men and shell. All the fighting in the Labyrinth, in front of Souchez, and at Notre Dame de Lorette that marked the late Spring and Summer had for its object an advance against Lens and the German communications at Lille. But the ncompetence of British leadership nullified it.

The final blow was the military

and diplomatic failure in the Balkans Not only was Bulgaria allowed to go against the Entente, but Engla utterly failed to send her quota of

troops to Serbia's aid.

Lastly—and this affects England alone rather than her allies—there is the British defeat by the German. led Turkish troops in the region of Bagdad. Late in September the British forces under General Townshend won a decisive victory over the Turks in Mesopotamia between towns of Kut and Nakhailat on the Tigris. But in the week past the tables were turned and it was the British Army that was in retreat.

All this coupled with domestic disturbances, Cabinet upheavals, and disloyalty of native citizens, was well calculated to shake the faith of Britain's allies in British military prowess, and it is not to be wondered at that the French seem to have taken matters into their own hands and assumed the dominant position

in the Allies' war council. Rumors Allies' camp, and it is entirely con-ceivable that such exists. France and Russia have done their part and have suffered grievously. England boasts that she has not yet been wounded. Harden, the great German writer, has made the same statement. That British statesmen can write with writer and the same statement. point with pride to such a condition when France is bleeding at every pore, Serbia has experienced a cata-clysm, and Russia holds a line of defense several hundred miles inside of her boundaries, indicates a rather peculiar condition of the British mind. Britain will be wounded, and sorely so, before a treaty of peace is made, and the sooner she can put wounds while inflicting still more serious wounds on her enemies, the sooner the day of peace will come.

T. P. O'CONNOR

DOUBT AND UNCERTAINTY GIVE PLACE TO OPTIMISM

A VISIT TO BYRON'S BOME

London, Dec. 18.—Last west ended in anxious uncertainty; this week, on the contrary, ends not only with a feeling of decided relief but actually with feelings of high hope for the Allies.

Bulgarian forces hurled against them in Serbia, and even greater up them the Saloniki excertainty whether the Saloniki expedition should be continued or
abandoned. Military opinion in England foresaw difficulties from the
beginning and foretold the impossibility of rescuing the Serbian army.

enceau insisted with equal vehe-mence that the place to beat the Germans was in France. Both prophecies on the whole beat Great French journalists like Cle prophecies on the whole have been tol sified by the unfolding of events The English and French troops not only are now safe but can entrench themselves safely in Saloniki and await confidently the new advance.

postponed now until Spring.

In the meantime several serious political consequences have come from the successful retreat and the determination to hold Saloniki. Greece only waited the word of determine demands to make their task possible by withdrawing some troops at Saloniki and abandoning the policy of

movements.

Russia in the meantime is slowly gathering and perhaps more slowly equipping her new army. While Roumania is biding her time she will doubtless join the Allies when Res-

sia's backing makes her secure.

This transformation of the whole military situation in the Balkans since last week has produced a greater feeling of optimism in the greater feeling of optim

Allied countries.
All Irishmen are proud of the tremendous part played by the Tenth trementous part played by the retreat.

Irish division in the Balkan retreat.

Though the feat they accomplished cost many lives the magnificent and far reaching achievement shows that

their blood was not shed in vain.

Partly owing to John Redmond's remonstrances, backed by the opinion of all English parties, these deeds he Irish regiments have receive full notice in all papers. All parties abound in recognition of the incomabound in recognition of the incom-parable bravery of the Irish soldier. The chief regiments were the Muns the line selected the time when the ters, Leinsters, Connaught Rangers British advance line was over a mile and Inniskillings. The first three to the east of the present position are almost entirely Catholic and Nationalists and Catholice. The latter here, as elsewhere, have forgotten the old Irish feud in the common defence of Englan Ireland's fight for European liberty. At home there has been an impor

tant and anxious debate on the bill to prolong the life of Parliament, in which a small group, partly Liberal and partly Tory critics, hoped to utilize the occasion to deal a heavy blow, perhaps even precipitate another change in the Ministry. But Bonar Law's splendid loyalty and convincing speech destroyed the combination and the Ministry stands strongly against all opponents.
week may have a decisive debt Next the question of conscription. The extraordinary returns Derby's recruiting campaign prove that all the men wanted are to be had by voluntary instead of compul-sory methods. Ireland certainly does not want conscription for Lord Lientenant Wimbourne, in the last 100,000 Irishmen already recruited. Spending a week end at Notting-ham, I suddenly realised that I was

not far away from Newstead Abbey, the home of Lord Byron, nor from the little church in which he was buried. I found also that Newstead Abbey had passed into the hands of a friend of mine : so when I announced that I wanted to pay a visit to the shrine of the most compelling figure in British literature, I received an invitation to lunch, and had my own time to inspect the place. The present owner is Sir Arthur Markham. He is a Nottinghamshire man; was born within twelve miles of Newstead; has amassed a great fortune in coal. and is a striking figure in the House of Commons, outspoken, andacious, almost an Ishmael, because he criticises so freely all men even in the highest positions. Whatever his eccentricity, however, in the House, he has the genius for business; no mine almost he has ever touched has failed to turn to gold.