UNJUSTIFIED CRITICISM

THE LETTER OF A ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST GROSSLY MISREPRESENTED

Hamilton Times

On Sunday, March 19, the Rev. E. A. Pearson, pastor of the Central Methodist church of this city, preached the annual sermon to the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society. In the course of his sermon he made a vigorous attack on the Roman Catholic church. To illustrate what he regarded as the intolerant spirit of that church. Mr. Pearson alluded to a letter written by a Catholic priest of Peterboro, Ont.—a letter which, he said, "reeks with the old spirit of the inquisition." The sermon was reported in the Herald of March 20. The portion of it in which allusion is made to the letter of the Peterboro priest is as follows :

"In Peterboro, from where I came, Canon Davidson, rector of St. Peter's Anglican church, entertained the other ministers of the city and sent an invitation to Father McColl, rector of a Roman Catholic church there. Instead of merely accepting or declining the invitation Father McColl wrote a note to Canon Davidson in which he said there could be 'no compromise between those inside the church and those on the outside. In the war of the churches kid gloves must play no part.' "

Rev. Mr. Pearson's authority for his version of the Rev. Father McColl's letter to Canon Davidson was evidently a news article in the Peterboro Times of Jan. 19. The article follows :

"That the world-wide disturbance in religious circles is having its effect on Peterboro is made plain from the tenor of a reply of which the Times has heard, made by the Rev. Father McColl to the Rev. Canon Davidson of St. John's. It appears that a few days ago the canon invited the ministerial association of this city to dine with him. He had also sent a courteous and well-meant note of invitation to Father McColl to be his guest ; but instead of accepting or declining to dine in the way customary on such occasions, the worthy priest 'came back at him' in a letter that left no doubt of what he meant in the minds of those present. Amongst other things the Rev. Father McColl said that 'There can be no compromise between the men in the church and those outside of it. The warfare between the two will be one also in which kid gloves will play no part.' The attitude of attack was considered to show what we 'may expect.' The attack on Modernism is evidently extending to Peterboro."

The Peterboro Times is a morning paper. On the same day that the foregoing article appeared, the Peterboro Examiner, an evening paper, printed the following editorial under the heading An Evidently Gratuitous and Slanderous Concoction :

"A local paper this morning purports to print the tenor of a reply by Rev. Father McColl to an invitation sent him by Rev. J. C. Davidson to attend a dinner given by the latter to the ministers and clergy of the city. The article referred to says that instead of accepting the invitation, the worthy priest 'came back at him' in a letter, in which it is asserted that, 'among other things Rev. Father McColl said, "There can be no compromise between the men in the church and those outside of it. The warfare between the two will be one also in which kid gloves will play no part.'" The article referred to seemed so absurdly improbable in its statements that Rev. Mr. Davidson was asked in reference to the nature of the letter he is alleged to have received from Rev. Father McColl. Rev. Mr. Davidson's reply was, in effect, that he recently received a letter from Rev. Father McColl, and that it was couched in the most courteous and kindly terms, and he (Mr. Davidson) added that there was nothing in the letter in word or meaning that could for a moment justify what was reported in the article referred to, of which he has been told, but which he had not seen, and had no wish to see if it was of the nature described."

In the same issue of the Examiner the letter of Father McColl to Canon Davidson was printed in full. It is as follows :

"Peterboro, Jan. 12, 1911.

"The Very Rev. Canon Davidson, the Rectory, Peterboro : My dear Canon,—I received your kind invitation to take tea with you this evening. I must say that I appreciate your good will very much indeed, and deeply regret that circumstances will not permit me to take advantage of the pleasure of your hospitality. I have always had a very high opinion of you personally, as I am convinced you do your work ably and conscientiously, and in a manner that can give no offence to any person, however sensitive, who may differ from you in religious belief. I am gratified, therefore, to have this opportunity of expressing to you my sentiments of sincere appreciation. It is our desire to live in peace and harmony with our separated brethren, and I have never consciously done anything to disturb such relationship.

"I have never been the aggressor, though it is true I am always ready to defend our church and people against unjust attacks and misrepresentation. That I look upon as a duty. We love our religion, and we love our king and country, and are loyal to both the one and the other. It is therefore a deadly insult to us, especially in this enlightened age, to have our religious belief misrepresented or our fidelity to the principles of British liberty impugned. Against all such, who are worth noticing, we are ever ready to use the lawful weapon of self-defence, and when we do so kid gloves form no part of our accoutrements.

"But as regards yourself, dear canon, we have not the slightest reason to complain. On the contrary, we have every reason to be grateful for the kind consideration we have always received from one we know to be not only a cultured gentleman, but a man with a kind and generous heart as well.

"Thanking you for your remembrance of me when inviting your guests, believe me,

Very sincerely yours,
W. J. McColl."

Appended to the letter, as printed in the Examiner, is the following explanatory note:

"Rev. Canon Davidson explains that Rev. Father McColl's letter is published with the willing concurrence of Canon Davidson, by whom it was received and interpreted only in the most friendly way, as was natural. The letter was not received until the day following the ministerial tea, and was not shown, it being treated as a private communication. It would seem conclusive, therefore, that the supposed quotation must have been manufactured by an outsider, perhaps from the nucleus of the 'kid gloves' phrase which was quoted merely as a frank and spicy expression in a private conversation with a friend."

It is not conceivable that the Rev. Mr. Pearson, had he seen the actual text of Rev. Father McColl's letter, would have made such use of it as he did in his sermon. It is only fair to assume that he saw the garbled extract from the letter which the Peterboro Times published, but did not see the whole letter as it was published later, and the comments of the Examiner. It is to be regretted that although inadvertently, he did a gross injustice to the Rev. Father McColl. The Herald regrets that, through the publication of its report of Mr. Pearson's sermon it has perhaps been instrumental in giving its readers a false and unfair conception of the character of the Rev. Father McColl. The publication of his letter is the best possible means of demonstrating the injustice of the interpretation which was put upon it.

THE CATHOLIC ENCYCLOPEDIA VOL. X

"Nothing succeeds like success." The trite adage comes into one's mind on looking through the list of contributors prefixed so Volume X of "The Catholic Encyclopedia." The meaning of it, probably, is that success grows like a snow-ball: money follows money—whether coming in or going out; also learning, like misery, loves company. This all-round encyclopedia on a great scale, to present the whole panorama of knowledge as it should look to Catholic eyes, no doubt impressed scholars, from the first, as a grand enterprise; but then it was American and that, to many a learned European, suggests the grandiosely visionary. The scheme had to be realized, several volumes had to appear with substantial evidence of success—of intellectual, literary, scientific success—before the first comparatively small group of contributors were joined by others, and again by others. The learning of those already associated with the enterprise and the excellent style in which their contributions were presented to the public seem to have had the effect of attracting others as well equipped as they for the work of enlightenment. Perhaps, too, something of this may be due to the opening up of a wider horizon of possibilities in the course of four or five years' correspondence between editors and contributors. But in any case we find in this new volume a remarkable number of brilliant and distinguished new contributors. Among them are Professors De Wulf, of Louvain, Duhem, of Bordeaux, and Engelkemper of Munster, Father Forbes-Leith, S. J., and Father Garesche, S. J., Canon Kempeneer, of Mechlin, Father Kleinschmidt, of Harreveld, Holland, Mrs. Maxwell-Scott, the well-known Catholic authoress, Professor Senfelder, of Vienna, and Professor Van Hoonacker, of Louvain.

THE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS

SPECIAL PAPAL BLESSING FOR THEIR NOVITIATES

Our Holy Father, Pope Pius X. has recently bestowed a special blessing upon the Junior Novitiates or Training Colleges of the Brothers of the Christian Schools and granted particular indulgences to those who interest themselves in the work. As the Brothers have, of late years, established a Junior Novitiate in Toronto to meet the needs of this province, we have no doubt that many of our readers will be interested in the following extracts from the Papal Briefs.

The Apostolic Blessing is expressed as follows :

" To our beloved junior novices of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, to the zealous priests, brothers, and laity who are occupied in their recruitment, to the families who consecrate them to God in the Congregation of St. John Baptist De La Salle, to the Directors and Professors who educate them in the holy fear of God, We impart with all our heart the Apostolic Benediction."

PIUS P. P. X.

The Vatican, Dec. 14, 1910.

The following extract from a brief dated April 15, 1909, indicates the Indulgences granted to those who show interest in the work:

"In the name of the mercy of Almighty God, and in virtue of the authority of his blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, to all and each of the faithful who, belonging in any manner to the said 'Work of St. John Baptist De La Salle,' shall aid the said establishments known as Junior Novitiates, which are more necessary now than ever on account of the perversity of the times, either by offering prayers to God or in any other manner convenient to them. We grant a Plenary Indulgence and remission of all their sins each year on the feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, patronal feast of the said Junior Novitiates, and on the feast of St. John Baptist De La Salle, if being truly contrite and having confessed their sins and received Holy Communion they devoutly visit a Church or public Oratory from the first Vespers till sunset of the said days and pray for the ordinary intentions." These indulgences are applicable to the souls in Purgatory.

From the above it is evident that the Holy Father attaches great importance to this work and that not the young novices alone, but their parents and relatives also, have a large share in the spiritual blessings.

Knights of Columbus

On last Thursday, in St. Peter's Hall of this city there was given an entertainment under the auspices of the Knights of Columbus which will long be remembered. The hall was crowded to the doors. Thomas Augustine Daly, the poet humorist of Philadelphia, gave readings from his own poems which charmed the audience and were received with unbounded applause. Mr. Daly's productions are truly literary nuggets and will live in literature beside the creations of Dr. Drummond and James Whitcomb Reilly. Mr. Cyril Dwight Edwards, Canada's leading baritone, was never in better voice, while the numbers of Miss Lou MacDonald, soprano, one of Mr. Edward's pupils, gave abundant evidence that she will yet take rank amongst the very best vocalists of the province. Her voice, while powerful, has a sweetness all its own that will always make her a favorite with a London audience.

Let each of us be diligent in offering thanks to God for the individual blessings we have received and then we may hope to be more abundantly refreshed at the Fountain of Grace, for the prayer of thanksgiving is a heavenly stream that flows into the ocean of divine love and returns to us again in showers of benediction.—Cardinal Gibbons.

Let us not leave the smallest interval between our duties. Let one duty interlace with another like the branches of a hedge, like the links in a chain.

NOVA SCOTIA SCHOOLS AND CONVENTS

To the Editor of the Catholic Record :

Sir,—As a subscriber of your able and fearless Catholic Journal, I wish to draw the attention of your many Catholic readers in Cape Breton and Nova Scotia to a state of affairs existing and tolerated in Nova Scotia for many years. It is the boast of our province by the sea, that we have produced great scholars, great orators, great statesmen, great divines and jurists. Our common schools, academies, and colleges are the pride and mainstay of our fair country, abounding in boundless wealth of sea and land. Our mines and fisheries, as well as our rich soil, contribute to make our country great in the estimation of the world. It was here that the eloquent Joseph Horne, with few opportunities and poor advantages in his early days, by dint of energy, holy ambition and bold patriotism, fought the great battle of Responsible Government, and taught a lesson to petty tyrants and autocrats, that we must enjoy a full measure of right and freedom in the land of the Maple Leaf. Within the last twenty-five years we have been blessed with the establishment of several convent schools in this diocese. Our late lamented Bishop Cameron was a great patron of convent institutions. Before his demise, about a year ago, there were established in his diocese about twenty beautiful and elegant convent schools. Several of these are in Sydney and in the big mining centres of Cape Breton ; and, thanks to the liberality, fairness and tolerance of the Protestants who are in most cases in the majority in these centres, these convents are placed in a position to receive government and municipal aid, and are under the superintendence and inspection of the educational authorities. The result of the excellent work of these institutions has been made manifest by the wonderful success of their pupils at the provincial examinations from year to year. Unfortunately the same justice and consideration has not been extended to the convents of New Glasgow and Picton in Nova Scotia proper. Here the Catholics are in a helpless condition and in a weak minority. These convents do not receive any aid from the Government or school section. The Antigonish Casket, with its usual zeal and energy, appealed to the people of Picton county for justice and support to these schools. But in vain. The Eastern Chronicle in New Glasgow, an able, fair and staunch Protestant Journal, made a strong and powerful plea in favor of the Picton convents. But in vain. The trouble is with the School Board, which, being controlled by Protestants, will not recognize the convent schools. The result is that Roman Catholics, who naturally prefer their own schools are obliged to pay double tax, one for the support of their own teachers and another for the support of the Protestant Public schools which are of no use or service to them. This is a hardship upon the poor minority ; is it to be tolerated ? Never. The only way is to propound a practical solution of the problem which has not been done yet. The Government of Nova Scotia is responsible for a tolerance of this unjust state of affairs and has the means and remedy at hand if only it can be clearly demonstrated on fair and sound principles. The town of New Glasgow and Picton are incorporated and it is the mayor and town council that are responsible for this state of affairs. Being influenced against convent schools by prejudice, there is no hope for better treatment. The school inspectors of Nova Scotia, are, by authority and in virtue of their position as educationists, the best and most practical men for the solution of world questions of education. The Government of Nova Scotia has the power and authority to make laws and regulations in the interests of Justice and fair taxation. The late School Inspector MacKinnon, of Inverness, Cape Breton, was a member of the Predecessor of the present local Government of Nova Scotia. He was a member of the council of Public Institution in Hill Government of Nova Scotia from 1874 to 1878, and was considered one of the ablest and most effective speakers in the Nova Scotia Legislature for years as well as a shrewd and most practical and level-headed statesman. His last school Report, for the school year ended July, 1906, ends as follows : "Let incorporated towns pay the entire salary of their teachers, leaving the total Provincial Grant to support the rural schools." The above is a sound and practical suggestion. Let the towns of Picton, New Glasgow, and all incorporated towns in Nova Scotia pay the entire salary of their teachers and their schools. In that case the Protestants of Picton County would receive no more favors from the Government than the Roman Catholics are receiving. Then they will realize where the shoe pinches, and probably prefer to do justice to their Catholic fellow-citizens and neighbors than to be obliged to support their schools without Government aid.

This is a matter for the consideration of the Government of Nova Scotia, composed of the Superintendent of Education, Dr. A. H. Mackay, Hon. G. H. Murray, Provincial Secretary, Hon. A. K. McLean, Attorney General and Hon. C. P. Chisholm, Commissioner of Mines. Surely these men will remedy matters in Picton,

A Catholic
Nova Scotia

Favors received.—A subscriber wishes to return thanks for favors received through prayers to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, our Blessed Lady, St. Joseph and St. Anthony.

TEACHERS WANTED

Teacher wanted for Union S. S. No. 1, Logan and Ellice for the remainder of the year 1911. Duties to commence after Easter. Apply stating qualifications and salary expected to John Dwyer, jr. Sec. Trustee, Bornholm, Ont. 1695-2

Wanted professional teachers of Catholic religion for schools in Alberta and Saskatchewan, commencing during the spring months. Apply, stating certificates held and exact date open for engagement, to Canadian Teachers Agency, Regina, Sask. 1694-3.

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Young ladies who desire to enter a training school for nurses, may send their application to Sisters of Charity, St. Joseph's Sanitarium, Mt. Clemens, Mich. 1693-3

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Wanted, young ladies for St. Mary's Training School for Nurses, Pueblo, Colorado. For further particulars, apply to Sister Superior, 46 Park Place, Detroit, Mich. 1669-tf

HOUSEKEEPER WANTED

Wanted a housekeeper for a priest in a city parish. Salary $16.00 per month. Apply S. C., Catholic Record, London, Ont. 1694-tf.

ORGANIST WANTED

Wanted an organist to take large choir and children's choir, in a small town east of Peterborough. Please state qualifications and salary expected. Apply H. C., Catholic Record, London, Ont. 1695-2

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Karn—6 octave piano-case organ, by D. W. Karn & Co., Woodstock, in ebonized case. Has 11 stops, two sets of reeds throughout, two couplers and 2 knee swells. Special Sale Price $59
J. W. Shaw & Co.—6-octave piano case organ, by J. W. Shaw & Co., Montreal, in handsome walnut case, with mirror top, full length carved panels and music desk. Has 11 stops, two full sets of reeds, two couplers and two knee swells, mouse-proof pedals, etc. Special Sale Price $65
Doherty—6-octave piano-case organ, by the Doherty Organ Co., Clinton, in attractive walnut case, with polished panels and full length music rack. Has 11 stops, two sets of reeds throughout, two couplers, two knee swells, mirror rail top and mouse-proof pedals. Special Sale Price $67
Dominion—6-octave organ, by the Dominion Organ Co., Bowmanville, in solid walnut case, with fret carved panels and mirror rail top, Has 11 stops, two full sets of reeds throughout, two couplers, two knee swells, etc. Has patent mouse and dust proof pedal cover. Special Sale Price $69
Karn—6-octave piano-case organ, by D. W. Karn & Co., Woodstock, in handsome solid walnut case, with full length music desk, carved panels, lamp stands. Has 11 stops, two full sets of reeds throughout, two couplers, two knee swells, mouse-proof pedals, etc. Special Sale Price $70
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