

ANNUAL MEETING

OF CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY OF HALIFAX

The annual meeting of the Halifax branches of the Catholic Truth Society was held on Sunday, March 5th, in St. Mary's Parish Hall, His Grace Archbishop McCarthy presiding.

The reports of the officers showed the total receipts for the year at the Cathedral and Seminary Chapel to have been \$1,694.04, of which \$326.67 was balance from previous years.

Besides the book and pamphlets sold from the book-racks at the church doors, over 600 Catholic newspapers were disposed of each week, including nearly 100 copies furnished free to the soldiers at the forts and to the hospital.

Rev. Father McCallion of the Cathedral staff read a very able paper on "Catholic Literature." He contrasted the two schools of literary thought, namely, the idealistic and the realistic, and showed that as the Catholic religion is both supremely idealistic and supremely realistic, Catholic writers must preserve the happy medium and not be led into extremes.

WHAT THINK YOU OF CHRIST?

"What think you of Christ," is a question of serious import to all men. And no wonder. It lies at the heart of Christianity. The problem of the "Son of Man" is the ultimate test of orthodoxy; in an unmistakable manner it marks the parting of the spiritual ways.

Three years ago, Loofs, one of the foremost living Christologists, speaking, if not officially, at least with full knowledge of non-Catholic thought, did not hesitate to say that the world over there was scarcely a single well-informed Protestant theologian who held unequivocally that Christ was God.

"We believe in Jesus. We believe that He lived and died. . . To us His memory is the memory of a hero. . . We are indignant . . . because the Church betrayed Jesus . . . to us that little immaculate icon that sits at the right hand of the image of God in heaven is a part of the whole traitorous procedure.

This is what Radicalism thinks of Christ, and this is the very sublimation of blasphemy. Against it there remains one bulwark, the Catholic Church whose faith in Christ never changes. Its attitude toward Him is still summed up in the formula framed by the Fathers of the Council of Chalcedon, against the Monophysites in the year 451.

CONVERSIONS TO FAITH IN ORIENT

FIGURES WHICH SHOW GREAT PROGRESS MADE BY CATHOLIC CHURCH AMONG PEOPLES OF ASIA

A little booklet just printed by the Jesuits of Shanghai gives a glimpse of the conditions of Catholic Missions in the Far East fifty years ago and again at the present time. The figures appearing in this report speak volumes. We know, of course, that the Faith has made progress in China and Japan, but we do not realize how extraordinary this growth has been until we see the actual statistics.

Here are a few of the most important: Japan, in 1865 had 10,000 Catholics; they now number 72,454, and Japan is acknowledged to be a difficult country to evangelize.

In China proper, progress is more marked, viz.: Kiang Si shows 69,180 Catholics as against 9,000 half a century ago, and Shantung, 100,595 against 10,751. Chihli is the hammer province, with a total Catholic population of 485,218. Its complete statistics are not available, but they undoubtedly show the same comforting comparison.

FRANCE RELUMING HER LAMP

Only a few years ago the present French Prime Minister, M. Aristide Briand, exultingly boasted that they (the infidel government) had "blotted out the Sun from the heavens." He meant by this fustian to brag that the atheists of France had banished the name of God and the name of Christ from the school books.

There is a power in the light of heaven that will find a chink, even though it be in the wall of a dungeon below the street level, to send a ray of cheer to some fainting heart imprisoned from the current of humanity that rushes past outside, ignorant of the woe that lies hidden behind the iron bars.

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usually are the members of the Irish Constabulary. In a recent one the writer said (amongst other things): "As soon as a person arrives in France he finds it is the land of the Crucifix. In France the Crucifix is to be seen almost everywhere—at the entrance to every town and village, beside every little cluster of farm-houses and at all crossroads.

"Remember, it is not even the ordinary Crucifix which can be seen sometimes in Ireland and in England. These crosses stand from 10 to 40 feet high, always giving the figure the size and appearance of real life, and arousing by its presence feelings of awe, fear and reverence. Just picture regiments on the march—often much fatigued and always carrying a lot of equipment—being brought suddenly before one of these figures.

"Nearly always there is a Crucifix at the place where we leave the public road and enter the communication trench which leads to the firing line. It is often remarkable how those large crosses escape the effect of shell fire. Fancy suddenly getting into the open and seeing nothing save the outlines of the large Crucifix silhouetted against the horizon, and the lonely figure on the Cross gazing down upon a scene of extreme desolation and of complete ruin.

THE POLITICAL MACHINE

We are forced from time to time to listen to many accusations and slanders against the Church. Perhaps the most persistent and foolish indictment brought against her by bigots and fomenters of religious dissent is that she is a most powerful, international political machine scheming insidiously for the control of kingdom, empire and republic.

The Cardinals, a body of learned and powerful men, themselves selected because of special ability and regardless of birth or rank, elect in their turn the Pope to rule the Church—just as our Electoral College was established by the founders of this government to elect a President.

When some feeble king was succeeding to the throne and the power of France, when some weakling through the accident of birth, was made ruler of Spain, or of England, the ablest man within the Church was to rule.

It is encouraging to all of those that believe in republican government and who want to believe that this nation, properly managed, can emerge to realize that the greatest, oldest, most powerful organization in the world is the great Catholic Church, based spiritually upon the Rock, St. Peter, and materially upon a republican form of government, a true democracy, recognizing no birth-right, no aristocracy other than that of intellect, character and devotion.

WHEN THE ENGLISH TROOPS COME HOME

THEY HAVE LOST THEIR OLD PREJUDICE AGAINST THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

James Cairns, English correspondent of The Churchman, writes as follows: "When the Men Come Home."

The phrase is being used by nearly all our spiritual leaders; what kind of religion will our returning soldiers and sailors find in England? We are really getting quite nervous about the words of the priests who fight in the ranks beside them. The nursing Sisters are again tending the wounded on the battlefield, as they did in the great war of 1870. How splendidly they discharge the charitable task has been told in the pages of this journal, and how the Government has had to acknowledge and honor it in face of the world, by publishing the names of three nuns in the orders of the day, and the character of the services which called forth the tribute. It should be borne in mind that it was while tending wounded German soldiers that some of these holy French ladies discharged their noble task under artillery fire and the turmoil and roar of a battle-field. Surely, the courage of Christ is reflected in the heroism which these devoted women show in doing His work even amid the awful horror of the battle-field and the frightful confusion of the maddened horses and the cries and groans of the dying and the screaming of the shells. How widely the Crucifix has triumphed over resuscitated Paganism in France is revealed in the letters lately sent home to Ireland by a Belfast policeman now fighting there, and published in The Irish News. The letters show how well educated

go, they must find the Holy Eucharist replacing Matins and Evensong as the central offering to God of each day in church."

"This utterance of the Bishop of Birmingham is all the more striking when it is remembered that he is by no means a customary advocate of Catholic practices. But he has been deeply stirred by what he has seen and he thinks the proposed national missions should take these and other matters, such as religious education and church finance, into its purview. An opportunity has arisen, he says, for a new Reformation."

SAYS THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IS A GREAT REPUBLIC

To understand the long life, the power that has lasted through centuries, the purpose that continues unchanged as men come and go within the great Catholic Church, it is necessary to realize that that Church was the first great republic of our era, and that it is a great republic now.

In the day of savage kings and despotic rulers, in the later days of refined monarchs and governments slightly less brutal, the Catholic Church, an organization of spiritual as well as temporal government, had an immense advantage over every government on earth.

The kings and the emperors came, died, and each successor was a matter of accident. The child that happened to be born first inherited the crown. Because of the weakness due to accident of birth, dynasties and kingdoms and empires changed and melted.

But the Catholic Church went forward through the centuries steadily, gaining in power, because from the first the government of the Church was a republican form of government. No accident of birth determines any important facts in the government of the Church.

The Cardinals, a body of learned and powerful men, themselves selected because of special ability and regardless of birth or rank, elect in their turn the Pope to rule the Church—just as our Electoral College was established by the founders of this government to elect a President.

When some feeble king was succeeding to the throne and the power of France, when some weakling through the accident of birth, was made ruler of Spain, or of England, the ablest man within the Church was to rule.

That was the result of republican government within the Catholic Church. The ablest man was chosen for the highest honors and responsibilities. And many a royal and imperial accident of birth throughout the centuries knew what it was to bow his head to the chosen ruler of the Church, chosen because of ability, knowledge, devotion, and chosen on the basis of true republican government.

It were well for us in this country to know that the Church has been for many centuries as truly republican in government as the system that puts a President in the White House at Washington.

It is encouraging to all of those that believe in republican government and who want to believe that this nation, properly managed, can emerge to realize that the greatest, oldest, most powerful organization in the world is the great Catholic Church, based spiritually upon the Rock, St. Peter, and materially upon a republican form of government, a true democracy, recognizing no birth-right, no aristocracy other than that of intellect, character and devotion.

TRUE SCIENCE NEVER WALKS AHEAD OF THE CHURCH

Thomas Huxley (Agnostic) in "Lay Sermons, Addresses and Reviews."

"It was my good fortune some time ago to pay a visit to one of the most important of the institutions in which the clergy of the Roman Catholic Church in these islands are trained; and it seemed to me that the difference between these men and the comfortable champions of—was comparable to the difference between our gallant volunteers and the trained veterans of Napoleon's Old Guard."

"The Catholic priest is trained to know his business, and it does effectually. The professors of the college in question, learned, zealous and determined men, permitted me to speak frankly with them. We talked like outposts of opposed armies during a truce—as friendly enemies. And when I ventured to point out the difficulties their students would have to encounter from scientific thought, they replied: 'Our Church has lasted many years, and has passed through many storms. The present is but a new gust of the old tempest, and we do not turn out our young men less fitted to weather it than they have been in former times. The heresies of the day are explained to them by their professors of philosophy and science, and they are taught how those heresies are to be met.'"

organizations were in as effective a condition. I think it would be better, not only for them, but for us."

A FIRST CLASS INSTITUTION

Under the company of a "First Class Institution" in our issue of March 18, we omitted the name of the Excelsior Life Insurance Company. The name of the Company was mentioned through the article; and we trust our readers will understand that it was the Excelsior that was referred to.

THE TABLET FUND

Toronto, March 15, 1916. Editor CATHOLIC RECORD: I thank you for giving space to the Appeal for the Tablet Fund for the Relief of the Belgians. So far I have received because of this appeal:

Previously acknowledged... \$1,001 14  
Miss Leigh, Toronto..... 2 50  
John Buckley, Toronto..... 5 00  
W. C. F. Halifax, N. S..... 5 00  
Mrs. S. M. Bathurst, N. B..... 1 00  
Miss E. Murphy, Kalsb, B. C..... 1 00  
Miss Nora Leigh, Toronto..... 2 50  
Ruth Robinson, Kenora..... 1 00

If you would be good enough to acknowledge publicly these amounts in the columns of the RECORD I would be very grateful.

Respectfully yours,  
W. E. BLAKE,  
98 Pembroke St.

WANTED

Everyone to use our flowers for home or church purposes. Last Easter our flowers decorated over 500 homes and churches. Easter Lilies 50c a doz.; Tulips 50c a doz.; Fleur de Lis 50c a doz.; Violets 50c a doz.; bunches Bunch Blossoms 50c doz.; bunches grape paper carnations, something new, 25c a doz.; tissue paper carnations, 20c a doz.; June Roses, American Beauty Roses, made from finest crepe paper, 50c a doz. Shaded roses, the real thing, for 75c a doz. We pay postage or express charges on all orders. Will be sent the day we receive them. Write Brantford Artificial Flower Co., Brantford, Ont. 1954-2

DIED

HANNON.—At the family residence, 54 Windsor Avenue, Windsor, Ont., on Saturday, March 4, Miss Gertrude Marie Hannon, aged thirty-four years. May her soul rest in peace.

HARCOURT.—At St. Mary's Hospital, San Francisco, Cal., Dr. L. A. Harcourt, aged seventy-six years, brother of Mr. Thos. Harcourt, Arthur, Ont., and uncle of Hon. R. Harcourt, of Welland, and of Dr. W. V. Harcourt, of Guelph, Ont. May his soul rest in peace.

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