

The Catholic Register.

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NOTICE

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1900.

The Ontario Schools

On the evening of the 2nd inst. the President of the University, Dr. London, delivered his annual address. It consisted in a severe criticism upon the Ontario school system, and showed the necessity for school and university reform in the Province.

Dr. London considers "The most important question confronting high school and university teachers, is 'How shall the youth of our land obtain a liberal education without an unnecessary waste of time and effort?'"

Dr. London pointed out, the high schools were simply training grounds for teachers. He referred to the "examination mania," and he thought that an examination we could challenge the world. In 1899, 24,160 candidates were examined, and the total number of papers issued was 700,000.

Dr. London undoubtedly touched upon a great many of the defects of the schools, but he did not give them all. He had not time; for their name is legion. There is too much education. Many are educated out of the sphere for which, by talent and circumstances, they are best fitted.

Dr. London spoke well and ably upon the subject. He sketched a plan of liberal education—which would correspond largely to a well-outlined course in a Catholic college. A thorough Catholic college, with six years of a classical course and two years of philosophy, would fill the bill.

Spirituality and Sociability

There was held lately at Guelph a large convention of Ontario members of the Christian Endeavor Association, Sect or Church—it matters not which.

In one of the discussions a general condemnation was passed upon the excess of the social element in the local branches and the want of the spiritual. We do not see how it could be otherwise. All the costs tend that way—and more especially such as have little or no dogma.

Let us return to the main question—the lack of spirituality. No wonder say we. As your principles are so well your conduct be. Not indeed every action, nor perhaps all the time, nor every individual, but the large majority are habitual exponents of their principles.

Protestant Missions

The fabulous sums of money spent annually by the Protestant denominations in their missionary efforts do not seem to effect very great gains to Christianity, numerically at any rate. It would be difficult to account for the reason of this lack of response on the part of the "heathen," but that there is something radically wrong somewhere is certain.

Influence, and in that time a total membership of 250 has been gathered into the fold of the society. One concert has been made in every three years of the existence of the society in Canton and its environs. Surely a pitiable showing. In India, under British rule and protection, where the leaders of society are English and where the work may be carried on with little or no danger of interruption or interference from outside, the society has achieved the wonderful average of converting one Indian into a full fledged Christian in five and a half years to each station.

Catholic Candidates

In one of its issues the Toronto World lately claimed to have seen a letter marked private in which the writer urged that Catholics should be very quiet—that their nomination as candidates for parliamentary distinction would injure the Liberal party.

What is wrong about a Catholic candidate? We know no Catholic, Liberal or Conservative, entering the field simply because he is a Catholic. A man who would try that experiment had better keep out of politics—he is not in his right place.

Catholic. He seeks it because he is a Liberal, and has worked well and successfully in the cause for some time. He is of the man's estate. He is of the right age to enter politics. His thirty odd years are much more in his favor than against him.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Mr. J. J. Foy, Q.C. has finally announced his intention of remaining in provincial politics. He will, therefore, not run in Centre Toronto for the Dominion House. Catholics are needed in the Ontario Assembly to watch after the interests of the Church quite as much as if not more than in the Ottawa House.

We have the pleasure to announce that amongst the names of those recently called to the bar before Mr. Justice Ross appeared that of Mr. Frank Slattery, one of our clever Catholic young men. Mr. Slattery studied under Mr. J. J. Foy, Q.C., M.P.P., and is a well-known debater and worker in Catholic societies.

The first batch of the returning Canadian South-African contingents is now on its way home after a long and honourable campaign against the Boers. No troops have earned higher praise since their arrival on the scene than our Canadians, and none have been of greater service in clearing up the country after the back-bone of the war was broken.

The English elections are certainly being swept by the Conservatives. Home Rule is a dead letter, and the elections are being fought out on lines of the Government's action before and during the late Boer War. Local issues too are taking precedence over national questions in very many constituencies.

Of all places to choose for gossiping a country would seem the most unlikely. During the past summer, however, on every fine Sunday, groups of ladies (33 ones usually, might be soon seated all over St. Michael's cemetery discussing the topics of the day in so far as they are befitted in their neighbors' character. Gossip, backbiting, and every other species of injustice against one's neighbor might be heard at every turn.

We are glad to welcome an assurance from the Canadian Churchman of the continuance of the religious character of the Passion Play at Oberammergau. It was feared that the world-wide fame of the play would have a tendency to turn this most sublime picturing of Christ and His Passion into a money-making scheme.

Rev. Father O'Leary, who went out to South Africa as Catholic chaplain to the Canadian contingents, is about to return, having been invalided home from the Cape some time ago. It is scarcely necessary to go into the question of the great work done by Father O'Leary—the papers, both daily and weekly, both English and Canadian, both secular and religious, are filled with praises of his noble, unselfish work with the soldiers. Always in the right place, at the right time, God's nobleman ministered to the spiritual wants of Catholic and Protestant alike.