

The Catholic Record.

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REV. GEORGE R. NORTHGRAVES, Author of "Mistakes of Modern Infidels."

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION. UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA.

Ottawa, Canada March 7th 1903. To the Editor of THE CATHOLIC RECORD.

Dear Sir: For some time past I have read your estimable paper THE CATHOLIC RECORD, and congratulate you upon the manner in which it is published.

Its matter and form are both good, and its Catholic spirit pervades the whole. Therefore with pleasure, I can recommend it to the faithful.

Blessing you, and wishing you success. Believe me, to remain, Yours faithfully in Jesus Christ, D. PATRICK, Arch. of Lachine, ADONIS. Delco.

Matter intended for publication should be mailed in time to reach London not later than Tuesday morning.

LONDON, SATURDAY, MAR. 7, 1903.

ANGLICAN VOLUNTARY SCHOOLS.

The Hon. Mr. Harcourt, Minister of Education has definitely refused to consider a motion of the Anglican Committee of Synod to take steps toward annexing a system of voluntary schools to the Public school system of the Province.

For this purpose, the committee asked that a commission be appointed to inquire into the working of the voluntary school system in England, but Mr. Harcourt refused to entertain this request.

The Government are of the opinion that a cleavage of the schools on the basis of the various Protestant denominations is not advisable, as experience has shown that these denominations are not so distinct in practice as to require special schools for the instruction of their children.

Further, it has not been made evident that Anglican opinion is very decided that denominational schools are desirable, and the members of the Government doubt whether they would be sustained even by the Church of England itself if they established a system of voluntary schools for the benefit of that body.

THE BOER AMNESTY.

It will be learned with satisfaction by the people of all parts of the British Empire that a general amnesty has been granted by the Imperial Government to the rebels of Cape Colony who joined with the Boers in fighting for the independence of the Republics of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State.

As one of the conditions of peace, the admission of the Boer burghers as British subjects on an equality with other subjects was agreed to by the Government, but the Cape Colony rebels were specially excepted from the amnesty thus granted.

It was supposed or presumed that the intention was to prosecute these rebels, but if such an intention was ever entertained, it has been abandoned, and though Cape Colony never ceased to be British territory, the residents of Dutch origin were known to sympathize with the Boers in arms, and many went over to the Boers in the field and fought in their ranks.

Boers who took up arms to secure independence for themselves?

We are gratified at being able to say that the present attitude of the British Government gives promise that the case of Ireland is to be taken into immediate consideration, and that the prospect for the prosperity of Ireland was never brighter than it is at the present moment when there is every prospect that the worst grievance under which Ireland has suffered for more than three centuries is to be removed by a Land Bill which will be brought up in Parliament under the auspices of the Government; which means that the chief grievance of the Irish people is to be removed without further delay.

THE STORY OF IRELAND BY A. M. SULLIVAN.

The Story of Ireland has been many times elegantly told by writers native of the soil in the elegant language which has been characteristic of many of the children of the Emerald Isle.

The Abbe MacGeoghegan, John Mitchell and Mr. Haverty have made it possible to Irishmen and their descendants to have an excellent knowledge of the truthful history of their country down to a fairly recent date, and Thomas D'Arcy McGee has rendered good service by bringing the events of Irish history to a still later period, and in smaller compass so as to make the "Story of Ireland" more accessible to a large clientele, and more interesting than ever by the beautiful language with which he describes the events narrated, from the earliest times down to date which is within the memory of many of our readers.

But many years have elapsed since these works were written, and there was room for a new recital of Ireland's sufferings and glories which should come down to a more recent date, and this has been given us by Mr. A. M. Sullivan, who has issued "The Story of Ireland" in a new form which includes the period of the struggle for Home Rule under the leadership of Mr. Charles Parnell, and to the inherent interest of the facts Mr. Sullivan adds a new charm by the happy choice of incidents selected to make the narrative interesting, and by the graphic beauty of his descriptions rendering the volume peculiarly a popular and up to date history of Ireland.

The efforts of the British Government to blacken the characters of Mr. Parnell and the entire Nationalist party through the forged letters furnished by the traitor Pigott, and published in the Times newspaper, are fully exposed, and the sudden collapse of the investigation through the complete exposure of the fraud is ably and interestingly described. We are sure that the work will be one of the most popular handbooks in the possession of our readers on the subject treated.

The present book will be additionally interesting from the fact that it contains a detailed historical account of every County of Ireland. There are also numerous illustrations of historical events including excellent portraits of distinguished patriots and of the Irish hierarchy. Beside these the ancient crests of Irish families of prominence are also given with English translations of their mottoes from the Irish, French and Latin originals.

The volume is for sale at the bookstore of Mr. T. J. Kelly of St. Thomas.

LITURGICAL NOTES.

TO CORRESPONDENTS. J. C., Chatham, N. B.—I. It has become a practice in common conversation to apply the expression "dedication of a Church" to the more simple form of blessing which is used before the church is opened to public worship, but the liturgy applies the same term to the solemn consecration which takes place only when the Church is dedicated, all indebtedness having been paid upon it so that it has become the unencumbered property of the Church, and is truly belonging to God. The expression "Consecration of a Church" is restricted to this more solemn form of blessing in which the sacred oils are used to anoint parts of the building indicated in the rubrics of the Church.

2. Our correspondent enquires whether all altars, or only those "built of stone," contain relics of saints or martyrs.

It is the wish of the Church that in churches there should be altars built of stone from the ground. This is required in churches which are to be consecrated. Altars thus built are called "fixed altars;" but "portable altars" are permitted where fixed altars cannot conveniently be erected. All altars, however, whether fixed or portable, must be consecrated solemnly by the Bishop, and must contain relics of Saints which are placed into them when they are consecrated. It might be wondered where such relics are to be obtained in quantity sufficient to supply

the altars of the world; but the wonder will disappear when it is borne in mind that many millions of saints and martyrs suffered death during the terrible persecutions through which the Church of Christ passed. It is estimated that from seven and a half to twelve millions suffered thus even down to A. D. 314, so that down to the present date there has been no lack of relics to supply all the altars of the world.

The altar of a church is not properly speaking the wooden structure which in common parlance is called "the altar," but is a consecrated stone which is placed upon the wood-work, and must always be used when the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is offered up. The stone is prepared beforehand with crosses cut into it, and a cavity called "the sepulchre," into which relics of the Saints are deposited and carefully sealed by the consecrating Bishop. Thus the beautiful and humble prayer said by the priest at the beginning of the Mass, when he ascends to the altar and kisses it, is always verified: "We beseech Thee, O Lord, through the merits of the Saints whose relics are here, that Thou mayst deign to pardon all my sins."

3. A third question is asked by our correspondent: "What is a Basilica?" This is a word derived from the Greek basilikos, a king, whence comes basilike, a king's, or royal. It was first applied in Greece, and especially Athens, to stately public buildings in which the king's business, especially judicial business, was transacted. In Rome, the word was similarly used, and there were basilicas in all the provincial towns.

When Christianity became the religion of the Roman Empire, many of these basilicas became churches, and it was preferred, as a rule, that they should be thus used instead of turning the abandoned heathen temples into churches. At a later period the name basilica was restricted to the principal churches, and especially to cathedrals with important historical associations.

There are several churches in Rome styled basilicas, but the word is usually used of the five principal churches—St. Peter's, St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major, St. Paul's, St. Laurence. The Quebec cathedral has also been dignified by the name "basilica."

THE IRISH LAND BILL AS FORESHADOWED.

The government of Mr. Balfour has at last announced that it will introduce into Parliament a Land Bill which it is hoped will finally settle the land question in Ireland.

The great trouble at issue is that the landlords, whose original titles to the lands were obtained by confiscation during the reforming reigns of the English monarchs Henry VIII, Elizabeth, James I. and the Protectorate of Oliver Cromwell, have hitherto had an unrestricted control over tenants, whose labor and toil had given the value to the property, and when there was any deficiency on the part of the tenants to pay rent for the improvements they had made, they were mercilessly evicted from their holdings.

The remedy for this state of affairs is to bring about the extinction of dual ownership, by the vesting of the title to the land in the tenant instead of the landlord.

But how is this to be done without a wholesale eviction of the landlords of themselves? It is true their ancestors acquired the land by acts of glaring injustice; but so long a period has elapsed since the injustices were inflicted that some will and actually do maintain that they should be considered now as having been confirmed by long prescription. Besides, they have been legalized by British law.

We would not propose to reconsecrate this property and to restore it to the tenants without further conditions than that the latter should take possession; but as the injustice was done by English monarchs and legalized by English law, we say that it is undoubtedly the duty of British legislators to find some means of remedying the tremendous evil which they inflicted on the Irish people, impoverishing them to the present day.

It is already known to our readers that the conference between the representatives of the landlords and tenants which met recently, agreed upon a plan by which the problem of settling the difficulty may be solved. It is a plan of sale whereby the landlords should be paid a fair price for their estates, in instalments which will not be beyond the ability of the occupants of the land, and eventually, when the indebtedness shall have been repaid by these instalments, the occupants shall become the proprietors.

The precise terms on which this is to be effected by the Government Bill which it is proposed to introduce into Parliament, are not yet known, but there is a general expectation that it will be based upon the agreement made at the conference already referred to. Should this be the case there is no doubt that a great step will be made forward toward ensuring the prosperity of Ireland. Such a measure has been foreshadowed in the speech of King Edward from the throne, and the Government has promised that the principal work of the present session of Parliament shall be to pass a Land Purchase Bill whereby the landlords shall be bought out.

The amount of money which will be necessary to carry out this measure has not yet been accurately estimated, but it is believed that it will be about \$500,000,000. As a matter of course, no one but the Government itself can be expected to invest such a sum in this way, but the good which will result from the settlement, namely, the prosperity and peace of the nation, will be sufficient justification for the advance of this amount.

Mr. John Redmond, the Irish Parliamentary leader, on the 25th of February moved in the House of Commons an amendment to the address in reply to the King's speech, indicating that more light should be thrown upon the general principle of the proposed Bill; but his speech on the subject was so conciliatory as to excite surprise, considering that the evidences of dissatisfaction on the part of the Irish members with the past course of the Government have been so numerous and marked during the sessions of the present Parliament.

Mr. Redmond stated that his motion was not intended as a demonstration of hostility to the Government, but as a friendly warning to the Ministry that he and his friends believe that the Government is engaged in framing a great measure of justice and appeasement for Ireland which, in the words of the King's speech, "will complete the abolition of the dual ownership of the land." He asked for an assurance from Mr. Wyndham that the Government will honestly attempt to solve the Irish problem on the lines suggested in the report of the recent land conference, which in his opinion offers an unexampled opportunity to end the agrarian troubles and conflicts between classes in Ireland.

Mr. Wyndham in reply said that he could not commit himself to any wholesale approval of the land conference report which avoided or touched very slightly many matters which must be

taken into account. He expressed the hope that the spirit of good sense and good will which characterize the report will be emulated by the House in its consideration of the forthcoming measure, which will make it feasible for Ireland to lay the social foundations upon which alone it is possible to rear the fabric of healthy national life.

Mr. Redmond's amendment was then withdrawn.

It thus appears that Mr. Wyndham fully admits that there is no hope to erect the fabric of healthy national life in Ireland until the demands of the Irish people are met by Parliament, at least so far as the Land Question is an issue. This question should have been settled long ago, and the fact that it still unsettled shows in a striking light that Ireland was not discontented with British rule without good reason.

Now that the Boer war has been settled, and that a general amnesty has been granted not only to the Boers themselves, but even to the Cape rebels—and as this result has been achieved in great measure by Irish valor, as well as by the co-operation of the colonies of the British Empire—it is surely time to make the honest effort asked by Mr. John Redmond to settle the Irish Land Question in a manner satisfactory to the Irish people.

But little was ever expected from a Conservative Government toward the settlement of the Irish problem; but the fact is none the less acceptable now that a Conservative Government has undertaken to effect such a settlement. Still less was it expected that Mr. Balfour would be the man who as Premier would present the olive branch to the people of Ireland in the manner in which it is now offered, and assuming that the offer is an honest one, the people of Ireland will, we have no doubt, accept it gladly, and Mr. Balfour's name, which was so thoroughly hateful to the Irish people when he was Chief Secretary for Ireland, and when he enforced the coercion laws so brutally, may yet become the shibboleth of Ireland's pacification.

Mr. Timothy Healy in a recent interview gave his views on the prospective proposal of the Government. He said that under the proposition which is to be made, it is understood that the Crown, after purchasing the land, will become the landlord instead of the individual owners as at present. The tenants will hold their land from the Crown and will pay their holdings to the end of a certain term of years, after which they will become the owners.

Mr. Gladstone's Land Act of 1881 provided that tenants buying their lands should pay back the money advanced by Government in forty-nine years. The Land Act of 1896 doubled this period so as to make the annual repayments smaller. The act to be proposed by Mr. Wyndham, it is understood, will take the extended period for repayment. Mr. Healy does not regard the extension of time to nearly a century as an unmixed boon, but the only objection he sees to it is that it may give the English Government an excuse to deny Home Rule to Ireland on the plea that she is a debtor to the Empire, and that the advances made on Irish security should be repaid before autonomy can be granted.

Lord Dunraven, on the part of the landlords, spoke hopefully also in an interview, regarding the prospects of the pending legislation, which in his opinion will end the difficulties of Ireland's situation. He said that "the utterances of King Edward and of British public men, the temper of Ireland, the favorable reception of the proposals of the Land Conference, and the action of the Government in proposing to pass a measure which will practically put the decisions of the Conference into force, all point to the early solution of the present difficult situation."

He accounted for the absence of specific details in the report of the conference by stating that the parties thereto could deal with the question only on the broadest lines, in the interests of the nation and of both landlords and tenants individually. Minor details in every case of sale must necessarily be left to the purchasers and sellers; but His Lordship's opinion is that the demand on the State treasury is not at all disproportionate to the benefits to be gained by carrying out the plan. The varied interests of the British isles will be reconciled by it, the people will lay aside their bickerings and hatreds and will become one in spirit, and the people of Ireland will be given a new opportunity to cultivate the arts of peace such as they have never yet had within their reach. We are convinced that the picture is not in any respect overdrawn.

It is to be remarked in reference to the plan whereby the Government proposes thus to settle the Land Problem an impression prevails in some quarters that the Government's intention is to buy the land of Ireland for the tenants at the cost of the British ratepayers. This impression is not correct, nor did the Conference of landlords and tenants

ask or expect anything of the kind. The Government has been merely asked to use its credit for the purpose of issuing bonds with the land of Ireland as security to effect the purchase, and when this is effected, the tenants will pay to the state the instalments of rent until the expiration of the time agreed upon, when they will become proprietors. In no other way than this could the money be raised at the low interest of 3-1-2 or perhaps even 3 per cent.

In 1882 the rents of Ireland were reduced 20 per cent. by the land act which was then passed by Parliament. In 1897 there was a further reduction of 20 per cent., making apparently a total reduction of 40 per cent., but in reality of 36 per cent. upon the original rentals. Large as this reduction was, it was not greater than was just according to the actual value of the land; and when it is further considered that most of the value actually represented the labor of the tenants, it will be understood that even this reduction did not take fully into consideration the improvements which were the result of these labors.

It was the fashion with the landlords to raise the rent whenever the tenants had improved the value of the property. Thus, though the condition of the tenantry was undoubtedly greatly improved by these laws, they did not effect all the improvement which was necessary for the prosperity of the nation.

It is believed that the settlement of the land problem on the terms proposed will actually cost nothing to the Government, for many expenses will be saved which are now necessary. The land courts, which cost \$3,000,000 annually, will be no longer needed. The expenses of the constabulary which now amount to \$6,000,000 per year will be reduced by at least one-half, and these of the other courts will also be greatly reduced, as a great proportion of the crimes of Ireland have been agrarian. Other savings will also be effected, and the increased prosperity of the country will be the occasion of a great increase of revenue. In other respects, also, many advantages will be gained which will make it well worth while for the Government to pass the proposed will.

THE DOUKHOBORS.

It is stated that since Peter Veregin, the Doukhobor leader, has been with his followers in the North-Western Territory he has wrought a great change with them in regard to their views on the laws of Canada, and it is believed that such an escapee as that of last fall, when over eighteen hundred of these strange people started on a pilgrimage to convert to their faith the people of the North-West, will not occur again.

Messrs. P. Veregin, Nicholas Lebroff and Paul Planedia have been appointed by the Doukhobors as a committee to confer with the Government Immigration Department to make terms on which the Doukhobors may become permanent settlers, they having decided to become naturalized Canadians, and to enter at once upon homestead duties. Mr. Veregin has great influence over his countrymen, having been their leader in Russia, and that influence has not ceased through their coming to another country. It has been exerted for good, and now the great majority of the people have become ashamed of their absurd conduct of last autumn whereby they entailed considerable loss upon themselves and families. Many of them have developed a trading spirit through contact with their more civilized neighbors. It was not expected that they would become so worldly wise after a short residence in Canada, but they have, after all, shown more good sense than they were suspected of possessing. One man in Swan River district who was one of the most fanatical leaders in last year's crusade, and who had set his horses and live stock free on the prairie, a few weeks ago purchased a team of horses, and when questioned in regard to his change of mind on the sinfulness of subjecting animals to labor, declared that he has thrown aside his old belief and that he is going to be a Canadian now. "Me no more going to turn horses and cattle loose," he said, "Me more going to be Canadian."

Numerous applications are being made now for homestead entries. It is also a good sign that these immigrants will become a settled and thrifty population, that the young people are thoroughly ashamed of the outlandish conduct of their fathers, and will not follow their example of thriftlessness. Those of the old people who cling to their fanatical notions are greatly disturbed that the younger members of their family disregard the faith in which they were reared, but the views of the youngsters will undoubtedly have a powerful influence in sobering their elders and settling them down to civilized life as it is understood in Canada.

Our agent, Mr. P. J. Neven, will visit Toronto next week in the interest of the CATHOLIC RECORD.

FAKE PRIESTS.

Complaint is local pastors of soliciting among They are selling poor paper, print the contents are of harmless excess features are high so which is in account books are worth and are sold at \$

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