

daily, and hourly almost, indulge in a wilful sin. Are we not told that wilful is deadly sin. What then, is this hydra-headed monster, self-indulgence? We are proud of our Historic Church, words are feeble to express how justly so, but what about the grave responsibility which it brings. We are grateful for our priceless gifts, would that some of us realized their cost more deeply.

We look with pity often, sometimes not unmixed with unacknowledged contempt upon our dissenting brethren. We deserve in this matter at least to think with shame before them, for they have recognized this sin more clearly than we. Not one of the men in training for their work is allowed the use of tobacco while so engaged. Might we not take example by them, and apply the rule in our universities and colleges, where, alas, if a young man enters free from this vice—unless of very strong moral fibre—he soon becomes contaminated. Can not something be done to remedy and prevent all this. Will not some one blessed with precious influence use it in behalf of our students, who bye and bye will be our clergy. Surely then the older clergy will abstain from this evil for consistency's sake, and not only teach but live the precept. *Be ye pure.*

Pardon me, if in my anxiety I have made my letter too long, and let the intense desire to see this grand emancipation be my excuse.

ALPHA.

SIR,—It is difficult for a correspondent to know beforehand whether his communication will be welcomed as useful, or deemed an intrusion. In my own case, taking the various papers I write to, I find about fifty per cent. of my communications are "pressed" and the other half suppressed. But there is in your issue of New Year's day an article so eminently suggestive that I trust to be allowed to say a word or two about it, as copied from the *Halt-fax Herald*.

When we look around the world for the main hindrances to religious life and development to-day, does not the mind at once resort to sectarian strife and inter-sectarian *proselytism*, conducted at times by fair means, but at times hardly so. There is "more real unity than ever," we are told. And we believe it. What then is the first step which that increased unity ought to enable us to take in order to lessen the heartburnings and strife arising from our unhappy antagonism? To lessen our "impatience of authority," our "desire for the novel and sensational," lessen "the great fickleness of mind in religious matters." As chaos required the expression, the enforcement of physical law; as moral confusion demanded the statement and regulation of a moral law, so too, the family of man being divided into separate nationalities and organizations, there arose the need for international law, a code rarely enforced, little recognized; yet in spite of this of very great and growing practical utility. In like manner the schisms in the church demanded imperatively a code of inter-ecclesiastical law, to lessen friction between churches and denominations, till, without sacrifice of principle, they can break bread together in token of their common brotherhood. How shall we seek to rally the scattered fragments of Christ's body? In so far, that is as it is left to us, as agents to determine this? Suppose that there was a registration of all members belonging to such branches of the Church as have, if not the fullest, at least some Apostolic descent, and that no transference of membership was recognized as right unless where the migrant was in good standing before migration; nor except he had stated intelligently his reasons for wishing to leave one branch, and for joining another. Accessions then would be made on a prime basis; discipline would be possible; there would be less of that "floating population," which is so ineffective for good; the *raison d'être* of an institution would be bet-

ter looked into; there would be less temptation to adopt the novel and sensational in order to attract; and solid work would be better seen to tell. Of course the idea of an inter-ecclesiastical code is, in 1888, quite unpractical. So was the use of steam as a locomotive power in 1777, say; all good ideas seem unpractical till tried; however, without laying claim to an "educated prescience," I may perhaps be allowed to hint at one or two ideas based on common sense. There is one great danger ahead if people will but look; an internal danger. Our Bishops work far more unitedly than ever, and we thank God that thus they will be more powerful for good; the laity also are more active in the Church than formerly; but, under the present voluntary system, as at present worked, the danger is that the ordinary clergy should, so to speak, be "roasted between two fires;" and the "hired man" with no opportunity for any redress, be expected to preach this, or not to preach that, simply according to the dictates of his various paymasters. The end would be a complete dearth of independent-minded men in orders, a certain taint of hypocrisy almost necessarily being developed by the circumstances of the case. The press would undoubtedly help as a partial remedy, but could never alone battle with the evil. In any parish where evil lives and enemies of religion had much sway, the faithful pastor would be crushed under the iron heel of an unsympathetic, unbusiness like, unjust system; the immediate effect being the "success" of the Church; the effect in the long run to rot and undermine her. True success comes in the long run only from sticking close to the articles of war, the regulations given by the Divine Master Himself, whether given by His own blessed lips, or through Apostolic authority. Again, how illogical that we should all be framed into a special missionary association, yet remain outside our special temperance and purity societies. The "symbolic teaching" here seems to come to us in subverted order.

January, 1888.

N. L.

LETTERS FROM CALIFORNIA.

No. 4.—Continued.

The City of San Diego presents a strange sight to the traveller from the East, it has the California aspect about it of course, is all new, and the number of buildings in process of erection makes navigation rather difficult along some of the streets; there is a motly crowd from all over North America and elsewhere and though not as picturesque as Cairo or Alexandria, there is enough variety to make it a curious and interesting study, as added to the purely American element, which in itself is varied enough as represented by nearly every State in the Union, are Mexicans, Indians, Chinese, Japanese and others from the leading countries in Europe; the old Mexican and Spanish element though once so numerous in this part of California is fast disappearing before the onward march of the ubiquitous Anglo-Saxon but enough are left to give a marked character to the city; one will frequently see a family party at the hotels composed of the old Spanish race and speaking the old language. There are many handsome buildings bearing a close resemblance to those of Los Angeles, the residence portion almost entirely of wood as are the churches, and as to the latter it is a good idea, as they all expect to enlarge within a year or two being already overcrowded. The rector of St. Paul's, which is one of the best churches in the city, is Rev. Mr. Restwick, a Canadian, who has gathered a large congregation and was one of the first in the field to erect a Church of our faith. On Sunday a. m. we attended service at St. Paul's, which was overcrowded and we were informed such is the

case every Sunday. One rather striking feature in South California is that all of our churches have the chancel facing the East, that is all that we have so far seen, so that several of them stand with the chancel end facing the street; it will not be long before we have another large church in the city and it is much needed. The real estate business is conspicuously to the front here as in Los Angeles and we cease to wonder at the multitude of people engaged in this business, when we learn that assessed value of property within the country has increased seven millions within the last year. Across the Bay, about four miles distant, is a district called Roseville Heights, these are for the most part gently sloping hills, but occasionally quite steep and commanding a fine view of San Diego and its environs; on the other side of the hills is the Pacific Ocean, so that the place is sheltered completely from stormy weather in that direction. During our stay in San Diego we took advantage of an excursion to Roseville in the interest of a real estate sale. Roseville is as yet only a paper town as there is not such a thing as a house in sight anywhere, however, all the things that go to make a town are promised in the circulars, freely distributed, as only a question of a very short time, buyers must nevertheless purchase at their own risk and pay a certain sum down before they leave the ground, a wharf is built and that is all unless we except on the beach a struggling collection of Chinese huts, the occupants of which are engaged in catching and curing dog-fish, which are subsequently shipped to China where they are esteemed a luxury; we could not find any of the Americans who would eat them, but then tastes differ very much between a Yankee and a Celestial. Arrived at the town site we discovered nothing but bare hills all around, the future streets and avenues are marked out by stakes and the property is sold in lots by agents on the ground and not at auction. Several lots were sold at \$150 and \$200 each and looking at a plan of the town one found that nearly half of it had been sold at those figures, size of lots being 40x100 feet. The writer of this not seeing any very immediate prospect of a return or of advance in price did not invest. Coronado Beach or Coronado as it is now generally called, is connected by a steam ferry running every twenty minutes from San Diego; at the landing is an electric motor railway which takes you directly to the great hotel at the Beach; fare from San Diego to the beach and return twenty-five cents. Coronado is the peninsula that forms the Bay of San Diego, the surface is slightly rolling and general altitude above the sea from thirty to fifty feet. A crescent shaped beach provides a natural boulevard and affords surf bathing all through the year as the temperature in this favored clime is about the same in summer as in winter and here we may state that the equality of temperature at Coronado or San Diego is a source of wonder, and frost is unknown. During a record of ten years at the U. S. Signal Station there were 3533 days in which the thermometer did not rise above eighty degrees.

(To be Continued.)

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