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NEW YEARS.

Another year, like some great river, has dropped into the ocean of eternity. Nothing remains of all the great and starting events that occurred in the year that has now flown by but a name and a memory.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF KINGSTON AND MR. MEREDITH.

In another column will be found the letters addressed by His Grace the Most Reverend James Vincent Cleary, Archbishop of Kingston, to Mr. Wm. Meredith, M. P., leader of the opposition in the Ontario Legislature.

"Holding as we do, the balance of power between the two great factions, we have to be independent, and we can dictate the terms upon which one or the other shall receive our support."

Mr. Meredith has thus made the proposal of a paper, which is itself responsible for its own views, a reason for proclaiming war upon the Catholic body.

"One of the great evils is the great danger to the State of a minority swaying from side to side and securing concessions as the price of their support to one of the parties or the other."

We assert not only that there are hundreds and thousands of Catholics who have had no such intention, but that the Catholic body have given no sign that they have any such intention.

drawn from one perhaps accidental utterance of a single journal, the influence of which on the Catholic population is but limited. But when we consider that just such utterances have been over and over again reiterated by Protestant journals like the Mail, we see the dishonesty of Mr. Meredith in drawing the conclusion that all Protestants ought to unite against Catholics, whereas he declares that there is a terrible danger to civilization lest Catholics should unite to wring from Protestants some concession which they ought not to have.

It will be seen from the correspondence between His Grace and Mr. Meredith that the purpose of the leader of the Opposition was to effect one of two purposes. If His Grace approved of the article of the Canadian Freeman, it would give the former the opportunity to join the Toronto Mail in representing the Catholic vote as a purchasable commodity.

Mr. Balfour stated in his speech at Partick the grievance under which Catholics labor, and in consequence of which they are deprived of the opportunity of endowed university education.

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As to the term "ferocious bigots" used by His Grace in referring to some members of the Equal Rights Association, it is a paltry trick of Mr. Meredith to pretend that it has been applied to all.

Of the reference of Mr. Meredith to aspersions cast by His Grace upon the girls of Ontario, it should not be forgotten that we have the testimony of His Grace and two priests who were present, besides other evidence, that the words attributed to him were grossly misrepresented, and that they were false.

SHAMEFUL CONDUCT.

We fear the Toronto Mail's correspondents are working on instructions similar to those given by some of the base Chicago dailies. Those employees are supposed to write up a sensation every day, and if nothing happens upon which to base an exciting production, the imagination is brought into action.

"In Belle River Miss Healy, a duly qualified teacher, has been lately dismissed and a couple of nuns who have no certificates have taken her place."

Of the three Sisters of St. Joseph who have gone to the charge of the Belle River school, one holds a second class professional certificate, and the other two hold each a third class certificate.

THE SCHOOLS IN WINDSOR.

A great hubbub is raised about the action of Catholics in Windsor endeavoring to keep the nuns as teachers, although such teachers have given the utmost satisfaction and have had the training of the Windsor little girls in their hands for the last thirty years.

Thus the nuns who came from Montreal and taught in Windsor were looked upon as qualified teachers, and accepted as such by the united board of Catholics and Protestants.

MR. BALFOUR ON CATHOLIC EDUCATION.

Mr. Balfour stated in his speech at Partick the grievance under which Catholics labor, and in consequence of which they are deprived of the opportunity of endowed university education.

"We ought to make some attempt to carry out a scheme of higher education which should satisfy all the legitimate aspirations of the Roman Catholic population on that point."

Mr. Balfour was an afterthought set condition which he knew could not be fulfilled, and the impossibility of which he himself acknowledged.

Gonard, the composer, is to write a Mass which will be sung by four thousand choristers at the opening of the grand organ which is being built in St. Peter's Church, Rome.

A GREAT WORK.

The colored population of Windsor is very large. Many of these people are Catholics. It is many more of them are undergoing instruction in Catholic doctrine. Rev. Dean Wagner, with that apostolic zeal which has ever been his characteristic, has undertaken the work of providing church and school accommodation for these perishing souls.

A RECKLESS PARTY ORGAN.

The London Free Press had, in last Thursday's issue, an article on the ballot question, that would appear formidable enough at first sight, but when the said article is examined, sifted and stripped of its loose verbiage and repetitions ad nauseum, there is very little left worth serious consideration.

The Free Press mentions the controversy between Mr. W. R. Meredith and Archbishop Cleary in proof of its contention, whereas that controversy has no more to do with the ballot than with base ball or Home Rule.

There is an agitation going on now all over the United States and in Canada about amending the ballot law so as to secure freedom of conscience in voting.

There is only one place in the whole Dominion where any contention exists on the score of voting by ballot for school trustees.

True Catholics recognize without reserve the primary duty and right of the clergy, and especially of the Episcopacy, to direct Catholic education, and all separate school difficulties will be settled by Catholic themselves without the intermeddling

and given to understand that the people have no confidence in their devotion to school matters, school difficulties will cease, the ordinary routine will be assumed, and Toronto will fall into line with the other school districts of the country and elect all its trustees, not by contentious voting, but by peaceful and harmonious acclamation.

The London Free Press may say all its silly vapourings and rhodomontade about Catholics concerning and quivering at elections before what it calls "the Ecclesiastical lash."

SEPARATE SCHOOL DIFFICULTIES.

The Mail and the anti Catholic press generally are just now engaged in raising a great clamor in regard to disputes which have arisen in several cities and towns concerning the manner of conducting the separate schools.

But in the Peterborough case there were some people, represented by the minority of the board, who were dissatisfied with the action of that body, and His Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. O'Connor, Bishop of Peterborough, told his flock that the dismissal was made with his approbation, and that the minority should take no steps to restore the principal.

We do not deny that the Bishop's authority is of more weight than that of a private citizen, or of a Protestant clergyman, but this arises from the fact that Catholics recognize that he has a divine right to the exercise of his authority within the Church of God, and Protestants have no right to interfere with him in the exercise of his duty.

In Ottawa a somewhat similar difficulty has occurred, though the circumstances are to some extent different. The Archbishop of Ottawa was desirous of changing the religious order which has charge of the Ottawa French schools.

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hostile Equal Rights who have the cry of Equal Rights on their lips, but who aim only at the total destruction of liberty of conscience as far as Catholics are concerned.

MR. MEREDITH'S POLICY.

We mentioned in a former issue that Mr. Meredith, the leader of the Ontario Opposition, in his speech at the Opera House in this city, in which he foreshadowed the policy of his party, declared himself plainly against Catholic education in Catholic schools.

He asks why "should a public man, when he criticizes public legislation" on this subject, "be greeted with shouts of intolerance by any particular church, and should the no-Popery cry be raised against him?"

He here throws upon Catholics the odium of having raised the no Popery cry in Ontario. Mr. Meredith knows very well that this is a false representation. We maintain that the right now enjoyed by Catholics of establishing and supporting separate schools is no extraordinary concession. It is merely a recognition of the natural right which all parents possess, of giving their children a religious training if they deem it proper to do so.

It is unnecessary for us to prove here that religious instruction in the schools is necessary for the proper training of children. Over and over again the Protestant clergy have declared this to be the case, both in Canada and the United States.

The Presbytery of Manitoba has recently made a similar declaration, and the same clergyman who are anxious now to take from Catholics the right of religious education, have over and over again declared that they wish to make a certain amount of religious instruction compulsory in the public schools, so that they really desire to force upon Catholics such religious instruction as they see fit to arrange for themselves, while they would prevent us from having such as we ourselves desire.

Mr. Meredith cites what occurs in the United States as a pattern which ought if possible to be imitated by the people of Ontario. His says:

"Look across the border at the state of things. No separate schools from one end of the United States to the other. (Loud cheers.) They have thought it consistent with their views of right and justice to deny separate schools to the Roman Catholics of that country."

It is true Mr. Meredith does not propose at present to abolish the separate school system. He tells us why he will not do this; it is because the charter of the Dominion, the Confederation Act, will not permit him to do so.