

A NEW ORGANIZATION.

A large number of our French-Canadian fellow citizens are now organizing an association after the plan of "Association Catholique de la Jeunesse Francaise." The French Association was founded by Count de Mun, and has grown to great importance. Its membership is large; it publishes a review; has reading circles, and is otherwise equipped for the purpose of helping and protecting young men. The Canadian Association has been several months in contemplation. About the end of last April a few young men conceived the idea. They hurriedly convoked a kind of congress, and success far beyond their expectations attended their laudable endeavors. They secured a room in the Academic hall of the Gesu last June. Over a hundred young men from all over the Province, and especially from colleges, attended the meeting. Committees were organized, they all set to work with a will, the regulations of the Association were drafted; these were submitted to the Archbishop; His Grace, on the 10th March last, wrote them his approval, accompanied with his blessing. They also received encouraging expressions from other bishops, and especially from the Apostolic Delegate. The first public demonstration to be held by the Association will be in the form of a Congress on the 25th and 26th of June next. This Congress will probably be held under the presidency of His Grace Archbishop Bruchesi.

Three grand aims have the Associates, as expressed in their constitution—the attainment of piety, study and action. Nothing could be more encouraging for the Catholic community than to behold the sons of the younger generation thus, of their own free will, organizing for such laudable purposes. Needless to say we wish them every possible success in their splendid undertaking—for the success of such an organization means a triumph of true Catholic principles, in the years to come, and it means a great counteracting power to the evil influences of indifferentism and infidelity that seem so much in vogue in our day.—True Witness.

ANTI-VICE CRUSADES.

The conflict between good and evil is as old as humanity itself. No sooner were our first parents placed in possession of a terrestrial paradise than the evil serpent began to practice his subtle wiles to seduce them from their allegiance to the Almighty. Unfortunately he succeeded all too well, and thus it is that we, their descendants are born into a warfare from which there can be no escape, and in which there can be no neutral ground; and the conflict there begun must go on and on as long as time shall last.

The weakness of human nature, which is our inheritance through original sin, naturally inclines us to walk in the easy paths of self-indulgence which often deal far from righteousness.

The first struggle, therefore, which man has to encounter, is with impalpable enemies within, ably seconded by allurements and temptations from without. That this is not an easy task, we have the testimony of Holy Writ: "He that overcometh his spirit is greater than he that taketh a city."

It goes without saying that if each one governed his own spirit, the world would need no reforming. "Set yourself right," says the proverb. But, alack and alas! that is the very thing that many of us fail to do, and as a consequence, vice waxes apace and wickedness grows bold with impunity.

When the reins of government are loosely held it stalks abroad and flaunts itself impudently in the face of the community. Then an outraged moral sentiment crystallizes and finds expression in what is termed a crusade against vice.

Without impeaching the motives of the worthy people who from time to time throw themselves into the arena to do battle for social purity and public decency, it may be said that the methods employed by them are open to question, and it is extremely doubtful whether they, on the whole, do not do more harm than good.

They may succeed, possibly in closing some low resorts until the short-lived storm blows over, only to resume their wonted activity as soon as the excitement subsides.

Meanwhile, the moral atmosphere is polluted by the widespread publicity given to the whole subject by the yellow press and their lesser imitators throughout the land, which exploit the gaudy details with circumstantial minuteness and bring the very atmosphere of the slums into pure homes to be absorbed by alert young minds, with baneful effects in after years.

The sensationalism which seems to be an inseparable feature of those movements serves as a stimulus to the prurient curiosity of vulgar minds rather than as a basis for the moral regeneration of fallen humanity, in which lies the only hope for the lasting reformation of the individual or of society.

No one was ever yet made virtuous by legal enactment. As some one tersely puts it, "The vice of one section of the city is usually supported by people who live in another section."

There is the difficulty. It is not possible to fasten the odium or the punishment upon those respectable supporters of vice who live in aristocratic mansions in the fashionable quarters of the cities.

The most the law can do is to put up barriers against the spread of evils, which are easily evaded or overstepped by those so inclined; or it occasionally visits condone punishment upon the head of some flagrant offender; but it cannot reform the sinner and wisely makes no pretense of doing so.

The only cure for prevalent social ills lies in the awakened conscience of the individual acting upon his conduct. To effect this there is but one way, the true and tried one of a return to God and to the practices of His religion.—The Catholic Northwest.

WHICH SHOULD COMMAND OUR SYMPATHIES?

Russia they say is a Christian country while Japan is pagan. True but God can make children of Abraham from stones. The conversion of a people is hidden in the divine decrees which are not known to us. For the present what we know is that if Russia is Christian she is far from being Catholic. For centuries she has persecuted Catholicism 'a outance.' She has been the executioner of Poland that bulwark of Catholicism in Europe, and she has strangled the neighboring small nations with revolting cruelty and she has populated her Siberian deserts with Catholics and thousands have died martyrs in the mines. Her fanaticism has not changed, she persecutes still. Consequently the Holy Church of Jesus Christ is not glorified by schismatic Russia, and there are no indications that she will open her eyes to the truth.

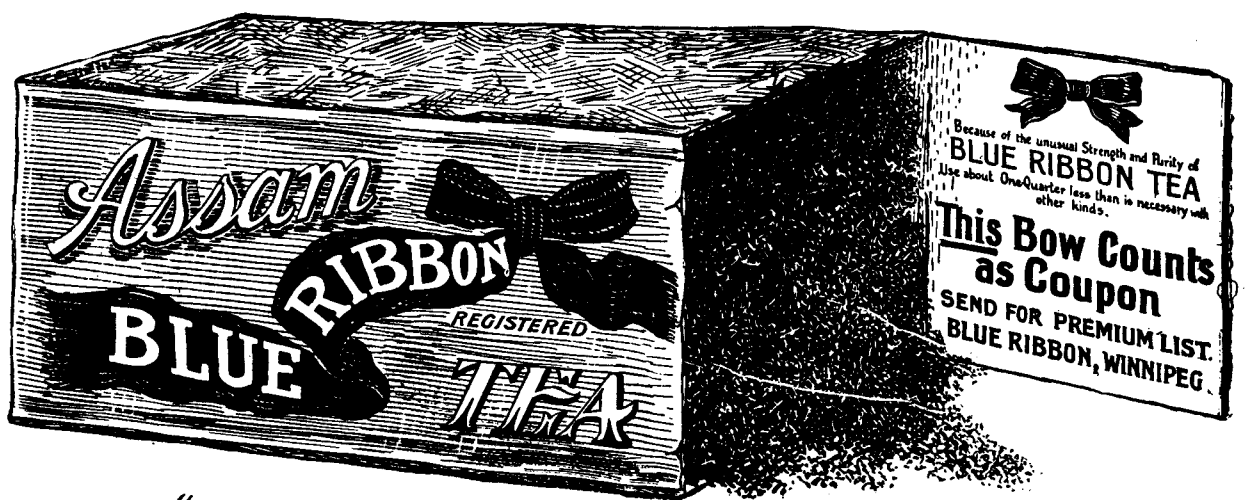
Not so with Japan. At the present time the Catholic religion enjoys very great liberty under her pagan government. Here religious orders of men and women have flourishing houses; colleges, convents and hospitals are regarded favorably by those idolaters. It may well be that to reward this people for the liberty given to the Catholic religion persecuted everywhere, and for the welcome given to the religious banished from the Christian countries of Europe, God will accord to the Japanese the ineffable grace of entering soon into the bosom of the Catholic Church.

At bottom the idolatrous Japanese are less guilty as a people than those cruel persecutors and schismatic Russians.

When we regard the matter from this viewpoint our sympathies should be with the Japanese.—Abbe G. Dugas, in La Croix of Montreal.

A GOOD SHOWING.

Since the restoration to the hierarchy in Scotland in 1878, the Catholic population has increased by more than 40 per cent.; missions have increased by more than 61 per cent.; Church by 39 per cent.; priests by 86 per cent.; and schools by 58 per cent.—The Casket.



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