

The True Witness

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 1907.

NEW YEAR.

The old year, 1906, is now but a memory. It has vanished into the past, taking with it our sorrows as well as our joys, hopes and aspirations, leaving us nothing but regret for the things we have not accomplished, or happiness that our brightest anticipations have been realized. And so we give 1907 a timid welcome, for, inasmuch as we have been deficient in the past, we have to bring our failures with us, they are part of us now, and so our standard will be taken. The future may have much in store. The proportion will be in keeping with our efforts, and though trials may be almost more than we can bear, we have the supreme assurance that we are not tried beyond our strength. After all, the space of time given us is very small, our little day is short, therefore it behooves us to spend it well. And while the years go into the dim, shadowy past, and all that we held dear, still the great white book remains forever, upon whose pages an indelible record is kept. On ourselves devolves the task of writing these pages, let us see to it that a stainless record will be read on that day, when the Angel of the Apocalypse, trumpet to mouth, heralds us before the God of Justice, mercy will be past, to answer either for our remissness or to be commended for our fulfilment of the law.

1907 is with us now. Cheer and good wishes are abroad in the land, so we sincerely ask our subscribers and friends to accept our best wishes for a very happy New Year, and assure them of our deep gratitude for their generous and loyal support.

FRANCE AND THE CHURCH.

In his latest deliverance on the religious question in France, Mr. Goldwin Smith says there is no inclination shown to injure the Church. This is a very extraordinary statement. After clearing every vestige of religion out of every school in France, and after despoiling and breaking up the system of Catholic religion throughout the land, the Government was not satisfied. However, according to Mr. Goldwin Smith, there was no inclination shown to injure the Church. Yet what did the Government do? It had the palaces of the pontifical representative in Paris searched. Why? We think that Cardinal Merry del Val tells the whole reason in the communique that he has addressed to the diplomatic representatives. Therein he says that the violent expulsion of the Papal representative and the carrying off from his palace of his papers constitute an act without modern parallel among civilized nations. The carrying off of the cypher with which the French government through the copies of despatches kept by the French telegraph offices is able to take cognizance of all correspondence in cypher of the Holy See is the gravest offence committed against civilized powers. Yet,

says Mr. Goldwin Smith, there is no intention to injure the Church. On the other hand, Cardinal Merry del Val says: "If the French Government, animated by most equitable sentiments, should create for the Church in France a situation which at least would not ignore her essential right, the Holy See, even while not admitting the principle of separation, might tolerate such a situation in order to avoid worse evils as it has done in regard to other countries."

Every action of the French Government shows an entirely stupid and senseless desire to injure and humiliate the Church and its Supreme Head; and those who, like Mr. Goldwin Smith, desire to see Catholicity overturned in Europe, are astute enough to perceive the mistake the French Government has committed.

BOYCOTT ON FRENCH GOODS BEGUN.

Intense indignation has been aroused in the breasts of the Catholics of the United States and Canada by the brutality of the French Government towards the Catholics of the nation they rule so despotically. We are gratified at this manifestation of the loyalty of the Catholic body to their religion and the Holy Father.

The present Government of France was selected from among the worst classes of the nation—Atheists, Socialists, Radicals, Anarchists, from whom came also the murderers of the benevolent Empress of Austria, as well as the Presidents of two Republics, Messrs. Carnot and McKinley, besides other statesmen of eminence.

The name of Republic has been disgraced by the conduct of the pseudo-Republic of France, the motto of which should be "Slavery, tyranny and Terrorism," instead of "Liberty, Equality and Fraternity."

His Eminence Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore, and a large number of prelates of Canada and the United States have already expressed their condemnation of the French Government, and sympathy with the suffering Catholics of France; but so long as action is confined to protests, we fear the government will be quite unconcerned. If the Catholics of this continent boycott French importations, it will be a lesson to the French manufacturers and operatives to open their eyes to the fact that the Catholics of the world can easily punish them from keeping in power a brutal government which has no regard for the laws of civilization. Let the Catholics of this continent not buy their goods.

It will be seen that the Catholics of Huron County, Ont., have taken this practical action, as the following despatch to the Toronto Globe will show:

Seaford, Ont., Dec. 28.—Indignation at the manner in which their Church has been treated by the Government in France has induced members of the Roman Catholic faith in Huron county to pledge themselves not to purchase any goods of French manufacture until satisfactory redress has been made. This action was taken at largely attended meetings of Catholic congregations in the county on Christmas Day, when the perplexing difficulties bearing on the situation in France were discussed with freedom, and as a result resolutions embodying the boycott clause were passed. The voice from Huron county, it was explained at the meetings, is making itself heard in its feeble way in the hope that French manufacturers and operatives may be taught that so long as they retain an atheistic and persecuting government, their silks, wines, gloves and countless other articles will not be bought by Catholics of countries where freedom of worship exists. It was further pointed out that to Canada and the United States the French people shipped \$90,000,000 worth of goods each year, so that the boycott, were it taken up in these two countries, would strike home with force.

Mr. James L. Killoran, barrister, presided at the Seaford meeting; and his Honor Judge B. L. Doyle at the Goderich gathering. The resolutions, which sum up the result of the meetings, are as follows: "That we, the Catholics of the

county of Huron, declare our gratitude to the people and past Governments of France who for over fourteen centuries upheld the Christian Faith at such sacrifices as to have earned the title of 'the most Christian nation.'

"We regret that for some years past the evident trend of successive Governments of France has been towards driving religion out of the nation. M. Briand, the present Minister of Public Worship, in an address to the school teachers at Amiens, said recently: 'The time has come to root up from the minds of French children the ancient faith which has served its purpose, and to replace it with the light of free-thought. It is time to get rid of the Christian idea. We have hunted Jesus out of the army, the navy, the schools, the hospitals, insane and orphan asylums and law courts, and now we must hunt Him out of the State altogether.'

"That while our indignation is chiefly directed against the Government of France, and not against the people as a whole, yet we cannot regard the people generally as blameless on account of their apathy and indifference, more than their hostility, to religion; and to emphasize our disapprobation of the attitude of both Government and people, we hereby pledge ourselves not to buy any goods of French manufacture until the wrongs inflicted on the Church be fully redressed.

"That these resolutions be communicated to the principal journals of Canada, and the United States for publication, to the Knights of Columbus and other fraternal societies, and to such other persons as may be deemed proper."

The ball thus set rolling, we think, will not stay its course till it has gone through America from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Let our Catholic societies and press keep it rolling.

DEATH OF THE ENGLISH EDUCATION BILL.

Since our former hopeful comments upon the English Education Bill were published, the measure has been withdrawn and the London Tablet rejoices that such is the end and fate of the attempted legislation. The Irish Party made a splendid fight for Catholic rights and won almost all they had contended for. In some directions at least Catholic opinion is not quite easy in regard to the wisdom of the Lords in barring all possibility of compromise. The Catholic Herald, for instance, says:

"It is doubtful whether the Catholics will ever again have a chance of obtaining the concessions which the Irish party, by its influence, succeeded in drawing from the Government, and which were prevented from taking effect by those who, for the sake of a chance of nobbling with a belted earl, would sacrifice the concessions arranged by mere representatives of the people. Amongst the many evil effects of the dropping of the bill will be the kindling of a rancour which may cause the school authorities to be more exacting in reference to the suitability of school buildings. Let us hope that this may not be so, but the best that can be said is that the officious zeal of the Catholics who were inveigled into an 'on the knees' process before their hereditary legislators by which they set aside the services of the Irish Parliamentary Party, has not done anything towards promoting a good understanding with the Liberals. Irreconcilables and extremists are not always found to be sincere, and can never be trusted with party management. Trustworthy Catholic leaders have declared that the concessions of the Government are the best that can be expected, in view of the fact—and where is the use of arguing it?—that this is a Protestant country. But the irreconcilable busybodies, who are more Catholic than the Pope, find relaxation in strong language, and would be satisfied with nothing but civil war, led by such martial 'tribunes' as the Duke of Norfolk and Lord E. Talbot. Whether the reasonable Catholics led by the Irish members, who, as Mr. John Redmond has stated, acted in consultation with the English Bishops, or the Tuffhursers, led by their noble wooden-sword gladiators, have done the best for the Catholic cause, time will surely tell."

A CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY.

For some time the newspapers have been publishing various rumors concerning the Catholic University of Ottawa and the latest of these hints

at the closing of the institution. We had hoped that the belief in a Catholic university for English-speaking Canadian Catholics was stronger than this. Although the career of the Ottawa University has been checked principally by local friction, it is not too much to say that in its existence the very principle of university education is at stake for English-speaking Catholics. The day we live in is remarkable for activity; indeed people may be rather too actively engaged to allow them time for thought and reflection. There are many Catholics, and not all of them in the ranks of the laity, who think they have firm convictions with regard to the subject of Catholic education, and the sufficiency of an elementary Catholic school system therefor. Such a system, or part of a system, is not, and cannot be, sufficient. The subject is a large one and would require exhaustive treatment if it should really present itself as an issue. But every man who knows the world to-day, or who occasionally hears the discussions of religion that arise among men of the world, cannot fail to perceive that every argument of modern unbelief pretends some scientific basis. It is an age of books and publications of all kinds—and perhaps of superficial learning. But the most superficial professors of every sort of latter-day unbelief lay claim to scientific thought. Where are Catholic laymen to find the weapons that may enable them to overthrow those whom they are bound to meet in such controversies? Are Catholic elementary schools enough? No. Catholic universities are needed, and without them Catholic laymen will fall out of the front rank in the modern march of progress.

Some of the secular papers tell us that the last thing that is necessary in Ontario is a second university of any kind. The Provincial University is all in all to Protestants and Catholics without favor. If we had not the frequent opportunities of reading the opinions of our Goldwin Smiths and Canon Codys, who are so much honored and obeyed by the authorities of the University of Toronto, we might be inclined to say that as far as godless colleges go Ontario was not so badly off. But our eyes are kept open and we think there is certainly room for a Catholic university in Ontario. The other question concerns the generosity and intelligence of the Catholic people of Ontario themselves. Will they support a Catholic University if properly controlled?

MR. C. R. DEVLIN'S ELECTION.

His constituents may well be congratulated upon the victory won by Mr. C. R. Devlin in this Province. Mr. Devlin came at a time when Irish Catholics interest in political life appeared to be on the wane. It was not really that Irish Catholics were less prominent as a factor in political life, but that they needed good men of single purpose to lead them. The complaint was sometimes heard that such men got but an unsympathetic reception in party conventions, and that the party leaders were not always inclined to make way for them. Mr. Devlin came out in a French-Canadian constituency. As an Irish Catholic he had no local claim and no local strength. As a Liberal, and as the nominee of a Party that desired to show its confidence and good will to Irish Catholics Mr. Devlin received the hearty and loyal welcome of French-Canadian Liberals. Local questions that would have been magnified as among French-Canadians themselves disappeared, or were not pressed to the embarrassment of an Irish-Catholic. And the result is a magnificent vindication of the loyalty of the French-Canadian people. Mr. Devlin is, we feel certain, proud of the position he occupies, and his fellow Irishmen throughout the Dominion are as proud of him as if he were returned by a constituency overwhelmingly Irish.

One man whose influence and ac-

tivity were seen from first to last in the Nicolet election deserves a special word of praise. We think it is due to the Hon. Mr. Lemieux, Postmaster-General, to say that Mr. Devlin was his choice, and that the idea of proving the willingness of French-Canadian Catholics to be represented by an Irish-Catholic was his. Mr. Lemieux has added to his reputation another green laurel which well becomes him.



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back again by the side of the mother. Advancing years have forced him to appoint a coadjutor in the person of Monsignor Amette. The Assistant Archbishop is a splendid figure of a man, alert and vigorous, of an intellectual cast of countenance, and natural dignity in his mien—a real modern Prince of the Church."

On the occasion of the Feast of the Madonna of the Elm, in the church of that name, in Tirreni, Italy, Commendatore Ferdinando De Lucia, in fulfillment of a vow, sang "The Prayer of Stradella." More than five thousand persons came to hear the great tenor with expressive and harmonious voice. The throng, which had listened to him in religious silence, gave a warm ovation outside the church. The action of the Commendatore De Lucia may be compared with that of Leoncavallo after the Catharian earthquake a year ago. The "Ave Maria" in question, composed in behalf of his stricken native province by the musician, and dedicated to the Pope, has now been sung.

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Where is Mass said at given at present? IN the use of which I get ONE SHILLING per week. Average weekly Collection. No endowment what HOPE. Not a great dowry, you will say. Ah, well! Who knows? have, as a rule, very nings. There was a Bethlehem, and God's shorted, I HAVE heard GREAT hopes that the slon, opened by the Bishop, ampton, will, in due course, be a great mission.

Best outside help is, canary. Will it be for I have noticed how the CLIENTS of ST. AN PADUA readily come ances of poor, struggling I not hope that they are a sympathetic and pity