

inclined to take the Lady Bryce's opinion seriously should read the record of the destruction of the Spanish Armada by the English fleet under the command of Lord Howard of Effingham, High Lord Howard of the Admiralty, whose grandfather had been executed by Henry VIII., whose father had been executed by Queen Elizabeth, and whose brother was at that moment a prisoner in Tower Hill for the crime of being a Catholic. Queen Elizabeth had been excommunicated by the Pope and was hunting priests with a vengeance. The Protestant Historian Green says: "With ruthless energy the Jesuits were tracked by pursuivants and spies, dragged from their hiding places and sent in batches to the scaffold. The death of Campion was the prelude to a steady pitiless effort at the extermination of his class." Then came the Armada, and England's destiny under God was in the keeping of Effingham and the English Catholics, for all historians agree with Green that Spain's only real chance of success lay in a Catholic rising.

"Did Catholics at that time subordinate their own country to the interests of Rome or Catholic Spain? Again the Protestant historian Green is witness: 'At this crisis, their patriotism proved itself in the hearts of the English Catholics. Catholic lords brought their vessels up alongside of Drake and Catholic gentry led their tenantry to the muster at Tibury.'"

"Nor is it altogether wide the mark, since the Lady Bryce made her remark to Colonel Roosevelt, to suggest that this veteran of the Spanish War must have smiled when he remembered the part that Catholics took in the war of our country against Spain. No wonder he exclaimed: 'Oh, you hide-bound aristocratic Episcopalians.'"

MUSSOLINI'S CAREER

By Rev. Henry E. O'Keefe, C. S. P., in the Missionary

The startling advent of Benito Mussolini into Italy's national life provokes wonderment as well as fear. There was never in history such a sincerely and really popular movement as Fascism? That it should come so abruptly and truly in these days when there is so much political humbug throughout the world and such degradation of the popular idea is still again a cause of interest and inquiry. When the Fascists marched into Rome the Italian Royalty and Nobility could but see in them the divinity that lurks in the great heart of the plain people. That this compact body shall hold cohesively and consistently regulated unto the end, is the prayer of some of the best spirits of Italy. Fascism is not entirely the fruit of Premier Mussolini's political genius. The moment was ripe for killing off the Socialist Party. There came a period of reaction engendered by the disruptive results of the World War. Mussolini's astute instinct perceived this and he directed it to a splendid summation. It was on his part a fine specimen of State-craft. He has, moreover, of himself softened the asperities of social and economic class struggle. But this, too, was a comparatively facile task for the Nobility and the Corporations have little or no wealth and the Labor element is not highly organized as it is, for example, in England. The fact also that many Labor Associations were merged into Fascist organizations which might otherwise be pressed for solution. The charge that Mussolini has been inordinately dominant and overbearing in his method toward the world outside his own country, is far from the truth. For several months he has struggled to stabilize the perturbed conditions at Fiume, wrought by the intense, impractical but picturesque D'Annunzio, who was ensconced in his villa at Carnegione. Mussolini's sincere desire to meet the Jugo-Slav Premier at Venice is patent. Despite the secrecy of the Italian Foreign Office, we know that he has forced upon the Italian Cabinet the necessity of dealing honestly and agreeably with the Jugo-Slavs. In an utterly unselfish spirit he would release one of the four basins of the Port of Fiume to the Jugo-Slavs. The low rental for it and for a term of fifty years he advocated that Italy's ownership might be acknowledged while, at the same time, a plenitude of freedom might be ceded the Jugo-Slavs to transport with all modern port facilities, their produce, which is mainly lumber, cattle and hides. With enough port space and traffic accommodation the Jugo-Slavs would be won over, their antagonism suppressed and the material conditions bettered both for themselves and their irritated neighbors.

The management of this relationship would be operated under an International Administration. In this manner would racial antipathies be controlled. Giovanni Giglio has made much of that which he terms the violence with which the Fascists have suppressed, imprisoned and banished those who attempted to lead the Italian Labor movement. Mussolini has justified these drastic methods as the only possible means to avert the demoralization of the Italian workingman. He has elaborated a constructive program which he considers to be founded on a sound basis of economic progress. He heartens the Italian laborer with words of tenderness and encourage-

ment and refers to his own struggles and humble origin—being, as he is, the son of a country blacksmith, who was very poor.

Nitti and Giuletti have both given Mussolini much anxiety but he has silenced them in spite of themselves. This he has done of himself without the sympathy of or association with the masters of Italian capital. It is impossible to forecast with any degree of certainty the length of time in which he shall have the strength to control so many and such diverse elements in the contemporary life of Italy. But his success up to the moment has been prodigious and so resplendent, that we fear not for the triumph of his cause but for the moral and intellectual composure of the man himself.

There is, at present, however, in spite of his self-assertiveness every evidence that he has no illusions concerning himself and beholds with humble spirit his own limitations. When the sculptor tried to persuade him that his effigy should be done while he lives, to be a faithful reflection of himself, for all posterity, his reply was given, very gently, that marble monuments were for the great and noble dead.

But it is not merely as an individual that he attracts, but his practical sense in government is entirely trusted by his own Parliament. The unusual bestowal of dictatorial powers upon him, even though operative for a few months, was an indication of confidence warranted by a fruitful issue. When his authority ceased Italy returned naturally and complacently to a fully constitutional form of government. A summary of the results of his administration, seem almost incredible in these days when the popular form of legislature seems to impede rather than further the progress of palpable public good. Doubtless much of this rapid and secure attainment of better conditions came in virtue of the dictatorial powers so generously conferred on him. But the unanimity of sentiment in Parliament with regard to him has been a congenial occasion of his triumph.

In his regime over one thousand reforms have been introduced, many of which are radical. During the same time Parliament has held forty-nine sittings and approved of 240 bills, including the electoral reform law, commercial treaties with Poland, Czechoslovakia, France, Switzerland, Canada, Austria, Russia and Ukraine, measures for the improvement of agriculture, new customs-tariffs and authorization to Mussolini himself to proceed with a revision of the Italian civil and commercial legal code.

But according to the claims of the defenders of the Mussolini government this is only a partial report of the great services achieved. Stringent economy, likewise, has been applied to all government offices. Numerous offices have been reduced and several hundred millions of lire have been saved.

Before the advent of the Fascist government, the budget deficit had remained steady at about 5,500,000,000 lire. In the fiscal year 1922-1923 for eight months of which the Fascists were in power, the deficit was 1,200,000,000 less than the estimate. In the first five months of the present fiscal year it has been 500,000,000 less than the estimate.

These figures are official and if they be even remotely correct and if the presentation of the facts be honest and direct, the spectacle of one man, as being the instrument (if not the soul) of such a new era of national regeneration, must ever be a source of study, for the historian.

DIVORCE

FEDERAL LAW FAVORED BY NEW YORK JUSTICE

New York, February 29.—Justice Joseph Morschauser of the Supreme Court of Westchester County, before whom a number of sensational divorce proceedings have been tried favors a national law on divorce in the hope that such legislation would be an effective check on this evil. Commenting on the proposal for a national divorce code as embodied in bills now pending in Congress, Justice Morschauser said: "I am in favor of anything that will unify the laws of divorce and generally improve the situation. For my part, I am opposed to divorce, except in extreme cases. I counsel against it where reconciliation is possible. The court grants divorces because the law compels it. If people were not in such a hurry to marry, if they looked upon marriage in the light of a business contract, they would not be so quick to dissolve the partnership. In this whole situation children are the most important factor. Parents must not forget that they owe them the best that life can offer, which means above all, a good home environment."

Asked for an explanation of recent statistics showing that three petitions for divorce in New York are filed by women to every one filed by a man, Justice Morschauser said: "It is not surprising that there is an increasing number of women seeking divorces. Women have always had more cause for being plaintiffs than men. They are more sinned against than sinning. But bear this in mind—women generally do not seek to break up the home unless they are hard pushed. It is instinctive with them, since they are the mothers of the race, to pre-

serve the family unit. If you ask me what causes are responsible for the growing number of divorces and particularly of the women who are seeking their freedom, I am unable to classify them. There was the War and the spirit of unrest which followed. I am inclined to believe that the quick accumulation of fortunes is at the bottom of a good part of the trouble. The new rich are restless and seek extreme pleasures, they get away from a normal life, and then the mischief begins.

Justice Morschauser is not inclined to blame women's increasing participation in industrial callings for the increase in divorces.

"I have always stood for women's rights and I cannot think that anything so intrinsically good can result in evil," he said. "That the commercial world is open to women is not the direct cause for the increased number of divorces. Their ability to earn their own livelihood may give them the strength to liberate themselves from a situation which is frequently obnoxious. But the fact that it is within her possibilities to become economically independent does not make a woman resort to the divorce court, particularly if she has children."

BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO SEND STATE-AIDED PUPILS TO COLLEGE

London, Eng.—University education for clever boys and girls from the State-aided schools, is one of the educational plans of the new British Government, according to a statement made by the Minister of Education.

Although scholarships to the great universities have been available to children attending the Public schools, the number has not been great, and generally speaking the universities up to the present have been mostly open only to those whose parents could pay the fees.

Existing State scholarships were suspended last year on the plea of economy. But the present Government, whatever trimming down it may make in the way of national economy, does not intend to save money by cutting down educational facilities.

"Unless State scholarships are available," declares the Labor Minister of Education, "there would be no such means of encouraging the clever boy or girl. I shall watch very carefully to see whether it will be worth while expanding these scholarships."

Reduction of the size of individual classes is another reform to be aimed at by the Minister. Classes of sixty pupils are to be cut down to a smaller number; a reform that will be beneficial not only for teacher and class alike, but will provide fresh posts for the many Public school teachers in this country who are now out of employment.

MARBLE TABLET RECORDS HISTORY

The oldest dated example of handwriting, believed to be about 4500 B. C., has been brought to light by the excavations at Ur of the Chaldees.

A marble tablet was discovered, inscribed in Sumerian, which records that this was the temple of the goddess Nin Khur-Sag, built in her honor by the King of Ur, A-An-Ni-Pad-Da, the son of King Mes-An-Ni-Pad-Da, and the latter is known from the King-lists drawn up about 2000 B. C., as a ruler of the first dynasty of Ur, the third dynasty to reign after the Flood.

"Taken at its face value," says the report of the joint expedition of the British Museum and the University of Pennsylvania, which is continuing the excavations at Ur, "the Sumerian chronology would assign status and relief to a date some where about 4500 B. C. Even if that date has to be modified we can yet say that the month's work has given us the oldest dated example of handwriting and the oldest known triumphs of the art of Tubal Cain."

HOLY LAND PILGRIMS TO RECEIVE CROSSES BEFORE DEPARTURE

New York, Feb. 27.—Solemn ceremonies in St. Patrick's Cathedral on March 15 will mark the assembly of members of the American pilgrimage to the Holy Land in preparation for their sailing the next day. The Cathedral has been turned over to the pilgrims by Archbishop Hayes for the services which will be held at 5.30 p. m.

Persons who are to make the pilgrimage, including many priests and missionaries, besides a large number of the laity from all parts of the country, will meet for the first time at these ceremonies at the cathedral. Those of the clergy will occupy the sanctuary. The itinerary, or prayers for those beginning a journey, will be sung.

Archbishop Daeger, of Santa Fe, N. Mex., spiritual director of the pilgrimage, will give the solemn blessing and bestow on the pilgrims the pilgrims' cross, a large silver cross, the emblem of an order of Papal origin, given pilgrims to the holy places in Palestine. The cross is authorized by a decree of Pope Leo XIII. to be worn in the presence of the Holy Father. It is in the form of the five crosses of the Holy Land. The crosses will be blessed by Arch-

bishop Daeger and one given to each pilgrim before leaving, as a special favor. The ceremony will be concluded with the pontifical blessing and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Knights of St. Sepulchre, from Mount St. Sepulchre, Washington, D. C., in uniform will participate in the function. The farewell Mass will be said for the pilgrims the next day at St. Francis Church in 31st Street.

Announcement is made that persons still desirous of registering for the pilgrimage may obtain full information regarding it from the Commissariat of the Holy Land, Washington, D. C.

FINDS ANCIENT IRISH TOMB

Dublin, Feb. 28.—A remarkable discovery has been made in the west of Ireland. A farmer near Lough Corrib, a lake in Galway County, was ploughing his land when he came across a mound. He proceeded to clear it away. He heard a hollow sound. Upon removing the earth he came across a great flat slab of stone which revealed an ancient Irish tomb. There were half a dozen uprights and the sides were carefully built with sand. Stretched the length of the tomb were the remains of a human skeleton. Near by was an ancient Irish bronze ornament.

Under the supervision of Dr. T. B. Costello, of Tuam, an archaeologist of repute, the remains were disinterred and removed to University College, Galway. The teeth and jaw of the skeleton are in a wonderful state of preservation. The remains are those of a female and reveal a type quite different from that of today. Investigations made by Dr. Shea, Professor of Anatomy, convince him that the skeleton is 8,000 years old and that it belongs to the bronze age in Ireland. It is expected that this surprising discovery will throw some fresh light upon unrecorded ancient Irish history.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH EXTENSION SOCIETY OF CANADA

ZEAL FOR SOULS

To love God is to be zealous for souls. "Zeal springs from love," says St. Augustine. With the possession of sanctifying grace comes a longing to draw souls nearer to God. One cannot feel alone in the enjoyment of divine grace. There is no law more sound than that which conditions each man's salvation on the sincerity of his will to save another man. Therefore, the ministry of saving souls is not the monopoly of bishops and priests, but to each one is given a measure of apostolic grace and responsibility.

When the Saviour's earthly career was drawing to a close, He gathered the Apostles round about Him to give them His last command. How eagerly those chosen ones must have awaited His final orders to them! They had been with Him three years, had witnessed His miracles and had heard His wonderful teachings, and now that He was to leave them, they were to receive the last divine command that would be the watchword of their apostolic careers. "And the eleven disciples went into Galilee, into the mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And Jesus coming, spoke to them, saying: 'All power is given to Me in heaven and in earth. Going therefore, teach ye all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.' (St. Matthew xxviii, 18, 19.) Here then was the last will and testament of Christ on earth. "As the Father hath sent Me," He said to them, "so I also send you." Filled with indomitable courage and faith, the Apostles went forth single-handed to convert the world. Full of confidence in God, they evangelized successively various countries of Europe and the Near East. "And they, going forth, preached everywhere," the Lord working withal, and confirming the word with signs that followed." (St. Mark xvi, 20). The result of their obedience to Christ's commands may be read in the pages of the history of the early Church.

The spirit that fired the Apostles to be missionaries of the word inspired their successors down through the centuries to carry on the same apostolic work. Everywhere and at all times the Church has considered it her bounden duty to carry out the last will and testament of her Divine Founder. To every country under heaven she has sent her missionaries to implant and develop the faith that was hers to give. Filled with missionary zeal, an Augustine went to England, a Patrick to Ireland, a Boniface to Germany, a Columba to Scotland, to bring the light of the gospel and civilization to our forebears dwelling there. Centuries later her representatives came to this continent, then newly discovered. With the first explorers came priests filled with the desire to carry the gospel of Christ to lands anew. To Canada came a Jogues, a Brebeuf, a Lalement, whose heroic deeds and martyrdom have made their names household words in the country whose soil they watered with their blood.

The command of the Saviour, "Go ye forth, teach all nations," holds good today as it did in the days of the Apostles. It is a personal message from God to us. It is a responsibility we cannot shirk. In the words of His Eminence Cardinal O'Connell of Boston: "No one who has received the true faith of Christ can rest inactive in the mere possession of it, for true faith is always accompanied by ardent charity, and charity by its very nature seeks to extend itself. He who is indifferent to the propagation of the faith in reality has lost it, or never really had it, at least as a living possession."

Can people who owe their faith to the missionary zeal of others stand by and see their fellow-countrymen perish for want of the help they can so easily give. Deep in the hearts and souls of each one of us is the true missionary spirit, for we are descended one and all from ancestors who have suffered for the faith that was in them and who in turn have gone forth as missionaries to new lands to communicate the gift of God to others.

At our door today in our own land are fellow-Canadians who need spiritual attention. The command uttered long centuries ago in distant Palestine crosses the ages and today echoes in this Canada of ours. From the Prairie Provinces and from beyond the Rockies, our own flesh and blood are calling to us to extend the help so urgently needed. Priests, Religious, Teachers, churches, schools—all are urgently required. Bishops are like generals in the army of Christ: priests, too, like sentinels here and there on guard over the countless souls committed to their care. Great work for Christ has already been done in the new lands, but more, much more, remains to be accomplished. Today the call from the West resounds more loudly still. "We must have priests to minister to the souls whose faith is dying for lack of spiritual food."

We, as Catholics, cannot remain indifferent to the appeals that are constantly coming to us from our less favored brethren of the Canadian West. We have a regularly constituted organization, the Extension Society, to be the medium of our charity towards them. If God has given us abundantly of the things of this world we might show our gratitude to Him by founding a bureau of \$5,000 for the education in perpetuity of a priest for the missions. We could give \$500 towards the erection of a mission chapel that would be a centre of Catholic life and worship in some isolated place. A contribution of \$300 would defray the expenses of a seminarian for one year. The college course of a student for one year would cost \$200. For those who can give but the widow's mite there are altars, vestments, chalices, statues and other articles to be supplied for divine worship. The smallest sum is most welcome for the furtherance of God's work.

In this season of Lent, a time of penance and mortification, can you not, dear reader, make some little offering of your prayers and your means towards the work of the extension of our holy faith, the truly apostolic work of zeal for souls. Contributions through this office should be addressed to: EXTENSION, CATHOLIC RECORD OFFICE, London, Ont.

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SAXONY NOW PERMITS SCHOOL CHILDREN TO KEEP HOLY DAYS

Cologne, Feb. 28.—The order that children were not to be excused from school to attend church on holy days which were not recognized as legal holidays by the Saxon state has been altered by order of the Ministry of People's Education. Henceforth the Protestant penance day in spring, the holy days of the Catholic Church and the feast days of the Jews will be regarded as religious holidays on which the children insofar as necessary must have opportunity to attend church.

The order forbidding any kind of religious influence, such as services, prayers or church hymns without religious lessons in Public schools has been rescinded. The new Saxon order refers to a paragraph of the constitution, saying: "In the lessons in Public schools care must be taken that the feelings of those who have another opinion be not offended." Thus the orders of the former Socialist minister of culture, Dr. Fleisner, are abolished and peace on the religious question is assured.

PRIEST ASTRONOMER DIES AT HIS POST

Rev. Marc Dechevrens, S. J., director of the observatory of Zi-Ka-Wei died recently. Father Dechevrens was a great scholar and widely known. He was born at Geneva, July 16, 1845, and made his studies at the College St. Michael at Fribourg. In 1869 he entered the Society of Jesus. In 1878 his superiors, struck by his rare scientific aptitude, sent him to China to found there an astronomical and meteorological observatory. Zi-Ka-

Wei was chosen as a favorable site for the observatory. Here, therefore Father Dechevrens pursued his investigations for some fourteen years.

Having returned to Europe he established in the Isle of Jersey an observatory for meteorological observations which he occupied himself with until his last hour.

Father Dechevrens was a specialist on typhoons, their formation and evolution, and by his predictions had been able to avert numerous disasters. He had invented an instrument for the exact measure of mathematical curves.—The Pilot.

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WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, March 16.—St. Abraham was a rich nobleman of Edessa who lived for fifty years in a cell where he sang God's praises and implored mercy for himself and all men. When his brother's daughter, St. Mary, was confined to his care, he placed her in a cell near his own and trained her in perfection. After twenty years of innocence she fell from grace but was later brought back to repentance through the

prayers of her uncle and his friend St. Ephrem.

Monday, March 17.—St. Patrick Bishop and Apostle of Ireland, after a youth spent in captivity and slavery, was called to the task of converting Ireland to the Faith. He received the approbation of Celestine and met with marvelous success in his efforts to Christianize the Irish. He held several councils to settle the discipline of the Church he established in that country. He was buried at Down in Ulster.

Tuesday, March 18.—St. Cyril of Jerusalem was bishop of that city at the time Julian the Apostate tried to rebuild the Temple of Solomon. The Saint protested and when the workmen tried to begin their work they were prevented by flames which issued from the earth. The attempt was repeated several times but always failed. Cyril was noted as a teacher. He was present at the Second General Council of Constantinople and died in 386.

Wednesday, March 19.—St. Joseph, the spouse of the Blessed Virgin, foster father of Our Lord and patron of the Universal Church.

Thursday, March 20.—St. Wulfran, Archbishop, renounced his place at the court of King Clotaire to give his life to God. After being elected Archbishop of Sens he gave up his see to become a missionary to Friesland. After converting thousands to the Faith he died in 720.

Friday, March 21.—St. Benedict, Abbot, when a young boy was sent to Rome to attend the public schools. Terrified by the licentiousness of the students he fled to the mountains of Subiaco where he established twelve monasteries. Later he founded the monastery of Monte Casino where he devoted his time to the writing of his celebrated rule. He died there in 543.

Saturday, March 22.—St. Catherine of Sweden, virgin, was the daughter of Ulpho, Prince of Nericia and of St. Bridget. When she was given in marriage to a nobleman named Ergard she persuaded him to join her in a vow of chastity. She died as Abbess of Vadstena in 1381.

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