

London Advertiser.

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Bishop O'Connor.

The Hamilton Herald remarks that Bishop O'Connor, of this city, is the first Ontario man who has risen to the rank of Archbishop. This is probably true. Bishop O'Connor was born near Pickering, Ont., and though he received a portion of his academic training in Europe, his life work has been in this Province. He is a splendid native product, physically and mentally. Some day he may wear the red hat. He becomes Archbishop of Toronto at a much earlier age than did the late Dr. Walsh, and it is known that the latter had been nominated for the Cardinalate just before his death. Partly owing to his shorter tenure of office Dr. O'Connor is not so well known to the laity of his diocese, or to the people of London generally as was Dr. Walsh; but in ecclesiastical circles he is recognized as a brilliant theologian, and one of the strongest men of the Canadian church. Like his predecessor, Dr. O'Connor has always maintained an attitude of good will toward his Protestant fellow-citizens, and they join in congratulating him upon his elevation. He will bring to the archiepiscopal dignity a zealous devotion to duty, a powerful intellect and a distinguished scholarship.

Dr. O'Connor's successor has not yet been named, but the choice will doubtless be carefully considered. The Bishopric of London has assumed increased importance, as it appears to be in the direct line of promotion to the highest prizes of the prelacy.

Lyman Abbott's Confession of Faith.

The other day the Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott preached his farewell sermon to the congregation worshipping in Plymouth Church, Brooklyn. For twelve years Dr. Abbott has occupied the pulpit made famous by Henry Ward Beecher. Beecher was one of the greatest preachers and orators of the nineteenth century. His successor is also an able man, but stronger in literary and philosophical equipment than in oratorical accomplishments. Dr. Abbott has a sphere of usefulness in the editorship of The Outlook, and the time has now come when he can no longer discharge the heavy duties of editor and pastor, either of which positions is sufficient to tax the strength of a strong man. There was a time when the preacher was politician, preacher and journalist all in one. In these days of division of labor and high pressure there are few who can unite in themselves such varied functions. The editor of a largely circulated journal in the United States or elsewhere, has a position of great influence and responsibility, and we are not surprised that Dr. Abbott should feel that it is time now for him to resign the pulpit to a younger man. It was also perfectly natural that he should take the opportunity of the last sermon to review his ministry, and make what he calls "a confession of faith." Some have criticised this sermon on account of the preacher's statement concerning the central doctrine of the Christian religion, the doctrine of the atonement, which has been the subject of meditation in thousands of Christian churches during the past week. The orthodox critics think that though the preacher said many true and beautiful things on the subject, he erred by defect, and left out some important elements of the great question. That kind of criticism we must leave to theological journals, and content ourselves with a few remarks on the general position. A great pulpit is a great power in a free country, and, in fact, it is only a free country that can produce a strong pulpit. Dr. Abbott deserves credit for the stand he took at the time of the Venezuelan issue. He showed that a loyal American could do justice to the history and highest life of Britain. On the question of Expansion he has also spoken strongly, and had a large measure of influence. It is clear that he believes that a representative of Christian teaching should seek to influence the policy of the nation.

Two things he made very clear, which we think are true and important parts of a minister's confession. It was said to him, "Preach, but do not take upon yourself the burdens, sorrows and problems of individuals. Simply come Sunday mornings and preach to us." To which he made the proper reply, "No pastor can preach who does not suffer with his people and for his people." That surely is true. Preaching is not lecturing. Lecturing is good in its proper place; but preaching is the speech of a man inspired by faith in Jesus Christ and living near to the lives of his people.

The preacher showed that man is a truly spiritual being, and cannot be redeemed by a few external changes whether they come with the shock of sudden revolution or the gentleness of silent reform. "The world will not be redeemed by a tariff, or the abolition of tariffs; by a personal tax, nor by the abolition of personal taxes; by levying everything on land, nor by levying nothing on the land; it will not be redeemed by Socialism, nor by individualism; it will not be redeemed by the Republican party, nor by the Democratic party, nor by the Prohibition party. It will be redeemed only when we come to understand that because we have one Father in heaven we are all brethren." All these questions are important, and must be solved through the clash of discussion and the demands of real life. But man

is spiritual, and religion a real power, or the preacher might at once abdicate his position and abate his claims.

An Embarrassing Situation.

The Conservative leaders will, of course, go down into Brockville, where a bye-election is now in progress, but will they repeat the accusations they have made on the floor of the House of Commons? If they do not, they will show themselves to be arrant cowards. It is true that Major Walsh is an honorable resident of the city of Brockville, and that the atrocious charges made against him by Sir Hibbert Tupper—of being a drunkard, a persistent breaker of the Seventh Commandment, and a corrupt man—are not believed by those who are best able to judge of Major Walsh's character. It is also true that not a tittle of real evidence has been adduced to refute Major Walsh's unqualified denial of Sir C. H. Tupper's allegations. But that has not prevented their indorsement by other Conservative speakers in the House of Commons. They have sheltered themselves behind their privileges as members of Parliament. They have not dared to say these things in the open, where they would be amenable to the criminal code. If they have any sense of fair play, they will take their charges to the good city of Brockville, where Major Walsh is best known. The reply of the electors will surprise them.

They Want Retaliation.

The lumbermen of Canada are asking the Dominion Government to impose a duty on American lumber entering Canada equal to the duty on Canadian lumber entering the United States. Canadian exports of forest products to the United States took a big drop last year owing to the Dingley tariff; but Canada bought more forest products from the United States in 1898 than in 1897. The lumbermen of this country are willing to have reciprocity of trade with the United States, but failing that they want reciprocity of tariffs. The interests of both countries are made to suffer because of the greed of a few pine kings over the border, who control enough votes in the American Senate to defeat any measure of fair play. Despite this unneighborly conduct Canada admits American wood free of duty. The natural impulse is to treat the United States as the United States treats us, but if retaliation is a weapon that recoils on the user, it is foolish to attempt it. American forest products are largely used by Canadian wood manufacturers, who would be handicapped by a duty on their raw material. The settlers of Manitoba and the Northwest also buy a good deal of lumber from the other side, because the seat of the American lumber industry is just across the line, and Canadian products have to pay heavier freight rates for the longer distance. In considering this matter the Government have to look at other and perhaps wider interests than those of the lumbermen. The latter are not suffering greatly, as they find both the home market and the British market growing.

The failure of Lady Harborton's suit shows that Mrs. Grundy still shys at bloomers.

Michigan dispatches report a big advance in the price of lumber and wood manufactures. The restriction on the export of Ontario logs is beginning to be felt, especially by the consumers.

The Globe speaks of Sir Hibbert Tupper's "vast and comprehensive ignorance" of the Yukon. A sort of "omni-nescence," to use a Macaulay flower of expression.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has renewed his promise to make Ottawa the Washington of the North. Is he not doing so? Ottawa is growing faster, proportionately, than any place in the Province.

The whole session of Parliament yesterday was "hogged" by four obscure members of the Opposition—Henderson, Ganong, Powell and McAllister. Public business is being drowned in a torrent of talk. It is disgraceful.

In the article on British capital in yesterday's Advertiser, the figures in the table showing the wealth of European states should have been in billions and not millions. The omission of three ciphers made the difference.

Some of the Opposition papers profess to be indignant because a few of the Doukhobors are sawing cordwood in Winnipeg to earn a little money until they are located on the land. The Doukhobors are not a gang of loafers, as some politicians would like to see them turn out to be.

The New York Journal remarks that as a result of the recent Anglo-French treaty "England gets the Valley of the Nile and France the great Sahara Desert—a genuine British trade." Canada sincerely wishes that Great Britain had shown the same bargaining skill when dealing with the Maine and Oregon boundary questions.

Prosecuting Attorney Wade is one of the Yukon officials whom Sir Hibbert Tupper has been defaming. At the time of Mr. Wade's appointment, Sir Hibbert's brother wrote thus to the Winnipeg Nor'wester: "Mr. Wade has made a reputation as a brilliant editorial writer, and his success in his profession (legal) is so well known that it cannot be questioned. I believe that his political opponents will testify that he would scorn to do a mean action even in the heat of battle."

The season of navigation is now open at Quebec. The St. Lawrence is clear to the sea.

MARION BROWN

Applications for Executive Clemency Signed by Many Lawyers.

We understand that Mr. McPhillips intends to make application for executive clemency, or, failing that, a new trial, in the case of Marion Brown, convicted of the murder of Policeman Toohy on the 24th of June last, and that a petition to that effect is being circulated among the members of the Bar.

The evidence appears to point with reasonable certainty to the fact that Policeman Toohy came to his death at the hand of the condemned man, but there seems to be room for argument whether the crime committed was murder or manslaughter.

The condemned man is an alien here. He comes from a country where his color is not respected, and where the life of a negro is taken with little compunction. There may be a mixture of Anglo-Saxon blood sufficient to give him courage, but not sufficient to protect him from injury. He, or even the loss of his life in the country from which he came. Darkness was falling round him, and in the uncertain light he sees a man approaching him as if to seize him. There is evidence that F. C. Toohy's revolver was removed from its pouch before his death. One witness says it was in the hand of the deceased, another that it was lying a short distance from him. There is evidence, too, of a struggle. As pointed out by Mr. Leont, in his address, on behalf of the crown, the fact that the buttons had been wrenched off the policeman's coat was evidence that a struggle had taken place, and if a struggle had taken place and if the struggle the policeman had lost his life, it might have been either that the death of the policeman was inflicted in self-defense—in which case the person causing the death would have been justified, or if ever the condemned man had been manslaughter.

The condemned man has been found guilty of murder, and sentenced to be hanged. It is contended that the act could not have been contemplated for more than an instant of time. It may have been that he saw the revolver glinting in Toohy's hand. It may have been that with his knowledge only of the methods of the country from which he came, and with the name which under execution quickly becomes uncontrollable, so common with his race, in an instant of time he acted, believing if he did not that his life would end. That he did not need to have this fear is true, but he did not know it.

He had never seen P. C. Toohy before. There could be no motive if it is contended, except personal safety, and it would scarcely be contended that he would interfere with the policeman if he could have avoided him. Has he at most been guilty of more than manslaughter? This is one of the questions which the executive will have to deal with, and which calls for careful judicial decision. If the act of the one should be taken, it is when the life of one is in the balance who is alone, friendless, penniless, and an alien with the blood of slavery coursing through his veins, who had not even time to keep his courage up or funds with which to conduct his defense. When convicted there was no one to weep; had he been acquitted there would have been no one to rejoice with him.

"Death is the greatest evil that one man can inflict upon another," and before that greatest of all penalties is inflicted, it is contended, there should be the most mature consideration. The evidence and circumstances should be weighed and examined in such a way that any man guilty of manslaughter only shall not be made to suffer the penalty of a murderer. Many circumstances, according to the opinions of lawyers, point to manslaughter as most in accordance with the evidence. It is said that while the case was in progress the lawyers generally looked for a verdict of manslaughter. The fact that Marion Brown is a negro, is no reason why his case should not be fully considered, as suggested in the petition that has been signed by members of the legal profession.

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