

A GROSS SLANDER.

OTTAWA, July 20th, 1894.

To the Editor of the Catholic Register.

DEAR SIR—On the 8th May last I addressed the original of the subjoined letter to the Editor of *The Canadian Magazine*, touching a false reference to Ireland and the Irish people contained in a contributed article in his number for that month.

The June and July numbers of the Magazine have since appeared, and yet no attempt to correct the false statement to which I have referred by either the Editor or his contributor. I therefore think it well to direct your attention to the matter so that it may be dealt with by the Press.

Yours truly, BRANNAGH.

NOTE.—I enclosed my name to the Editor, and gave him permission to append it to my letter if he felt bound to decline it with a *nom de plume*.

The Editor *Canadian Magazine*.

SIR It must be a matter of unequalled surprise to the great majority of intelligent readers, as it has been to me and to friends to whom I have shewn the article, how such an amount of nonsense and ignorance—if not downright wilful misrepresentation—as is contained in the opening paragraph of "The First Plantation in Newfoundland" in the current number of *The Canadian Magazine* could have escaped the scrutiny of the Editorial eye and gained admission to columns which hitherto, so far as I am able to judge, have been noted for both literary ability and fairness.

But apparently to the writer in question the chance of "turning a phrase" is of more importance than historical correctness. Passing over his nonsensical assertion that "the history of Canada brings us back into the dim past when men wore plate armor and long hair" (!); also his assertion that "the history of the Australian Colonies . . . is chiefly of a commercial nature," I come to where he says, speaking of the British Isles, that time was "when England and Scotland were separate kingdoms, and"—can it be believed—"Ireland a wilderness inhabited by barbarians." That classic land which possessed, away back in the centuries, her world-famed schools of Bangor and Armagh, with their tens of thousands of students from all parts of Europe, including even the Saxon King "Alfred the Great," a wilderness! The countrymen of a Columbanus, a Scotus Erigenas, and thousands of other scholars of the early and middle ages; the countrymen of those almost countless missionaries who carried the light of the Christian religion to the Picts and other northern peoples to be classed as "barbarians." Could the force of wilful falsehood or invincible ignorance further go? The land which, from the earliest times, has been known as the "Isle of Scholars and of Saints" to be published to the world of the nineteenth century as the home of "barbarians." Surely it were not too much to, in a manner, paraphrase the first sentence of this writer's own exordium and say: "It is strange that in these days of general education so many men write about things of which they know absolutely nothing." Get thee, ignoramus.

But surely, Mr. Editor, some *amende* is due to the readers of your Magazine for this writer's display of ignorance; and in order that Mr. J. F. Morris Fawcett's attention may be directed to the matter, I ask you to give the present few words space in the next number of the Magazine.

Yours truly, BRANNAGH.

Ottawa, May 8th, 1894.

The crosses which we make for ourselves by our restless anxiety for the future are not crosses that come from God.—*Feelon*.

A cathedral is being built in honor of St Vincent de Paul at Tunis, on the very spot where the saint was sold as a slave in 1605.

A Magnificent Museum.

One of the grandest museums in the world is undoubtedly, that of the Propagation of the Faith in Lyons, France. It is divided into two sections. The principal salon contains the names of the martyrs who, since 1832, have gained heaven by their devotion to the work of the Society. There are treasured objects that belonged to the martyrs, the confessors of the faith in all parts of the world, such as letters, writings dictated by them, etc. Among the venerable manuscripts there treasured, is a letter by the Patron of the Work, Saint Francis Xavier, which was signed by the first members of the Society of Jesus, and especially by Saint Ignatius of Loyola, whose signature is dearly prized.

The second salon contains many rich and very curious collections, sent from all parts of the globe. Persons visiting this museum may conveniently make a very pleasant and profitable tour of the world in a very short time. It contains idols, works of art, clothing, arms, jewels, ornaments, articles of furniture collected with the greatest of care, and arranged in perfect order, permitting the visitor to become acquainted with the customs, the religious worship, the industry and the history of the most remote and unfrequented parts of the earth.

Yet the men who live in obscurity, often among savage tribes, who contribute to the formation of valuable museums, who have given to the world valuable dictionaries and grammars of previously unknown languages, who have thus laid the foundations of the sciences of ethnography, of philology, of anthropology, who have furnished the materials for Humboldt and Ouvrier, are the men whom the grossly ignorant, self-conceited slanderers accuse of wishing to keep the people in ignorance. It is useless to expose such people, their ignorance has rendered them so callous to all sense of shame; their lives are spent in making collections of falsehoods, slanders and vituperation, and in retailing them to the public through the press, or from the public, instead of the gospel of truth, which they so industriously caricature. The devil in the garden of Eden deceived Eve by telling her what was substantially a lie. God told her that if she should eat of the fruit of the forbidden tree she should die; the serpent, the father of lies told her: "By no means she should not die, thus virtually calling the Almighty a liar!

Corea, which has kept people guessing for years, is still a matter of doubt. The Japanese have troops in the chief towns, while a rebellion, after the brutal Chinese style, holds its own in the interior. China is gathering troops to resist Japanese influence, while England and Russia, the Lion and the Bear which seek to grasp everything in their capacious paws, are standing in the background waiting for the spoils. Corea is willing to accept of the terras offered by Japan, but China demands that Japanese troops must be withdrawn before any arrangements are made. England tried to arrange matters, but the present indications are that war will be declared, in which the odds of numbers are largely in favor of China.

The Bundesrath has rejected the bill repealing the anti Jesuit laws in Germany.

Whatever stress some may lay, a death-bed repentance is but a weak and slender plank to trust our all upon.—*Sterne*.

The construction of the basilica of the Sacred Heart at Paris has been resumed with great activity. During one month recently 93,450 francs were put in the cash-box from contributors to the reverent purpose. There was one anonymous honor who sent the splendid amount of 40,000 francs. There are some magnificently bountiful friends of the faith in France still, whose generosity is heightened by their modesty. The total already received considerably exceeds 27,000,000 francs.

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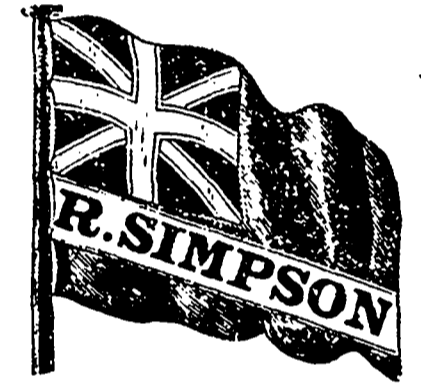
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