

"Truth is Catholic; proclaim it ever, and God will effect the rest"—BALMEZ

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CHRONICLES OF AN OLD-TIMER

The Theller Memoirs Continued—The Sentencing of Montgomery and Other Convicted Prisoners—Theller's Defence and Sentence—Had the Sympathy of the Populace.

Chicago, June 18, 1904.

Editor Catholic Register: Following are some of the interesting Theller memoirs, reminding us of old Toronto days:

On the fourth day of my trial, the 10th of April, Messrs. John Anderson, John Montgomery, Gilbert F. Morden and myself were called out and escorted by a guard to the court house and placed together in the criminal box, to listen to the judgment of the court. His Lordship first called up Mr. Montgomery, who, when asked why sentence of death should not be passed upon him, remarked that he had nothing to say other than to protest that he had not been allowed a fair trial, and to assert that if he had been thus favored he could have shown to the court by competent witnesses that the persons who had testified against him had been hired for that purpose, and that they had committed a base and willful perjury. Mr. Anderson thought it extremely hard that he should be treated with so much severity after being entrapped by the proclamation of the Governor, Sir Francis Bond Head—that he could have made his escape to the United States as well as others, who had fled and reached there in safety; but, replying implicitly on the supposed honor of the Government, he had come voluntarily into town and delivered himself up to the Governor; that the Governor had accepted his delivery, but kept him in waiting in the apartment until he had procured a guard, when he sent him to prison; that he neither pretended to plead anything in vindication of his conduct nor deny that he had taken up arms; but that he thought it, as stated by Sir Francis in the proclamation, that the principles of monarchy were honor, it was a disgraceful affair to entrap a man as he had been and, when in their power, visit him with the severest penalties of the law.

Mr. Morden argued pretty much in the same words, when the three were called upon by name to listen to their sentence. The judge, addressing Montgomery, said that the jury had recommended him to mercy, which recommendation he would lay before the governor and his council, and he thought it would be considered attentively; but that he, Montgomery, had been always known as a bitter opponent of Her Majesty's government, that by his wealth and influence, he ought to have sustained the government, not aided those wicked and designing men who attempted its overthrow. To Mr. Anderson he explained the manner in which he had lived under the Government; that he had become wealthy, but was always found in the ranks of those troubling the Government for reform, vindicating the Governor in his manner of treating him, and concluded by saying that he need not expect any mercy. The judge recapitulated the evidence against him, and said that, not satisfied with the very active part he had taken in the late "wild and unnatural rebellion," he had induced others to solicit aid from a foreign power, and invite over the brigands of that country to aid the discontented to overthrow and subvert Her Majesty's Government in those provinces; that even a letter to that effect, which he was to carry over to the United States for such purpose; but that a wise and beneficent Providence had overthrown his evil designs; that he was now about to meet the punishment due his "heinous offence"; and prayed earnestly that he should, by his repentance, prepare to meet his offended God.

Sentence was then pronounced upon the three as follows, and having been called up with them, I was induced to believe that some different fate awaited me, particularly when

I reflected upon the verdict of the jury; but a moment more, and with the rich, musical voice of his lordship, "a change came over my dream," as the low, shrill sounds reached the ears of that silent crowd: "And you, Edward Alexander Theller, what have you to say why sentence of death should not be pronounced against you?" I advanced to the front of the box and addressed him as follows, poorly prepared, as the reader may well imagine, under such circumstances, little believing, cruel and vindictive as I knew the British policy to be, that they would dare to venture to this extent, in trampling under foot their own laws and their solemn treaties in their own halls of justice:

"I suppose that anything I may have to say will not prevent you from passing the sentence which you have already prepared, and although your question is part of the usual prescribed form, and however fruitless any remarks from me may appear at this moment, standing in the peculiar position in which I am placed, I will not let pass the opportunity, without answering you, by solemnly protesting against the jurisdiction of this court to try me, and against the unjust, tyrannical, and barbarous law under which I have been tried, and conditionally found guilty."

"It may well be called unjust, tyrannical and barbarous; a relic of your olden time—a baronial and feudal legislation—a law made six hundred years ago, before England had a colony, and when her sway was confined to her own island. A law totally unfit for the present day, and differing as much from the spirit of your present laws, as the feelings, minds and pursuits of that day differ from those of this day.

"It is a law, my lord, which would deprive you, and every other person of this numerous assembly, from emigrating to any country where reasons particular or pecuniary might point out, and bind you to the country, where by the chance-medley of circumstances you were born in fetters as strong as those that bound the Saxon serf to till the farm of the Thane, whose horn thrall he was.

"Is it possible, my lord, that, at this advanced age of civilization such a law would be enforced—a prerogative which no other nation holds over their born subjects, and one which every enlightened being in the world and particularly those residing in that independent republic of which I am a citizen, will, and ought to look upon with horror and detestation.

"I protested on my trial against the jurisdiction of this court. That I could not be found guilty of treason, not being a subject of Great Britain, but a citizen of the United States; and that, if I had committed an offence, it was one against the law of nations, and that I could not be tried in this province, but in England, or the country of which I was a citizen.

"It was admitted, my lord, by the court, that I am a citizen of the United States but not less a subject, no act of mine could make me so; that Great Britain, in committing an offence, it was one against the law of nations, and that I could not be tried in this province, but in England, or the country of which I was a citizen.

"When tried, my lord, I laid my defence upon that ground. I did not call evidence to prove, as I might have done, that when pursuing my course from an American port, in an American schooner, and going to an island, and in the regular channel and thoroughfare which all vessels take that pass and repass from the ports of the states of New York, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin, I was fired upon in repeated volleys of musketry, by your militia, Indians, and negroes of Malden, and when driven upon your shores by the inclemency of the weather, and my men killed and wounded by the galling fire of three or four hundred concealed riflemen, I fired upon them in self-defence; this I would have proved, and if your lordship could remember, nearly all of which was admitted by the very evidence brought against me by my captors, as they styled themselves. They, even they, admitted the greater part.

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of another; that both were incompatible, and they gave in a verdict which to me seems a strange one: "If I was a British subject I was guilty of treason."

"I am far from saying, or wishing either you, my lord, or any that hears me, to understand me to say, that I consider I have done wrong in what I have done. No! I embarked in what I considered then, and most religiously believe now, to be a holy, a just, and a virtuous cause—the cause of the people oppressed.

"Well, my lord, we fed and clothed them; we did more, we furnished them with arms and munitions of war. We said, 'Go back to your homes, there is what you have said you wanted; and if you show your determination and want help to gain your country's liberty, we will volunteer and aid you. We knew they spoke the truth when they told us of what they suffered from the petty officials of your government, for we had it confirmed by those of our frontier who had been in a little while of our authority, insulting our citizens whose business had induced to go over among them.

"And now, again, my lord, in the face of high Heaven, and in this presence, before this assemblage of your citizens and soldiers, I again solemnly protest against your proceedings, to carry into effect the iniquitous sentence which, months before you laid upon me, was committed on our country's honor, indignation and revengeful-participants in the matter—and might be considered as having committed a breach of the laws of our own country, to whose jurisdiction I ought to be restored.

"I have now done, my lord, I will not detain you any longer; nor will I ever condescend to sue or entreat you; but, if consistent with your duty as a judge, I would request you not to be in a hurry in this matter, and do nothing rashly. 'If I must be executed,' as your lordship remarked some weeks ago, give at least time for the matter to be heard before the proper tribunal of the home government and have your sovereign's pleasure thereon."

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Birthday of Pope Pius On June 2, the Feast of Corpus Christi, His Holiness, Pope Pius X., completed the 69th year of his age. He celebrated Mass in the morning in the Consistorial Hall, to which a great number of Spanish pilgrims were admitted. Many telegrams congratulating his Holiness were received at the Vatican during the day; those from the Venetian Province, and from his native Riese, were specially distinguished for their affectionate words. It is reported that the Austrian monarch, Emperor Francis Joseph, and the Emperor of Germany—ever thoughtful—sent congratulatory telegrams.

The Feast of Corpus Christi was observed as a strict holiday in Rome, and almost all the shops were closed—the few that were kept open until midday being closed in the afternoon. Crowds assembled at St. Peter's, though it was difficult to cross the great white-shining piazza before the church, as the heat felt tropical. In the church itself a pleasant coolness prevailed. His Eminence Cardinal Rampolla, Archbishop of St. Peter's, celebrated Mass at the altar of the Cathedral—in the apex of the church; and, on its conclusion, the procession of the Blessed Sacrament took place through the length of the vast basilica, passing out into the vestibule—which, like the interior of the church, was hung with red damask—and returning again into the church. This was but a faint reflex of the grandeur that surrounded the Corpus Christi procession of the past—when the Pope were rulers in Rome, and ere a "hostile domination," creating a moral imprisonment to them, had yet settled down in Rome. The memory of this grand religious ceremony is well-nigh forgotten by the new generation that has grown up under the Italian sway. It was one of Rome's grandest sights. When it took place for the last time, the Corpus Christi of 1870—close upon seven hundred Archbishops and Bishops, assembled here for the Vatican Council, accompanied the Pontiff in the procession. This vast body of prelates came forth from the central door of the Basilica, and at once passed into a portico, formed of wooden pillars, all decorated with hangings and tapestries, which porticoes joined the entrance of the church to the colonnade on the right. Here on these great columns were hung the coats-of-arms of the Bishops—the enlarged device of their Episcopal seals—and with these, magnificent tapestries, the most rich and elaborate productions of Arras and Gobelin, and other famous factories. The Pope was borne on a high platform, which he knelt at a prie-dieu, and held in his hands a monstrance containing the Blessed Sacrament.

Barrie Correspondence

On Sunday morning, June 12th, at half-past eight o'clock Mass, about forty boys and girls who had been carefully instructed by the Very Rev. Dean Egan and the Sisters of Saint Joseph, received their First Holy Communion. In the evening they reassembled at vespers, where all were invested with the scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. The girls were dressed in white, indicating the purity of their hearts for so great an event in their lives. The boys looked devout and neat with their badges of white ribbon, and as the children quickly walked out of the church, from the appearance of their bright and happy faces, one looking on might say for them as the great Napoleon admitted about himself. It was not on the field of his most brilliant victory at Austerlitz, his campaign in Italy, his election as first counsel, the splendor of his first entry into Paris, nor the day he was crowned Emperor that were his happiest days, but it was the day he made his First Communion.

From the Catholic Standard and Times, Philadelphia, June 11th: Rev. Richard Baxter, S. J., who died recently in Montreal, Canada, aged 83 years, spent the greater part of his life at the Fort William Mission, in the North-West, devoting himself to the conversion and welfare of the Indians. N.B.—The deceased reverend gentleman was well known in Barrie by the elder residents and was a brother of Miss Baxter, Penetanguishene street, who has the sympathy of her many friends.

largely copied in the Canadian papers; also in the American papers, as well as some of the English and Parisian papers. That he was the ablest of the prisoners then tried there is no manner of doubt, and the Irish citizens of Toronto, loyalists as well as sympathizers, felt a pride in the ability that he displayed in his defence. WILLIAM HALLEY.

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ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

To St. Anne de Beaupre Itinerary of Special Trains.

The Ontario Pilgrimage to the Shrine of St. Anne de Beaupre will take place (this year) on Tuesday, July 19th, and the time-limit of tickets has been extended so as to enable pilgrims either to be present at the Shrine on the Feast of St. Anne, July 26th, or to remain longer in Quebec or Montreal according to their fancy. Excursion rates will prevail at all stations of the G.T.R. from Whitby, Lindsay, Peterboro, Haliburton, Mariposa and all points east thereof, as far as Autouville, and at all stations of the C.P.R. from Myrtle and all points east thereof, including Peterboro, Perth, Manotick, Stittsville, Carleton Place, Brockville, Prescott, Smith's Falls, as far as Chesterville, included. Passengers from Lindsay, Haliburton, etc., will take regular morning train and connect with special at Port Hope, and those from Mariposa, etc., will board special at Autouville, and at all stations of the C.P.R. from Myrtle and all points east thereof, including Peterboro, Perth, Manotick, Stittsville, Carleton Place, Brockville, Prescott, Smith's Falls, as far as Chesterville, included. Passengers from Lindsay, Haliburton, etc., will take regular morning train and connect with special at Port Hope, and those from Mariposa, etc., will board special at Autouville, and at all stations of the C.P.R. from Myrtle and all points east thereof, including Peterboro, Perth, Manotick, Stittsville, Carleton Place, Brockville, Prescott, Smith's Falls, as far as Chesterville, included. Passengers from Lindsay, Haliburton, etc., will take regular morning train and connect with special at Port Hope, and those from Mariposa, etc., will board special at Autouville, and at all stations of the C.P.R. from Myrtle and all points east thereof, including Peterboro, Perth, Manotick, Stittsville, Carleton Place, Brockville, Prescott, Smith's Falls, as far as Chesterville, included.

Exceptionally low rates will prevail at all stations throughout the Eastern part of the province, and tickets will be good only on the special train going, but valid on any regular train returning up to and including Tuesday, July 26th. This means that pilgrims can leave Quebec city by the night trains of Tuesday, July 26th and Montreal by the morning trains of July 27th; but if a stop-over at Quebec or Montreal be desired, it must be so timed as to leave Montreal for a continuous journey home, not later than the morning of Wednesday, July 27th. This time limit will allow ample time not only for a day at the Shrine, but also for a tour of the far-famed Saguenay and a short visit to Tadoussac or Cacouia or Murray Bay. The Director of the Pilgrimage will be in a position to quote very low rates for the Saguenay trip, provided that at least twenty-five persons write to him signifying their intention of making it. He will also be very glad to indicate how the most favorable terms may be obtained by parties of ten or more persons starting together to join the pilgrimage from any given point in Western Ontario, if only he shall have timely notification from one of such a party. The pilgrimage will be under the immediate direction of Rev. D. A. Twomey, Tweed, Ont., who will send posters to intending pilgrims. Dining cars will be attached to the C.P.R. special, in which excellent meals may be procured on the journey, and whilst at St. Anne's, the nominal sum of 25 cents per meal.

Father Vaughan's Escape From Death

Father Bernard Vaughan had an almost miraculous escape from death in London last week. He was bicycling through the Park, and at Grosvenor Gate was run into by a retractor pair in a Victoria and knocked off his wheel. The carriage went right over him, and the off-side horse got a leg into the bicycle spokes and literally danced it to fragments. There was an immense crowd in a moment, expecting to see the Father carried off dead, but in some extraordinary manner he came out under the back of the Victoria unhurt, and walked home. He must have been shaken by such a hair-breadth escape, but he changed his mud-covered clothes and went off to the East End to one of his charities.

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and so I decided to start at once. He's here with us now, booked for a six months' course. Thought, before he got our letters, that schools fizzle out in June—closed up entirely in July and August. Not ours. This is a business school. Ready to serve its patrons every month in the year. If you have a business, shorthand, or telegraphy course in view don't defer till September. Write now and get our terms.

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