

bishop of Ottawa; John A. MacCabe, LL. D., Principal of the Ottawa Normal School; Joseph Pope, Under Secretary of State for Canada; Simeon Lelievre, President of the Canadian Institute; and several others.

The Chairman introduced the reverend lecturer, who said:

MR. PRESIDENT, REV. FATHERS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

"It is due to you to explain how it comes that the Catholic Truth Society of St. Joseph's Parish has taken up the question of the Coronation Oath and its accompanying objectionable declaration against several fundamental Catholic doctrines. In ordinary circumstances, even that large liberty of initiative which, under our modern system of political government, is allowed for good or for ill, to the humblest citizen, would scarcely justify the Catholic Truth Society or me in beginning or carrying on a crusade against a piece of imperial legislation that effects the person of the sovereign.

But there are, in this case, certain facts that explain and have suggested our present action. Some weeks ago in the course of a sermon which I preached in St. Joseph's Church, I referred to the Declaration against Transubstantiation, the Mass, and the invocation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Saints, that is required of every King or Queen that succeeds to the British throne. My reference on that occasion was a mere incident in my sermon, and I little imagined that it would ever be heard of again. This sermon was delivered on the 11th of December; on the 12th, the following cablegram appeared in several English newspapers:

EXCHANGE TELEGRAPH CO.'S CABLEGRAM:—Ottawa, Ontario, Monday.—Father Fallon, a Catholic preacher here, delivered a sermon yesterday which caused somewhat of a sensation. Dealing with the question of liberty of religions under the British flag, the preacher declared the Catholics of the Empire should do their best to have the Coronation Declaration removed from the Coronation Service on account of its containing portions stigmatizing the Mass as superstitious and idolatrous. Why, asked the preacher, should Queen Victoria have insulted her Catholic subjects, than whom none were more loyal, by taking that oath, and why should the Prince of Wales take such a pledge of his crown?"