

and resulted in the appointment of Mgr. Merry del Val, a prelate of the Vatican, as a Papal delegate to Canada. On his report the Holy Father has based this encyclical, which plainly upholds the Bishops and directs the Catholics to insist on our rights. Half an hour of religious services daily does not meet our desires. We wish to blend religion with the secular teaching. It is a political fight rather than a religious one. The Bishop added that he could not doubt that the Catholics would win, as right would triumph in the end. He said also that last year the Catholics in the Province of Quebec had contributed \$15,000 to help their Manitoban brethren carry on their new Parochial Schools. In the Quebec Legislature there are sixty-five Catholics to eight Protestants. They could turn the tables on the Protestants there in regard to schools, but when asked if there was any possibility of such retaliation the Bishop exclaimed:—"Oh, no! no! no! If such an impossibility should come to pass that one man should stand up and advocate such a thing the Bishops would come forward to prevent it." The Bishop said there was still hope that the Liberal majority in the Canadian Parliament at Ottawa would pass a law which will enable Catholics to again support their own schools and not pay double taxes to support two sets of schools, as they do now. If not, they must bear the burden and support their own schools.

If the forecasts in the press summaries are to be in any respect relied upon, the encyclical will not lay the duty upon Roman Catholics of raising a political agitation for a repeal of the law of 1890 and it would not be unreasonable to suppose that the Papal utterance will not have any direct effect on the situation as it at present exists. It will help Manitobans in securing collections from their Quebec co-religionists for the poor schools, but the political arena is not likely to be greatly disturbed by the question, at least for a long time to come.

#### A MISSIONARY STUDY.

TO be "as savage as a Fiji Islander" was, not so very long ago, considered to be at the sub-stratum of human existence. But by the power of the Gospel proclaimed to the Fijians by missionaries, a Royal Commission, investigating the condition of the Islanders is able to report:

The growth of sentiment in the mind of the Fijian has been marvellous. He has submitted to, and joined in, the suppression of such customs as polygamy, cannibalism, strangling of widows, and his mind has been so far reformed, that at the present day it would be difficult to find a more honest or more law-abiding community than the Fijians, so far as intercourse among themselves is concerned.

The function of the Royal Commission was to enquire into the decrease of the native population and its observations on the work of the missionaries, and the changes caused by Christianity are given only in so far as they have a bearing on the decay of the race. Yet few documents issued by a government commission bear more testimony to the civilizing results of the Gospel than does this report. We are told that the Bible is in almost every native dwelling, that a Christian literature is being created, that the islands are covered by schools. The following passage on the sanitary conditions of the native villages contains an interesting reflection, and throws light on a stage in heathen development:

In seeing how admirably adapted many of the old superstitions and "tabus" were for securing sanitation and cleanliness, moral and physical, one is led to wonder whether they were half forgotten survivals of a code brought by their ancestors from the land of their origin, the work of some forgotten lawgiver, or merely a gradual evolution from experience, colored by superstition. What could better secure the sanitation of villages than the fear of "draunikau," which taught the people to destroy or bury all scraps or offal for fear of affording an instrument for witchcraft? The towns

are no longer swept clean, for Christianity threatens them with no immediate physical punishment for being dirty, and they have not yet come to believe that dirt breeds the germs of disease.

The moral defects which, it is stated, seem to have increased along side reforms, are, want of consideration for the rights of strangers, i.e., dishonesty in the case of strangers, and decay of social morality. The punishment under the savage code for these crimes, was death by the war club; the substitution of spiritual and remote penalties for unchastity has lessened the fear of evil and brought an increase of crime. The report incidentally opens a field not usually explored by the general reader of missionary accounts and is very suggestive. Take for instance the remarkable conclusion arrived at by Rev. Walter Lawry one of the older missionaries, as given in his evidence:

He foresaw that the teaching of Christianity, and the inculcation of the customs of western civilisation, while raising the individual character of the natives, would ultimately result in their extinction as a nation. He regarded this event as retributive justice of Providence for the idolatry and bloodshed of heathen times, but he indicated with considerable acumen that the instrument by which this punishment would be brought about would be the introduction of a milder code combined with the absence of necessity as a spur to industry.

This opinion may well be combatted, but it is remarkable that a missionary of Mr. Lawry's long experience should hold that Christianity and civilization were instruments for the extirpation of native heathen races.

#### A BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS GIFT.

The New Illuminated Bible to be Largely Used During the Holiday Season.

The illustrated edition of the Holy Bible, to which the American Bible Union, of Philadelphia, is asking the attention of Biblical students everywhere, forms a particularly suitable and appropriate Christmas gift to the pastor, Sunday-school teacher, or friend. So excellent are its illustrations, from an artistic point of view, so historically accurate, so filled with local color, and, above all, so unerring in their interpretation of the finer, and at times hidden, meaning of many passages, that one is forced to the conclusion that here is a work that must in the future form a most important part of the equipment of the earnest, conscientious student of the Word of God. Nor was it published at a venture. The need of such a work as this has long been felt and has often found expression. The magnitude of the undertaking, however, has, up to the present time, had a deterrent effect upon publishers, and until the American Bible Union decided to enter upon the work of its production no illustrated edition of the Bible had ever been published at a popular price, and no edition is published at any price that can approach it in true illuminating and vivifying power. We are better pleased with it each time we turn its pages.

Bibles there are, it is true, which contains pictures, but never before has an attempt been made to systematically and thoroughly illustrate the texts of the Scriptures. Every one of the eight hundred drawings is the work of an eminent artist—nearly one hundred of the leading artists of Europe and America having been engaged in their production. And these drawings are most remarkable for several reasons: For their beauty, for their originality, for their fidelity, for the reverent spirit in which they were conceived and executed, and for the marvelous manner in which they explain the Word of God. In all other respects this superb edition is in no way inferior to the finest editions of the Bible heretofore published. In its mechanical production it is above criticism, this portion of the work having been done by the celebrated Riverside Press of Cambridge, Mass. The type used is full-faced and clear and most easily read. Marginal references, a concordance and the self pronouncing feature add to the sterling worth of this notable publication. It is being supplied in three styles of binding, ranging in price together with the PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW, from \$3.25 to \$4.25—the latter being full Turkey morocco, flexible, red-under-gold edges, and divinity circuit. The introductory prices now prevailing are only about one fourth the prices that have been fixed for all subsequent editions.