

The Catholic Record.

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LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION.

Apollonia Delegation, Ottawa, June 13th, 1905. To the Editor of the Catholic Record, London, Ont.

My Dear Sir:—Since coming to Canada I have been a reader of your paper. I have noted with satisfaction that it is directed with intelligence and ability...

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA, Ottawa, Canada, March 21st, 1905. To the Editor of the Catholic Record, London, Ont.

Dear Sir: For some time past I have read your noble paper. The Catholic Record is not only a source of information but also a source of inspiration...

LUTHER AND HIS REFORMATION DAY.

On Sunday, October 29th, the German Lutherans celebrated in Canada, as well as elsewhere, Reformation day, as the anniversary of the day on which Martin Luther, three hundred and eighty eight years ago, affixed to the door of the Cathedral of Wittemberg a roll of paper on which were written his theses...

In Montreal the Rev. Mr. Jostinsky lauded Dr. Martin Luther as having "declared war against darkness and superstition. His blows sounded far over the known world, and awakened an echo in the breast of every Christian who longed for truth and light."

Considering that Luther opened the door to every person to make his own creed, and that as a natural result we have nowadays the open profession of such superstition, as Mormonism, Eddysm, Theosophy, Spiritism, Dowism, and hundreds of other absurdisms of admittedly human origin...

It is an undeniable maxim of logic that a principle is absurd if one of its consequences is absurd, and as we find the consequences of private judgment to be confusion and error, that principle must be rejected by all who have any longing for truth and light.

tion is the hallucinations of the individual mind. It is well known that it was Luther's jealousy of the Dominican Order, and not love for the truth which led him to attack the Catholic Church, because Pope Leo X. had selected the Dominicans to preach the privileges of an indulgence in favor of those who would contribute to the erection of St. Peter's church at Rome...

Luther's preaching gave birth to the multitude of jarring sects which now constitute Protestantism. He endeavored to prevent this result of his teaching, but with poor success. The Rev. Mr. Jostinsky asserts that Luther made Christ and His true word the basis of faith; but so far is this from the truth that the Protestantism begun by Luther has resulted in the denial of Christ's divinity and of the inspiration of God's word...

THE C. M. B. A.

At a meeting of the executive of the C. M. B. A., held in Kingston on the 8th instant, very satisfactory progress was reported. Since the 1st of January 1,161 new members have been admitted, the total membership now numbering 20,000. The surplus at the present time is \$207,000.

THE ANGELUS BELL.

Louis Veillot, the famous Catholic journalist of Paris, relates a beautiful incident which happened while he was travelling to Rome in company with Coquetel, an unbeliever and scoffer. As the train stopped at a lonely locality the Angelus bell was heard ringing, and a woman and child who were watching the train pass by were noticed making the sign of the Cross.

"Why do these people make the sign of the Cross," demanded Coquetel. "Do they like the train or you or me for the devil?" "No," answered Veillot, "neither the train nor me nor you, Coquetel, though you are full of malice. These good people are thinking not of the devil, but of God."

"They have heard the Angelus bell, and are praying. Listen to those sweet and noble sounds! That is the telegraphic language of the Church invented long ago, and now universally understood by the people."

CHURCH AND STATE IN FRANCE.

The French Parliament has been called together and is now in session. It may be presumed that one of the first measures which will be taken up will be the passage of the Separation bill of Church and State with which the Senate will have to deal, as it has already passed the Chambers of Deputies.

The Rouvier Bill may command a substantial majority if the measure be pressed during the session, but it is a dangerous thing for a moribund Senate to pass a measure so sweeping, especially as it is certain that a very large section of the country is strenuously opposed to the measure...

WANTON IMPIETY.

Detroit papers give a strange story of a man in that city who has erected near his house and facing the streets in several directions, a large stone monument which is surmounted by a statue of the devil, who is represented in a stooping posture behind a pulpit and watching the streets. He has a fork or trident which is supposed to represent his sovereignty over hell, and to be used in torturing his victims.

The structure is fourteen feet high, and church-going people of all denominations express great indignation against this public insult to all Christians.

On the monument there is a Latin inscription which openly denies the creation of man by God. It states that man is not a creation but a development, and that God did not make man, but man made the gods.

The maker of this indecent monument is a German who has lived in Detroit for twenty-one years. He states that he is an infidel, and that his parents before him were infidels; so are his two daughters who live with him. He is a stone mason by trade, and he himself constructed the entire monument except the statue which he had made by an artistic worker in stone and marble.

It is believed that the neighbors will make an effort to have the unsightly monument removed, though it is somewhat doubtful whether this can be done, if, as is supposed, it is erected on the man's own property.

The man who erected the structure declares that it is not to be supposed that he believes in the devil, for he has no faith either in God or the devil, but he wishes to show his disrespect for God by means of his work.

At least he should be prevented from wantonly insulting God and the Christian population in the midst of which he lives. He declares his preference for the character of the devil rather than that of God as described in the Bible.

GOLDEN WEDDING.

A press despatch from Montreal informs us that on the 7th November Mr. and Mrs. James McMenamin, of 189 St. Charles street, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding. Mass was celebrated by their son, the Rev. D. P. McMenamin, after which they renewed their marriage vows.

It was the first ceremony of the kind ever celebrated in St. Gabriel's parish. At the conclusion of the Mass Rev. Father McMenamin, through the kindness of the good Bishop of London—in whose diocese he is recognized as one of its most estimable and prominent parish priests—and of Archbishop Bruchet, of Montreal, administered to his parents the Papal Benediction.

A handsome medallion bearing the portrait of the Pope was presented by His Grace. The publisher of the CATHOLIC RECORD extends cordial congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. McMenamin, coupled with the wish that they may be given many more years of life to enjoy the esteem of their fellow citizens of Montreal.

FALSE CHARGES AGAINST A CATHOLIC COUNTRY.

Much has been said during the past three years of horrors perpetrated by the Belgian authorities upon the natives of the Congo Free State in Africa, which has been under the suzerainty of Belgium during the past twenty-five years.

There are in the Congo State over 600 missionaries of all denominations, and these 390 are Catholic priests and sisters, and 230 Protestant missionaries, men and women.

A few of those Protestant missionaries have brought charges against the Government, that most horrible cruelties are regularly perpetrated by the officials, and these statements have been taken up by the Congo Reform Association of Liverpool, England, and both the British and American Governments have been appealed to in order, as it has been alleged, to transfer the rule of the Congo to Great Britain, which, it is supposed by the missionaries would improve the country and civilize the natives by milder methods than the Catholic Belgians have employed.

About twelve months ago the Government of the Free State appointed a commission to enquire into these charges, and the investigation thus undertaken has resulted in a report which was sent in on October 3rd, 1905. The Commission spent five months in the Congo territory Upper and Lower, and examined between four and five hundred witnesses, including magistrates, commercial agents, missionaries and natives, all the investigations taking place publicly.

It must be borne in mind that twenty-five years ago the people of the Congo were plunged in the darkest barbarism. They were cannibals, and were the prey of Arab slave merchants who made raids upon them to carry them into Morocco, Turkey, Persia, etc., to be sold into slavery.

TO ESTABLISH THE CONTENTION THAT BELGIUM WAS IMPOTENT TO MAINTAIN EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT ON THE CONGO.

But that the other European powers refused to accept these representations, and that now the Congo Reform Association is endeavoring to do indirectly what the British Government had failed to effect by direct means. He adds: "The testimony of travellers from the days of Henry M. Stanley to the present day is unanimous and emphatic in the praise of the Congo Free State government."

To this it may be added that there are not wanting tales of ill treatment of natives in other parts of Africa than the Belgian territory of the Congo, namely, in the British, French and German territory. It is only a few months since three Europeans at Ruanda, in British territory, west of Lake Victoria, were brought by a colonial non-commissioned officer to the prison of Dar-es-Salam for horrible misdeeds.

One had been sentenced to fifteen years imprisonment by the Judge at Muanza for shooting two native boys who were his servants. The other two had stolen one hundred large and small head of cattle from the blacks, and when the natives followed these thieves to recover their property, forty seven natives were killed in the fray which ensued.

It may thus be seen that under any European Government horrible crimes are committed by the whites, who, from the fact that they are whites, and their victims blacks, imagine that they are free to deal with the natives as they think proper.

OBSERVANCE OF THE LORD'S DAY.

"A Protestant" of St. John, Nfld., asks "Is a Catholic the right to keep his store open for business on Sundays, or can such a person be called a Catholic?" ANSWER. The Catholic Church commands her children to hear Mass on Sundays and Holy-days, and to abstain from all unnecessary servile work.

This is clear from the answers to two questions in the Catechism taught to all Catholic children. Q. 1. Which is the chief duty by which we are commanded to sanctify the Sunday?

Ans. Assisting at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Q. 2. What is forbidden by the third commandment?

Ans. All unnecessary servile work; and whatever may hinder the due observance of the Lord's day, or tend to profane it.

Trade is among the things forbidden under this law; so our correspondent will see that such a person as he describes does business against the law of the Church.

Nevertheless, there are occasions when the law is relaxed, that is, when such a relaxation is required by charity towards our neighbor, piety towards God, and in cases of necessity, which must be judged according to the nature and circumstances of each case.

BIGOTRY DEFEATED.

The result of the general election in the Province of Alberta gives reason for general rejoicing on the part of all who have a sincere regard for the welfare of the Dominion. It will be remembered with what bitterness the government at Ottawa was assailed because of its having inserted in the constitutions of Alberta and Saskatchewan a provision whereby the existing Separate school system could not be interfered with.

This system of Separate schools is not all that Catholics are fairly entitled to, but it was the best that could be obtained from the non-Catholic majority of the people. The ultra Protestant section of the two new provinces, urged on to a remarkable degree by the fierce anti Catholic bigotry of a section of the Toronto press, notably the World, the Telegram and the Mail and Empire, fought a determined battle against the school classes of the Autonomy Bills.

The object, of course, was to leave the provinces free in this regard, and a few years would doubtless bring on an agitation in the North-West for the wiping out altogether of the Separate school system. It was asserted that the provinces if left to themselves would deal most liberally with those who desired to have Separate schools.

"Trust the Provinces" was the battle cry, but, having the example of Manitoba in mind, it was to be expected that Catholics could not again place any confidence in a hostile majority of whom are ever ready on the slightest pretext to preach a crusade against the Catholic Church and its institutions.

While the electors of Alberta deserve every praise for the outcome of the contest just brought to a close, there is no telling how soon, with a largely increased population, a different result might be the outcome. In a house of 25 the Liberals of Manitoba will have 23 members and the Conservatives 2. The leader of the Conservative party,

Mr. R. B. Bennett

may be taken a gratification in every mind. Judging from the province of Ontario in dealing with the question, he proves dangerous agitator, place in the public such men, and the are to be commended Mr. Bennett at hand will take the lesson he hoped the Albertans and the provinces will be put upon record to wipe out forever and enter upon a determined to deal with and govern the manlike and patriotic

INTOLERANCE

Some weeks ago in a court held by trustees in London persecuting spiritalists of the latter is no less a straggling bigotry as one Mr. Kidgell on behalf of Colonel Fitzroy, the Roman Catholic streets of Haresday, when we see and idols "were decreed a proclamation of Queen Victoria Roman Catholic practice the right that Church a place of worship. He also appealed Act of 1829, which allows Bibles, a priest convicted should forfeit St. Mr. Luke, the asked what he could reply that officer to warn charge of the procession is ill Mr. Luke said an illegal act. Mr. Kidgell unlawful assembly. The Magistrate to say that it is a procession of Mr. Kidgell ho procession, use of vestment. The Magistrate that we can do case."

RELATIONS

Rev. W. M. near Kingston up the care of the Indies became pagans. The not go to ch Before a viewer, "I nearly three I have spoken I have imple effort, either concert, with popular, not that I have on, will be come to ch "There is ten hundred church, and The fact is asleep. The formist plan go golfing simply gone give a thos If our C really in