

CATHOLIC RECORD
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TO CORRESPONDENTS.
All matter intended for publication must have the name of the writer attached, and must reach the office not later than Tuesday noon of each week.

THOMAS COFFEY,
Publisher and Proprietor.

LETTER FROM HIS LORDSHIP BISHOP WALSH.

London, Ont., May 23, 1879.
DEAR MR. COFFEY.—As you have become proprietor and publisher of the CATHOLIC RECORD, I deem it my duty to announce to its subscribers and patrons that the change of proprietorship will work no change in its one and principles that it will remain, what it has been, thoroughly Catholic, entirely independent of political parties, and exclusively devoted to the cause of the Church and to the promotion of Catholic interests. I am confident that under your experienced management the RECORD will improve in usefulness and efficiency, and I therefore earnestly commend it to the patronage and encouragement of the clergy and laity of the diocese. Believe me,
Yours very sincerely,
JOHN WALSH,
Bishop of London.

Mr. THOMAS COFFEY,
"The Catholic Record."

CATHOLIC RECORD.

LONDON, FRIDAY, DEC. 31, 1880.

THE RECORD FOR 1881.

To-morrow will be the first day of a New Year, which will, I sincerely trust, be a year of content and happiness for our readers and friends. A Happy New Year to all, indeed, our hearty wish, as we stand, if we may so speak, on the shore of the Rubicon dividing the old and New Years.

The RECORD will enter the New Year with the firm and honest determination of contributing by every means in its power to render it a truly happy one. The exposition and defence of Catholic principles—the discussion of all matters affecting the standing and influence of the Catholic body—the earnest support of all justly devised schemes for the amelioration of the condition of the Irish people at home and abroad—in a word, the unswerving advocacy of Catholic and Irish claims to equality and justice in educational and other matters—these constitute the sphere in which the RECORD will be found moving in the future as it has moved in the past.

This journal—we note it with special gratification at this season—has during its brief existence met with an earnest support and cordial co-operation on the part of priests and people far beyond our most sanguine anticipations. It is, we are happy to state, gradually but surely finding its way into Catholic homes throughout Western Ontario, while it already counts many subscribers in Eastern Canada and the United States. Its present measure of success is due, we feel persuaded, to its independent Catholic tone, and its complete freedom from political partisanship.

The RECORD enters fearlessly on the discussion of matters of public interest in which the Catholic body, either here or in the neighboring republic, feel any just concern. The constant furtherance of Catholic interests, the unflinching advocacy of Catholic rights, especially in the matter of freedom of worship and of education, make up its true mission. The fierce intolerance of some, and the insidious bigotry of others amongst secular and anti-Catholic journals, many of which are daily and weekly read in Catholic families, render it a duty on the part of Catholic citizens, both in Canada and the United States, to support a journal devoted to the fulfilment of a mission at once so just and so necessary. The RECORD is ever on the alert to defend Catholic interests against the intolerance, to uphold Catholic doctrines against the malignity, and to support Catholic institutions against the mendacity of sectaries and enemies of the church. If by pursuing such a course in the part it has, with limited means, been enabled to achieve so large a measure of success, it will by increased support on the part of those who have at heart the advancement of holy church, now enter a larger and brighter sphere of usefulness. We appeal with confidence to the Catholic public for this support, feeling assured that our friends everywhere are desirous of enabling us to widen the scope and quicken the activity of the RECORD.

It is our earnest desire and purpose to make this journal worthy the support of every Catholic family, by maintaining its devotedness to the best interests of the Catholic body, while keeping it free from political partisanship and empty aggressiveness in every form. During the coming year many new features of interest will be added to the RECORD. In addition to the editorial matter, it will, as in the past, be found earnestly sustaining the interests for the furtherance of which the paper has been established. There will be contributions, literary and historical, from well known Catholic writers, and selections of a choice character from the Catholic periodical and newspaper press. We also hope, within a short period, to be enabled to secure for publication in the RECORD a series of Canadian Catholic tales, interesting and instructive to both old and young. In a word, no effort will be spared, no sacrifice shrank from to make the RECORD

the leading Catholic paper in the Dominion of Canada. We again wish our readers a very Happy New Year and trust that they and we may see many joyous returns of this festive season. We enter on the New Year confident of renewed support from our friends, and, relying on their support, we feel assured that 1881 will be for the RECORD one of unexampled prosperity and unequalled usefulness.

THE DYING YEAR.

With this issue of the RECORD we close the year 1880. This year will be long remembered for many causes. To us in Canada it was certainly not very eventful—still it witnessed even here the occurrence of events of no ordinary importance. The most marked feature of the year as far as Canada is concerned has been the steady but certain return of that prosperity which at one time seemed to have forsaken us for good. The commercial depression was very widely felt in Canada. The burdensome character of many of our national undertakings and the absence of capital and enterprise drove many of our people to seek homes in the American republic. We had also to deplore during the hard times the recurrence of deficient harvests and a great falling off in our shipping and coasting trade. A sort of gloom rested on our people which the increased trade, abundant harvest and renewed confidence of the year just closing have served at length to remove. The departure of our young men by the hundred, in truth we may say by the thousand, for various portions of the United States has, we would fain hope, been effectually checked.

The opening up and speedy development of our own North Western territories will likely in future attract those of our young men who find no room in the older provinces for the founding of new homes. But we must not be led away by the inflated rhetoric of certain of our politicians in their descriptions of the Northwest. That it is a fine country with a bright future no one denies, but we venture to enter a firm protest against statements made as to uniform fertility of the soil in those regions. As a matter of fact, a very large proportion of the land is worthless. The climate, too, is severe, and that, as well as the absence of fuel and water in certain places, must militate against its rapid settlement. The portions of territory well-wooded and well-watered are, however, as fine as any that America can boast of, and will in due time attract a large share of immigration.

During the year 1880 we had our annual little trouble with the American republic concerning the fisheries. The question is now undergoing investigation at the hands of the Imperial and American governments. Efforts were made during the year to bring Canada into trade connection with France and Spain. These efforts have not as yet met with success, but it is gratifying to note that much of the prejudice entertained by the former country towards Canada has been dispelled. The visit of the French agricultural delegates to Canada and the establishment during the course of the year of the *Credit Foncier* with French capital for its support are evidences of a growing feeling of friendliness on the part of the French republic towards Canada. We earnestly hope that it may lead to the establishment of reciprocal relations between both countries.

One of the most notable events of the year was the great national celebration by the French Canadians in the city of Quebec, on the 24th of June, the anniversary of St. John the Baptist. The celebration passed off with credit to all concerned. In the religious world the only event of importance to be chronicled is the nomination of Dr. Cleary, of Dungarvan, to the vacant see of Kingston.

The growth of the Church during the year has manifested itself in many cornerstone and church opening demonstrations in various portions of the country. Catholicity has taken a firm hold in this country. Every year adds to its strength. In our political world the grim spectre of death has made during the year rather frequent appearances, snatching away some able and useful public men. On the whole the year just

ending has been for Canada a year of content, of solid growth and good promise for the future.

With our American neighbors the year 1880 figures as one of particular interest. The quadrennial trial of party strength in a Presidential election is always to them a source of enlightenment. This year has proved an exception in this regard. The contest was exciting but peaceful, and terminated in a decisive victory for the republicans. In the earlier part of the year the Irish American population extended a hearty reception to Parnell, the Irish leader, who visited America with the view of placing before its people the true condition of things in Ireland. His visit led to warm feelings of sympathy for the unfortunate country whose claims he advocated on the part of all classes of Americans. The condition of Ireland at the opening of the year was indeed truly deplorable. A sadly deficient harvest and extortionate rents brought the people into distress of the most painful character. Several counties were visited by a famine of undoubted severity. The generosity of the Christian world alone averted starvation. The government of the day to the last refused to deal with the land question, the true source of Ireland's misery. But the day of reckoning came. Lord Beaconsfield suddenly dissolved Parliament, making an ungenerous appeal to British prejudice to justify his heartless conduct to Ireland. The British people were not, however, to be deceived. They had long permitted this singular man to impose on them by his policy of splendid surprises and extravagant declarations. Where Britain had no concern there she was found coaxing, threatening, or defying, as best suited the whims or purposes of her first Minister. In South Africa and Afghanistan this policy of restless and senseless interference led to national humiliations which neither a Berlin treaty nor the pompous menaces of the minister could efface from the popular memory. His appeal, therefore, met with a response of general condemnation which led to his retirement from power shortly after the elections. Mr. Gladstone by the unanimous voice of the people was entrusted with the formation of a new administration. He succeeded in forming a strong government, but in the course of the session the Liberal party was found to be very seriously divided on questions of great importance. Had the party shown any genuine enthusiasm in support of a just policy to Ireland, the House of Lords would not have dared act as it did in rejecting the pious scheme of relief formulated in the Compensation Bill. The action of the Lords and the seeming apathy of the British people to Ireland's sufferings caused the land agitation in that country to assume more formidable proportions than ever. The intensity of the agitation led to an act of decided impolicy on the part of the government, namely, the prosecution of the leading members of the Land League for sedition. The last days of the year 1880 will be for ever memorable in the history of Ireland for this attempt on the liberties of the people.

The nations of continental Europe have enjoyed repose throughout the year. Germany still persists in persecuting the Church, and France has done itself the dishonor of adopting a policy of persecution in regard to the religious orders. In Spain the birth of the Infanta was hailed with joy by all classes of the population. There are clouds still lowering over the East. They may break in the year about to begin. One thing certain, from present indications the New Year is not likely to be as peaceful as its predecessor.

The Mayor of Santeny thus writes to the editor of the *Figaro*: "Filled with indignation at the brutal treatment to which the religious orders have lately been subjected, I request that you will please to publish in your paper my desire to place one whole wing of my house, containing fifteen rooms, at the disposal of whatever religious order may need an asylum. I can accommodate twelve or fifteen persons. With me they will be quite near Paris, and I have excellent watch-dogs to protect them against malefactors who may venture to scale my walls, or pick the locks of my gates, behind which I myself shall be stationed as an additional enty in case of necessity."

COERCION.

To any one ignorant of the hatred of Ireland still entertained by a large portion of the British public, the frequent demands for coercive measures in dealing with the present land agitation on the part of writers and speakers in England were certainly surprising. The Irish are admitted on all hands to have just cause for discontent. The present land system obtaining in their unfortunate country has driven it people into famine, not once but repeatedly, and at all times retains them in the bonds of distress. Because Irishmen have risen up against the continuance of this iniquitous system, prolific of famine and misery, because they demand the abolition of an evil by every one fully recognized, they are denounced by a certain class of speakers and journalists as seditious and disloyal. To the narrow minds of these exponents of the lowest form of national prejudice, sedition and disloyalty are greater evils than famine and national retrogression. To them it matters not if Ireland starves, so long as its people are made to feel the power of British authority. When, however, any one acquainted with the true condition of British feeling to Ireland, gives consideration to the sickening displays of vulgar animosity made by these individuals and applauded by their clients, he will find no cause for surprise. The British nation has been educated into hatred of Ireland. The Irish race has ever been so little known and so largely misrepresented in England that the first feeling of an Englishman towards an Irishman is one of distrust, if not of positive hatred. Then the religion of Irishmen is held in utter abhorrence by the masses of the English nation. Despised on account of race, hated on account of religion, the Irishman makes no effort to win the good feeling of his neighbor by cowardice or compromise. He is proud of his race and country, and outspoken in his determination to promote the interests of both. Devoted to his religion, he scorns the menaces and social persecution to which he is daily subjected on its account. The position of the two races is now certainly not, and we greatly fear so long as Englishmen persist in degrading Ireland, its race and its creed, not likely to be, one of friendliness. But if Englishmen cannot be friendly to Ireland, they should at least endeavor to be just. If a calamity of any kind befall another country, there is generally in England an outburst of exuberant philanthropy. The distress of all other peoples but the Irish evokes from Britain tangible, as we freely admit, creditable as well as christian-like, expressions of generous relief. When the Irish, however, suffer, one of the first duties of the representatives of British authority in Ireland is either to deny or belittle the existence and character of the distress. The statements of these officials are accepted by a very large portion of the British public as akin to gospel truth—absolutely beyond contradiction. John Bull having closed his eyes to Irish misery, also tightens his purse-strings to appeals for its relief. We write not in this sense from a feeling of national bitterness. We simply desire to point out one of the fundamental obstacles in the way of an amicable adjustment of the differences between the two countries. To British prejudice, indeed, Ireland may trace many of its present misfortunes. We are not, however, ungrateful of the good done to Ireland and its people by the statesmanlike course pursued by Englishmen such as Gladstone and Bright. The resistance offered by these distinguished men to the empty cry for coercion raised by narrow-minded fanatics, entitles them to the gratitude not only of Irishmen, but of all Englishmen having the interests of both countries truly at heart. Coercion could have but one effect, the postponement of the settlement of the land question. Postponement is certainly not settlement. Mr. Bright in a recent speech, declared that the present state of things in Ireland could not, and would not continue. He spoke truly. The present scandalous and disgraceful condition of the land laws of Ireland is such as

no earthly power can maintain. The enslavement of a whole nation is something which even British bayonets cannot uphold or defend successfully. When, therefore, Mr. Bright spoke the doom, for such, indeed, we regard his utterance on the occasion referred to, of the landlord oligarchy of Ireland he spoke under the inspiration of enlightened statesmanship. Guided by the counsels of a man so eminent in politics and so devotedly patriotic, the British people will do themselves credit, and add strength to their national standing by rejecting all suggestions in favor of a so-called policy of coercion for one of justice. The bitterness and wide-spread character of the prejudice we have taken the liberty of exposing and condemning certainly stands in the way of this justice. But as justice and truth are more powerful than prejudice and dishonesty we look with some confidence to an alleviation by English public men of at least a portion of Ireland's wrongs. We trust it may be so, for continued and persistent refusal to Ireland justice, will, of a certainty, be followed by the disintegration of the empire.

THE SCIENTIFIC FRONTIER.

Every one remembers Lord Beaconsfield's declaration that, with the occupation of the strong points of Afghanistan the British possessions in India would have the benefit of a "scientific frontier." The phrase took, Englishmen felt pleased to think that a barrier to Russian aggression in the East had been discovered. The government, gauging public opinion by the outflow of bellicose determination certain to follow any of the late Premier's menaces to Russia, decided on an invasion of the Afghan country. There was no pressing reason to urge an invasion, but England was then under the sway of "imperialism" and the invasion became popular. It first met with success on the field. But Afghanistan is a very peculiar country physically, and its people, in their rugged patriotism, whose devotions cannot be questioned, very like their country. The British advanced and took possession of Cabul, the capital of the country. The tribes apparently acquiesced in the British occupation. The Ameer signed a treaty with the envoys of Brit in, more humiliating than ever met agreed to before. Imperialism was for the moment successful. Beaconsfield's last stroke of policy was celebrated in prose and verse. Even the most far-seeing of the opponents of the government were for the moment silenced. But after the calm then came the storm. And the rage and fury of the storm will long be remembered. Word came to England of a terrible massacre in Cabul. The British envoy and his suite were, it was found, on enquiry, ruthlessly massacred by the people in the metropolis. The "scientific frontier" faded away. Imperialism lost the halo of its wide-spread influence, and consternation, which some gave way to indignation, seized on the whole nation. Then the folly of the whole scheme of occupying Afghanistan became apparent. The people called for reparation to the British name, and then abandonment of the country. The expedition organized under General Roberts to punish the murderers of the envoy met with complete success. The criminals were punished with condign severity, and General Roberts became absolute master for the moment of the Afghans. But the sense of the British nation was that as soon as the national honor should be repaired the invaded country should be evacuated. This has been the course of the present government, who have decided on abandoning Candahar itself. We will now hear no more of the "Scientific Frontier." The invasion and occupation of Afghanistan made Lord Beaconsfield's government odious in the East. It will take many years of a conciliatory policy to repair the mischief caused by that blunder.

It is stated that on account of the turbulent state of Ireland, and the increasing disaffection among the Irish people of London, it has been decided that the Queen will not open Parliament in person.

THE ORPHANS.

The most joyous season of the year has come and gone. Christmas, with all its hallowed memories—Christmas with all the heart's fondest and warmest throbbings overflowing with sentiments of love between Christian and Christian—Christmas, the day of all days, Christmas time—the time of all times—when the face of youth beams with the brightest anticipations—Christmas time has come and passed away once more. Most of us have comfortable homes, with all the luxuries of life placed before us. The few in our midst who have not such homes have been provided for in various ways. But when grown-up people share this bounty, when the deserving and the undeserving are supplied with food and raiment, shall we forget the poor orphans—the little ones who are being cared for by the noble and self-sacrificing ladies of St. Joseph's Convent. Very few indeed know the hardships these good souls undergo in order that God's little orphans may be fed and clothed and cared for. From house to house on the bleak winter day, in the most exposed portions of the rural districts, may be seen the good sister and her companion driving along, fighting bravely against wind and storm, and oftentimes subject to the rebuffs of the uncouth, keeping on nobly in her mission, collecting food for the many little mouths who daily look to her and her fellow-laborers for the wherewithal to keep hunger away from them. There are upwards of one hundred such little ones now in the Institution at Mount Hope, and we trust our people will on New Year's Day respond nobly to the appeal which was on last Sunday made in St. Peter's by Father O'Mahony on their behalf. The labor of the good nuns is a labor of love. They have made sacrifices which few of us would care to make. Let us one and all endeavor to lighten the heavy burden they have to bear, and commence the New Year by performing an act which will bring upon us the blessing of God in all our undertakings during the year now opening.

TROUBLES IN RUSSIA.

A few years ago the Russian Empire was looked upon as the very embodiment of social and political strength. Not so now, however. The evils of the Russian system have been of late brought into notice in a manner so very distinct and palpable that all now look forward to an early disintegration of this colossal power. The despotic form of government has always had the tendency of generating abuses of a most grievous character. Unless when ruled by some master mind, capable of grasping every detail of administration, countries under despotic rule have fallen into decay. The ruling power nominally vested in the sovereign, falls so often into the hands of the unworthy favorites, the offspring of royal weakness—that it ceases to be respected and consequently fails in directing the administration of public affairs to success. Fraud and peculation, in no fear of the reprobation of an outraged public opinion, find congenial homes in every department of such governments. But the wickedness of the system soon causes its downfall. The rapacity of subordinate brings the administration into frequent conflict with the people. The recurrence of such conflicts sets thinking men reflecting, with results not flattering to the form of government which generates such difficulties. In Russia nothing but the most flagrant misgovernment could give rise to the disturbances of which that country has been of late the theatre. The Russian people were for ages devotedly attached to the person and government of their reigning princes. When the latter made a call for popular support in war everyone knows with what alacrity the people responded. In time of peace, so long as the administration kept its rapacity within any decent bounds, not a murmur of disapproval was heard. But emboldened by long years of immunity, the civil servants of the present Czar, seeing their master abandoned to the control of his talented but unscrupulous mistress, took further liberties with the people, and inaugurated a wholesale system of confiscation and robbery. Everything, however—even tyranny itself—has its bounds. The petty ministers of Russian despotism could not see matters in this light, and by persevering in their course of wanton injustice, brought themselves into public odium. There is now such an entity as a Russian public opinion. Its influence is not yet great, but it is rapidly growing, and, what is yet more pleasing to the friends of freedom, certain to grow at a more rapid pace in future. The present government of Russia deserves the reprobation of the whole civilized world for its shameless intolerance and cruelty. When it falls, as fall it must, it will perish without regret.

The Catholic journals of Rome relate that twenty-five Italian ministers have become converts to the Catholic faith; that fifteen new converts received confirmation at the hands of the Bishop of Ancona; that amongst recent converts is the Rev. Horace Wideock, of Plymouth; the family of the Rev. Mr. Fish; of Mr. Cabolds, one of the richest proprietors of Suffolk, with his wife and sons; and finally of the opera singer Mr. Santley. The conversion of this last was previously reported.