

The Catholic Record.

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REV. GEORGE R. NORRIS-GRAYES, Author of "Mistakes of Modern Infidels," REV. WILLIAM FLANNERY, THOMAS COFFEY.

Approved and recommended by the Archbishops of Toronto, Kingston, Ottawa, and St. Boniface, and the Bishops of London, Hamilton and Peterboro, and the clergy throughout the Dominion.

Persons writing for a change of address should invariably send us the name of their former post office.

London, Saturday, July 11, 1891.

OFFICIAL.

The annual retreat for the priests of the diocese will begin next Monday evening, July 13th, at Assumption College, Sandwich.

MUST IRELAND'S POPULATION FOREVER DECLINE?

The census taken on April 1 in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland shows the population of England to be 29,000,000, it having increased by 3,000,000 since 1881.

In 1840, when Daniel O'Connell was holding monster meetings, at one of which 500,000 people had gathered to listen to the eloquence of the popular tribune, there were over 8,000,000 of a population living comfortably and in abundance of wholesome food and respectable clothing, with pleasant homes and cheery firesides.

The Toronto Globe, in trying to account for the anomaly of growing prosperity and fabulous wealth existing in the same kingdom, alongside of starving populations and national bankruptcy, as experienced in Ireland for the last fifty years, declares that the ever-growing miseries in Ireland are "due to causes beyond human control," and in substantiation of its policy of unrestricted reciprocity says that "Decline in Ireland's trade and population is certainly not due to the fact that the English market is open to Irish produce and the Irish market to cheap English manufactures."

The statement that Ireland's decline is due to causes beyond human control is too medieval to be entertained in this enlightened period of the nineteenth century.

Science and wealth, with good-will and determination on the part of those possessing both, may achieve triumphs over the impossible in Ireland, as in other lands.

The fact that the English market is open to Irish produce can be of no benefit to Ireland as long as the money received in exchange for the produce, is sent out of Ireland to absentee landlords.

Surely these patent and obvious causes of Ireland's decline in trade and population cannot be said to be above

and beyond human control. O'Connell tried to remedy it by repeal of the Legislative Union. Smith O'Brien had recourse to armed revolt in order to effect a change in England's policy of exhaustion of Ireland's resources.

If Ireland obtains full control of her own affairs—if those who toil and labor are permitted by law to retain possession of the fruits of their own industry—a different story will be told at the next census from that which is now recorded of Ireland's position as to trade and population.

The fact of the Irish market being open to cheap English manufactures benefit Ireland only so long as she has no capital to start manufactures of her own.

All that is wanted to make Ireland turn round in the path of commerce is to retain her capital and multiply the number of her looms and spinning wheels.

A SPECIMEN FANATIC.

A bigot of the most undisguised character has a letter in the Mail of Saturday in which he openly maintains that no Catholic should ever be Premier of this Dominion; and for this reason he maintains that under no consideration should Sir John Thompson ever attain that post.

Mr. Abbot is Premier now, but even under the present Government Sir John Thompson and the Catholic members of the Cabinet will have much to say in the Government of the country, and the time may be, sooner than Mr. Allen expects, when there shall be a Catholic Premier.

Mr. Allen should ponder on the earnest declarations made by numerous Protestant members of the House of Commons, that Mr. Thompson's religion was not considered by them an obstacle to his selection, and that they would have supported him had he undertaken the formation of a cabinet.

Of one thing Mr. Allen may rest assured, that the Government of Canada is not going to be carried out on the principle of ignoring the Cath-

olic body; and this is possibly the explanation of the fact that Mr. Dalton McCarthy thought it prudent in the present crisis to absent himself from the country just while his patriotic constituents were expecting him to push his programme of persecution against the Catholics of the North-West.

Mr. Allen's cry of alarm that the Catholic doctrines are inconsistent with the rights of the people, is simply nonsense.

IMPUDENCE UNPRECEDENTED.

While we must compliment the various Canadian Protestant bodies on the fact that their synods, presbyteries, and conferences have been singularly free from passing the almost inevitable resolutions against Popery which we have hitherto found in their proceedings year after year, we are sorry to notice that the Methodist conference of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island has prevented us from making this compliment general.

Bathurst District has a population which is about two-thirds Catholic, as the census of 1881 shows that there were 3186 Catholics in a population of 4806.

We believe there is no provision in the New Brunswick school law prohibiting religious orders from teaching, but if there were such it would be manifestly unjust.

The conference, however, though it stultified itself sufficiently by passing a resolution intended to meet the views of the petitioners, did not go to the length of specifying what particular changes it desired to be made in the treatment of the Sisters of Charity, the religious order which is teaching in Bathurst, but showed its willingness to persecute defenceless women, by passing a resolution expressing its "disapprobation and alarm on such pretension of our school law in the interest of one particular denomination," and it, consequently, "asks the Government to cause the School Boards to enforce the school law in its entirety."

But here the conference seems to have over-reached itself in its zeal; for it does not appear that the school law has been violated at all.

The petitioners, as will be noticed from our statement of the purport of their memorial, desire also to decide for the School Board the amount of taxes which they should levy for the support of the schools under their jurisdiction.

We presume that the School Board know how much income is required to sustain their schools, and it is extremely unlikely that they have levied more than they need; but even if they have done so, it is a piece of impertinence for the conference to interfere in a matter which belongs solely to the ratepayers of the locality to decide.

It is perfectly clear that New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island conference have adopted their course, simply because they desire to prohibit Catholics from enjoying freedom of education, and it may be safely assumed that there has been no violation of the school laws by the School Board, for if such had been the case a much more efficacious method of preventing such violation would have been adopted than the passing of a resolution by a body of persons who had no business whatsoever to interfere.

We must put down the pretended anxiety of the conference to have the school law respected as a piece of hypocrisy; for if it were not so, they would have recommended the Bathurst memorialists to have looked for redress under the provisions of the law, instead of taking the unprecedented course they have thought it advisable to adopt.

A RICHLY DESERVED HONOR.

The Globe correspondent in Cobourg, writing under date of July 2nd, informs us that a high honor has been conferred by the Victoria University, of that town, on Dr. Hingston, of Montreal.

A special meeting of the senate of Victoria University for conferring degrees in medicine was held at Jackson Hall last night.

Vice-Chancellor Kerr also felicitously expressed the satisfaction and pleasure with which the senate had conferred this degree.

Dr. Hingston is a native of the Province of Quebec, and has received degrees from many institutions of learning, including the degree of D. C. L. He is also a chevalier commander of the Order of St. Gregory the Great, and has long since attained the first position in his profession in the Province of Quebec.

tario, brother of the Hon. John Sandfield Macdonald, the first Premier of Ontario.

QUARELSOME.

DR. DOUGLAS, Methodist—"Passing over the charge of intolerance as unsanctioned by fact, we may safely challenge all comers to supply a word in public utterance that reflected on the sanctities of the Catholic Church."

Nobody has charged you with doing this. You are defying contradiction to an assertion you have not made. The charge of intolerance is, however, sanctioned by fact.

DR. DOUGLAS—"Religious faith, even in its most credulous forms, is a thing too sacred in our estimation to be assailed by the shafts of ridicule, since spirits immortal are building on it their best hopes of a blissful hereafter."

Then why do so many of your brother preachers, in season and out of season, employ these shafts of ridicule when speaking of the faith of your Catholic fellow-citizens.

DR. DOUGLAS—"When reference was made in a western conference to a well-known gentleman we never questioned his inalienable right to renounce Protestantism and accept Catholicism in its Ultramontane form."

Dr. Douglas—"We simply expressed the conviction that obtains throughout the great commonwealth of Ontario as well as elsewhere in the Dominion that a gentleman who had espoused the principles of Jesuitism, and who had evidenced his admiration and approval of its policy by sending his sons to Stonyhurst."

DR. DOUGLAS—"We simply expressed the conviction that obtains throughout the great commonwealth of Ontario as well as elsewhere in the Dominion that a gentleman who had espoused the principles of Jesuitism, and who had evidenced his admiration and approval of its policy by sending his sons to Stonyhurst."

Would you have Sir John Thompson, a Catholic, send his son to a Methodist college? Would you, a Methodist Doctor of Divinity, send your children to a Catholic institution of learning?

DR. DOUGLAS—"Throughout his letter the same narrowness and insincerity is everywhere apparent. He endeavors to point out a difference between the Jesuits of Stonyhurst and those, as he puts it, 'who, with tender heart and weary foot, traversed the wilds of this

continent, to seek and save the Indian races." The first-named Jesuits, he claims, are the troublers of nations, and are at this hour troublers in Canada. No doubt, indeed, is there that they have been the troublers of nations. Wherever infidelity lifts its horrible form to view—wherever the flock of Christ are in danger of being enmeshed in the snares of Freemasonry—wherever immorality is found inflicting its hateful and horrible curse in the midst of the flock of Jesus of Nazareth—wherever sin in any of its hideous phases is found to exist, like the seeds of contagious disease, the members of the Company of Jesus seek it and find it and stamp the life out of the hideous monster. In this regard, and this only, are the Jesuits the troublers of nations. Good men have never feared the Jesuits. Creatures of passion and pride and avarice and immorality, from Henry the Eighth down to Crispin and Balmaceda, have always feared the sons of Ignatius, because they know well that they are perfectly-equipped warriors of Christ, who will carry His word to the uttermost parts of the earth as long as the sun shines from the heavens above us; and their influence and their power will be felt and their glorious deeds will be manifest to the world for ages and ages after the century-old faith of John Wesley will have decayed from men's minds and will have been placed in its grave with all the other forms of theological oddities which have sprung up from time to time to obstruct the onward march of that Church the cornerstone of which was laid by our Blessed Redeemer.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Rev. Dr. Briggs, of New York Union Theological Seminary, is still giving annoyance to the Presbyterian body. The faculty of the institution have resolved, by a vote of 18 to 2, to keep him in the chair of Biblical Theology. Twenty-one members of the faculty were present at the meeting, but one left the room without voting.

In Holy Trinity (Anglican) Church, Winnipeg, on Sunday 28th ult., a sensation was caused by an interruption of the sermon preached by Rev. Mr. Pentreath. The clergyman maintained that the righteous dead are the guardian angels of their living friends, and that they offer up prayers for them in the other life.

The Boston Herald says of the late Encyclical of the Holy Father: "He speaks with the authority of a universal Bishop, and his opinions will immediately command attention in every part of the civilized world. Leo XIII. has shown a notable disposition to