

The True Witness

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 1895.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

This editorial notice will remain standing until the date upon which our decision concerning delinquent subscribers comes into effect. Once more we are obliged to touch upon the very disagreeable subject of arrears in subscriptions.

Elsewhere we state that the reply is very cleverly drawn up. So it is; but yet not sufficiently so to distract our attention from the main point.

That reply is a refusal couched over with a goodly amount of unrefined sugar. It gives as a reason the inefficiency of the Catholic schools prior to 1890; and it claims that the restoring of their rights to the minority would be a lowering of the educational standard.

We are not going to enter into the numerous arguments of the case; our readers are all, long since, familiar with them. In our last issue we expressed our opinion very squarely concerning a Royal Commission.

Since 1890 this question has been carried from court to court, from legislature to legislature; finally the grand central issue came before the Privy Council of England.

The same argument was used by Elizabeth's and Cromwell's lawless crew in Ireland; the same reasoning has been employed against legislative autonomy in the old land.

The A. P. Aists have some very elegant characters amongst them. In St. Louis many of the proscriptionists who secured

ed as to its course should the Greenway Government refuse to accept the order or to act upon it, the Premier made an emphatic statement in the Senate Chamber, to the effect that the Government would not shrink from its duty, be the consequences what they may.

The Manitoba Government has now actually refused to act upon that remedial order, and its reply has been sent to Ottawa. What now is the duty of the Dominion Government? The answer is very simple. IT IS TO BRING THE MATTER BEFORE PARLIAMENT AT ONCE AND TO CARRY OUT THE REMEDIAL LEGISLATION THAT THE CONSTITUTION SANCTIONS AND EMPOWERS IT TO ENACT.

The Ottawa Citizen, one of the Dominion Government organs, referring to the situation, says:— "It has been decided that the Catholics of Manitoba have a grievance. The Dominion Government has brought that grievance specially to the notice of the local authorities responsible for it.

This is pretty plain language, and we cannot see how it can be possibly misunderstood. Before closing let us say a word regarding that answer to the remedial order.

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places on the street cars have turned out anything but honest; another of these gentlemen shoots a person dead because the latter remarked that he was glad to find a man to own himself a member of the association. The organization is certainly notorious enough, but it will never be famous. No rational Protestant has any sympathy with such firebrands and disturbers.

SWINEBURNE.

Not long ago we had occasion to draw special attention to a most beautiful poem from the pen of Mr. Maurice W. Casey, of Ottawa. Since then that able essayist and splendidly-gifted poet has contributed a number of other highly finished compositions to the literature of Canada. But one of the cleverest of his morceaux consists of four lines that appeared in the last issue of the Catholic Record of London, Ont.

Et si le Pape enfin daigne rougir la joue Du profane dont le nom commence comme dupe Et finit comme leop.

Mr. Casey adds: "This is, however, a species of shallow wit which may be closely imitated, without employing either learning or invention, as witness:

So, then the Pope can stoop to color red The petticoat of one whose name is red With dupe and wolf.

Hugo's lines are not only vulgar but indicative of a small and spiteful mind: Casey's verses are clever and a perfect evidence of genuine Irish wit; poor Swineburne!

DIVORCE.

It is not often that our friend the Daily Witness hazards an opinion regarding the teachings of the Catholic Church. Frequently the Witness attacks the Church and allows misrepresentations of Catholic dogmas to appear in its columns; but whenever it editorially states anything concerning the principles of Catholicity it usually is well informed on the subject.

We have great sympathy with those who hold that a total dissolution of the marriage bond, giving leave to marry again, should not be granted under any circumstances. This is not as we understand it exactly the holding of the Roman Catholic Church, which expounds the law, "What God hath joined let no man put asunder," to mean that divorce, like marriage, should only be administered by the Church. Whatever be the theoretic view of the Roman Catholics of Canada, their practice is very simple, namely, to oppose passively, and sometimes even actively, any and every lay exercise of the power of divorce.

We are very willing to give our contemporary credit for perfect good faith in the foregoing; nevertheless it is as wrong as it is possible to be. The principle with which the Witness professes sympathy is that of the Catholic Church; no more, no less. The Church "holds that a total dissolution of the marriage bond, giving leave to marry again, "should not" and cannot "be granted," or allowed, "under any circumstances."

Wherein the Witness errs is when it says that "This is not as we understand it exactly the holding of the Roman Catholic Church."

Yes, it is the holding of the Church, and the Witness does not understand it rightly. It says that the Church considers the law of Christ—"what God hath joined" let no man put asunder—"to mean "that divorce, like marriage, should only be administered by the Church." Not at all. The Church interprets the law exactly as it is written; she does not claim that divorce can only be administered by her ministers. She does not admit of divorce at all. It is one thing to unite a couple in marriage and another thing to divorce them. As far as Catholics are concerned the Church does hold that she alone has the right to marry them; she alone can grant certain dispensations; she alone can decide, in accord with ecclesiastical law, what are the impediments to marriage, when the marriage is null or valid. But when it comes to a question of divorcing a couple that have been actually married, the Church teaches, maintains and practices the law that death alone can separate them. We refer, of course, to divorce in the sense of allowing the parties, or any one of them, to marry again during the life time of the other.

This exactly explains the attitude of all Catholic legislators regarding divorce, as described in the last sentence of the above quoted editorial. Since the law of the Church is emphatic on the point that "no man" can put asunder those whom God has joined, it follows that no combination of men, be they legislators, or judges, or members of a temporal Gov-

ernment, have the power or right to separate man and wife. The Government—or State—may pass any law it wishes, judges may be appointed by that State to administer that law; but as long as that law is a direct usurpation of Divine authority, and comes in conflict with the positive law of God, the moral wrong exists and the Church and her children cannot recognize either the power to legislate or the right to so administer. If we are bound to believe that "no man" has the right to perpetrate a divorce, we are equally bound to admit that no collection of men, no human institution, possesses that authority, power, or right. If there is any one subject, more than another, upon which the Catholic Church is steadfast and uncompromising, it is that of divorce.

Since, then, the Witness has great sympathy with the teaching which it did not know was of the Catholic Church, we trust it will henceforth lend that Church the weight of its influence and support on this most important subject.

A LAME EXCUSE.

Mr. Greenway and his friends must have been pretty hard pushed for a plausible excuse for their course regarding the Manitoba minority, when they claim that the Dominion Government is ignorant of the situation and has acted without a proper or sufficient acquaintance with Manitoba affairs. If this is a serious contention it is a very plain insult to the intelligence of the men who form the Dominion Cabinet. It is "adding insult to injury"—only that the Ottawa authorities are the insulted and the Manitoba minority the injured.

There is no question of public interest that has been ever more thoroughly sifted and threshed out than this one. For over five years every detail of the situation has been before the public. Not an argument or fact available but has been examined either before the courts or the committees of the legislature. Any man in Canada who reads the press would be astonished were he told that he knew nothing about the position of affairs in Manitoba. And yet they have the audacity to pretend that the Dominion Government is ignorant of the true state of the case. A lame excuse, Mr. Greenway.

AN INTERESTING PUZZLE.

Of late there has been question of a change of national flag for the Dominion. A number of suggestions have been made; but in the Ottawa Free Press of the 7th June a correspondent has presented the public with the most extraordinary piece of composition, on the subject, that we have ever met with. If any of our readers can make out what the writer means, we would be thankful for an explanation in plain English, a translation into common sense, of the following:

Editor Free Press.—Having suggested the site of the Macdonald monument which you very kindly published in your paper last year, I beg leave to ask you to insert also my idea of what a Canadian flag should be. As the red cross of England on a white ground denotes the bloody struggles of St. George, the blushing and blushing deeds of York and Lancaster, as well as the purity of Britain's laws so founded on sincerity and truth, and as through the mercy of the Omnipotent no foreign wars or aggression has beamed with its bloody hand either the Star Spangled Banner or the escutcheon of our Beaver Ensign, and as the American standard with its Eagle so indicative of wisdom, progress and eternal liberty emblazoned by its rainbow, stripes, would it not be common sense to adopt a simple white ground with the Union Jack in the corner as denoting the eternal snow crowned mountains of the Northern and better half of this new continent, as well as the virginial womb from which our British, Saxo-Teutonic and American people have sprung. It is a cheap banner, and every sheet, napkin, table and altar cloth could in emergency be readily converted into the same, a standard of the vanguard who with the spirit of which fills the Caledonian prophet, may with our piety's rallying cry "Shall brothers be for a that," parting of inferior insignia be it maple leaf, acrotile or the foot prints of a dragon, emblems of ambition and juvenile mumbo. Lost in the eternal white of the highlands of a continent and with an exultant Mikado, we may sing and work in peace, "As they never, never, yes never shall be missed." Yours, Utility without ostentation.

Ottawa, June 8, 1895.

LAST WEEK we alluded to the bloomer bedecked amazons of the bicycle. In this issue we publish the remarkable resolution passed by a society of Boston women on this subject. It is true that there exists no law against women or men making fools of themselves in public. With women there is always a great abyss which must be leaped if they decide upon leaving their own sphere. There is scarcely any transition. The modest young woman trembles on the verge of a certain precipice; but often the moment she has crossed the Rubicon of error she forgets all and glories in her shame. In a milder way the respectable girl will hesitate before making a public exhibition of herself after the manner of the bloomer-bicycle females; but once she has taken the plunge, conquered the fear, or rather natural bashfulness, all care for public opinion is flung to the winds, and she wheels away to notoriety at a much faster rate than her mother would have cared to see her go.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

RAPISCARDI, who stole certain valuable miniatures and manuscripts from the Vatican library, has been condemned to six years imprisonment and three of special surveillance. He had been treated as a trustworthy person by the late Mgr. Carini, whose sad death is attributed to the shock and anxiety caused by the occurrence. The punishment is certainly mild compared to the crime.

ACCORDING to the Noticiero Universal, Dr. Jose Costa, Metropolitan Archbishop of Tarragona, is to fill one of the Spanish vacancies in the Sacred College. This will bring great satisfaction to that wealthy and industrious province of Catalonia. "It is, after all, a marvellous thing to contemplate how ably and justly the distribution of honors and favors by the Church, all the world over, is performed, one more evidence of the universality and perfection of the infallible institution.

A DAUGHTER of Mrs. Besant, the high priestess of Theosophy, has become a Catholic. Mr. Stead is of the opinion that the mother will sooner or later find her way into the Catholic Church. That depends a great deal upon Mrs. Besant's motives and sincerity. If her aim is to reach the truth and she sincerely desires to accept it, no matter where she may find it, there is a very great probability, should she continue her search long enough, that she will end by becoming a Catholic.

WE understand that in the Protestant Episcopal Church there is an organization being formed under the title of the Guild of St. James. Its object is to bring about a union of the three great churches—the Roman Catholic, the Greek Church and the Episcopal Church. What truth is in the report we know not; but if it be as stated, the Guild of St. James will find that Leo XIII. is working in the same direction; its members should consult with His Holiness.

CARDINAL LANGENIEUX has formed a committee to arrange imposing fetes which will take place, next year, in Rheims, to commemorate the fourteenth century of the baptism of Clovis and the conversion of the Franks. The Pope is deeply interested to know what action the French Government will take regarding the celebration. It is not very favorable to royalty and crowning anniversaries; much less is it favorable to Catholicity and the commemoration of conversions. It does not help at least, we trust, it will not attempt to discourage the grand event.

WE LEARN of the death of Peter H. Burnett, the first Governor of California. He was a convert to Catholicity. After he joined the Church he wrote a work entitled "The Path that Led a Protestant Lawyer to the Catholic Church." The famous Doctor Brownson declared this book to be of more value than all the gold in California. Apart from "The Invitation Heeded," by Father Fidelis (J. Kent Stone) we know of no work on the subject that is better calculated to open the eyes of non-Catholics to the real teachings and practices of the Church.

PERHAPS no American prelate has ever given expression to more startling and important ideas than has Cardinal Gibbons. He never preaches a sermon or pens an article that does not bear the seal of his individuality and contain something attractively new or original. Recently, while preaching in the Baltimore Cathedral, on the subject of the Bible, His Eminence said: "It is a remarkable and significant fact that the Bible is the only book which Christ is known ever to have read or to have quoted in the whole course of His public ministry. He never made any allusion whatever to the classic literature of Greece and Rome, which flourished in His day."

In the depositing of the Most Reverend Archbishop Kendrick, of St. Louis, and the appointment of Archbishop Kain to the duties of the See, we behold a beautiful evidence of the Church's maternal solicitude for her faithful children. After a long span of life, consecrated to the glory of God and the great works of the episcopacy, the venerable prelate saw a cloud lower upon his once glorious mind. Unable to resign the office, the duties of which he could no longer fulfil, the Church has relieved him of the burden and has secured his remaining years against all worry and disquiet. To a certain extent the noble-hearted prelate is henceforth dead to the affairs of life, but his great works survive and form the basis of the structure that his successor is called upon to erect.

CALISTHENICS constitute a most desirable branch in the education of the young. The exercises, if not carried to excess, aid very much in physical development and are conducive to health and vigor. We admire this method of im-

proving the action and the appearance of the young. It is for young girls what a reasonable drill is for boys. But we do not believe in public exhibitions of calisthenics, particularly when the object is to make money. Objection is rightly taken to exhibitions of the gymnastic class in which girls are the actors. Why, then, should young school girls be set up as a public spectacle, to display their figures and grace, before young men and others, who gladly pay the admission fee for the privilege. We may be wrong; but we only like calisthenics in the privacy of the class.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, Prince Nasrullah Khan, the second son of the Ameer of Afghanistan, has been lionized at considerable expense in England. He is a queer fellow. He does not seem very much surprised at European civilization, and, to judge by his conduct, he evidently considers England's great people to be low barbarians. It is true he does not say much, but he has a negative way of acting his appreciation—that is to say, by not acting it at all. An address was read to him the other day, and despite the presence of royalty, of dukes, duchesses and so forth he paid no more attention to the reading of the welcome than an Indian would to the nestling of forest leaves; and he turned on his heel without saying a word, or even bowing an acknowledgement. Nasrullah Khan is above such common etiquette.

THE UNITED AMERICAN is the A. P. Aist organ published in Washington, D.C. We have been favored with No. 25 of the first volume. According to its leader this is the first number since its three week's suspension. It says that "friends will get 52 numbers for their dollar, whether it takes 25 weeks or 52 months to print them." We would advise the management to try (if supporters are to be found) to get the issues out in 52 weeks, because if they depend upon that number of months the Association will be a thing of the past, dead, buried and forgotten, by the time its last number (for the dollar) appears. It is a roaring, rampant, right regular, anti-Papist conglomerate of rank nonsense, vituperation and worn-out calumnies. We heartily recommend it as a guide-book and lexicon for any gentlemen who feel themselves lacking in material for their evening twelfth of July orations. Mr. McCarthy might stick a copy of it into his satchel before setting out for Winnipeg.

"The ruinous torpedo of villainy" is, according to the Kanturb Branch, launched against Mr. William O'Brien, the patriotic and gifted representative of Cork. What species of naval weapon of destruction this is we cannot tell. It would be a very undesirable post to act as pilot on such a vessel. We are under the impression that no sane man would relish the position, nor would the one fool-hardy enough to take in hand this torpedo be likely to come safely out of the smash when the engine would go off. We do not believe, nor would we like to think, that there is any man, of Irish sympathies, who would be pleased to see Mr. O'Brien retire from Parliament. It must not be forgotten that he has done, braved and suffered more for the cause he has at heart than many others who are, today, equally sincere and equally prominent in the great movement for justice. We prefer to believe that this phrase is merely a little piece of oratorical bombast.

THE reply of the Manitoba Government to the remedial order from Ottawa is a very carefully prepared and able document. It is worded most cleverly, and is an evidence that Mr. Greenway and his friends know exactly what the constitution demands of them, but what they are determined not to do. The reply indicates certain obstacles that the Dominion Government should consider well before acting; but it more emphatically shows the desire of the Greenway Government to make those obstacles insurmountable. It is a characteristic document and one that clearly proves the bias as well as cunning of its fabricators. In it the Manitoba Government considers the situation from its own narrow standpoint, and avoids all reference to constitutional rights or to the larger, more important and more far-reaching results of an action in accord with the principles laid down by the Privy Council. In a word, the reply is a mere slight-of-hand trick to secure time, and, if possible, to draw away the public attention from the real issue and the real contention of the Catholics.

THE Minister of Justice has brought before the House a bill for the purpose of abolishing the printing, distributing and selling of Sunday newspapers in Canada. No matter what our opinion may be concerning Sunday newspapers in themselves, we do not relish the proposed enactment. In fact, it savors very much of a desire or an attempt, on the part of its promoters, to impose their views and practices upon a vast section of the people of Canada. If the object is to prevent persons from working on Sunday, and thereby desecrating the