

CHURCH'S WORK IN SOUTH AMERICA

Recently, writes Edward Raymond Barker in the London Catholic Times, a correspondent, "A. S. Dooey," drew attention in a contemporary to words spoken by the Anglican Bishop of the Falkland Islands, and reported in "Great Thoughts" of Dec. 23, as follows: "I would point out that our chance among the natives is enormous. I am sorry to say that the Church of Rome is in a very sad condition morally, spiritually and educationally."

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The next issue of the contemporary (Jan. 27) contained admirable letters from the Salesian Provincial, the Very Rev. F. Scaloni, S. C., and from "A. Mackintosh," in which the unreasonableness of the Anglican Bishop's words was fully demonstrated.

up-to-date is Mr. Martin's book that it contains laudatory mention of Bishop Blair's appeal for £100,000, and of his Lordship's generous personal contribution of £500 towards this sum.

On the other hand, nothing could be more scathing than this non-Catholic writer's condemnation of the proselytizing tactics of agents of Protestant missionary societies. These people—to quote Mr. Martin's own words—"have come to the country (Peru) to stir up revolt and rebellion against the poor and ignorant Indians against the teaching and the influence of the Church."

Apostolic Roman Catholic religion; the State protects it, and does not permit the public worship of any other, under no Latin-American government is there greater freedom for, and licence accorded to, alien religions than in Peru. This is all the more remarkable in view of the fact that the Peruvians still maintain the most complete adhesion to Rome, and in spite of the wholly aggressive and objectionable manner in which certain Protestant missionaries have come to the country to stir up revolt and rebellion among the poor and ignorant Indians against the teaching and the influence of the Church.

rather on the same writer refers to—"... the noisy and meddlesome male and female missionaries who 'not content with invading Peruvian religious territory and violating the conditions under which they as foreigners, were permitted to reside in the country, resorted to an abominating and vilifying the Catholic priesthood in special illustrated volumes and countless newspaper articles, women, as usual, taking the lead in this unworthy crusade."

The same writer continues: "I am not a Catholic in belief, and have no religious prejudices whatever, but I have seen so much real good effected by Catholic priests among the very poor and ignorant of the Indian races, and I have witnessed so many gross failures among their rivals... to improve upon their methods or to emulate their disinterested charity, that I cannot but regard the attempt to convert the Peruvian Indians from Catholicism to Protestantism as an act of unmistakable presumption and supidity."

Mr. Martin continues: "There can be no question that the English Church in South America is in a very perilous condition, and so serious is its state of inefficiency, and so pronounced the lack of funds, that the Bishop of Falkland Islands, the Right Rev. Dr. F. D. Blair, in whose vast diocese is included Peru, has during the past few months been in England on a canvassing tour for the purpose of exciting public interest—and incidentally collecting funds—for his mission. The English schools under His Lordship's wide-spread jurisdiction have long been closed for lack of funds to support them, and Dr. Blair thinks that for the purpose of putting the Church upon a thoroughly sound financial basis at least £100,000 is necessary."

The Bishop has at least backed his opinion by a notable contribution out of his own by no means too large salary, heading the list of donations with a sum of £500, in a form of a personal guarantee for the immediate discharge of the most pressing debt.

TO HOME SEEKERS IN THE WEST

Editor THE CATHOLIC RECORD,—Dear Sir,—Be so kind and give the following notice space in your paper. It is an answer to several letters, which I am not in a position to answer but through your paper.

HOMESTEADS IN SOUTH ALBERTA On the first of May, 1912, there will be opened entry at the Dominion Land Office of Lethbridge the following Lands: Township 11, Range 20, 21 and 22, west of the IV Meridian, about 120 sections in all. The greater part of these lands is suitable for farming, whilst the smaller part is too rough for that purpose, owing to bushes and ridges. A lands are situated in the best district of the whole Province of Alberta, from 20 to 30 miles from the nearest railway station. Anyone who intends to take up this land, must know the land on which he is filing.

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SUGGESTIONS OF FATHER DOYLE

Father A. P. Doyle, the Paulist, in an article in the Columbian, emphasizes some facts upon which the Catholic Church never was, and never will be, silent, though it is becoming the fashion amongst socialist extremists to charge her with lack of interest in such matters. The truth is, that the Church is constantly striving to drive men back upon the first principles of moral conduct in all things. Extremists grow impatient and they imagine that conditions which men must remedy, and which, in their disregard of religions they have failed to remedy, can be brought about by merely human means without reference to religion; and some even then go so far as to say that religion is a hindrance to the perfect social state they long for, and they would discard it altogether.

Father Doyle says: A large percentage of men advocate socialism out of a spirit of restlessness and a desire to change the existing order. They want just something else than they have got, and they think that a change may in some blind fatuous way be for the better. And then again a large percentage are very sincere men, eager for the best, earnestly desirous of bettering the lot of their fellow-men. In any case the equation of social reform should command the best study of men who sympathize with the sufferings of down-trodden humanity.

The heaping up of wealth in the hands of the few has the effect of reducing the multitude to the direst poverty. With all our wealth the gaunt figure of poverty is stalking abroad. The great engine of modern civilization, like the Indian juggernaut, moves on its way and thousands go down before its crushing weight. The era of great cities is at hand, when thousands are leaving the quiet, healthy fields of the country and are plunging into the seething vortex of city life. In the fierce strife for pre-eminence, the strong cope with the weak, and the weaker are thrown down and trampled on, and a bitter cry that pierces the heavens goes up from the dust of the struggle.

Alongside the display of blatant wealth there are thousands of God's creatures to whom life is but a damning fate, and there are thousands more of whom it may be said that they were better that they were never born. The slums of the large cities are like a huge morass inhabited by noxious reptiles whose life begins in vice and ends in a curse—to whom life is but a Dante's hell over the door of which is written: "All who enter here leave all hope behind." Little children die like flies in the summer and women are dishonored and no man grows to his full stature. To remedy these evils is a crusade worthy of the highest effort of intelligent men.

Moreover, the fascinating charms of these studies in social reform captivate the hearts of those who give themselves to it. I would suggest, therefore, the creation of clubs for social studies. Already has this been done to some extent through the laymen's reform movement. Still, this same movement might be carried into the Councils of Knights. A program of debates might be formulated. Lectures might be given. In these days of extensive social knowledge it would seem to be within the repertoire of the intelligent layman to have some acquaintance with the principles of economics, to be able to talk intelligently of the established laws that govern production and consumption, of wages and capital and monopoly, of trades unionism and taxation.

The knowledge of economics gathered in a healthy Catholic atmosphere will eventuate not in the disruption of society, but in the upbuilding of a better civilization. England and Germany are far ahead of us in these matters. The Catholic Social Guilds in England have

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