

The CATHOLIC CHRONICLE

DEVOTED TO FOREIGN NEWS

ROME

The Sovereign Pontiff has not yet found a Secretary of State to take up the heavy burden laid down by Cardinal Rampolla. No one but he knows what a heavy burden it was, for well nigh seventeen years he bore it with an unflinching devotion and self-sacrifice. During all these years he had not one day's release, save one when he went to a town twelve miles from Rome to visit a sick relative. Naturally enough, Cardinal Rampolla is glad of the release from the heavy duties of that office. Cardinal Sattoli, who was spoken of as a likely successor to him, distrusts his powers for such a position. Cardinal Cavagnis has likewise declined it, so has Cardinal Agliardi. Thus it is that the post remains vacant still. The Most Rev. Archbishop Raffaele Merry del Val continues as pro-Secretary of State, but this cannot go on indefinitely. It is, besides, reported that the Pontiff has appointed him Nuncio Apostolic to Vienna, the preliminary step to the Cardinalate. This is the man whom the London Times wrote against as a possible Archbishop of Westminster; and the journal containing the article was sent to some, at least, if not all the Cardinals of Propaganda, as an indication of how light-heartedly non-Catholics in England interfere in Catholic questions of importance. The same line of conduct was pursued immediately prior to the nomination of the Most Rev. Dr. Walsh to the Archbishopric of Dublin; but the bold diplomat, Sir George Errington, was then the voice of the opinions and desires of the English Government. The great objection to Mr. Merry del Val was his supposed foreign origin. The family is of Irish descent—which is, indeed, "foreign" in the eyes of the Times.

The report which in this dull season has awakened some attention was that put forward by The Paris Nouvelles agency to the effect that the Pope was preparing a letter to be addressed to the Catholic Bishops of all the world protesting against the atrocities committed by the Turks in Macedonia. It was reported that in this letter Pius X. would make an appeal to the Catholics of the whole world to agitate and bring pressure to bear upon their respective Governments in order to bring these atrocities to an end. The Observatore Romano, the official organ of the Vatican, announces that it knows that such news is devoid of foundation in fact. The ordinary fables of telegraphic agencies are allowed full scope, and, as a rule, they pass away harmlessly; but there is a mischievous tendency in this invention which requires the resonant denial it has received.

His Eminence Cardinal Moran, Archbishop of Sydney, has been more busily engaged since his arrival in Rome. Amongst the many thoughts and interests which have claimed his attention since he came here, and which lie somewhat outside of his special duties, is that of the progress of Christian archaeology. He has a particular interest in all that concerns the Roman Catacombs, apart altogether from that which concerns scholars such as he, deeply skilled in ecclesiastical history, necessarily possess. He may be said to have assisted at the discovery of the most important catacombs in the whole series of those subterranean cemeteries surrounding Rome.

FRANCE

The death of M. Captier, formerly Superior-General of the Sulpicians, is much regretted. He is chiefly remembered by laymen as the brother of the Dominican, Pere Captier, who was brutally shot with other hostages by the French Communists of 1871. M. Captier, the Sulpician, was then rector of the chief seminary of Lyons. He received the news of his brother's death as he was going to prayers. He mastered his emotion until the prayers were over, and then burst into tears. It was in 1874 that M. Captier went to Rome, there to found the "Procure" of his Congregation, now a great establishment. It was thought that the Sulpicians were then tainted with Gallicanism, but M. Captier soon showed the Curia that this was not the case. He was Superior-General in Paris from 1874 to 1900, and returned to Rome in bad health. Pope Leo XIII. proposed to make him a Cardinal of the Curia for France, but the French Government requested that Mgr. Mathieu, Archbishop of Toulouse, should receive the dignity.

IRELAND

Mr. H. J. Thaddeus, the eminent Irish artist, who has just returned from Rome, where the new Pontiff has honored him with a couple of sittings, says: "I have always been opposed to the use of photography in painting. It may be prejudice on my part, but the result is, I consider, always unsatisfactory. It may be permissible at times when a sitter is restless or cannot give the necessary time, but in my case neither contingency arises, as the Holy Father is a perfect sitter (none better), exceeding, perhaps, Mr. Gladstone, and I can have as many sittings as I require, thanks to his gracious kindness and consideration. My studies amply suffice for the moment, and I was glad to get away from the Vatican, as the great heat prevailing in Rome was trying for His Holiness as it was for me."

A True Story

St. Louis Priest Vividly Portrays Temperance Work.

"How well Maurice — looks," said a young man to a prominent St. Louis clergyman with whom he was conversing on Olive street the other day, speaking about a mutual friend who had just passed them by with a friendly nod to the one and a respectful salutation to the other. "He looks ten years younger than he did a year ago, and his prosperity is evident by his appearance. He's evidently in luck."

"Yes, you are right; he is in luck, great luck," replied the priest. "You know, for years Maurice went the pace that destroys, and kills. He drank hard. He couldn't hold a position. He became a barroom loafer. He was, figuratively speaking, in the gutter. Some of his former friends pitied him; others passed him by in silent contempt. He was declared a failure and it was prophesied that his last resting place would be potter's field."

"And his poor old mother! Her heart was broken. If she lives a thousand years, Maurice can never repay her with a wealth of the most tender affection and deep filial love for all the pain he caused her in his wild days. He will never know of the many nights of anguish she spent when he was off with his drinking companions; he will never know that her hair whitened prematurely as a result of his unhappy conduct; he will never know of the scalding tears that coursed their way down her cheeks as she prayed nightly at her bedside that God in His goodness would turn her wayward boy's footsteps back to the narrow path, he will never know how often she made the Stations of the Cross that his manhood might be restored; he will never know how many times she requested her pastor to remember him in the Solemn Sacrifice. No, Maurice will never realize until he, too, becomes a parent how much pain and sorrow may be occasioned by a child that is traveling the downward road."

"But God in His mercy did listen to that broken-hearted mother's prayers and supplications. A year ago Maurice was induced to make one more effort to brace up to be a man. One of his old-time friends, one who never failed to give him the grasp of friendship in his most forlorn and wretched days, sought him out and implored him to turn over a new leaf. This friend was an active worker in the Knights of Father Mathew. After prolonged insistence he persuaded Maurice to permit his name to be offered for membership in the society. It seemed as if it were God's way of answering his mother's prayers. At the moment he consented to become a member of the Knights of Father Mathew, Maurice made a most heroic effort to resist the demon temptation of drink. He went to his pastor, who was overjoyed to see him, and told him of his resolution and asked his aid in his hour of trial. He was counseled that his only permanent strength would lay in Divine assistance. "However," to be brief, Maurice went to confession and communion and became a member of the Knights of Father Mathew, a stalwart member, too, as his brethren in Council No. — know. Dozens and hundreds of hands were immediately outstretched to help him along the happy and smiling avenue of temperance. He had a fine position, enjoys the confidence of his employer and, as you said, is in luck, great luck indeed. His father's head is no longer bowed and smiles are in his mother's eyes. "God bless the Knights of Father Mathew," said the priest as he bade his friend good-day; "may they grow stronger and stronger until their influence in behalf of temperance is felt in the highest councils of the nation."

Flood of Pauper Children for Canada

The London Times of Tuesday last printed the following most important letter from a correspondent, whose testimony to the worth of existing emigration work deserves reproduction in our columns:

The recent issue of a Local Government Board circular to the Poor Law Guardians on the desirability of increasing the emigration of orphans and deserted children has already concentrated on this question a multitude of sympathies which have existed for many years in a state of inefficient isolation. Many boards of guardians have been making inquiries as to the methods and results of the child-emigration hitherto carried on by others, and as to the possibility of doing more in this direction themselves. The Canadian High Commissioner alone has received and replied to more than 70 such inquiries; and Canada is so far the only part of the Empire which has had long and large experience in this department, a brief account of her experience should prove useful as well as interesting to the public.

In the last 34 years over 45,000 children from the United Kingdom — not counting, of course, the members of emigrant families — have been sent to Canada. Nearly all these are children who have been rescued from destitution, or from circumstances worse than mere poverty, by various philanthropic societies, and sent out under careful guardianship to the training or distributing Homes maintained by the same societies in the Dominion. About a third of the whole number have been sent by Dr. Barnardo's institutions, though carried on at the cost of philanthropic public in this country, the process is strictly supervised by Government departments, both here and in Canada. The children have to be certified by the Dominion officials, at the points both of embarkation and of landing, as "a desirable class."

They have also to be examined medically before sailing, and must be certified as "in good health, free from all disease and bodily defects," and "mentally and physically fitted for emigration to Canada." According to one of the Canadian immigration rules, "if on examination there is found any lunatic, idiotic, deaf, dumb, blind or infirm person, the return of such person is provided for under Acts of 1869 and 1872. Various societies and the private houses to which the children are finally allotted are under Government inspection. In past years some doubt has been expressed as to the desirability of infusing blood of this kind into the life of the Dominion, and, of course, instances of crime committed by youthful "society" immigrants are not unknown. The percentage turning out badly, however, is very small — even less, I believe, than the percentage of criminals in the whole population of Canada. In a recent report the Dominion Inspector says that very few complaints have reached him, and that the Government is well advised to advise his Government to encourage the immigration of these children in still greater numbers. The question whether the children are properly treated by the people to whom they are entrusted is also answered in the affirmative by this authority. The employer, who has to furnish references in a criminal case, is a general standing, undertakes to clothe the child properly, and send it to school for at least four months in the year; as well as to see that the child attends church and Sunday school. Most of the employers are farmers, who habitually treat their employes as members of their own families. The following extracts from the Inspector's report for 1901 are worth quoting:

"During the past year I visited children in many sections of the older provinces of the Dominion, and have found them, with very few exceptions, giving general satisfaction, and adapting themselves to their new life and conditions very readily. The selection of homes and situations is of paramount importance. I am pleased to be able to report that good judgment has been exercised, and I have found, as a result, few children discontented, and changes less numerous than might be expected. I have visited as many of the receiving and distributing Homes as my time would permit. These Homes are maintained at no inconsiderable expense. The cost of their maintenance is almost entirely met by the support of friends in Great Britain, and, as far as I have been able to ascertain, no assistance, financial or otherwise, is received or solicited from any source in Canada, beyond the bonus of two dollars per capita paid by the Government on children from private homes and schools in Great Britain. The persons who have undertaken the responsibility of receiving and distributing the children in Canada have, I find, a very real interest in their success, and I am pleased to be able to report, therefore, that the work is thoroughly and efficiently carried on, and every effort is put forth to ward the best interests of the children and of their employers. No employer is expected, after giving reasonable notice, to keep a boy or girl who may not prove to be satisfactory. Of the earlier emigrated children many have done remarkably well — the larger number have followed the occupation of farming in the country. The others have been successful in commercial pursuits. There is a constant and increasing demand for juvenile labor of this class, particularly in the farming districts, so that the various agencies have no difficulty in finding employment for the children as soon as they arrive in the country. The children who have come under my inspection this year have been found to be generally both physically and mentally satisfactory, and, in my opinion, well suited for Canadian farm life. I have reported upon them individually, and with a due regard to their physical condition, general behavior, and the character of the situations provided for them. Copies of

such reports are transmitted in due course to the Local Government Board in England. I might here state that the Local Government Board deals only with those children who have been inmates of institutions supported by funds derived from ratepayers, and the children sent to Canada from these institutions are placed in charge of the various philanthropic societies, to whom the Board of Guardians grant varying sums of money to pay for the expense of their emigration to Canada."

The Inspector gives figures in detail for 11 societies of agencies. The totals show that the old country during the year, and that 1,877 were placed or replaced. The number of applications for such children, however, reached 9,591. The largest number of children emigrated were reported by Dr. Barnardo's four Homes, aggregating 903. Then came Mrs. Birt, Montreal, Quebec, with 139; Mr. Middleton, Halifax, 118; Mr. Peagan, Toronto, 106; Canadian Catholic Emigration Society, Ottawa, 89; the Rev. R. Wallace, Belleville, Ontario, 79; Church of England Society, Sherbrooke, Quebec, 59; Miss Macpherson, Stratford, Ontario, 56; Dr. T. Bowman Stephenson, Hamilton, Ontario, 53; Liverpool Catholic Children's Protection Society, 45; Miss Rye, Toronto, 44; St. John's, 43; St. John's, N. B., 23. At Dr. Barnardo's Homes as many as 5,600 applications for children were received; at Mrs. Birt's, 1,055; and at Mr. Wallace's, 785.

Hitherto only about 200 per annum (and last year only 141) of the children for whom the Poor Law Guardians are responsible have been given the advantage thus largely conferred on the children under control of unofficial agencies. Yet, in the interests both of the children and of the ratepayers, emigration seems most desirable for the Poor Law class. In a country like Canada these children not only escape the danger of slipping back into a pauper class, but have their powers of initiative and self-reliance developed, and their peculiar need. Now let us look at the expense. A child maintained by a Poor Law Union at home may cost as much as £30 or £40 per annum, and under the cheapest system, that of boarding out, the cost can only be reduced to something over £13. Each child, therefore, must cost the public at least £485 from its birth to its 16th year, when the full responsibility ends. If a child of eleven, for example, is emigrated there is a charge of about £15 for outfit and passage and £5 13s. 6d. for inspection fee. This means a saving at the lowest of £44 on each child. Now, the guardians have to maintain about 54,000 children, of whom some 40,000 are of school age. How many of these are orphans or deserted children? do not show, but certainly all the boarded-out children (over 8,000) and a very large number in addition may be so described. If 4,000—a comparatively small, though absolutely large number—were selected annually for emigration, the ratepayers at home would save about £200,000 in net cash. And the gain to the Empire as a whole would be incalculable if these children were settled in colonies where for various reasons an increase of the British population is most desirable, and where they would be engaged in developing our undeveloped assets in South Africa, Canada and Australasia. The younger an emigrant is the easier he finds it to adapt himself to the ways of his new home and the less likely he is to leave it. Child emigration is, of decidedly greater value to the children themselves and to all others concerned than the emigration of adults.

At a recent conference of London Poor Law Guardians, of which a full report is now obtainable, this question was very frankly discussed, pro and con, and some of the "cons" will undoubtedly be heard of again. For instance, it was urged with much truth that there ought to be some way of utilizing these young lives in our own country, large parts of which are so far from a state of congestion that they could easily support a far greater population. But even if work, with good wages and a good prospect of independence, could be found at home for every pauper child in the Kingdom—at present quite a fanciful hypothesis—a multitude of them would almost certainly slip back into pauperism if they remained in the country where they had been, and had been brought up as paupers. For many children the only chance of safety is in removal to another land, where communications with undesirable kinsfolk and other degrading influences can be absolutely cut off.

One other cause of hesitation deserves sympathy—fear lest the young emigrants should be ill-treated on isolated farms where inspectors' visits are few and far between. Nevertheless, with the precautions already in force, the public opinion which has to be reckoned with on all but the most remote farms, the general humanity of the Canadian people, and the strength of their laws, the risk of ill-treatment is really very small, and not to be compared with the worse risks run by the same children if they remain in England.

The London conference, it will be remembered, reached a unanimous decision affirming "the desirability of emigrating the children of our Poor Law schools, so far as they may be found suitable." To translate this opinion into practice the conference appointed a committee which will consider "the best means of emigrating Poor Law children," "the advisability of a united scheme," and "the question of training Homes this side and on the other." To carry out the first and second of these instructions should be easily within the executive abilities of our guardians and our Government departments. On the third point there may be an interesting discussion of policy. The fear expressed by some lest the Canadians should be jealous and offended if some of our children were to be sent to their country is a branch of the Home Government set up in their midst—this may be set aside as ridiculous. On the other hand, there is some force in the objection that a Canadian

training Home controlled by our Poor Law authorities would necessarily be a sort of branch workhouse, the desired severance of the children from the pauper system would be delayed, and that when the boys and girls did go out into the world they would encounter a prejudice greater than if their pauper origin had been less visible.

If the committee rejects the idea of establishing Poor Law Homes in Canada, the simplest method of carrying out a large scheme of juvenile emigration would seem to be an increased utilization of the machinery already at work. The experienced and trustworthy societies which now successfully handle hundreds of child emigrants a piece could probably handle thousands with equal success, if entrusted by the public authorities with the money necessary for a considerable enlargement of their accommodation.

Workmen Blessed by the Pope

Rome, Sept. 20.—The Pope yesterday held his first reception of any importance, 2,000 persons, for the most part working people from the quarters around St. Peter's, being admitted to his presence in the courtyard of La Pigna, one of the largest spaces inside the Vatican. In the portico looking on the court was erected a small throne, which the Pope insisted should not be surmounted by a canopy, as the ceremonial prescribes.

Pope Pius X., whose arrival was awaited by the throng, appeared in the portico, preceded merely by a few Noble Guards and accompanied by three prelates of the household. He was greeted with a storm of applause. The Pope said: "This demonstration of reverence and affection, touches me, not because it is addressed to my person, but because it is addressed to Him whom I represent—Christ. It is an index to the faith animating your heart. I am all the more pleased because the majority of you are workmen, for Christ is the advocate of the workmen and the latter are faithful to Him."

A Remarkable Young Man

Charlot, Pa., Aug. 15, 1903. Editor Catholic Register: My Dear Sir and Brother: Allow me to tell you something about a young man who is now under treatment in New York, which I believe will interest you. He is a Roman Catholic, having lived all his life close to this parish. A rheumatic trouble has afflicted him in such a manner that he has not touched his face with either hand for more than eighteen years, and has walked on crutches all of that time when not in an invalid chair. Both knees, both ankles, both wrists and several of the fingers are also stiff. Yet he has worked all these years as a telegraph operator, printer, newspaper editor, and at various other positions, supporting himself and mother. His condition, however, was gradually becoming worse, and one day he very suddenly fell from a high place, and he has been doing. A treatment is now known which has already benefited him very much, and is continuing to do so. It consists principally of massage and heretics, coupled with baths and heat, and will have to be continued for a long time to effect a cure.

He worked as operator for the Pennsylvania Railroad Company for seven years at one time, and is a thorough railroad. Upon the suggestion of many of his friends he has written a story based on a wreck which occurred close to his office very early one morning, and in which he was concerned. The accident is the most peculiar known in railroad history, no record of a similar one being ever heard of. The book is already written, a pretty romance has been woven through the whole story, yet no part of the real incident which actually happened has been omitted. It is entitled "A Strange Railroad Wreck." Mr. Collins' articles have appeared frequently in metropolitan newspapers, which testifies to his ability as a writer. The copy is now ready for the printers, and the book will be published just as soon as a sufficient number of subscriptions have been received to pay for printing it. It will be bound in fine cloth, and contain a full page picture of the author with the story of his life as it appeared in The Pittsburgh (Pa.) Sunday Dispatch, January 29, 1899. A few excerpts from the story are enclosed with this letter. They describe better than I can something of his physical condition.

Could I hope that you would read this letter at an early meeting of your Council and get as many advance orders for the book as you are able to? I feel confident if the matter is presented as I know you are able to state it, every member will become a subscriber. If you would also show this letter to any other Catholic of your acquaintance, and to those members of your Council who are not present when this is read and thereby help us secure a large list for him, I would be glad indeed. He has made application for membership in our Association, and if able to pass the medical examination will become a member at once. The case of this young man is an exceptional one; he is conscientious in every particular, and has made a brave struggle to regain the use of his afflicted limbs. Think of his condition! Unable to do either hand

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