

PASTORAL LETTER

OF MICHAEL FRANCIS, BY THE GRACE OF GOD AND FAVOUR OF THE APOSTOLIC SEE, ARCHBISHOP OF ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. — TO ALL THE FAITHFUL, CLERGY AND LAITY OF THE ARCHDIOCESE. — HEALTH AND BENEDICTION.

Dear Beloved in Christ,

Once more as the Holy Season of Lent approaches, the duty becomes incumbent on us of addressing you in the form of a Pastoral Letter.

In looking abroad over the face of the world to-day, it is impossible not to be struck with astonishment and wonder at the vast strides that have been made by men in the regions of science and physical enterprise. Man seems to have grasped, and harnessed to his use, the most hidden and powerful forces of Nature. Time and space have been so minimized as to be almost abolished, and the most distant bounds of the world are brought together. The air, the earth, the sky, all are being dominated by the great powers of the human mind, and this has reason to be elated and to cry out with the Psalmist: "What is man, that Thou art mindful of him? Thou hast made him a little less than the Angels. Thou hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou hast set him over the works of Thy hands. Thou hast subjected all things under his feet." Ps. VIII-5-6. But unfortunately, while man is so absorbed in the study and development of all these material forces, and secret powers of the universe, they are not so absorbed in the study of the higher, a holier, a more sacred, side to human character, a more noble and exalted sphere of human knowledge, namely, the moral and religious. That region of human aspirations which stretches away beyond this present perishable world into Eternity. It is sad to note that this religious and moral side of man's nature has not advanced in proportion to his material and physical progress. Indeed we are sometimes inclined to believe that this better and more exalted aspect of man's character has not only not advanced during these latter years, but has actually retrograded; gone backwards, and sunk to a more debasing level than even in the days of paganism.

It is now nearly two thousand years since the ennobling doctrine of Christianity was unfolded to the world, and the pure moral stream of the Gospel-teaching was poured into the parched and thirsty gulf of pagan depravity which then enveloped the whole human race. St. Paul in his Epistle to the Corinthians (I. Cor. V.) gives us a glimpse of the horrible and unchristian state of immorality which existed among all classes, at the time of the introduction of Christianity. "But," he says, "you are washed, but you are not sanctified, but you are justified, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the spirit of our Lord." (ib. VI-11). Ever since that day the warfare has been going on between virtue and religion on the one hand, and vice and immorality on the other. And sometimes, when the veil is for a moment raised over the depravity and infamy of the world, we begin to ask: "Has Christianity made any headway at all against this dreadful torrent of iniquity?"

Notwithstanding all the prayers that are being constantly poured forth in the choirs of God's churches, and the cries raised from the thousand choristers of religious men and women, besieging the throne of mercy, and good will among men on earth; yet we behold at this present moment whole armies of men arrayed in warlike attitude, bent upon destroying each other and sending down to death in horrid carnage hundreds and thousands of their fellows, even innocent women and children not being spared, in this fiendish carnage. Again, where men are not actually slaughtering and butchering each other, they are hating and persecuting each other. The spirit of disorder, irregularity and insubordination is abroad; the whole social and commercial fabric is unhinged and dislocated; mutiny and rebellion against all authority are rife; and the very foundations of the social system are in a state of upheaval. The spirit of anarchy and false equality is infused by designing men into the minds of simple people; upsetting and destroying their natural sense of Justice and Peace and Charity, and filling their minds with hatred and suspicion of their employers. Even the very women—the female portion of society—those whom God has created

in a more fragile mould, and of a more delicate texture; and has destined to the peaceful circle of domestic life and family duties; they, too, have become tainted with the foul spirit of the age, and have unsexed and degraded themselves, seeking to intrude into spheres for which God never intended them, seeking to fill the positions intended by God for the coarser and less sensitive portion of humanity. Thus have they striped themselves of all the graces and charms, and refinements with which God has adorned them and made of themselves brazen, unattractive and revolting caricatures. How different is all this from the beautiful picture of the noble woman given us in God's inspired word! "The heart of her husband trusteth in her. She will render him good and not evil. All the days of her life. . . . She hath opened her hand to the poor, and stretched out her hand to the needy. Strength and beauty are her clothing, and she shall laugh in the latter day. She hath looked well to the paths of her house, and hath not eaten her bread of idleness. . . . The woman that feareth the Lord shall be praised." (Proverbs XXXI). All this beautiful description has been perverted and corrupted by those modern undisciplined women who seek to assume positions and duties foreign to their sex.

Then in the moral life it would seem that all the sweet and chastening teaching of Christ has been forgotten and rejected, and that the world has gone back to a state of filth and impure paganism. The sacred tie of marriage, of which Our Lord spoke in these solemn and awe-inspiring words. . . . "What God has joined together let no man put asunder." (Matth. XIX-6). This sacred and inviolable bond, the foundation of all society, has been ruthlessly torn to pieces and desecrated. The fatal blight of

Divorce;

that sacrilegious undoing of the most sacred tie; that impious defiance of God's most solemn command, has been now sanctioned legally in many countries which still call themselves Christian.

This fatal dissolution of the only bond which can keep society together, is now so universally sanctioned that all the safeguards of human society are broken down and the population in those countries is in a terrible state of confusion, immorality, and decadence. The curse of divorce is accountable for more desolate and orphaned children than all the diseases and maladies which afflict the human race. In England alone during the past year the Divorce Courts have thrown upon the world no less than seventy thousand children, (70,000) orphaned; not by the hand of God; not by the death of their parents; but by the impious laws of divorce. The Catholic Church stands out to-day, alone, as she has always stood, as champion of the unity and perpetuity of the marriage tie. Another most shocking development of the spirit of immorality and lawlessness which has assumed most alarming proportions of late years is the horrible practice known as

White Slavery.

It is nothing more or less than the trafficking in the virtue and purity and chastity of young girls, who are trapped and sold by human fiends for immoral purposes. Thousands upon thousands of innocent girls and young women are annually swallowed up in this dreadful vortex of vice in the large cities of Europe and America. They are ruined and destroyed body and soul; for Time and for Eternity.

We sometimes, dear people, are inclined to lament and complain of our isolation here in Newfoundland; our separation from all the excitement and movements in the world, our provincialism and lack of progress; but we should on the contrary, thank God that we are saved from such contaminations and dangers as those. As far as we know these evils have not yet reached our appearance among us, though some rumors have come to our ears that seem to point to the insidious creeping in among us of some of these enemies of virtue. We have heard that there are among us agents of this inhuman and fiendish traffic. Our Priests though always on the

alert, have not yet reported to us the existence of any of these symptoms, but we cannot be too cautious or too vigilant, and it is better that this pestilence should be forestalled, than that we should wait till it has actually appeared among us, and then endeavour to stamp it out. We would suggest that action be taken immediately by our Local Authorities in this matter. Large numbers of the innocent girls leave our shores annually. It seems to us that the whole question of the emigration and the engagement of these girls by agents, the methods made use of to entice them away from home, and the arrangements made for their reception and employment in foreign countries, should be made the subject of a thorough investigation by a Commission legally appointed for the purpose. We need not dwell upon the terrible responsibility resting upon parents in regard to allowing their children to go abroad.

In England at the present day the most drastic legislation has been passed against the agents or, as they are called, "procurers" of this immoral trade. The law inflicts the degrading punishment of "flogging" upon the culprits, for it is acknowledged that such fiends in human shape are impervious to any moral punishment; and the only way to produce an effect on them is to treat them as we do the brute beast—with physical punishment. In a country like ours where the greater portion of the people are engaged in nautical occupation, and spend the greater part of their time sailing with the dangers of the ocean, few are the firstides which are not caused to mourn the loss of some loved one, swallowed up by the relentless sea. During the past year the "toll of ocean" has been perhaps more heavy than usual; and while the generosity and charity of our people has been truly noble towards the afflicted survivors; yet the task of succouring all those in need is becoming almost too burdensome for private charity, and we hail with gladness, the report which we have heard, of the establishment of some permanent and official fund from which, in urgent cases, the stricken ones may be assisted.

Coming to look more closely into the state of our own Catholic people, and the condition of our Church, we have reason to be grateful. In nearly all the outlying parishes the works of Religion and Education are being prosecuted with energy; new churches and new school-houses and halls are being erected. In St. John's during the past year the heavy debt contracted in the building of the new St. Bonaventure's College, is being rapidly paid off. In this connection, we feel it our duty to pay a special tribute to the untiring zeal of the Ladies' Committee who have practically taken upon themselves the liquidating of this debt. During the past year large and expensive improvements have been made at

St. Patrick's Church. River Head. The committee formed among the leading men of the Parish pushed the work to completion with great energy. The whole of the heating system has been renewed; but the growing work was the completion of the magnificent bell-tower and spire. This portion of the Church has stood there unfinished for the past half century an eyesore to the community, and a reproach to the Parish. It is now completed and is converted into an object of beauty to be seen for miles in all directions.

At the Orphanage, Mount Cashel under the energetic management of Brother Ennis and his assistants, the New Wing, (a magnificent building in concrete) has been completed, as also a large and commodious Boiler House.

At Littledale Academy the splendid new Convent has been erected and is now in occupancy by the boarders. This is one of the most beautiful buildings in the vicinity of St. John's and the most perfect in all its equipments. Standing as it does in the midst of the Waterford Valley on the margin of the rippling stream, and surrounded by wooded hills and pastoral fields, it would be difficult to find a more pleasing prospect, and our people may rest confident that within its walls their children will receive a most satisfactory training morally and intellectually.

While we contemplate with satisfaction all this development in our parishes and school-buildings, there is still one very urgent need to which we desire to call your attention. We mean the creation of a fund for the education of Ecclesiastical Students. There are at present some fifteen or sixteen Newfoundland students in various foreign institutions studying for the Priesthood. Of these eleven are for the Archdiocese of St. John's. As there is no special fund for this purpose the burthen upon the Archbishop becomes very heavy. It is our intention then to call upon all members of the flock to help us in this most necessary work.

We request every Parish Priest to establish a Collection for this purpose. We leave it to the discretion of the Parish Priests to select the day for making the collection in their parishes, but we desire that it be done as soon as possible, as a very large year on this head.

We intend this collection to be annual, so as to form a permanent fund which we hope in the course of time may enable us to found an

Ecclesiastical Seminary

College for the preliminary education of students. This Seminary will be, at least in its beginnings, of moderate proportions capable of accommodating some ten or twelve students. It will be erected on vacant ground not far from the Cathedral so that the pupils may be able to attend the functions and thus acquire a knowledge of the Sacred Rubrics, which is one of the principal parts of an Ecclesiastical Education. It will be under the charge of one or two Priests so that the spirit of the Religious Vocation may be cherished and fostered in the hearts and characters of the youthful students. The subjects for this institution will be selected from the boys in the College, who on the basis of the principles of a Religious Vocation. They will be transferred to the Seminary, there to pass a year or two in the study of Classics or Philosophy before

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ANNUAL FEBRUARY SALE.

Our 17th Annual February Sale is Booming

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being sent to some of the Colleges in Europe, for their Theological course. We now appoint next Sunday, the first Sunday in Lent for the taking up of the Collection in the Churches of the City.

We are happy to be able to announce that during our stay in Canada last summer We made arrangements for the holding of

A Mission

during the present Lent, and We have succeeded in securing the services of our of the Redemptorist Fathers to conduct the Mission. It will open in the Cathedral on next Sunday, the 1st Sunday of Lent, February 9th, and will continue for two weeks till February 23rd. On that evening it will open in St. Patrick's and continue for two weeks more till March 1st closing on Passion Sunday. It is now ten years since our people enjoyed the benefits of a Mission, viz. in the year 1903.

We exhort you, dear people, to dispose yourselves by prayer and fasting and by attendance at the Religious Services to reap the full benefits of this spiritual harvest. To stir up the Grace of God that is in your souls. Remember that during this time of Mission Almighty God opens up for you all the stores of His bounteous mercy. He offers you a full measure of His Divine Charity. Remember that a great responsibility remains upon every one of you to avail of these gracious gifts and prepare yourselves by the reception of the Holy

Sacraments of Penance and the Blessed Eucharist to secure for yourselves the plenitude of God's Mercy and Love. "We give thanks to God always for you all, making a remembrance for you in Our prayers without ceasing." (Eph. I. 2).

M. F. HOWLEY, Archbishop of St. John's Given at St. John's, this Quinquagesima Sunday, February 2nd, 1912.

GOOD SKATING.—There is now a splendid sheet of ice in the Paradise Rink; and last night a string of skaters and spectators were present. The Terra Nova Band played some very fine music to the delight of all the patrons of the rink.

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CUBES

Here and There

CITY QUIET.—Matters were very quiet in police circles last night, and no arrests were made.

Delicious Ice Creams, 10c. dish, at J. W. Campbell's, Ltd. Feb. 12, 11

N.B.S. MEETING.—The British Society met last night. A number of new members were admitted and a discussion took place over the holding of a bazaar.

For Pure Milk, delivered daily, try J. W. Campbell's, Ltd. Feb. 12, 11

DIE AT GLASGOW.—The Allan Liner Carthaginian, on board of which the fire took place and which underwent extensive repairs at Philadelphia, is now due at Glasgow.

THE 'WESTWARD'.—The s.s. Westward, Capt. Mothersdale, hailed from Tensler's to Shea & Co's to-day. She will sail to-night or to-morrow for the Mediterranean and will take a mail.

Stop Coughing

It's quite as foolish as it is annoying to keep on coughing since Phoradone Cough Mixture is guaranteed to soothe and heal the irritated parts at once, and to rapidly destroy the very cause of this aggravating nuisance. Hundreds of persons are complaining every day about the cough or cold they have had for a long time and are not able to get rid of it. Don't let a Cough or Cold hang on to you day after day and run the chance of catching and developing the Cough that is not easy to get rid of. You will avoid all this unnecessary worry (about the cough or cold you have) by obtaining "Phoradone Cough Mixture" at once.

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SOLWAY HERE.—The s.s. Solway, Capt. Drake, arrived here last night from Sydney after a fairly good run. She brought a large mail and a full freight to the R. N. Co.