

A LAST WORD

As to the Attitude of Catholics.

It remains for me to say a last word as to the attitude which I think Catholics should maintain in view of modern Biblical science. Speaking generally, I would suggest a little more confidence in science—a little less confidence in scientific men. Of science, of accurate knowledge, we cannot have too much; let it prevail, a very sea clipping the rock upon which we of the faith are standing, as closely as it may. We welcome it as a most important element in the interpretation of Scripture, though not the only one, and as a factor in the integration of theological thought. But for the "*divina*" of science, the angry *Eoluses* who do so cast the water about, and would fan cover us with the foam of their onset until we are drowned, or pass for drowned, they gauge nothing—neither our position nor their own. We must possess our souls in patience, and, making allowance for the subsidence of the foam-bells, endeavor to ascertain where the line of steady water will ultimately rest. Some of us, oppressed with the sense that the tide is on all sides gaining, may be tempted to remove our position, far from the water's edge to some safe platform aloof from the stress of conflict. But surely such a policy argues a lack of faith. If we cordially recognized that no ascertained truth of science can be really antagonistic to our position as believers; if we remembered that the God of reason is also the God of faith, we should not be in such a hurry to escape from a conflict which must ultimately result in harmony and is its necessary prelude. "Gentlemen," exclaims Lacordaire in one of his famous "Conferences," "God is not afraid of your reason; He made it." "If the literal sense of Scripture seems to contradict reason," says Henry of Ghent, in words I have already quoted, "we must seek for another meaning until one is found in accordance with reason." To conduct this search effectively we must remain at the point of contact without shrinking from the pressure.

A Catholic man of science may be a specialist, but he is bound to be—nay, he can hardly fail to be, something more. He must know something of all the territories of science, their outlines at least for he was a theology which is more than co-extensive with them all, and which has a word to say of each, though it be only, as is commonly the case, to assure the student that here he is within his right, and that his way is clear. Still, it may well be that from time to time such student is disturbed by the notification that though the route is not declared "de fide" impassable, yet that he may not walk therein with safety to himself or to those whom he would fain conduct, that, in fact, he must refrain from making this or that statement that he would like to make, or that at most he must ventilate it as a mere hypothesis. In such a case he must remind himself that in the interests of traditional truth the Church is bound to be conservative of ancient forms, that she is entrusted with higher and more imperious interests than those of scientific development. Thus, although in the particular instance the action of authority may possibly be mistaken and productive merely of vexatious delay, the scientist whose Christian name is Catholic will not be the man to say as much, or even readily to suppose it. In the end science will hardly be the loser, in as much as the truth in question will get itself the better, because the more circumspectly stated.

Such I conceive to be the proper and natural attitude of the Catholic scientist. He will be too loyal on the one hand to faith on the other hand to science, to believe that their last words can be otherwise than in accord.—*Rev. H. I. D. Ryder in Catholic World for ("The Proper Attitude of Catholics toward Biblical Criticism")*.

HOME RULE.

The Struggle in Committee Goes On.

London, June 2.—The Home Rule bill was again taken up in the House of Commons to-day. In debate on an amendment offered by E. W. Byrne, Conservative, the Irish members showed, for the first time, that they thought the Government was conceding too much without consulting them. Mr. Byrne's amendment was intended to prevent the Irish Legislature from enacting laws in respect to the use of arms by armed associations for drilling purposes.

Joseph Chamberlain said to permit

such use would be tantamount to permitting the formation of armed forces which might be improperly used.

Chief Secretary Morley said the Government would accept an amendment debarring the Irish legislature from permitting the use of arms for military purposes.

Thomas Sexton, Nationalist, spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment, and expressed the opinion that in regard to such an amendment, as also the amendment of the previous evening forbidding the organization of a national constabulary under Irish authority, representative Irish opinion ought to be allowed to speak before the Government replied. The Byrne amendment was rejected by 283 to 254.

Col. Lockwood, Conservative for West Essex, moved that the Irish Legislature be prohibited from dealing in the sale or purchase of arms and explosives. The amendment was rejected after a short debate by a vote of 294 to 245.

Wm. Brodrick, Conservative, for the Guildford division of Surrey, proposed that the Irish Legislature be prohibited from dealing with the power and privileges of the armed forces stationed in Ireland.

The motion evoked a spirited protest from Sir Wm. Harcourt, Chancellor of the Exchequer. The intent of the opposition, Sir William said, apparently was to treat the future Legislature of Ireland as a monster of folly and crime. Such a presumption would be quite unworthy of parliament. (Irish cheers.) The Dublin Legislature would be no more likely to interfere with the army in the exercise of its duties than to promote the manufacture of dynamite. The amendment in question could not be contemplated in justice to the Irish people. The amendment was defeated on division by 289 to 249.

THE CATTLE EMBARGO.

Before the consideration of the Home Rule bill was begun to-day, Herbert Gardner, president of the Board of Agriculture, in reply to a question, said that after the importation of Canadian cattle was prohibited, 5,119 heads were landed. Of this number, but one was suspected of having pleuro-pneumonia.

LONDON, June 1.—In the Committee on the Home Rule Bill yesterday, General Goldsworthy's motion to replace the Irish Viceroy by a Secretary of State, was rejected by a vote of 265 to 219. Mr. Healy obtained leave to introduce a bill to repeal the Act of William IV. relating to the display of flags and other emblems on licensed premises. In the House of Commons, T. Lea (Liberal-Unionist) asked whether the Government had ordered the removal of Union Jacks from the hotels at Belfast. The Irish Chief Secretary, Mr. Morley, replied that he need hardly say that the Executive had not ordered the removal of the flags. The law empowered the police to enter licensed premises and remove or, if necessary, destroy any emblems displayed there and likely, in the opinion of the police, to tend to a breach of the peace. Mr. W. Sanderson (Liberal), who had talked of voting against the second reading of the Irish Home Rule Bill, on the ground that it perpetuated the property qualification, asked whether the Government adhered to the property qualification for the electors of the second chamber of the Irish Legislature. Mr. Gladstone replied that the Government had laid the proposal frankly before the House. He had never stated that the scheme was stereotyped and unalterable. It would be open to modification in accordance with the views expressed by the House.

A PROMPT CURE.

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OBITUARY.

The Late Mr. Alfred Driscoll.

The writer feels it a duty, an act of gratitude for many a kindness that was fully appreciated, to pay an humble tribute to the memory of a good man, a fond husband, a loving father, and a most popular citizen of this young country, in the person of Mr. Alfred Driscoll, Prothonotary of the county of Ottawa. The deceased was a native of Montreal, but has been a resident of Aylmer during the past thirty-four years. His father, the late Henry Driscoll, Q.C., was one of the brightest and wittiest members of the Bar of this Province. The late Prothonotary was a member of the Bars of Quebec and Ontario, also a Land Surveyor and Engineer for both Provinces. Thirty-three years ago he married a daughter of the genial and widely-known lumber merchant the late Robert Conroy, Esq. Of this union came four sons and two daughters, three of the former and one of the latter surviving. Mr. Driscoll's familiar face will be greatly missed by all his friends in Aylmer, and by the members of the legal profession in that large district; but his name will be ever recalled with feelings of regret that he is no more, and with sentiments of sympathy for those who were dear to him and are left to bear the sorrow that death ever brings to a household. There is scarcely a public man, a minister of the crown, a judge of the courts, or a person of prominence in our Province, who has not some pleasant incident to recall in life, with which the hospitable Prothonotary of Aylmer is connected. Many an outing on Lake Deschenes has been enjoyed, thanks to Mr. Driscoll and his yachts; many a happy hour has been spent amidst the glorious scenery of that romantic country, and Mr. Driscoll was the one to whom thanks were due for that hour. All who knew him are aware that no words of ours could exaggerate his fine manly qualities, his urbanity, his kindness; and people who never met him have heard of his name in all parts of Canada. Gifted with a good voice and fine musical taste, he was the soul, the life of the concerts and entertainments in Aylmer. Only three nights before his death he laughed loudest and applauded longest the last scenes in a drama given for the benefit of the Catholic Church. Little did he think that, as the curtain dropped upon the closing act of that play, the veil of death was slowly rolling down upon the last scene in his own life-drama. It came almost suddenly, the blow fell while in conversation with friends on the street, he never rallied—it came like night rushing over space—and in its shadow his spirit went out.

To his good wife, his children, and his many relatives and host of friends the TRUE WITNESS extends its sincere mead of sympathy. May the cherishing of his memory by hundreds be a consolation to them in the hour of sorrow.

THE LATE REV. ABBE VALOIS.

Rev. Louis Etienne Avila Valois, chaplain of the Carmelite Convent at Hochelaga, whose death was announced on the 30th May, was born in 1835. After passing through private schools, he graduated from the Montreal College and Seminary. Two years later he went to Paris and Rome, and was ordained October 28, 1859, by Mgr. Bourget, in the church the Abbe's father had built. For over six years he was chaplain of the Sisters of the Holy Name of Jesus and Mary. In 1867 he returned to Paris and continued his studies, at the same time performing some duties at the Madeleine.

He was once received by the Pope in private audience and attended the Ecumenical Council. While in Europe, he served a term of office as vicar of the fashionable Church of the Madeleine, in Paris. Upon his return here, he took in hand the cause of the Carmelite Nuns, who had recently arrived in Canada, and furnished material aid in the construction of their monastery. He acted as chaplain to the monastery at the time of his death. It is believed that, while employing a large portion of his wealth for religious purposes, during his lifetime, the abbe has also bequeathed the residue for similar purposes. Deceased's mother survives him, she being in her ninety-third year.

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