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MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1897.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

THE EVANGELIZATION OF FRENCH CATHOLICS.

The Methods of Protestant Organization to Shake the Tree of Romanism.

GOOD ADVICE FOR DEACONESSES.

The Position of a Catholic Who Forsakes His Religion Logically Defined.

From time to time the Protestant journals announce, with a flourish of trumpets, the conversion of such and such a Catholic to Protestantism, and the clergy, in their annual synods, congratulate themselves upon these additions to their religious system.

When a man of upright heart, aided by the grace of God, has a clear vision of the light of truth, understands the necessity of doing the Divine will and of embracing, for the salvation of his soul, the religion which he believes to be the only one, he is bound to obey his conscience, no matter what sacrifices he is called upon to make.

Without presuming to fathom the secrets of consciences, it is not true that the motives which induce Catholics to become Protestants are very often far from creditable?

Some will have had a difficulty with their pastor. Out of sheer spite and to gratify their hatred they leave the Church and go over to Protestantism.

Nothing in truth, can be more painful to the heart of a priest than to see a Catholic give up the true Church, to throw himself, perhaps with his wife and little ones, into error.

discipline declares to be unlawful. In these cases it is the rebellious heart which speaks, and in no wise the head which commands the change of religion.

To resume in one word. Sometimes there is a question of money, sometimes of revenge, sometimes, even, there is a woman at the bottom of these pretended conversions.

CATHOLIC PRIESTS AND PROTESTANT MINISTERS.

Never, never would a Catholic priest consent to admit men into the Church who were influenced by such motives and presented themselves under such circumstances.

THE ANGLICAN SYNOD OF MONTREAL.

I confess to having been considerably surprised to observe in the published reports of the Anglican Synod, lately held in Montreal, that a high dignitary of the Anglican Church approved of such conduct and advised such action.

"In the present state of matters in this province, so far as the French-speaking people were concerned, the Church of England had no more important duty laid upon her than to be doing her work now. It was not worthy of her to wait until it came to her by gravitation, so to speak.

"Beyond question, there were great movements in embryo that could not but result in alienation of large numbers of the French-speaking population from the Roman communion.

Now, if the school question, which is essentially a religious one, belonging to the Christian, social order, should detach from their religion certain disaffected Catholics, insubordinate to the authority of the Bishops, lo! there will be seen a dignitary of the Anglican Church and his colleagues holding out their aprons to catch the doubtful fruit falling from the tree of Romanism.

Or the pure Methodist Gospel? Or the pure Baptist Gospel?

All these pure Gospels are Protestant, as you know. All claim to teach the doctrine of Christ, whilst, in reality, each speaks a very different language.

But the Reverend Ministers are not content with picking up the offerings of the Catholic Church. They have at their service a whole corps of auxiliaries who are both daring and adventurous.

Nothing stops them; nothing checks their ardor. Neither long and fatiguing walks, nor the ungracious reception with which they often meet; nor the poverty of dwellings, which in many cases threaten handsome gowns or expensive costumes.

and Sacraments, or Congregationalists of the absurdity of being content with a general indifference towards all creeds and professions of faith.

In any of these instances their aim would be a meritorious one and worthy of all praise. But no, it is not to the conversion of such unbelievers that these ladies devote themselves.

THE EVANGELIZATION OF CANADIAN CATHOLICS.

Permit me to ask, ladies, if you fully realize the consequences of what you are doing, when you seek to attract Canadian Catholics towards Protestantism. Do you pretend to offer them spiritual treasures which they have not, or means of salvation which they do not already possess?

The Protestant who comes into the Church and becomes a Catholic is really enriched, because he adds to the few truths which he believes the sum total of truth which the Catholic Church transmits to him.

But you would say, ladies, he is divested of Romish superstitions, of vain and empty beliefs, which ignorance and credulity have introduced into religion.

Ladies, what you are pleased to call Romish superstitions, we Catholics affirm to be dogmas, resting upon Holy Scripture, professed in all ages by Doctors and accepted by the faithful as obligatory articles of faith, and what we affirm we are prepared to prove.

What you characterize as vain and empty beliefs are traditions which the Christian ages have handed down to us, which the highest and the broadest intellects have put into practice and have handed down to us, their descendants.

Whatever may be your esteem for the religious communion to which you belong, ladies, you will scarcely venture to claim for it either a monopoly of good sense or the exclusive right of free investigation.

But I don't wish, ladies, to enter into discussion with you at the present moment. But I would like to ask to what pure Gospel you propose rallying the Canadian Catholics.

Or the pure Baptist Gospel? Or the pure Methodist Gospel? Or the summary of pure Gospel used by the Salvation Army?

All these pure Gospels are Protestant, as you know. All claim to teach the doctrine of Christ, whilst, in reality, each speaks a very different language.

Well, if, then, men can be saved as Catholics, why seek to lead them into religious communions where, for them at least, there can be no question of good faith, and where, according to their own conscience and the teaching of the Church, salvation is impossible.

Bishop Mountain of Quebec was more logical, when he said: "The Canadians are good, they practice their religion sincerely. I should have conscientious scruples in seeking to disturb their faith and make them Protestants."

MEANS OF CONVERSION.

You will scarce be arrested by a scruple, ladies. For at any price you must win over Canadians to Protestantism, and, dare I speak frankly, the means which you employ are not always such as Our Saviour recommends.

In the middle of winter, when distress is greatest in the homes of the poor, you go to the overburdened working-man and you open your purse, saying: "If

you come to our Church, we will give you all the necessities of life; you have children; send them to our schools, we will clothe and educate them free."

Your charity would be laudable did you not add that impious condition. Such a proposal is simply an immoral and sacrilegious traffic.

Some unfortunate yield to temptation and become Protestants in winter, hastening to become Catholics again in the spring, or when seized by some mortal disease. They do wrong, beyond doubt; they commit a deadly sin by exteriorly denying their faith, even when they keep it in their breasts.

E. HAMON, S. J.

THE POPE'S HEALTH.

His Remarkable Vigor Dwelt Upon by an American Correspondent

The Majestic Spectacle at a Recent Ceremonial at Which His Holiness Officiated.

Mr. James Creelman cables from Rome to The New York Journal: The Pope's voice ringing vigorously over the heads of the kneeling multitude in the Sistine Chapel this morning was the best answer to the declaration that the august "Prisoner of the Vatican" is dying.

A MAJESTIC SPECTACLE.

It was a majestic spectacle as the Pope entered the chapel on foot leaning on the arms of his assistants. He wore over his white silk cassock a magnificent trailing robe of crimson and gold, caught up with golden clasps, and his shoulders were covered with a cope of crimson, the mourning color of the Pontiff.

The Pope's head drooped and his shoulders were bowed with age, and as he advanced his hands trembled and his head shook. His face was bloodless, and the lines about his eyes and mouth were deeper than ever.

LEO'S REMARKABLE VIGOR.

But there is not a man of his age in the world who could have spoken with such a voice as that which pronounced Absolution to-day.

After the Pope had knelt before the altar he ascended to the dais and sat on the purple throne under the great canopy of purple and gold, and putting on his gold rimmed spectacles he surveyed the gorgeous scene spread out under that matchless velvet on which Michael Angelo set the supreme seal of his genius.

HIS PERSONAL APPEARANCE.

I could see the Pope's limbs shake and his mitred head nod while the ponderous master of ceremonies adjusted his robe. He is by nature a tall man, but his body is so bent now that he seems to be not much more than five feet.

When the mitre was lifted from his head I could see that his hair was thinner than before and his delicate, large ears stood out with startling distinctness.

HIS MIND UNIMPAIRED.

When the mitre was lifted from his head I could see that his hair was thinner than before and his delicate, large ears stood out with startling distinctness.

I have seen the Pope many times in the past few years, and I have talked with him face to face for an hour, and I am certain that I never saw stronger signs of intellectual vigor than he showed to-day.

FORCED TO DO HARD WORK.

It is true that he sometimes swoons after unusually hard labor, but that is an old story, and no man of his years is called upon to do so much exhausting daily work.

and neither Gladstone nor Bismarck would undertake to receive the number of visitors he is forced to meet every week.

Stretched out in two long lines before and at the side of the throne were twenty-one cardinals wearing purple robes for mourning, ermine capes and scarlet skull caps.

At the Pope's right hand stood Prince Colonna, hereditary Prince Assistant to the throne. Beside him sat Cardinal Parocchi, Vicar General of Rome, and probable successor to the papal throne.

Cardinal Satolli, now archbishop of the great cathedral of Santa Maria Maggiore, and the principal Roman adviser of the Pope on American affairs, sat in the centre of the longest line of cardinals.

Arranged against the west wall were bishops and archbishops in purple, tall monks robed to the feet in white, stout canons in snowy ermines, Oriental priests in crimson and black.

Beyond the screen of the chapel sat the diplomatic corps, behind which were the Roman nobles, resplendent in gold lace and sashes of scarlet, blue, yellow and green, and glittering with stars and crosses and golden chains.

Across the aisle from the diplomatic corps were the great ladies of the papal court, dressed in black and wearing black lace mantillas on their heads, and in their rear were two high tribunes, draped with crimson, green and golden fringe.

IN ANCIENT COSTUMES.

Imagine this brilliant picture and imagine the great chamberlains in medieval court costumes, with clanking swords and great white frills about their throats, loaded with gold chains and gleaming jewels, pacing the aisles between the gorgeous Swiss Guards, in plumed hats and bearing antique halberds, and imagine the golden crested helmets and shining blades of the noble guard.

At the high altar stood Cardinal Van Thiel, the officiating priest. The chant of the Sistine choir grew louder and then died away in trembling, wailing ecstasies.

Again and again the Pope descended and ascended the throne step and knelt down and stood up, and each time he seemed to grow stronger and more erect.

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At a meeting of the City Council of Cork an invitation was read from St. Finian's congregation (Protestant) inviting the Mayor and members of the Council to attend the consecration of Dean Archdale as Bishop of Killaloe.

St. Patrick's Presbytery, Cork, Feast of St. Bridgid, 1897.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.—Having seen in the newspapers of last Saturday that Mr. Mayor Meade announced in the Council his intention to be present on to-morrow, the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, at the religious ceremonial in the Protestant Cathedral, and that a Catholic ex-Mayor, Mr. Roche, proposed a resolution inviting others to join in doing the same, I feel that I would be wanting in my duty if I did not draw the attention of those gentlemen, and of the Catholic people at large, to the grave sinfulness and scandal of such an act, strictly forbidden as it is under special penalties by the Divine and Ecclesiastical laws.

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The Rev. Alexander P. Doyle, of the Paulist Fathers completed last Sunday a week's Mission services which he had conducted for the religious benefit of the convicts in Sing Sing prison.

Since Sunday morning I have been preaching to between seven and eight hundred prisoners a day. The enforcement of the provisions forbidding contract labor in the State prisons threw the men into absolute idleness, which is deleterious to morality and discipline.

Miss Annie Lynam, daughter of Mr. P. Lynam, the veteran member of the S.A.A.A., will be married on Wednesday, the 24th inst. to Mr. Edward Furst, of the Windsor Hotel. The ceremony will take place at St. Patrick's.

OUR IRISH LETTER

Another Daily Paper in Dublin; \$150,000 Capital Stock.

The Commemoration of the Centenary of '98—Births and Deaths The Workhouse and its Horrors News from Nenagh and Other Centres—The Foundation Stones of Prosperity in Ireland

DUBLIN, Feb. 26.—One of the chief features of the past week in political circles is the formation of a Joint Stock Company for the purpose of issuing a daily edition of the Dublin Nation, the organ of the Hedyites.

The new organization has purchased the interest of Mr. William M. Murphy in the Weekly Nation, Irish Catholic, and Irish Emerald, for the sum of £3,558, out of which he accepts £1,000 in shares of the new Company.

The approach of the centenary of '98 is still continuing to evoke great enthusiasm, the latest proposal in connection with the commemoration of the event being the erection of a monument to Dwyer, the insurgent chief of Wicklow.

The Kibberney correspondent of the Cork Herald says:

Mrs. Clifford, the wife of a laborer in humble circumstances, residing at Barry M. and gave birth to three sons. Dr. Wm. M. Swinney, who attended at the commencement of the triplets are exceedingly healthy, and that they and the mother are doing well.

The other side of the picture may be dwelt upon in the deaths of three persons whose lives, so to speak, united two centuries. One of them, Martin Walsh, died at Fiddown, Co. Tipperary, leaving a widow ninety-five; another, Nora Hanley, who died at Brurea, Co. Limerick, was over 104 years, and was considered the oldest woman in Munster.

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The action of the Mayor has been the cause of much severe criticism in the press and in the ranks of the Catholics of Cork generally.

The prospect of an immediate discussion of the Financial Relations question were somewhat dampened by the announcement made by Mr. Balfour, a few days ago, that the matter would not be considered until the middle of next month. (Concluded on eighth page.)