

The Catholic Record.

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Important that the old as well as the new address be sent us.

London, Saturday, April 23, 1898.

OUR INDIANS.

Returns presented to the Dominion Parliament show that the number of Indians in Canada is 99,364, of whom 70,394 belong to some Christian denomination. Of the Christians, 41,813 are Catholics, being 59.4 per cent. The remainder are distributed as follows: 16,129 Anglicans, 10,273 Methodists, 807 Presbyterians, and 1,362 of other denominations. The religion of 12,350 is unknown, and 16,677 are Pagans. The amount earned by Indians during the year 1897 reaches \$2,465,601. This would represent \$25 for each Indian, or about \$175 for each Indian family—surely a very small amount, and many families must have been in sore straits for a sufficiency to sustain life during the year.

TO AND FROM PRELACY.

Simultaneously with the announcement that Professor C. A. Briggs of New York has joined the Protestant Episcopal Church, it is stated that Professor H. P. Smith of Lanes University, Cincinnati, Ohio, has joined the Congregational Church, having secured a College professorship in that denomination. He was also under sentence of suspension for teaching doctrines very similar to those of Dr. Briggs, and was condemned by his Presbytery. The two Doctors hoped for a while to bend Presbyterianism to their views, by liberalizing it, but their present action indicates that they have faltered in their purpose. It is a curious fact that while Dr. Briggs has moved in the direction of Prelacy, his comrade, Dr. Smith, has gone in the opposite direction of modernized Puritanism, which tolerates every shade of religious opinion within its bosom. No doubt the Doctor will find Congregationalism more congenial to his Free thought principles than the austere teachings of Calvin and Knox.

THE NEW AUSTRALIAN CONSTITUTION.

There was a considerable amount of debating whether the new Australian Constitution should specifically recognize or not the existence of God, when the various colonies should be confederated. The matter has at last been decided by introducing into the preamble of the Constitutional draft adopted the words: "Humbly relying on the blessing of Almighty God." It was first intended to make no mention of God's name, but a majority of the delegates assembled in the Preparatory Committee agreed that it would be unbecoming in a Christian State not to admit God's universal dominion in its Constitution, and so the motion of the Free-thinkers who desired the omission was put aside. The secularizing movement was at first thought to be powerful, but it now appears that the great majority of the people desire the recognition of God which has been adopted. The movement for Confederation is greatly advanced, and the decisive step will probably be soon taken.

HONORED AMERICANS.

The Legislature of Maryland has selected two of the former citizens of that State who are deemed worthy to be honored by having their statues placed in the National Capitol, Washington, and, has appropriated \$24,000 for the execution of the work. The two citizens to be thus honored are Charles Carroll of Carrollton and John Hanson. Charles Carroll was a Catholic, and besides being one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, he was one of the most earnest advocates of Maryland is joining with the other colonies in formulating this document, and he succeeded in inducing it to do so, though previously that was not intended to be done. As he signed the paper a delegate in Congress remarked, "There go some millions, but there are many Charles Carrolls, and the British Government

will not know which one it is." It was on hearing this remark that he added the words "of Carrollton" to his signature, and he was afterwards always named with this suffix.

The A. P. A. who objected so vigorously against the placing of the statue of any Catholic in the statutory hall of the Capitol, will undoubtedly rage against the Maryland Legislature for selecting Charles Carroll for this honor, but the various States of the Union have too much patriotism to allow themselves to be turned from the paths of honor by the dark lantern association. Maryland is the third State which included a Catholic name among the two citizens most entitled to general gratitude for their patriotism and other benefits conferred upon the country.

DR. BRIGGS.

The celebrated Dr. Briggs, who has been Professor of Biblical exegesis in the Union Presbyterian Theological Seminary of New York, has been received into the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States by Bishop Potter. It will be remembered that the Faculty of the Seminary refused to obey the mandate of the General Assembly to dismiss the Doctor from his professorship, and thereby kept itself in a state of schism. It is not stated that the doctor has retracted his doctrinal errors which were the cause of his condemnation, and which included a practical denial of the truth and inspiration of Holy Scripture. It seems incredible that he would be admitted to membership in the Protestant Episcopal Church without such retraction, yet as he had no further quarrel with Presbyterianism than that he persisted in maintaining these doctrines, it is very probable that he will continue to adhere to them. If this be the case it shows a strange doctrinal condition in the Episcopal Church; but it did not require this event to show the confusion which exists there. Dr. Briggs has not gone further in the direction of Latitudinarianism or Deism than have done hundreds, or perhaps thousands of Anglican and Episcopal clergy members, including some Bishops, among whom we may mention the late Bishop Coleman of Natal, South Africa, who retained his See, though he wrote several books to destroy the authority of the sacred volume.

The family of Dr. Briggs preceded him into Episcopalianism.

IRELAND AND THE UNITED STATES.

The Legislative Assembly of the State of New York, last week, before closing its session, passed unanimously a set of resolutions expressing sympathy with Ireland in her efforts to obtain Home Rule. The resolutions declare that,

"Whereas the members of the Assembly of the State of New York are deeply interested in and sympathize with the Irish people in their efforts to obtain Home Rule, and feel that the granting of the same would result in happiness and prosperity both to Great Britain and Ireland; now, therefore, be it resolved: That the Assembly of the State of New York, at the close of its annual session, hereby extends to the Irish Nationalist party, and all Irish Home Rulers in both Houses of Parliament, its sincere sympathy with all constitutional efforts on their part, looking to the passage of such an act as will give Ireland in the near future that measure of autonomy consistent alike with wishes of a free people, forming an important part of the British Empire, and the honor and dignity of the United Government."

Copies of these resolutions were ordered to be sent to Mr. John Dillon, the Irish Nationalist leader, to the Earl of Kimberley, Mr. Wm. E. Gladstone, and the Earl of Rosebery.

It is gratifying to remark that the people of the United States still take so deep an interest in the welfare of Ireland that such resolutions should pass without a dissenting voice, whence we must infer that the sentiment in favor of Ireland is universal in the United States without distinction of party ties. The sympathy of a free country, thus generously extended to suffering Ireland, must have great weight with all thinking people in Great Britain, and will greatly aid in opening their eyes to the necessity of granting Ireland's demands in order to strengthen the British Empire itself.

It has been objected by the opponents of Home Rule that such a measure would destroy the union of sentiment between the two countries, and would tend directly to the dissolution of the Empire. This spontaneous expression of feeling by the Legislature of a country in which the Home Rule of each State has been tried for over a century, is valuable as showing that its effect is to increase the general con-

tentment of those who enjoy it, and to create a closer friendship between the people of the different States, instead of resulting in mutual jealousies and dissensions. It is natural that such a result should follow, as all causes of discontent are removed when neighboring States allow each other to govern themselves without interference from outside with matters of local interest and importance. This non-interference produces friendship, and the same effect would follow if Home Rule existed in Ireland.

No doubt the New York resolutions will strengthen the convictions of the Liberal statesmen to whom they have been sent, and will help to make them advocate Home Rule more strenuously than ever.

It will be remarked that the resolutions are not dictated by any hostility toward England, but are couched in most friendly terms. We have no doubt that their effect will be all the greater for this reason. They prove that the people of the United States would be more friendly than ever to England if justice were granted to Ireland, and if in the past the people of the United States have shown hostility that feeling was the result, in a great measure, of the tyrannical manner in which the demands of Ireland have been hitherto set aside.

WANDERING ANTI-CATHOLIC LECTURERS.

In view of the fact that anti-Catholic lecturing humbugs of the Widdows, Slattery and Margaret Shepherd stamp are so frequently received with open arms by Protestants, and are even allowed to deliver their lying tirades against Catholics in the public halls and Protestant churches, it is a real pleasure to observe that there are many Protestants who will give no encouragement to such impostors.

As these frauds usually put forward the false pretence that they are ex-priests or ex-nuns, it is supposed by some persons that they know that whereof they speak, and their falsehoods concerning the pretended immorality of the Catholic clergy and religious orders are taken by the ignorant multitude as gospel truths.

It usually occurs that these lecturers are patronized by the local ministers of the various sects. It is, therefore, gratifying when some Protestant clergymen come out openly in denunciation of these frauds, who are without exception as obscene in their discourses as they are false and hypocritical.

A case in point will be remembered by many of our readers, who are aware that the Rev. Mr. Macdonald, a prominent Presbyterian clergyman of St. Thomas, warned his flock against the immoral and mendacious lectures of Mrs. Shepherd when she was receiving ovations from the Apostles and Orangemen all over this province. Mr. Macdonald publicly informed his people that Mrs. Shepherd was a woman of evil repute, whose lectures were vile, and that no reliance could be placed upon her statements, as she was a woman of notoriously bad character.

Recently some of these pretended ex-priests or ex-nuns have been lecturing in Wilmington, Delaware, and they had some financial success, their lectures being attended by large crowds who were willing to hear any lies uttered against the Catholic religion. But the Wilmington Morning News has bravely made known the true character of these prurient impostors, and it thus warns the public against them:

"Ex-priests who speak only to men, and ex-nuns who speak only to women, evidently do not speak of things that should be spoken of in public. These wandering impostors, for such they are generally believed to be, should not be encouraged by self-respecting and right-thinking people. In addition, books 'exposing' the work of a particular Church are in circulation, the contents of which clearly come within the line of obscene literature. The people of Wilmington have been infected recently with a type of this objectionable class, and are to have another visitation. It strikes us that the police authorities have a duty to perform in the premises. If the so-called lecturers are unfit for both men and women at the same time, then such lectures assume the phase of an offence against law and order and common decency. We have no patience with such mountebanks. They are not inspired by pure motives and they should be dealt with."

Ordinarily the Protestant press are very much averse to run counter to the sentiment prevailing among their readers, to such an extent as to expose the lies of these itinerant falsifiers, but there have been many honorable exceptions, and we desire to give due credit to those Protestant journalists in

Ontario who have been just as honest as the Wilmington Morning News. Among these Canadian papers, we have pleasure in specifying the Brockville Recorder, which made a full exposure of Mrs. Shepherd when she was visiting Brockville, and at the same time conducting for a while one of the city papers with the object in view to influence the municipal elections so that a council might be elected which would grant to her, and others like her, the free use of the city hall for all anti-Catholic lectures. The Brockville Recorder did a good work in exposing her vile character, and contributed towards making her bid a long good-bye to Ontario.

METHODIST MINISTERS WANT BLOODSHED.

If any further proof were wanting of the demoniacal spirit of hatred with which the ministers of some of the Protestant sects are animated against the Catholic Church, we would have it in the resolutions passed in New York city by the conference of Methodist ministers held there last week. The number of ministers present is reported to have been three hundred, representing a membership of the fifty five thousand Methodists of the city, and of course this membership has been inculcated with the same principles of hatred with which their religious teachers are inspired.

One would suppose that at a representative conference of the ministers of a Christian denomination, held just before Easter, and during the week when Christians commemorate the infinite mercy of God in the work of man's redemption, the purpose would have been to increase the love of their flocks for God, and for all mankind for God's sake; but instead of this the assemblage occupied itself with abusing a Christian nation, and it resembled more a stormy political meeting than a religious gathering. We are told by the papers that a report was adopted on national affairs, which "was greeted with cheers and prolonged applause." This report consisted of abuse of Spain and a demand for Cuban independence. Only three votes out of three hundred were given in favor of a peaceful solution of the trouble which has arisen between the United States and Spain.

We do not deem it any part of our duty to defend the Spanish regime in Cuba. We have always maintained the right of Ireland to autonomy, and we believe that the same privilege should in justice be extended to the people of Cuba; but it must not be forgotten that even at this moment Spain has conceded an autonomy which might well satisfy the most ardent Cuban patriots, if the insurgents were not encouraged by the filibustering which has been going on from the United States for many years to keep alive the disturbances which have been chronic in the island for half a century.

Cuba has been more or less constantly in a state of war ever since as far back as the memory of the present generation goes, and in judging the conduct of the Spanish masters of the island, we should do them the justice of judging them in the light which all history throws upon the case. It is not the custom, with nations to give up easily their possessions, and it cannot be a greater crime for the Spaniards to endeavor to hold theirs than for others to do the same. It is, therefore, far from being evident that in the face of the fact that even now the Spaniards have granted autonomy to Cuba, the United States would have justice on its side in insisting on absolute independence for the island, and in making war upon Spain for the purpose of securing this. At all events, it is not proper to make it a question of religion to drive the Spaniards out of Cuba by force, as the New York conference has done, under the hypocritical pretence that it is promulgating the gospel of peace. The details of a war are always terrible to contemplate, and it is not at all surprising that there should be many horrid episodes in the conduct of both sides, during the many years while Cuba has been in a disturbed state.

The motives which have influenced the Methodist Conference to issue its manifesto would be evident, even though the cloven foot were not made manifest. It was influenced by hatred against the Catholic religion and this is shown without any attempt at concealment. The report, in fact, which was adopted, was written by a well-known A. P. A. chaplain, and the animus against Spain is exhibited when it states that Spain should be driven from Cuba because of "its sacrilegious pretence of claiming to be a

Christian nation." Further, the report says:

"We want no overtures from our Government nor to our Government for settlement of the burning questions confronting us as a nation, emanating from Rome. Let efforts emanating from that source exhaust themselves in humanizing and civilizing Spain. American institutions will guard their own honor."

If it were perfectly true that the Pope had offered himself as a mediator between the two countries, this language would be entirely unjustifiable. It is surely not a good reason to wage a war of desolation which will bring sorrow to thousands of homes in both contending countries, because the Pope had spoken for peace, nor is it a proof that these ministers are men of God, because they are jealous that the Pope is animated by the true Christian spirit of mercy and good will to men.

But as a matter of fact the Pope did not offer to mediate. It was so stated in the telegraphic despatches once, to be contradicted the next day, though it is true that he expressed the desire that both countries would find a way to settle the dispute without bringing on the horrors of war; and there is still good ground for hope that the Pope's desire will be realized, in spite of the shouting of the ministers for blood.

The Holy Father's desire was that of a true Christian, and the head of a Christian Church, and the ministers who were in such a hurry to found a set of unjust resolutions on the erroneous report of a Roman correspondent, proved that they were animated by a spirit which comes not from God nor from love of their country. They are animated neither by religion nor by patriotism. In bringing up the matter at all in their conference they went outside of their duty, for it is a matter which will be decided finally, not by the religious beliefs of the two nations, but by their political aspirations and interests. If the horrors of war come once more upon the people of America, the Americans will after a while ponder whether the criminal interference of the ministers has not been one of the chief causes of the sad consequences of a war, the effects of which will be felt for generations, and Methodism will be no gainer by the thoughtful meditation which will be given to the subject.

The absolute falsehood of the report that the Holy Father had offered himself to President McKinley as mediator, is made evident by the words of Cardinal Gibbons in an interview with a correspondent of the New York Freeman's Journal a few days ago. It was asserted that the Cardinal was the medium by whom the Pope's desire was conveyed to the President, but the Cardinal said:

"There is not a word of truth in it (the report). I have not seen the Pope for some time. Nevertheless I hope for peace, and to day I am glad to say the outlook appears to be better. War is always to be deplored, and history shows that, as a rule, matters have always been worse after it than before. The ruin and distress are incalculable. I have conversed with many famous officers on the subject of war, and have never found one who liked it. Men like General Sheridan, whom I knew, and who have witnessed the horrors of conflict, had an abhorrence of it. Such men never drew their swords but as the last resort."

Thus the Cardinal shows not only the falsity of the report which was so gladly seized upon by the Methodist ministers as a certainty, but he also speaks as a true Christian, and in this he is greatly at variance with the preachers who wish to satiate their thirst for blood, and to satisfy their spleen.

The ministerial sneer to the effect that the Pope would be better occupied in civilizing and humanizing Spain, than in endeavoring to bring peace to men, is as false in suggestion as it is mean and criminal in intent. It is criminal, because its purpose is murderous, and it is false because its suggestions that the Catholic religion is inimical to humanity and civilization, which are things which the Catholic Church and the Pope fostered and encouraged for ages before any one dreamed that there would ever exist such a thing as Methodism.

THE WAR CLOUD.

The war fever in the United States is still at its height, and both in the Senate and the House of Representatives, speeches denunciatory of Spain have been the order of the day since our last issue.

The President's message to Congress was a calm document, asserting the culpability and cruelty of Spain in her treatment of Cuba, and asking power from Congress to take such decisive steps as he may deem necessary, to put an end to the state of disorder

by establishing a stable government. For this purpose he asks authority to make such use of the military resources of the United States as he may deem expedient. The message does not demand, as it was expected would be the case, that Spain withdraw from Cuba, nor that the Cuban Republic be recognized, for the President is satisfied that as matters stand the insurgents have no organization which can be styled a government at all, much less a stable one.

The House of Representatives has acted upon the President's suggestion, and passed the resolution placing in his hands all the power for which he asked, but it added an injunction that he should positively demand the independence of Cuba.

The matter has been before the Senate ever since it passed the House of Representatives. Its course there was more slow than in the lower House, not that the Senators are any more a deliberating body than the popular Representatives, but, apparently, because many of them wish to earn some cheap popularity by their fiery denunciations of Spain. At last, however, they have reached a conclusion, and have added to the demand of the other House, a declaration to the effect that the Republican government of the insurgents be recognized as the actual government of the island. Many members of Congress regard this decision as an insult to the President, who has said that there is no insurgent government fit to be recognized, and it is believed that the Senate will be obliged to yield on this point. At all events their action will produce delay, and it may be that, after all, war may be averted through these delays.

The Spaniards appear to take the matter more coolly, but notwithstanding their inferiority in wealth and population to the United States they proclaim boldly that they will go to war rather than give up their sovereignty over Cuba, and they, too, are preparing as rapidly as possible for the apparently inevitable conflict.

Spain has already offered complete autonomy to Cuba, but the insurgents have refused these terms, and have certainly been encouraged in their refusal by the Americans, on whose assistance they evidently rely for the establishment of their independence. In other matters Spain has also yielded much to the American demands, but to no purpose. There is a strong party in the United States bent upon war. These "jingo" do not count the cost of conflict, and in the critical moment, instead of deliberating calmly and patriotically on the President's dignified message to Congress, they have endeavored to make partizan political capital out of the situation. The consequence of this was a most disgraceful free fight in the House of Representatives, though the final result was that in the House, the President's policy was adopted, and the powers asked were given him, with the condition annexed, that he use them to obtain the independence of Cuba.

General Fitzhugh Lee, who was the American Consul at Havana, appears to have blundered in asking that all the American consuls should be withdrawn from the Spanish West Indies before the publication of the President's message, and that American residents should be warned also to leave the country for safety. The Government acted on this advice, but it does not appear that this step was needed, as the Americans who still remained behind have not been molested, and the only result has been a general panic, the tendency of which is to increase the intensity of the war fever. At all events, the American envoy in Madrid, and the Consuls in the other Spanish cities, have not been recalled even as yet, and there has been no disaster to them on account of their stay. It is difficult to understand that there was any greater reason for the withdrawal of those who were in the West Indian Spanish possessions. General Lee probably advised what he thought best, and he has been lionized since his return to Washington, but this does not prove that he was indisputably prudent, and even while he was in Havana his bluster and menaces to the Spanish authorities were scarcely in keeping with the dignity of his office as representative of the American people.

The present condition is that the President has now practically the matter in his own hands, either to declare war, or to come to some reasonable arrangement with Spain. The only hope of a peaceful issue now lies in his good sense in exercising the powers which have been or may be expected to be soon conferred on him by Congress, and though he may find it

difficult to resist the pressure which is being brought to bear upon him to force the country into a war which can be of no profit to the United States, there is still some hope that the horrors of actual hostilities may be averted.

The only ground which would justify the United States in declaring war is that in no other way can the barbarities perpetrated by Spain on the Cubans be brought to an end; but there appears to be a reverse side to this picture. The sufferings which the Cubans are undoubtedly enduring are dreadful, but their destitution has come not from any intentional persecution on the part of Spain, but as a consequence of the unsuccessful civil war the Cubans have carried on for several years, and the inability of the Government to afford full relief while the country is in so disturbed a state. In fact the existing distress is the result rather of the devastation of the homes and plantations of the sufferers by the rebels, and of the black mail levied by them, than of misrule on the part of the Spaniards or their Government.

It is true that the Government did its share in the work of devastation, but looking at the whole case impartially it must be judged that the suffering is the inevitable consequence of the civil war, and not specially the fault of the Spanish Government. It is very doubtful, therefore, whether the United States has justice on its side in intervening to put an end to Spanish rule. Charity to the distressed is something very different from a political intrigue in favor of the plans of the sugar manufacturers, who are, to a great extent, Americans, and who are known to have been the fomenters of the present insurrection from the beginning.

LATER.—As we go to press we learn that an agreement has been reached. The deadlock between the two Houses of Congress was broken this (Tuesday) morning, and the Independence of Cuba clause was dropped, after a long struggle. The report of the Conference Committee was adopted by both Houses, and goes to the President to-day.

RELIGIOUS TOLERATION IN RUSSIA.

The Emperor of Russia, who was several times reported to have been desirous of putting an end to the persecutions which have been carried on in that country for conscience sake, but who has hitherto done very little to show that he is really in favor of liberty of conscience, has at last taken a decisive step in this desirable direction.

It is true that Nicholas moderated the persecuting spirit which was let loose upon the Poles during the reign of his predecessor, and the new Governor who was sent by him to Warsaw was instructed not to continue the bloody work of forcing the Catholic Poles at the point of the bayonet to attend Mass in the schismatical churches, but, notwithstanding all this, the harassing of the Catholics was kept up, though not quite with so much harshness; and cruelty as formerly, and several priests and laymen were sent to Siberia during the present reign for no other reason than that they refused to conform to the schismatical religion.

This persecution was kept up also against the German Catholics and Protestants alike who have settled in the districts of the Empire bordering on the Balkans.

It has been ascertained that the cause of the continuance of these persecutions was the President of the Holy Synod, Constantine Pobiedonosteff, who exercises great power in the Empire, being in a position which ranks next in authority to that of the Emperor himself. Hence he was able in some instances even to thwart the Emperor's will, and to continue the persecutions even when the Emperor desired them to come to an end.

The Holy Synod is absolute in its authority over the Russians in all matters pertaining to religion, and so it is easily understood that it is difficult even for the Emperor to strip it of all power. It has been the policy of Pobiedonosteff to oblige all Russians to conform to the Greek Church, and thus the persecutions have been continued even down to the present time. Regiments of the rough Cossacks have been employed by the Holy Synod to enforce its decrees, and even the Pagan and Mahometan subjects of the Czar, have been forced to receive baptism from the Russian priests, while efforts were also made to suppress all forms of Christianity except that of the Russian schismatical worship.

But the Czar appears now to have determined to put an end to this state of affairs, having recently proclaimed that his subjects shall no longer be persecuted on account of their religious belief, and Constantine Pobiedonosteff has been deposed from his position as Procurator of the Holy Synod on account of his brutal treatment of all who would not accept the Greek Church established in Russia. There is but little doubt that this great step toward religious toleration will give new vigor to the Catholic Church in the Empire, and that the number of Catholics will increase rapidly under the new policy of toleration which has been inaugurated.