

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

Weekly Correspondence of the Register.

New York, Dec. 11, 1893.

New York is putting itself in becoming attire for the approach of Christmas; but to a Canadian, accustomed to seeing that feast portrayed in a foreground of snow, it is difficult to harmonize the brilliant holiday displays with the present November weather. Last week a slight fall of snow made a vain attempt to put nature in keeping with our yuletide traditions, but it only succeeded in adding to the mud of the streets.

But unfortunately it is not in externals alone that this Christmas promises to be out of keeping with its glorious traditions. The financial depression, a subject of newspaper comment in Canada, finds its stern reality here, and many an unfortunate will be thankful for the bare necessities of life without the extra Christmas cheer.

It is difficult to predict what effect the new tariff arrangements, if passed, will have on the present conditions. New York, though pre-eminently a commercial city, still possesses more extensive manufacture than any other city in the Union, and will be largely affected, for better or worse, by any change of tariff. So far, except in lumber and eggs, the action of the Committee seems to have little bearing on Canada. But, judging by the discordant attitude of many Democratic members, there is no possibility of predicting what the party will accomplish in revising the present rates.

In city and state politics there is, consequent on the late Tammany reverses, another of the periodical attempts to oust that organization from power. Several new Democratic societies, from the Good Government Clubs of the brown stone districts to the personal organizations of disgruntled politicians down town, have been started for that purpose. Meanwhile Tammany smiles and keeps working along, confident that its opponents must fail from lack of unity. It is a common mistake made by persons outside the city to believe that Tammany and the Irish are synonyms, and yet Tammany embraces in its mighty grip members of every nationality in this mixed city, while many of the leaders of the rival bodies are Irish-American. In fact there are Irish names at the head of nearly every political movement here. The strongest man in the most powerful of the organizations lately started is William R. Grace, an Irishman by birth, and a successful candidate for the mayoralty against Tammany a few years back.

As might be supposed, this city offers little ground for A. P. Aism. As I heard a speaker remark on the evening of election, such narrowness and ignorance may seem natural in the backwoods of Michigan or in the rural districts, but it would never find root in New York. As I heard the remark, I thought he struck an unwittingly hard blow at Ontario; but who will say it was not deserved, especially after the disgrace of the Lambton election? With their usual consummate hardihood they have indeed opened an office in Madison Square and begun their campaign of lies, but that is just what Catholics like to see. Hitherto New York papers have only alluded to them incidentally, as they might to any trivial event; but now that they have come out under the search-light of Madison Square attention may be drawn to them, and the metropolitan daily press, with all its faults, never openly sided with bigotry.

A stir of passing interest was created by the announcement that Father McGlynn was a candidate for the position of Minister to Italy. It is not certain that Dr. McGlynn personally lent his name to the move-

ment, but it soon became evident that there was little probability of its being successful. As one of the politicians expressed it, an erratic priest can scarce be the best representative of the government.

Sunday's papers inform us that 1,5000 Poles, representing the 60,000 Poles of Buffalo, have entered a manly protest against the calumnies of Bishop Coxo, who said they were at the disposal of any politicians who would purchase them of "Manager" Satolli. The doughty bishop has very salamander-like propensities for hot water, but even he may get too much of his chosen element if he continues in his course of slandering everything that savors of Rome.

In this connection I might refer to the report which the *Kurier* mentioned last week concerning "senile decay" of the Pope's faculties. The *World* of Friday contains an account given by Chauncey M. Depew, who had just returned from a personal interview with His Holiness. I cull a few sentences from the three-column report of this eminent lawyer's remarks:

"The Pope I watched carefully, and I can say confidently that the talk of his being in a feeble and broken-down condition is all bosh. He is a slender man, as is Mr. Gladstone, but taller and therefore seeming to be more thin. His face is thin and he has long, finely cut features, strictly Italian in contour.

"It has been said that he was weak and that his hands tremble constantly, as with palsy. This is not true.

"I have dined often with Mr. Gladstone under circumstances where I could judge accurately of his general condition, and I have no hesitation in saying that the Pope shows certainly as much vigor and health as does Mr. Gladstone. The Pope is nine months older than Mr. Gladstone and I consider him, if anything, the stronger man of the two.

"There is about the Pope a certain nervous intensity which might be easily mistaken for feebleness in his movements. But to me it indicated rather strength and vigor of mind, as well as of body.

"When the encyclical was mentioned he straightened up with all the vigor of a man of fifty, his eyes flashed, he grasped the arms of his chair and leaned forward as though intensely interested. Then for five minutes he poured forth a clear, succinct, earnest and eloquent statement of the position of the Church upon that question.

"I wish I could repeat it, or translate even approximately into our language the beauty and intensity of his remarks. But I cannot.

"The interview lasted in all, I should think, half an hour. It left with me the impression that the Pope is a man of intense convictions, very strong intellectuality, great learning and absolute fairness.

"I am convinced that any question coming before him will be decided entirely upon his conviction of right and wrong, regardless of who may be helped or injured by the decision, and regardless of any personal relations he may have with either party."

FOR NINE YEARS.—Mr. Samuel Bryan, Theford, writes: "For nine years I suffered with ulcerated sores on my leg; I expended over \$100 to physicians, and tried every preparation I heard of or saw recommended for such disease, but could get no relief. I at last was recommended to give Dr. THOMAS' ELECTRIC OIL a trial, which has resulted, after using eight bottles (using it internally and externally) in a complete cure. I believe it is the best medicine in the world, and I write this to let others know what it has done for me."

He who sedulously attends, pointedly asks, calmly speaks, and ceases when he has no more to say, is in possession of some of the best requisites of man.

Power will intoxicate the best hearts as wine the strongest heads. No man is wise enough nor good enough to be trusted with unlimited power.

Christmas Holly.

Written for the Register.

December, bleak and hoary, is here, robed in her mantle of snow, with her necklace and jewels of icy crystals. Yet December touches the human heart more kindly than May, for it brings us Christmas, the very source of eternal hope and love. December is nature's sadness, and nature's gladness. Light appears in the darkness; joy comes from the sorrow. Mankind's sin brings the Redeemer, whose light is to be man's light, whose life is to be man's life. Rejoice, then, that Christmas is near, for Christmas brings the tidings of great joy that Christ is born for us in Judea. Listen and you can still hear those Angels whose "Gloria" on the mountain was the sweetest hymn that nature ever heard. How well the Holly symbolizes all that Christmas means. Its circle of briars, its white blossoms, its green leaves and red berries made it a welcome decoration in home and church, for men thought it brought good luck.

"Holly Briars!" You tell of Bethlehem and its manger, with the Babe, beginning, amid the briars of suffering, a life which is to end only when the lances of Calvary shall pierce His heart.

"Holly White Blossom!" You tell of the flower blossoming on Aaron's rod! You recall the Child of Bethlehem whose hand fashioned earth and heaven; the white blossom of God's power, His very Word whose fragrance is to atone for man's ingratitude and heal the ills of mankind.

"Holly Green Leaves!" Human gratitude, as an evergreen, is to spring from the crib, which is to all a source of man's undying love for God. Years may pass, Summer may go and Winter may chill, but never shall the human heart be without hope, for Christ is born in Bethlehem.

"O, Red Berries of the Holly!" You tell of blood! Christians, can you not see the red berries around the brow of the Infant Saviour, that tell of that bleak Christmas night and its suffering, that tell of Calvary, whose Cross may be seen hovering over the manger?

Thorn shod, red-berried, evergreen Holly, you belong to Christmas! and your branch carries good luck to the faithful soul.

Gather, then, the Holly; wreath it round and round. Fitting emblem for our infant God, as He lies in the crib of Bethlehem.

A happy Christmas to us all.

Intemperance.

Intemperance is one of the greatest evils of the day. Society is everywhere debauched with it. The annual drink bill of the United States alone is said to be \$900,000,000, and it is very largely incurred by the working people. Who does not know the horrible evils that follow in the reckless train of drunkenness? What man or woman heart and conscience can fail to be moved by the physical, moral and social ruin that everywhere stares us in the face? Who will not sympathize with the degradation and miseries of drunken husbands and unnatural fathers? Who will refuse a helping hand to lessen this awful havoc? What priest of God can behold it and not be moved to acute zeal in the cause of temperance and even total abstinence? I say here to-day, and I say it boldly, too, that the very first encouragement to this important work must be given by our bishops and priests. Without their active interest and persevering co-operation nothing will be done to cure this dreadful evil of intemperance and uplift the people and save society, even though you continue to hold Catholic congresses from now until the crack of doom.—Bishop Watterson.

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