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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION.

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA.

Ottawa, Canada March 7th, 1903.

To the Editor of THE CATHOLIC RECORD,

Dear Sir: For some time past I have read

your estimable paper, THE CATHOLIC RECORD, and

and congratulate you upon the manner in

which it is published.

Its matter and form are both good; and a

very Catholic spirit pervades the whole.

Therefore, with pleasure, I can recommend

it to the faithful.

Believe me, Sir, to remain,

Yours faithfully in Jesus Christ,

AD. FALCOSTO, Arch. of Laramie.

Adopt. Delog.

Matter intended for publication should be

mailed in time to reach London not later than

Tuesday morning.

LONDON, SATURDAY, JAN. 31, 1903.

CARDINAL PAROCCHI'S DEATH.

The death of Cardinal Lucio Maria

Parocchi, sub-dean of the College of

Cardinals, is announced to have taken

place at Rome on the 15th inst.

The deceased Cardinal was an Italian,

born in 1833. He was created

Cardinal in 1877. At the time of his

death, besides being sub-dean of the

Cardinals, he was vice-Chancellor of

the Catholic Church, a very important

office.

His name has been frequently men-

tioned in connection with the pa-

pacy, it being supposed that he was

one of the prelates most likely to be

chosen for that office in the event of

the death of Leo XIII. His high char-

acter for all virtues and his eminent

ability as a statesman, a canonist and a

theologian, have been among the causes

which have led to his being regarded

in this light; but there is no reason

for the belief suggested by the Rome

reporter of the press that he "as-

pired to be Pope." It is antecedently

unlikely that he should have manifested

such a desire, as such a manifestation

would have been the greatest ob-

stacle to his election, had he desired

this.

The Holy Father was deeply affected

when the news of the Cardinal's death

was brought to him. He knelt in

prayer for a considerable time, and

said to the bystanders:

"These frequent deaths have made

me feel quite an old man."

Requiescat in pace!

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE LAWS.

So far back as four or five years ago

the number of divorced couples in

the State of Michigan was stated to be

one twelfth of all the married couples

of the State. At the present time the

proportion must be considerably greater,

for from all parts of the State the

news comes that since that time divorces

have steadily increased. In the single

circuit court of Wayne Co. 444 divorces

were granted during 1902, being an in-

crease of 94 over the previous year when

350 were granted.

At the beginning of 1902 there were

611 cases pending, but notwithstanding

the fact that so many cases were de-

clined, the number pending at the be-

ginning of the present year was 839,

showing a fearful increase in the number

of applications for divorce made during

the year.

It is remarkable also that during the

year 1901, 42 cases were discontinued

and 17 dismissed, whereas in 1902 there

were 29 discontinued and 10 dismissed,

showing 59 applications not granted in

1901 to 39 in 1902. The inference we

reasonably draw from this is that in

practice divorces are now granted for

more trivial causes than heretofore; and

frequently these causes have been ex-

ceedingly trivial.

Notwithstanding the great increase

in the number of cases coming before

the court, there were fewer contested

cases in 1902, the number being 78 in

that year as against 90 in 1901.

This decrease in the number of un-

contested cases is most readily ac-

counted for by the hypothesis that the

married couples have become conscious

that where divorces are granted on pleas

so trivial, it is useless to contest cases

where even a slight cause for separation

can be proved.

These figures show the alarming ex-

tent to which disregard for the marriage

tie is increasing; and we regret to have

to state that a similar condition pre-

valais in many other States than Michi-

gan. In some States, indeed, the

figures are not quite so alarming, but

in several others they are still worse

than those given above.

There have been spasmodic fits of

virtue among prominent statesmen dur-

ing recent years proposing that there

should be legislation on the subject

of marriage which would make it less

easy to obtain divorces, and that such

legislation should be uniform throughout

the country. We presume that the

difficulty of passing such legislation

under the existing constitution of the

country has been the chief cause why

there has been no further effort made

towards remedying the evil which has

become gigantic, and can now be

grappled with only by the most resolute

and determined agitation in every

State; and it is very doubtful whether

a sufficient number of States would pass

an amendment to the constitution

putting the matter under control of the

Federal Government.

We have no doubt that some States

would approve of such an amend-

ment; but whereas the Legislatures

of these States have already passed laws

making the marriage bond lax, it can

scarcely be expected that two-thirds of

these would now pass a law giving to

Congress the power of legislation on

the subject.

We may hope, however, that before

long, some States will grapple with the

evil within their own boundaries; and

it may be that time will induce the

requisite majority of States to give

Congress the powers required for the

remedying of the evil.

MORMONISM IN THE U. S. SENATE.

The question of Mormonism in Con-

gress is again disturbing the equanim-

ity of the United States Senators.

One of the twelve Mormon apostles,

Reed Smoot, has been nominated as

Senator for Utah by the Republican

caucus, which, it is supposed, makes

sure his election, as the Legislature is

Republican.

Many letters have been written both

to members of Congress and of the

Legislature protesting against the

selection, the simple ground of the

protests being that Smoot is a Mormon,

the writers regarding this fact as suf-

ficient ground of protest.

Our readers will remember that Mr.

Roberts was elected to the Senatorship

some years ago, and was unseated by

the Senate by a very decisive vote.

Against Mr. Roberts, however, be-

sides being a Mormon, it was objected

that he was in practice a polygamist,

and therefore a defier of the United

States law. But Mr. Smoot is a mono-

gamist, and it is possible that a differ-

ent view will be taken of his case by

the Senate.

Some of the Senators have declared

that Mr. Smoot's presence in their

respectable body would be very dis-

tasteful to them, but have added that

they do not at present see their way to

unseating him if his credentials are

found to be correct. Further than

this they are not disposed to discuss

the matter.

Reed Smoot has been one of the

Council of the twelve apostles of Mor-

monism since 1888. He was married

nine years ago and has five children.

THE HATRED OF FOREIGNERS IN CHINA.

The North China Daily News, a

paper published at Shanghai, makes

the statement that the Empress Dowager

of that country boasts constantly that

"the Empress never forgets." As a

natural consequence, she continues to

keep in mind the punishment inflicted

upon China by the European powers

who sent their forces thither to re-

lieve their ambassadors from the ter-

rrible siege to which they were sub-

jected in Peking during the Boxer ris-

ing. She entertains still the one idea of

revengeing herself and China upon the

Western barbarians.

The Daily News adds that there are

now Manchus to the number of 30,000

assiduously drilling in small sections

of half a regiment each or thereabout

to be ready for any emergency which

may arise, and these are armed with the

best of modern weapons. Their drilling

is carried on in secret so as not to

arouse suspicion, but it is well under-

stood that these new and choice troops

are being prepared for the day of revenge

upon the Europeans.

From other sources also, some of

which are the missionaries living in the

interior, it is learned that not only is

drilling carried on, but frequent attacks

are made upon missions and settlements

of native Christians. In some few

cases, when Europeans have been killed,

there is some dole of punishment in-

flicted, that is to say, when the

massacres become known to the Euro-

pean consular authorities and repara-

tion is demanded; but whenever by any

means the facts could be concealed, the

perpetrators of these outrages were

always unmolested. Especially was

this the case when the sufferers were

Chinese Christians who had no one to

interfere in their behalf.

These events show that the hatred of

the heathen Chinese against Europeans

is as great as it was before the Boxer

rising, for even when natives are

slaughtered, the chief reason for this is

that they are regarded as being con-

nected with Europeans, and to some

extent under European protection.

It is, of course, difficult for the

European powers to punish these doings

directly, as the concert of nations by

which the Boxer rising was suppressed

and the guilty parties punished to some

extent, was an experiment which it

would be difficult to make again. Of

this the Chinese are sharp enough to

be fully aware, and the fact emboldens

them to endeavor to repeat their former

deeds. It remains to be seen whether

or not history will repeat itself in case

of another Boxer rising, which appears

to be imminent. There is not a

doubt of the complicity of the Em-

press Dowager in the former out-

rages, and should they be repeated,

as it is to be feared they will be, it ap-

pears to be almost certain that the new

rising will have the same encourage-

ment from the Empress and the Gov-