## Catholic Record.

"Christianus mihi nomen est, Catholicus vero Cognomen." — "Christian is my Name, but Catholic my Surname."—St. Pacian, 4th Century.

VOLUME XIV.

LONDON, ONTARIO, SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 1891.

NO. 646

MODERN AGNOSTICISM.

[From a pastoral letter to the clergy and laity by Archbishop O'Brien, of Halifax.]

It is sometimes by reason of the un-It is sometimes by reason of the un-searchableness of God's wavs that faith in a soul tried by the disappointments of life may, through impatience at not knowing the reasons of these trials, nor God's designs in permitting them, grow weak and lapse into doubt and error; and that many who have not the gift of faith—thinking there should be no mystery hidden from them, refuse to accept the revelation of Christ. Not only that, but they deny the existence of a super-natural order, and seek to bring down the human soul and its noble faculties to the level of mere material things. With a wearisome iteration of obscure phrases, and of words that express old-time ideas in polysyllables of recent adaptation, they succeed in making themselves believe that they are profoundly learned; and if they can only copy a sentence from some German writer they impress on a certain number of the public a similar belief. It is disheartening to see how readily the average man outside the fold is misled by every catchphrase, and how eagerly he pins his faith to novel theories, provided only they are not Catholic. A man who may have acquired distinction in some one branch of physical science endeavors to explain all glory but not the power and action of the supernatural. physical science endeavors to explain all facts and phenomena of creation by the laws of that one branch. A moment's reflection should teach us that he can no more succeed in this than could an ape

more succeed in this than could an ape in constructing and operating a steam engine. Yet, by a dexterous use of the magic word "evolution," or that other one of which dabblers in science are so fond, viz., "environment," with the addition of some hezy expressions that have no particular meaning, the professor leads captive the intelligence of fairly intelligent men, and they join with him in despiting or denving the existence of gent men, and they join with him in deubting or denying the existence of God; or they seek to lull their conscience to rest by adopting the creed of cowards and superficial thinkers, viz., agnosticism, or, in other words, that God's writings in current literature, in which writings in current literature, in which existence can neither be proved nor dis proved. This is the fashionable form of proved. This is the fashionable form of unbelief at present. Its professors hope to escape the reproach of atheism, as

to escape the reproach of atheism, as well as the stigma of vulgar materialism. But they insult God by practically denying with the atheist His existence; and they degrade reason with the materialist, not by making it a function of matter, but in that they deny its power and capabilities. And yet these are the very men who pose as the champions of human reason, while in truth they are its human reason, while in truth they are its This error of agnosticism, although

This error of agnosticism, although new in name, is very old in reality. It may come like a revelation to some that it is old and vulgar, and altogether unreasonable. It was quite widespread in the days when St. Paul wrote to the Romans. Then, as now, its professors mocked at the Gospel, and "professing themselves to be wise, they became foels;" then, as now, "God gave them up to the desires of their heart, to unup to the desires of their heart, to uncleanness, to dishonor their own bodies among themselves;" then, as now, they changed the 'truth of God into a lie,' and

the faith that had been revealed: like the Catholic Church he was the cham pion of human reason and upheld the dignity of its power. He met the agnos ties of that day on their own ground, and pointed out how they could learn to know God through His works. He says:
"For the invisible things of Him, from the creation of the world, are clearly seen, being understood by the things de, His eternal power also and divinity; so that they are inexcus able." (Rom., i, 20). Therefore, the supernatural and unseen order can be known by man with invincible certainty. The visible things of creation—the trees, flowers, birds of the ai, the running waters instinct with myriad life—are so many books in which the mind of men ad the existence of their invisible Creator. Human reason can prove with absolute certainty that a supreme and final cause, endowed with intelligence and free will, actually exists. It is no working hypothesis;" no mere scientilic assumption introduced for reason ing out to a desired end ; it is no theory more or less probable; it is no postulate even; it is a fact which can be demonstrated with the severest mathematical precision. This is why the Apostle pro sounced the agnostics of his day What shall we say of those of our age? Their advantages are as sunlight to the glow-worm's lamp when compared with those enjoyed by men whom St. Paul held to be "inexcusable." They have eighteen centuries of Christian enlightenment; they have vast storehouses of philosophic knowledge in the works of St. Thomas Aquinas, and a sufficiency in any of the they may have neglected these; yet were they to reason calmly, with a desire to know the truth, from effect to cause, they could deduce, with of a demonstration in Euclid, from the existence of a simple primrose the existence of an

be a cause for the existence of that primrose; and though we may go back through a long chain of intermediate causes, working through agas and eons, back before the formation of the earliest geological stratum, back to the vapor period of our sphere, back to the first plasma, or elementary matter, we must, as an absolute necessity of logical induction, eventually come to a first cause, the fountain and source of all these intermediate ones. To deuy this is to deny one's reason; and this is precisely what those wide mouthed professors who are opposed to Christianity are continually in Ireland refer to the painful are opposed to Christianity are continu ally doing; and yet they are applauded and quoted as authorities by professing Christians.

In our reasoning from effect to cause

there is no assumption, no "working hypothesis," no begging the question and no obscurity of larguage to confuse and mislead. All is clotted with the invincible certainty of the logic of casusupernatural.
Sound principles of philosophy must

prevail and reason's noble attributes must be recognized if we would spread the truth of Christ. Men must have reason before they can have faith in act. The modern unbeliever, as a rule, degrades reason and denies its capabilities; there is, therefore, no basis for faith in his soul. Those who have inherited the faith lose it in proportion to the misuse they make of their rea-son. It is the story, "esteeming them selves to be wise they became fools." They would not read Catholic books nor style appears to make up for absence of ideas and connection of thought, and imbued with its fallacies, and neglecting their religious duties, but easily fell under the tempter's sway. Having abused and in part denied their reason, faith was sapped, and soon destroyed. This is the genesis and the abridged history of the fail from the faith of some young men in our

Our duty, dearly beloved brethren of the clergy, is plain. In the confession of shifting creeds and loud-mouthed denials the clergy, is plain. In the confession of shifting creeds and loud-mouthed denials of the supernatural, we must, like St. Paul, uphold the dignity of human reason, the oneness of the revealed truth, and the evidence of God's action in the universe. Take occasion from time to time to give short and plain instructions on these subjects, using, like the Apostle, both the conclusions of reason, as shown in our philosophies, and the teachings of Divine faith. Never weary of setting forth a fact too often overlooked, viz, that only in the Cathoids system can the conclusions of right reason and the truths of revelashifting creeds and four-mouthed density of the supernatural, we must, like St. Paul, uphold the dignity of human rea-son, the oneness of the revealed truth, and the evidence of God's action in the uniof right reason and the truths of revela-tion be harmonized and made mutually helpful. Not being "ashamed of the Go pel;" knowing it to be the "power of God unto salvation;" and being assured

contradict truth;" and she imposed on the teachers of philosophy the duty of proving from human reason the existence f God, and the simplicity and spirituality of the soul; adding that these can be known by the light of reason. As truth, then, can never be opposed to truth, it follows that no discovery in any branch of knowledge can be opposed to, or can injure by one jot or tittle, any other truth whatsoever, whether natural or super-natural. The reason of all truth, both natural. The reason of all trial, joint revealed and naturally acquired, is in God, the source and cause of all being and all reality. Hence, whilst by His revealed word He may and does teach higher and more profound truths than He teaches by the intelligence through the book o nature, still, when rightly understood, they can by no possibility involve a contradiction. Scientists from time to time tradiction. Scientists from time to time are obliged to readjust their views and to abandon their pet theories. The gelatin ous mud from the depths of the ocean, called Bathybius, and thought by Huxley to be of organic origin, has been shown to be the outcome of chemical action; and the explosion of Darwin's elaborate theory on coral formation, which, like Bathy blue, it was proclaimed would shatter Christendom and shiver the Bible into atoms, are instances in point. We learn from them to be caucious in admitting ovel conclusions, and to smile at the vain attempts so often made to oppose the truth of the Gospel. Should St. Paul, or an angel from heaven, preach a gospel different from that which we have received, we would cry, "let him be ana-thema." (Gal., i, 8). This is our secur thema." (Gal., i, 8). This is our secur-ity and the insurmountable barrier to unbelief. In this we have to fight single handed; for any man, or body of men, who admit the possibility of a change or hand books of Catholic philosophy in who admit the possibility of a change or revision in the smallest article of revealed truth, much though they protest or deny, judice, or pride of intellect, or from open the door to agnosticism. We ask in all charity and good will, where, outside the Catholic Church, is the power to stay and conquer modern unbelief? All, all, except she admit the fatal weakness existence of a truth of their teachings. Would that
There must men of good will might think seriously

In their Lenten pastorals nearly all the Bishops in Ireland refer to the painful controversy over the national leadership. Bishop Gilboely, of Elphin, says: "The present calamitous condition of our below." beloved country, as regards political mat-ters, requires of me to give you a few words of advice as to your moral and religious duty in this crisis. You are aware that the Bishops of Ireland, myself amongst the number, have fully and anx nously considered the duty of the Catholics of Ireland in reference to the leadership

barelaced between the control of the

Surmount opposition.

Bishop Donnelly of Clogher, says:

"You have seen our Parliamentary
Party disrupted, our National organiza tion broken up, ccanes of deplorable vio-lence enacted, and our country made a spectacle to the world around us; and all this through the agency of a man who, after great public services, which we shall ever acknowledge, has fallen into shame. ful crimes, and who, instead of retiring, even for a time, from the gaze of the world, has come forth brazeu-facedly, world, has come forth brazen-facedly, from the Divorce Court and all its scan dalous disclosures, insisting that he shall still be recognized as the leader of the Irish nation. You have seen this man

without whose aid we could never expect the attainment of our National

The Bishop of Galway says:

"Terrible is the responsibility of any
man or set of men whose utterances are
calculated to poison the minds of our
Catholic people with ungodly principles
and to undermine the foundations of faith
in the Catholic country. in this Catholic country. In working out the political problem of our unhappy country we are called upon to still accept

as the Moses of our race a man steeped to the lips in moral turpitude. And if our people are expected to close their eyes upon the moral record of their Moses, it may soon come to pass that they shall be told that they must not be squeamish as the methods of political warfare either. Abyes invokes abyes' in the headlong course of godless politics (Ps. xii) Against such reversal of the traditions of our Catholic country we must not cease to

Armsgh, deals with the subject at great Among other things he case ength. Among other things he cays:

"It is painful, above all, to be obliged o condemn the conduct of a gentleman whom, in common with the great body of my countrymen, I admired and trusted—them (cheers). After passing ten minutes yes, trusted to such a degrees that, till the in Tripperary, Mr. Morley said he saw fact was forced on me by evidence I could mere cheering made a pretext for the no longer resist, I refused to believe that, violent dispersal of a small crowd. The holding in his hands the destinies of a police adopted a course on that occasion nation, he could batter them away for a for which, in England, Colonel Caddell

The Primate, Archbishop Legue of

hopes, the ruin of our cause, the old curse of our race, dissens on, a dissension, too, which shall be permanent, all compromises to the contrary notwithstanding. I think I have a right to speak for myself—I believe I can speak with confidence for the clergy of the archdiccese, and for the laity too, with very few exceptions. Speaking in their name and my own, I pledge myself, on my own and their behalf, that we shall never follow a banner which we are aggeration. He (Mr. Morley) was ready ashamed to unfurl, lest the nations should opes, the ruin of our cause, the old curse

point to the dark stain on its folds. What I say I have no doubt others in my position will also say. I am confident I do

MORLEY SCORES BALFOUR.

A FIELD-NIGHT IN THE COMMONS. BALFOUR SNEAKS BEHIND T. W RUSSELL

of Ireland in reference to the leadership of the Irish representatives in Parliament. They declare that they consider the late leader utterly disqualified, not by his non-Catholic creed, whatever that may be, but by the scandalous disclosures of his infamous life, to continue to lead a Christian and Catholic people, that Catholic Ireland cannot trust, respect, or obey him. His political acumen is not deuised, but it cannot be viewed separately from his loatsome immortality; and even if it could, he should, on political as well as religious grounds, forfeit every claim to the continued respect and confidence of our people. The Liberals of Great Britian repudiate his leadership, the Bishops and priests of Ireland can have no contact in politics with him or with those who continue to uphold and justify him; his own barefaced persistence in clinging to the leadership in spite of such repudiation, should of itself prove to any thoughtful man trebly armed in simple truth; and after a weak attempt to get off one of man that he is thoroughly reckless of the interests of our country, and influenced only by an insane ambition to defy and and left his place to be taken, and the dirty work of calumny and misrepresen tation to be done by the recreant T.

W. Russell, the meanest and most obsequious political cur that now yelps, as he is ordered, in the train of the Ministry and the Orange Tory landsords.
Of course, Baltour was certain before,
hand of the final result of the vote (there was practically no debate); for the Government "whips" had done their part, and had mustered every available man of the Tory Whig combination, who can always be depended on to follow their leaders into the Ministerial lobby, when it is a question of voting down any proposition looking to rendering the smallest measure of justice to Ireland or the Irish prople. But, even with every argument in their favor, and twenty seven of the Irish members absent, from one cause or another, the Government only succeeded in defeating Morley's motion by a very reduced majority, while the fact that two hundred and forty five members of the English House of Com mons, by their votes for Mr. Morley's resolution of censure, declared that the sham trials by which William O Brien and John Dillon and their associates have been consigned to prison were an outrage and violation of all Constitutional

of date by recent events, was most oppor-tune in view of the fact that two prominent Irish members of Parliament but a couple of days previously, passed on their way into prison within sight of the House The imprisonment of these mem-House The imprisonment of these members of Parliament was the climax of the Tipperary prosecutions. He appealed to House as to whether, until September last, his attitude toward the Irish police had been hostile; but after seeing for him self in Tipperary the working of the tremendous coercion machine, his eyes had been opened so as to estimate to what a putch of demoralization, brutality and law lessness the agents of Mr. Balfour had been brought by Mr. Balfour's standing up for every act of theirs, right or wron (caests), crediting every statement of the police, and refusing to make any inquiry,

nation, he could barter them away for a shameful intrigue. Talk of fidelity to the country, of never having proved False to Ireland, with such a fact staring us in the face.

"Are we, Irishmen, then expected to sacrifice our sense of decency, to tarnish almost the only little gem that has been repared to us? And what are we to pain And what are we to gain used brutal, ferocious and absolutely un-We are to gain blighted provoked violence, of which any iplined force in the world ought to be

brought (cheers).
At this point Mr. Balfour signified dissent, and Mr. Morley asked him if he meant to say that he (Mr. Morley) shrank

from going into a court of evidence.

Mr. Baifour—No; but your friends succeeded in postponing the trial until

March.
Mr. Morley, continuing, said that the preciding Judge had held that the reasons London, February 20.

Judging by the manner in which it opened, this week bade fair to be a stirring one in the House of Commons, for, ac cording to the predictions of the various

for a moment be tolerated in England) had altenated the people of Ireland, Alludding to Mr. T. W. Russell's amendelaborate preparations to back up his platform sneers at Morley's statement of what he saw in Tipperary; and that, in particular, the Calef Secretary had had verbatim copies of the police testimony ment, alieging that the action of the police of the failure of the Coercion Act; and thus, after three years, the Government confessed is inability to cope with the alleged complexey. This was probably the last time be would speak against the Coercion Act in the present Parliament The noiseless foot of time was rapidly bringing the day near when the present Government would be brought to account. The country would then require an explanation as to how the Overcion Act - s fraud upon the nation—had been admin-istered in a spirit of fraud on Parliament (cheers). Mr. T. W. Russell said that Mr. Morley

had spent three hours in Tipperary and bolted by the next train. He ridiculed the statement that the crowd was harmless. No Tipperary mob had ever before been held up to admiration as a pacific crowd. His amendment asked the House to vindicate the action of the police in view of the conspiracy of which Mesers. Dillon and O'Brien had been convicted. Their inciting advice turned Tipperary, which was one of the most prosperous towns of Ireland, into a place as desolate as if it had been swept by an avenging army. He would not contest Mr. Morarmy. He would not contest Mr. Mor-ley's right to share in the faction fight but why, while in Tipperary, did he not inquire of the people the causes of the local ruin? He would have learned that their misery was due to boycotting, ac-companied by every kind of violence Thanks to the Government, honest Irishmen had now a better chance of pursuing lawful business. Village ruffianism had been suppressed. Mr Morley sought to the hands of the Executive and prevent the protection of friends of law and order Mr. Gladstone expressed surprise that

the Government countenanced an

amendment such as that of Mr. Russell, evading the main accusation against Mr. Balfour as assisting to violate the civil rights of the people. Assailing the authors of the Pian of Campaign was not an answer to the charge. Mr. Balfour hanged the 'truth of God into a lie,' and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator." (Rom. i, 22). Did he lear their laughter or heir wrath, and deny God's truth, or only profess it with bated breath and with an air of apology? Far from it: like the unchanging nature of its abstraced by the frantic ambition of professes it with bated breath and with an air of apology? Far from it: like the unchanging nature of the satterd by the frantic ambition of professes it with bated breath and with an air of apology? Far from it: like the unchanging nature of the satterd by the frantic ambition of this unbappy man, and our Catholic Cauron of to day he boldly professes it with bated breath and the despel, for it is the power of God unto salvation, to every one that being the catholic Cauron of the Gaspel, for it is the power of God unto salvation, to every one that being the catholic Cauron of the cat an answer to the charge. Mr. Balfour defended the officers and the Executive into contempt, and was a violation of the rights of citizens. In urging it he said that the motion, instead of being put out of date by recent events, was most contempt to the first that the motion instead of being put out of date by recent events, was most contempt to the first the first that the motion instead of being put out of the first that the motion instead of being put out of the first that the motion is the motion is the first that the motion is the motion is the mo period when all sides felt that the country had special need of their service (Cheers). It was a noble stroke to close the prison doors on Mesers. O'Brien and Dillon on the eve of the discussion of a question on which they were best entitled to speak. (Cheers). Doubtless the Mouse would again distinguish itself by voting confidence in the Government. The conflicted in the Government. The vote, however, would not avert their coming doom nor obscure the ever grow the gridenes that the ing evidence that the country was deter-mined that the fellow subjects in Ireland should soon enjoy the same precious and

invaluable liberties possessed by Britain. (Cheers)
Mr. Gladstone spoke for half an hour He manifested no special enthusiasm till toward the close of his speech. Then his voice, in ringing tones, declared that the loom of coercion and the Government was assured. In the early part of his speech Mr. Gladstone turned his back upon the Government benches, and addressed his remarks directly to Mr. Russell. On the remarks directly to Mr. Russell. On the Conservatives shouting "Order!" Mr. Gladstone asked what the noise was about. Sir William Vernon Harcourt said : "They are howling at you. Those are their good manners." Mr. Giadstone turned about, manners."

Ar. Gladstone dais speech. Mrs. Gladstone occupied a seat in the ladies' gallery in full view of her busband. For the first time since their rupture the Irish members were grouped all together Parnell exchanged words with Messrs. McCarthy and Sexton, but ignored Mr.

Healy. Mr. Smith, First Lord of the Treas Mr. Smith, First Lord of the Treasury, who spoke somewhat indistinctly, accused, the Opposition of levelling general charges at those who were en gaged in administering the law in Ireland, instead of detailing the charges so as to enable the accused to defend themselves before Parliament and the country: Taough the motion was aimed

fault of his that an action had not be n at Mr. Balfour, the Government fully shared the responsibility. The Government was equally solicitous with Mr. Gladstone that every individual in freland should enjoy the perfect freedom they claimed in behalf of bycotted tenants in Tipperary. (Cheera) The debate was continued in an empty

house by Mr. MaNeil, and Mr. Corbett. An abortive attempt to count out the House brought a better audience for Sir Thomas Esmonde, Mr. Wyndnam, and Mr. Harrison. Interest then flagged till Mr. Balfour finally arose, when the burches filled up.
Mr. Balfour said that at first be was un-

one in the House of Commons, for, ac cording to the predictions of the various of a jury. The bench had been deliber to salvance, and the champions on both sides were to lead the political cohorts. Morley's motion of censure on the Irish Executive for their action in the Tipperary prosecutions had been fixed for discussion on Monday evening; and this, it was assumed, would be the first gun of a big battle; for every one recognizes that, under the present Tory rule, Balfour is the Irish Executive; and the Tory papers, which never three of beslavering him with the short meant to be released to try a great State case, to the tribunal to fail the tribunal that it was a continuation of the personal dispute between bimself and Mr. Morley, then proceeded to denounce the vindictiveness of the Irish Executive, whose actions, he said (which would not the provision of a jury. The bench had been deliber the vision would be incomplete without it. He now found that it was a continuation of the personal dispute between bimself and Mr. Morley, which appeared to have reacted in his mind since November. He could not magine a more trivial ground for a vote of censure then the fact that his secretary happened to be present when a few heads were broken in the Tipperary riot. He happened to be present when a few heads were broken in the Tipperary riot. He would not have discussed a matter subjudice in the indecorous manner in which the Opposition did, but the accused never denied that they were guilty of the crime charged to them.

Mr. Morley, having reminded Mr. Bal-

four that some had been acquitted in the conspiracy trial, Mr. Belfour retorted that they were acquitted on purely technical grounds, and that the moral guilt attached to them all the same. Mr. Balfour attacked Mr. Morley for going to Tipperary as a wire puller — a course which no Privy Councillor had ever taken before. But for his presence the trumpery riot would not magistracy, and declared that if being subject to abuse was held to disqualify a magistrate, the Irish agitators would have raised such a fund of vituperation that who, for example, in this House could be selected to try Mr. Healy? Was there anyone here whom that gentleman had not honored with abuse? If the Government was defeated at the get eral elections their successors must either adopt the Conservative policy of suppress-ing boycetting and intimidation, and thus branding their present speeches as open hypocrisy, or Ireland must be given over to anarchy; and the only hope then would be that criminal organizations would be broken up by intestinal conflicts.

Mr. Morley's motion to consure was re-

jected-320 to 245. The division was on strict party lines, Mr. Gladstone having paired and the whole Idsh party supporting Mr. Morley.

The discussion over adjournment was

long and angry and threatened an all-night sitting. The House finally adnight siting The journed at 1 30 a. m.

DISSOLUTION IN ENGLAND.

The Liberals have already completed their preparations for the coming contest. The local candidates have been selected and their central election fund is ample. The Conservatives are not so well organzed. The intention of the Conservatives to make the labor question a prominent plank in their plauform is indicated in

various movements,
London, Feb. 27.—Information touchment Board, oppose the idea, the former desiring first to force the passage of an Irish total Government measure. Lord Salisbury is believed to favor the autumn as the fitting time to go to the country if he can settle the Behring Sea dispute with the United States.

ANOTHER OLD SETTLER GONE.

"Death, like an ever-rolling stream, Bears all her sons away."

"Death, like an ever-rolling stream, Bears all her sons away."

There died on Feb. 27, on the first concession of London, one of the oldest remaining residents of London district in the person of Mr. Jemes Brooks. Mr. Brooks came with nis father from Hamosbire. England, in 1834, fity-seven years, and souled on the same tarm on which he died, and on which he has been a continual resident. This gentleman saw all the vicissitudes of pioneer life in Canada haif a century ago, and cleared up the primeval forest and hewed out one of those spleodid Canadian homes with the pinek and energy that caaracterized these old settlers. When Mr. Brooks landed here London was but a small hamlet, called the "Forks," and the road that runs parallel to the river to Springbank—the first concession of London—was woods, and not chopped out. Continuously for fifty years, Mr. Brooks has done statute labor on the same road. He saw the rebollion of 1857 38 and stood guard at the Courthouse in connection with Captain Mc. Kenzie's (Hyds Park) company. Mr. Brooks was a man of sterling integrity and highly respected by all who knew him. He had exceeded by one year the sillotted turescore years and ton, and leaves a family of three to mourn his loss. The funeral look place, on Monday last, from the family residence to see the soul of the deceased by Rev. M. J. Tieraan, wno afterwards preached an appropriate sermon. The large funeral cortege then proceeded to St. Pater's cemeiery, where the remains were interred.

May 13, 1892, will be the centenary of the birth of Pius IX A committee has been formed in Italy to celebrate the occasion, (1) by completing and solemnly inaugurating the monument