

The Catholic Record

Price of Subscription—\$1.50 per annum. United States & Europe—\$2.00. Publisher and Proprietor, Thomas Coffey, LL.D. Editors: Rev. James T. Foley, R. A. Thomas Coffey, LL.D., Associate Editor: Rev. F. O'Sullivan, Manager—Robert M. Burns.

LONDON, SATURDAY, JULY 20, 1918

THE HIDDEN HAND

There is a Hidden Hand ever working against the Church of God. Satan did not cease operations when he succeeded in bringing about the fall of our first parents or when he failed in his attempts to seduce the Son of Man in the desert.

It is not a matter for anxiety that the Catholic Church is attacked; our anxiety would be if she were not attacked, for then indeed would prophecies be made void. "If the world hate you," said our Blessed Lord in His last discourse to His chosen friends, "know ye that it hath hated Me before you. If you had been of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

THE OLD FOUL FRAUD
In the form in which the bogus oath is now being circulated every literate person will see glaring grammatical errors and every person who knows a little history will observe absurd anachronisms. It is headed "Obligation of the Knights of Columbus," but there is nothing that could be remotely applicable to the Knights of Columbus until nearly the end of the document.

POISON AMONG OUR SOLDIERS
The latest manifestation of the working of the Hidden Hand, pro-German and Satanic, is the circulation among Canadian soldiers of a foul forgery which pretends to be an oath taken by the Knights of Columbus. This circulation follows close on the anti-Jesuit agitation at Guelph and has been most active among the soldiers of the London Military District in which Guelph is situated.

EXPOSED AT RENFREW
Less than three years ago this bogus oath, which had been circulated for a long time previous in Ontario, was thoroughly investigated in Renfrew through the action of the parish priest of Renfrew, Father F. L. French, who asked four Protestant citizens, including the Mayor of the town and the editor of the Ren-

them. But we are unable to act on the assumption that nobody will be deceived by the imposture. In The London Advertiser of June 27th there was a letter written by a Protestant minister, the Rev. B. Snell, which said:

"Are our Roman Catholic friends aware that what is represented to be a copy of the obligation taken at initiation of a member of the Knights of Columbus has been circulated in printed form? I know nothing of the extent to which this sheet has been distributed, but a copy was handed to me one day last month, and several other men present also received a copy. I certainly was astonished to read the shocking pledge enumerated on the sheet. If members of the Knights of Columbus subscribe to these, and if the Jesuit Rev. Mr. Spence was quite moderate in the statements made. I do not know that this sheet was in any way the foundation of his remarks, but unprejudiced and unbiased men are more or less influenced by the circulation of such literature."

It is humiliating to our common human nature to have to admit it, but it is a fact that the circulation of such literature does influence the ordinary man. As a clergyman, Mr. Snell must be of more than average education, yet he does not reject as incredible the statement that Knights of Columbus, ordinary Catholic business men, butchers, bakers and candle-stick makers, take an oath that they will go to the jungles of India if they are told to do so, and that they will wage relentless war against Protestants, hanging and flogging and burning them, ripping up women and crushing the heads of infants against the walls! The far-minded, courteously-speaking Rev. Mr. Snell thinks it astonishing and shocking that Catholic men should pledge themselves to these horrors, but he does not think it impossible. He politely intimates that he is willing to hear what evidence the Knights of Columbus and the Society of Jesus may have to bring in their defence. We apologize to our readers for placing this noxious stuff before their eyes, but it is necessary to the discharge of a public duty.

DISCREDITED IN THE COURTS
The Renfrew investigators had before them the facts of a law court case in Minnesota where E. M. Lawless, editor of the Waterville Sentinel, sued A. M. and G. E. Morrison, of the Mankato Morning Journal for libel in charging Lawless with having taken this alleged Knights of Columbus oath. The jury returned a verdict that the Morrises had libelled Lawless inasmuch as the evidence proved that the Knights of Columbus had no such oath or pledge as that attributed to them.

paign." This shows political motives for the libel and the Renfrew investigators were of the opinion that those were the principal motives. The Renfrew report said:

"That we were quite satisfied in our minds on reading the alleged oath that the Roman Catholic men in Renfrew were never asked to take any such oath, and that they would not have done so."

"That by trials before the Courts of the United States and Newfoundland it has been amply demonstrated that the alleged oath is a libel on our Roman Catholic neighbours, and that those who circulated it are either wilfully bearers of false witness against their neighbours, for mean purposes, or woefully misled by prejudice."

"And that if any of our Protestant neighbours have had in their minds the idea that the members of the Knights of Columbus do take any such oath they can confidently dismiss such idea from their minds."

"In concluding this report we venture to add the opinion that principles of good citizenship will lead us all to minimize the differences between people of Protestant and Roman Catholic faith; treating the honest religious opinions of one another with respect even if strongly differing from them; and disregarding the little-tattle that is set adrift in every community by those of both faiths whose mental outlook is narrow—or whose time is not fully occupied and who thus become double-breasted. Let us treat one another honestly. No gain can come to Protestantism or good citizenship through the circulation of such false documents as this bogus K. of C. oath, and nothing that could happen would more quickly destroy the Roman Catholic faith than have presented to its members such a document in this era of intelligence."

D. BARR, SR.
W. E. SMALLFIELD
JAS. MANN, M. D.
G. G. McNAB
Renfrew, Oct. 25th, 1915.

THE VOCATION OF THE SOLDIER
There is a line in Kipling to the effect that soldiers in barracks are not all plaster saints. A great deal of nonsense is constantly being published about the conduct of soldiers.

"CERTAIN CLERGY OF GUELPH," the Churchman continues, "apparently failed to recognize this distinction, and thought that the Protestant conception of what constitutes a divinity student should apply to the Roman Catholic Church. It is manifestly now too late to plead ignorance of this subtle distinction and to cast the reproach of unfairness upon either the Government or Jesuit order for the exemption that is theirs and not ours. The Government wanted to exempt our students but pressure was brought to bear upon it from Ontario against such a provision. It was evidently thought that in this way large numbers of students in the Roman Catholic Seminaries would be brought under the act. If Protestants have overreached themselves in thus attempting to secure students from the Roman institutions, it is hardly wise to fly into a rage and blame both the Government and the Church for evasion of public duty. The way to secure equality of obligation and service is to amend the law either to exempt our theological students or bring all male members of religious communities who are not advanced to the full order of the priesthood under the act."

FOR WHAT MOTIVES?
In the letter written by The Menace to Mr. L. N. King, the Philadelphia lawyer who figured in one of the libel actions arising out of the circulation of the alleged oath, that paper said: "The alleged oath which your clients in Philadelphia were arrested for distributing was circulated in practically every State during the last cam-

NOTES AND COMMENTS

OF THE middle-class busybodies who developed so voracious an appetite for "slackers" in regard to the Guelph Novitiate had devoted one-tenth the energy to looking over the "Twelfth" parade in Toronto they might not have had to go to bed on empty stomachs.

ONE OF the conditions of settlement of the Civic Employees strike in Toronto was that while the strikers were to report for duty on the morning of the "Twelfth," the day was to be observed as a holiday as usual. Why not call the Civic Employees Union a "lodge" at once and be done with it?

COMMENTING ON Lt. Col. Machin's allegations against the Methodist Church in Ontario in connection with the Jesuit Novitiate affair, the Christian Guardian says: "In this statement he forgets his political troubles and gives vent to his religious bigotry in words, the like of which we cannot recall in any public utterance save some of the professional advocates of the liquor traffic."

AS AN Anglican Col. Machin doubtless had his own reasons for what he said. This, however, is no affair of ours. But, in this matter of vituperative language we suggest that the editor of the Guardian might to his own great profit devote an hour or two to prayerful examination of his own fyles. He would then find that Col. Machin, in whatever light his view of Ontario Methodism may be regarded, has a long way to travel ere, in the choice of offensive epithets, he can hope to rival the Christian Guardian's many gratuitous and unprovoked aspersions upon Catholics.

WE CULL the following from the columns of the Canadian Churchman:

"The controversy that has arisen over the Jesuit Novitiate in Guelph, is not likely to eventuate in any great gain in the promotion of the War or the promotion of an entente cordiale between Protestants and Roman Catholics in this country. The trouble centres on the assumption that the term divinity student means the same thing in the Roman Catholic and Protestant Churches. On this assumption a section of the community loudly demanded that the Military Service Act should not exempt divinity students from military service. This was readily assented to by the leaders of the Roman Catholic Church, for already exemption was provided for the members of religious orders or communities. Under this heading practically all divinity students take their places in the Roman Communion. The question of the conscripting of students preparing for the sacred ministry, therefore, lost all interest for them because they knew that all their men were exempt, and it was not their business to look after the interests of Protestants."

THE FRENCH made a notable bank advance yesterday on the west bank of the River Avre at the point where the Germans were nearest to Amiens. Along a three-mile front, between the wood and village of Castel and the town of Mailly-Raineval on the south, they penetrated the enemy's lines to a depth of more than a mile. Five hundred prisoners were taken, but the territory gained was in this case more important than the capture of many prisoners. The enemy, by their defeat, are placed at a distinct disadvantage in any further advance westward toward Amiens on this part of the front.

THE ALBANIAN campaign gives uniform success to the Allies. The Italians have occupied Berat, and are continuing their advance on the coastal sector, where British monitors and Italian destroyers are co-operating with the troops on land. Fifteen guns of various sorts and two trench mortars are included in the spoils obtained in the evacuated Austrian position. Reports from Rome state that there are in Albania many Serbs and Montenegrins, who are impatient to enter the struggle to reconquer their native countries.

THE LAWLESSNESS OF TODAY

With studied disregard of their own antecedent illegal proceedings, which have had and are having grave consequences for the "safety of the realm," there is a tremendous fuss raised in the Tory Press and among Unionist politicians at Westminster as to the "state of lawlessness" in the "plottings and boycottings" now alleged to be rife in Ireland, and all said to be due to extremist Nationalism and Sinn Feinism. It is also charged by these self-righteous critics that speeches advocating the use of physical force have been delivered, and that "violence, terrorism and crime" prevails in Nationalist Ireland. At the outset these charges of prevalent "violence, terrorism, and crime" may be branded as absolutely false. Ireland ignoring very properly the foolish ebullitions of reckless feather-heads in a few isolated districts is today a perfectly peaceful country. Its people in over-whelming numbers, acting on their leaders' instructions, remain quiet, orderly, united, but constantly and rightly vigilant, following upon their adoption of an anti-conscription pledge. The accusations of widespread association with German agents are pure fudge, and are without the support of a jot of reliable evidence. But these charges serve as a stick with which to belabour this country and blacken its reputation among the democracies of America and Australia. And the accusers have the nerve to sit in judgment" while overlooking their own amazing record and flaming example of the other year. Lawlessness, indeed! What eminent Unionist lawyer is it who boasted amid acclaiming cheers of brigaded hundreds that he was "out to break every law that existed?" Need he be named? Has Carsonism become a watchword to conjure with in British politics? "Ulster" now objects to Sinn Fein. But, as Mrs. Stopford Green has pointed out in her trenchant pamphlet, has not "Ulster" made its own peculiar form of Sinn Fein and organised it scientifically? If the "Provisional Government" of the North lifts a voice of shocked indignation at the doings of Southern Sinn Fein, it can with justice only reprove it for a single reason—for its inferior success in coercing the Imperial Government. But Sinn Feinism is now declared most dangerous to imperial welfare. Than militant Carsonism no policy could be conceived more anti-democratic, more vicious in intent, or one that will perhaps in the long run be found more hurtful to Imperial interests. Its sinister effects are not yet so fully disclosed as to be adequately described. Some time before the outbreak of the world war even the "England of slow perception" began to discern awkward consequences from the Carsonite operations, and went some way in enantiating its apprehensions. Sir Edward Carson felt the effect and stage-artist like he was quick to adapt himself to the situation. After the harm was done he protested in terms superlative that nothing was further from his mind than "tampering with the army." His belated repudiation deceived nobody who knows the facts, nor did it undo the mischief of which he was foremost in laying the seeds and the full crops of which is not yet reaped. In the month of July, 1918, Lord Willoughby de Broke boasted in the House of Lords that he had formed a certain League for the defense of Ulster and the Union." But two days later the Daily News disclosed the remarkable fact that this precious "League" was simply an organisation "for persuading British officers and soldiers to throw in their lot" with those in Ulster who were ready for rebellion. Not only that, but speaking publicly in Antrim, Sir Edward Carson rejoiced that his followers "were daily getting promises of support from those who served their country in the ranks," and he added, "to day we have a great general among us. And more than that, I can tell the Government we have pledged and promises from some of the greatest generals in the army." But special pleaders have since said that if there were any excitement or unsettlement in army ranks caused by the underminers of army discipline and obedience it was merely local and superficial, and its results stopped short within the radius of a few miles from the centres where the mischief was brewed. Is that really the case? That full stock was taken in official Prussia of the disintegrating possibilities to flow from the audacious advocacy

THE BATTLE LINE

THE BRITISH raids and local advances along the Bailleul sector continue. At Merris a local engagement yielded 120 prisoners and ten machine-guns. Berlin speaks of these engagements as strong thrusts and frequent reconnaissances, but says they have all been repulsed.

PARIS DEALING with the French operations in Eastern Albania, states that French troops have cleared the