

The Catholic Record

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afforded precisely the same guarantee for the Separate schools as the British North America Act gives for Separate schools in Ontario. From motives of political prudence the Conservative Government at Ottawa, instead of disallowing the Manitoba School Act as they clearly had the right to do, decided to carry the matter to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

SIR WILFRID LAURIER

"Our friend sleepeth: he is dead." When unworthy prejudice and factitious misunderstanding shall have ceased to cloud the reason or obstruct the natural impulse of the heart there is not a single Canadian of whatever race or creed, whether claiming Canada as his native land or as the country of his adoption, who will not feel that in the death of Sir Wilfrid Laurier he has lost a friend.

Entering Parliament as a Liberal when Quebec was intensely Conservative in politics, Sir Wilfrid as a young man gave the most signal evidence of those qualities which characterized his whole public life. Courage and persistence and fidelity to conviction were imperatively necessary if he would breast the tide of opinion in his native province which regarded Liberalism in politics as a species of apostasy from the Faith.

Mores recent events are too fresh in the memory of all to call for comment. Suffice it to say that we believe that in the contentious measure of conscription Sir Wilfrid was guided by the highest considerations of conscience and patriotism. Indeed it is perhaps here that his characteristic qualities of courage, persistence and fidelity to conviction are most clearly evinced.

Our friend is dead. He has passed before the judgment seat where the rank and dignities and honors of this world are pitifully small except in so far as they carry with them grave responsibilities for which an account must be rendered. He was of the household of the faith; he fought the good fight and kept the faith under conditions which have driven smaller men out of the Church; he finished his course and died a patriot and a Catholic.

ing clear. In the fourteenth chapter of St. Mark we read: 3. And when he was in Bethania, in the house of Simon the leper, and was at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of precious spikenard; and breasting the alabaster box, she poured it out upon his head.

That, presumably, is a fair summary of the thesis and trend of argument of this apologist of Bolshevism. At any rate he has found no fault with the published account of his sermon. It will be noted that it was no ordinary occasion and that the sermon, therefore, may be taken as the deliberate and matured conviction of the preacher; a conclusion which is further warranted by the fact that this was not the first time Mr. Nelson emphatically endorsed the Bolshevik movement.

AN APOSTLE OF BOLSHIEVISM The Reverend S. Banks Nelson, D.D., is a prominent Presbyterian clergyman of Hamilton, Ontario. The vagaries of Protestant pulpiteres have become so much a commonplace, matter of course sort of thing that they attract no more than passing attention; and perhaps it is as well, for failure to attract attention is a potent influence in keeping such notoriety-seekers within the limits of sanity; they glimpse the fact that behind the indifference lies contempt.

THE POOR YOU HAVE ALWAYS WITH YOU

THE POOR YOU HAVE ALWAYS WITH YOU In the course of the report of Dr. Nelson's Bolshevist sermon occurs this paragraph: "Did Jesus really mean what He said when He declared 'The poor ye have always with you?'" said the speaker, "is a question that Christianity has to answer today."

That Bolshevism, like Presbyterianism, is based on the equality of all and the leadership of the elders, and that Lenin and Trotsky are Jews, and that they have based the government of Russia on Jewish lines, was argued by Dr. Nelson, who strongly warned his audience that "you may some day laugh at the other side of Bolshevism. Bolshevism is being laughed at today.

THE WEEKLY Bulletin of the Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce publishes some interesting statistics regarding the population of the Australian Commonwealth. In 1800, but seventeen years after the first settlement, the population, exclusive of aborigines, was but 5,217. The first million was reached in 1858, the second in 1897, the third in 1899, and the fourth in 1916. Before the War it was estimated that the five million point would be reached in 1914 or 1915, but the departure of troops and the cessation of immigration caused by the great conflict in Europe put back this period to the present time.

WHY FAITH FLOURISHES ON THE FARM

Statistics show that there is a much greater leakage among Catholics in cities than in rural districts. In fact if it were not for the leaven from the country, that is being continually infused into the urban mass, the percentage of fallen-away would be very much greater in our large centres of population. It is true that a very large number of ought-to-be may be found in those parts of the country that have not enjoyed the blessing of a resident pastor; but in well organized parishes apostates are comparatively few.

At the beginning of the chapter St Mark says: "Now the feast of the pasch and of the Azymes was after two days." St. Matthew, also, (xxvi 2) tells that Jesus said to his disciples: "You know that after two days shall be the pasch, and the son of man shall be delivered up to be crucified."

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NOTES AND COMMENTS

BY GENERAL consent of all classes Canada has lost her first Citizen in the death of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Like Washington it may be truthfully said of him that, notwithstanding conflicting ideas in a time of great trial and stress, he was "first in peace, first in war, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

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FIVE MINUTE SERMON

QUINQUAGESIMA

DEVOTION TO THE PASSION

"Then Jesus took unto Him the twelve, and said to them: Behold we go up to Jerusalem..."

How appropriately, my dear brethren, as we stand on the threshold of Lent, is this Gospel read to us to-day!

Our Blessed Lord says the same to us, for He would have us mindful of His sufferings and Death during the holy days of Lent.

He is worthy of remembrance, and remembrance would give the tone to our devout observance of Lent.

As the springtime with its showers and the smile of the sun and mildness of the air, awakens in the earth the seeds and roots, which push their growth to the light and develop their beauty, so the remembrance of the Passion of Jesus Christ awakens in our soul the dormant virtues, and gratitude, compassion, sorrow grow up within us and fill our lives with their fragrance.

Gratitude, which God takes as payment for all that He has done and suffered for us, grows up within our heart. Oh, if we knew how one word of thanks is treasured up by the Sacred Heart, we should not stint our thanksgivings, and a grateful heart sweetens and mellows our own existence! How pleasing to our Blessed Lady, too, is gratitude for those sufferings of which she was the grief-stricken witness!

And gratitude overflows into compassion, a yearning that we could do something to relieve and alleviate the anguish and suffering of the Redeemer. And we can, for compassion urges us to offer all our own sufferings and sorrows in union with our Lord's. To lighten His Cross we take up our own humbly and gladly, and bravely press on in His blessed footsteps.

The remembrance of the sufferings of Jesus Christ is the blessed school of humility and contrition. There are others who may seem to be more careless and indifferent than ourselves, but have they been blessed with the graces and opportunities that have been lavished upon us?

Could there be, then, a better and a holier way of spending Lent than to cultivate a tender remembrance of the sufferings of our Blessed Lord? You will not draw back with an excuse when the Saviour this day bids you join the Apostles. "Behold, we go up to Jerusalem."

OWES HER LIFE TO 'FRUIT-A-TIVES'

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29 St. Rose St., Montreal. "I am writing you to tell you that I owe my life to 'Fruit-a-tives'."

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loved us on the Cross. How can you say Him no? Your prayers will falter on your lips as false, as pretence, if you refuse a Holy Communion.

GENERAL INTENTION FOR MARCH

RECOMMENDED AND BLESSED BY HIS HOLINESS POPE BENEDICT XV.

OUR SAILORS

The present Intention may not at first sight appeal to our Canadian readers, for the reason that, except along our coasts, Canadians rarely come in contact with sea-faring men.

Sailor Jack is not the rollicking tar he was once supposed to be, but a steady, conscientious man who follows the sea for a livelihood.

The class of men named at in this month's Intention, the class with whom our Canadian ports are most familiar and in whose spiritual welfare we are asked to take an interest, are the sailors of the Mercantile Marine.

But why should our Canadian people be interested in the welfare of sailors? What special debt do we owe those men? One good

reason comes to our pen in their record of the past four years. Canada must thank the sailors if she has been able to give five hundred thousand soldiers across the Atlantic, together with the food and the munitions of war that helped to crush the enemy and save the world to civilization.

One may object that the circumstance of war is only accidental and can give sailors hardly more than a passing sentimental claim to our good will.

This Montreal institution, begun in a very humble way, has grown steadily in the past twenty-five years; it is incorporated, owns its own buildings, which are already adequate for its work.

WAR'S COST IN HUMAN LIFE According to reports, which, while to some extent unofficial, have been carefully compiled, it is estimated that over ten million lives have been sacrificed in the actual waging of the war.

A fan's shoulder was kicked by a gun. It is not recorded in history what he said, but it is recorded that he thought. He thought of the power that was going to waste.

USE THE RECOIL

Overseas commerce in Canada had been growing rapidly before the war, and if prophets speak the truth, trade expansion will be still more rapid during the period of reconstruction, which has already opened up.

The recoil from effort, the reaction that goes with action, is a phenomenon no less real in morals than in physics. Its use is as possible in one field as in the other.

Of all the thrilling spectacles presented by the four years' tragedy just ended, none to the American eye was so inspiring as the instant and unanimous response of our youths and maidens at the bleak invitation from all the comforts of easy-going America to the man-made hell across the seas.

That carpet-dusting, though a pretty trade, is not the imperative labor after all. That much many have learned and some must have learned much more.

Something has already been done to meet the social and spiritual needs of the sailors who come to Canada, and Catholics have not been backward in doing their share in this noble work.

tion are welcome at this Club; it is a center of healthy amusement; all share in the games, weekly concerts, reading room, facilities for letter writing—everything is done to make their visit as pleasant as possible.

What is the imperative duty? "The American soldiers of today," says Burris Jenkins in the Kansas City Star, "are the men who will make the America of tomorrow."

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It's Always Best

To Be Well on the Safe Side

When buying Tea, insist on getting

"SALADA"

The Tea with a Quarter of a Century of Unrivalled Public Service.

vitality, questioning, "What is the imperative duty?"

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CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

ROOM AT THE TOP
Never you mind the crowd, lad,
Nor fancy your life won't tell;

IS IT WORTH WHILE?
When one faces a difficult problem or a crisis in his career,
let courage be then at its best eb.

THE ELDEST SON
Often it happens that the eldest son of a family "feels his oats"
almost as soon as he begins to go to work.

"AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE CROSS"
Our Lord Himself insisted with His disciples on the necessity of bearing the cross.

WHAT EVERY CATHOLIC SHOULD KNOW
What every Catholic should know in regard to the reception of the Blessed Sacrament by a sick person in his own home.

Harbor no ill feelings toward any one.
They embitter your life and benefit no one.

More depends upon the motive than upon the gift.
If the thought be selfish, if we expect compensation, or are guilty of close calculation, the result will be like the attitude of mind which invited it.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

WE'RE CHUMS, YOU SEE!
They wonder why I run and tell
Of every little thing,

GOOD SECURITY
"Master, do you lend money here?"
asked an earnest young voice at the office door.

WHAT EVERY CATHOLIC SHOULD KNOW
What every Catholic should know in regard to the reception of the Blessed Sacrament by a sick person in his own home.

And what if I fail of my purpose here?
It is but to keep the nerves at strain,
To dry one's eyes and laugh at a fall,

And what if I fail of my purpose here?
It is but to keep the nerves at strain,
To dry one's eyes and laugh at a fall,

IS FRANCE STILL CATHOLIC?

Gabriel M. Menager, S. J., in America

The legal warfare which has for almost forty years been waged against Catholic France and especially against her numerous religious institutions, has been an indictment of the whole people.

Thank God, these loathsome calumnies are not without an incontestable answer. This is found in the splendid and truly inspiring manner in which the sons of France, from near and far, have rallied around the flag of their country, and since August, 1914, have been pouring out their blood in the struggle against her ruthless and unscrupulous foes.

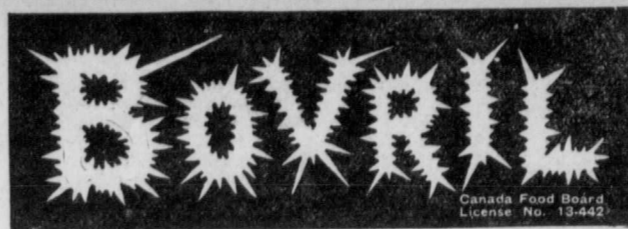
It has been well said: "Every individual soul is a sealed book." So in a lesser degree is the inner life of a nation.

After all, is not persecution as necessary to the spiritual life of a nation as cultivation of the soil to the seed that has been planted in its bosom?

These reckonings are merely local but they nevertheless prove how very active the old spirit of practical religious life still is in that great country whose glorious title of eldest daughter of the Church has ever been her proud boast.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CHAPLAIN
"Really absolute heathen," is the description of the Church of England men given by an Anglican army chaplain in a letter printed in the Cowley Evangelist.

Another point which is often misunderstood by the partially enlightened critic, relates to France's actual educational status. On more than one occasion the writer has heard it remarked, "No wonder France is atheistic, it has no Catholic Schools!"



In vain, to make things harder, did the Government impose the obligation of a degree before one could be allowed to teach.

THE LENTEN SPIRIT

On Ash Wednesday, March 5, the Church ushers in the special season of prayer and penance called Lent by placing blessed ashes on the foreheads of her penitents with the humbling words: Remember man that thou art dust and into dust thou shalt return.

Many men live in the sphere of the senses and are content to eat, drink and be merry. Others are lifted higher to the realms of the intellect and pass as intelligent beings but this is not the whole of man.

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Your Peace Garden
Even though the war is over, it is still very necessary to continue your Back-Yard Garden, as the whole world is short of food, and will be for some time to come.

OUR CHIEF WORK

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