

THE CATHOLIC RECORD

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The Catholic Record will be given to new subscribers free to 1st January. They will also be supplied with the RECORD of the 19th Inst., which contains the beginning of a very interesting story, "Solitary Island."

COMING AROUND. The Legislative Council of Victoria, Australia, has passed by a large majority a resolution approving of religious instruction being given in the schools within school hours.

BIGOTRY DENOUNCED. Dr. Lyman, of Brooklyn, N. Y., recently gave a well-deserved rebuke to some members of the A. P. A. who stood on the porch of St. Paul's Church the night previous to the elections.

A BRUTAL SOLDIER. A United States officer, Captain Lynn, so far abused his position in Manila as to intrude rudely with a guard of soldiers into the cloister of St. Catherine's convent, Manila, and into the sleeping rooms of the nuns under pretence of ascertaining the commissary supplies.

THE UNITED STATES AS A CIVILIZING POWER. Bishop Potter, of the Protestant Episcopal Church, New York, does not consider the American people to have been so great a success in the treatment of foreign races with whom they have had to deal, that they should boast so loudly as they have been doing of late, that they are the chosen people whose office it is to watch over the general interests of civilization and good government.

It was loudly proclaimed before the war was declared against Spain, that hostilities were begun solely in the interest of humanity, and for the purpose of delivering the people of Cuba from an intolerable tyranny.

We are not the apologists of Spain, and we do not wish to maintain the right of Spain or any other power to govern colonies solely on the principle to draw from them their natural resources and wealth for the enrichment of the favorites of an alien Government.

Yet, the Americans have not been a success in governing the Indians, negroes, and Chinese races, and the treatment of these three elements of the population cannot be credited to the American people.

THE BETHLEHEM APOSTOLIC SCHOOL. We published in our issue of July 9 some remarks taken from the Philadelphia Catholic Standard and Times concerning an institution named the "Bethlehem Apostolic School" of Lucerne, Switzerland.

We have received from the Rev. P. M. Barral, the Superior of the Bethlehem School, a letter desiring us to correct the unfavorable impression which the readers of the CATHOLIC RECORD might receive from the publication of the article in question.

It is fair to the Rev. P. Barral that we should mention here that among the papers referring to the institution, there is a letter purporting to be from Mgr. Segesser, Vicar General of the diocese of Cotre, and testifying that the school is really in operation and doing good near Lucerne, but twelve miles distant therefrom.

Intentions for Masses are asked to be sent to Lucerne through these local agencies; donations in honor of St. Anthony of Padua are asked for, and blessed beads and medals are promised in return, according to the amount sent for the purpose of obtaining rosary beads blessed by the Crosier Fathers.

We do not assert that this is the same thing, but when the inducement is largely advertised, as in the present case, it seems to come very near to the Church by her wise laws aims at preventing. Impressed with this conviction, the Bishops of the United States have declared in the decrees of the Plenary Council of Baltimore:

"We again and again declare that it is an intolerable abuse and a profanation of sacred things to publicly announce in newspapers and circulars Masses for the purpose of building churches, convents, or for paying the debts of such institutions, or for any pious work whatever. We vehemently reprove and forbid such an abuse. We, moreover, urgently request that all prelates will stamp out this abominable abuse wherever it exists."

Further: we would here merely point out that all works of charity are highly to be commended. Parochial works of charity or benevolence such as the building of churches, school-houses, and presbyteries, and the diocesan works, such as orphan asylums, hospitals, and homes for the infirm, are the most pressing and the first which appeal to the benevolence of the people, and we strongly recommend our readers to aid in such good works as these, first of all.

LIBERALISM AND RITUALISM. There are still indications that the prediction uttered a few weeks ago by Mr. T. M. Healy to the effect that Sir William Vernon Harcourt intends to make anti-Ritualism the cry on which he will lead the Liberal party to the polls at the next general election will be verified.

From small beginnings important events have frequently arisen, and it would not be a matter of very great surprise if the Church-brawls begun by the notorious John Kensit, the result of obscene literature, should result in raising throughout England an anti-Ritualistic election war cry and a demand on the part of a noisy faction for another thorough godly Reformation of the English Church.

Some one with a sense of the eternal fitness of things has decided that the "Saint of the Reformation" shall have an appropriate shrine. The house in which Martin Luther lived and died is to be turned into a "Table Talk" ought to be left open on the bar to draw patronage. It is bar-room literature.—Ave Maria.

THE PSALMS OF DAVID AND THE HYMNAL.

There is a good deal of complaint among stalwart Presbyterians that the man-made hymns which have been issued in a hymnal approved by the General Assembly are rapidly taking the place of the inspired Psalms of David in Presbyterian worship.

It is somewhat interesting to find the authority of the Church thus invoked for the purpose of over-riding the private judgment of individuals or congregations, among the very sects which have been the loudest in proclaiming that the Church has no authority to decide controversies in religion.

It appears that there is the same complaint in England, Ireland, and Scotland as in Canada and the Rev. Dr. Alison, the Convener of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, says, while issuing the new Hymnal for England and Ireland.

ANGLICANISM AND THE CONFSSIONAL. The discussion in England arising out of the Archbishop of Canterbury's charge to the clergy still continues, but it appears to have turned chiefly to the subject of the lawfulness or unlawfulness, the propriety or impropriety of the use of the confessional in Anglican churches.

Rev. William C. Pope, of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, of St. Paul, Minn., in a recent sermon on "The State of Religion in the City of St. Paul," spoke very highly of the work of the Catholic Church in that city.

Rev. Dr. Pope's Praise of the Church and Her Institutions. Rev. William C. Pope, of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, of St. Paul, Minn., in a recent sermon on "The State of Religion in the City of St. Paul," spoke very highly of the work of the Catholic Church in that city.

NO SUCH DEGREE. The significance of the patch from Rome granted to Catholics who of condemned secret societies had never shown any Church, has been variously matter invested with news which it would scarce even if it were authentic.

Sorrow is not given to us alone that we may mourn. It is given to us that, having felt, suffered, we may be able to understand, love, and bless.

They must, therefore, be bound to make use of the means appointed by Christ for reconciliation with God, and as Confession is admittedly that means, it follows that Confession is obligatory—not merely a matter which every one is free to make use of or neglect as he pleases.

He discusses the proposal of the Low Church, or, as he styles it, "the Protestant" party in the Church, to revise the Book of Common Prayer, so as to eliminate the Confessional therefrom.

It is in fact because the High Church clergy have discovered by their researches into antiquity that the confessional, and priestly absolution with it, have always been an institution of the Christian Church, that they have revived it in the Church of England.

With regard to the use to be made of it, (the Hymnal) we may first express a hope that it will not be misused by displacing the Metrical Psalms and Paraphrases.

A MINISTER'S TRIBUTE. Rev. Dr. Pope's Praise of the Church and Her Institutions. Rev. William C. Pope, of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, of St. Paul, Minn., in a recent sermon on "The State of Religion in the City of St. Paul," spoke very highly of the work of the Catholic Church in that city.

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THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The universal Church celebrates December 8 the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Some non-Catholics, hearing the name of this festival and led astray by the falsehood instilled into them, effect that we worship the Blessed Virgin and substitute her for Christ.

By the Immaculate Conception Mary meant that, by the will and through respect for Jesus, she was preserved from the taint of original sin—even at the moment when she was conceived in the womb of her mother, she was immaculate, i.e., spotless, pure, free from sin.

Let us glorify God, then, singular privilege and grace conferred on our Blessed and let us beg of her to intercede her Divine Son for us that henceforth be kept in a state of purity and freedom from sin.

INGERSOLL AND PROTE. Ingersoll, in what he calls his "new lecture," New York the other day, usual announcement that the myth. He does not explain got the notion into his head there: at least, we have stirred up about it. Some plain, soft-spoken men, and even apologize in a way others of them agree with them.

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