

industries—she was the only country in which war was not actually carried on. Throughout, her manufactures were practically undisturbed, and at the close of the struggle the ocean-carrying trade was left secure to her by her undisputed supremacy at sea. This was secured to her by the headlong victory which Nelson achieved over the combined French and Spanish fleets off Cape Trafalgar on October 21, 1805. It was indeed 'a famous victory'—the most notable, perhaps, that had till then been won by men that go down to the sea in ships. The first centenary of that famous sea-fight is to be celebrated at the close of the present week. The victor was struck down in the hour of his triumph, but the two rival navies were annihilated. It was the Tsushima of the old 'wooden walls'—the most dramatic incident in a bout at reprisals that arose immediately out of Napoleon's annexation of Piedmont and Parma, his occupation of Switzerland; Britain's protests against this course of restless aggression; France's counter-demands for the expulsion of the French refugees within her borders and the surrender of Malta; and, finally, the menacing armaments gathered together by 'the little Corporal' for the invasion of England. That day off Cape Trafalgar settled many things. Its most immediate effect was (as Green happily phrases it) that 'the danger of any invasion of England rolled away like a dream.' It secured, moreover, to the victors a supremacy of sea-power which has never since been seriously questioned. And this in turn fixed and facilitated the policy of territorial expansion and commercial wars and warlets—a policy which has guided successive British administrations from Trafalgar day down to the close of that strange combination of comedy, farce, and tragedy—of Falstaff, Bombastes, and Henry V.—which ended in South Africa in 1902. As for France: She has fallen since 1805 from the first to the sixth place among the Great Powers. And in a few years Italy will relegate her to the seventh place. But this decadence of the erstwhile leading nation has not been brought about by the clash of combat either by field or flood. It is the melancholy and foreseen result of the long and deadly war of the Revolution and the Lodges against religion and Christian morality—a war which is at its height at this very hour, and which has left the nurseries scantily peopled and partially broken down the only true support of domestic and social life.

Formerly men slit each others' throats for a sentiment, or in the interests of a dynasty. Since the days of Pitt war has been almost invariably waged for the capture of gold or diamond fields, or the finding or keeping of markets for the cotton goods and iron spoons and crockeryware of the great capitalist manufacturers.

Notes

A Prize Blunderer

Some time ago a prominent New Zealand daily paper added to the gaiety of its Catholic readers by a description of an 'evening Mass' which (it alleges) was 'performed' in a cathedral in one of our largest centres of population. And did not the Rev. Dr. Gibb once define the 'Offertory' as 'that part of the Mass which follows the Consecration'? The 'Frisco' 'Leader' has discovered another gold-medal blunderer in a 'Call' reporter of that city, who told his readers that 'at solemn Benediction the (local) Archbishop besprinkled the altars and blessed the holy rituals with incense'! Max Adler and the Danbury News Man made much elephantine fun out of the artificial blunders perpetrated in a church reporter's description of a prize fight, and in a sporting reporter's account of a church service. But they are all surpassed by the serenely unconscious tomfooleries perpetrated by the well-meaning blunderers who think they know something about Catholic ritual

and are eager to impart their knowledge to an expectant world. Some of their miraculous stupidities, that have been from time to time reproduced in our columns, could only be achieved by genius, backed by inspiration.

The Fairest Garden

'Catholic Connaught,' says the Montreal 'True Witness,' 'continues the fairest garden of national virtue on the face of the earth. The statistics of Irish population, just published, show that immorality is almost unknown among the Catholic people of Connaught. The illegitimate births count barely one-half of one in every thousand of the entire population, Catholic and Protestant. In Munster the rate is 2.2 per 1000; in Leinster 2.6, and in Ulster 3.4. The average rate for Ireland as a whole is the lowest of any nation for which statistics are published.' We may add, on our account, that (according to the Registrar-General's statistics) Ulster's high rate is accounted for by the very low state of morality that prevails in the 'yellow' portions of the province.

Those Chinese Serfs

It looks as if the Rand is, in more senses than one, to be 'ruined by Chinese cheap labor.' For a considerable time past, cable despatches report the perpetration of grave and numerous crimes by the slant-eyed serfs that were imported into the Transvaal in order to fill to still further repletion the bulging pockets of the Stock Exchange magnates and the hook-nosed foreign money lords of the Rand. Not only have the yellow pagans committed murders within the compounds in which they are imprisoned, but (says an English contemporary) 'they have deserted and murdered inoffensive farmers in the country parts adjacent to the mines. So serious has the situation become that the Transvaal authorities have strengthened the cordons of police, and gone so far as to supply magistrates with arms and ammunition which they may serve out to the farmers for their protection against outrage by these deserters. Such a situation provides its own commentary on the justice and wisdom of bringing these wretched coolies from China to secure cheap labor for the mine-owners of the Rand.'

Playing the Deuce—and Knave

Some anonymous rhymers wrote as follows in 'The Game of Life':—

'In playing, some throw out their trumps,
'Their winning cards to save,
Some play the king, some play the deuce,
But many play the knave.'

The gamblers of the Bible-in-schools League have 'played the deuce' with the Sacred Narrative by the shameless way in which they have hacked and torn and mutilated it into 'an emasculated caricature' of the Scriptures. They are 'playing the knave' in various ways—for instance, in their attempts to pick the pockets of Catholic and other objectors for their proposed State propaganda of a spineless Unitarianism; and in their efforts to mislead the public as to the facts of educational life in Canada, in the American Union, and in the Commonwealth States beyond the Tasman Sea. One of them has even gone so far as to quote the denominational system prevalent in the Quebec province in support of their scheme for Protestantising our public schools at the public expense! The following extract from a recent issue of the 'S.H. Review' will enable the reader to mark how plain a tale will put the imaginative enthusiast down.—

'At the convention of the American Institute of Instruction held in Portland, Me., recently, E. W. Arthy, Superintendent of Schools, Montreal, a Protestant, read a paper on "The Conditions of Protestant Education in the Province of Quebec." He spoke of the remarkable fusion of the British and the French, the Protestant and the Roman Catholic population, two races with different languages, creeds, and ideals, and

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