

The Catholic World

CANADA—Death of a Distinguished Catholic

The city of Montreal was thrown into profound grief on the morning of February 19 when the announcement was made that Sir William Hingston, the distinguished physician and Catholic philanthropist, had passed away. Sir William Hingston was Mayor of Montreal in 1875 and 1876, at a time when grave troubles menaced the welfare of the community. For the coolness and calm judgment exhibited during these trying times, he received the most hearty thanks of Lord Dufferin, who was, at that time Governor-General of Canada. Sir William Hingston, who was the son of the late Lieut.-Col. Hingston, formerly in his Majesty's 100th Regiment, was in his 79th year. Dr. Hingston occupied for many years in Montreal a prominent position as the leading member of the medical profession, and was especially noted as a surgeon. He was knighted in 1895 for distinguished medical services. Speaking immediately after Sir William Hingston's death, Archbishop Bruchesi of Montreal said:—'It is only a few days ago that I saw him and spoke with him, and he seemed to be in good health and spirits. I never was more shocked than to hear of his death. It means to me the loss of a dear personal friend whom I had known almost from my childhood. To the Church in this city it means the loss of one of the most devoted of her children; and the whole population of Montreal have to regret the death of a leading citizen, a brilliant and successful worker in his chosen profession, and a man of simply boundless charity.'

ENGLAND—Sympathy with the Holy Father

A demonstration of Catholics of the diocese of Salford held in the Free-Trade Hall, Manchester, to express sympathy with Pope Pius X. and with the clergy and laity of the Church in France in their present troubles, was a magnificent success. The Archbishop of Westminster, the Bishop of Salford, and Father Bernard Vaughan were the chief speakers. Resolutions were adopted embodying sentiments of affection and veneration for the Pope, and of admiration for the attitude of the Bishops of France.

A Memorial to Cardinal Manning

The authorities of Westminster Cathedral are appealing for assistance in order to erect a memorial to Cardinal Manning. Monsignor Howlett says:—'At present the authorities of the Cathedral (in the crypt of which Cardinal Manning's remains have now been interred) are without means to erect any suitable memorial. We shall be grateful for any subscriptions sent towards the cost of putting a proper monument upon his tomb and decorating the crypt in which it lies.'

The Apostle of India and Japan

By permission of the Jesuit community the beautiful picture of St. Francis Xavier, which is the commanding feature in the reredos of the altar dedicated to the saint in Farm Street Church, has been copied by Miss Gamardella for a public library in Tokio. The request was made through an agent commissioned by the Japanese Government to choose and purchase works of art, together with 40,000 European books for the same library. A Chinese magnate who admired the work has also obtained the privilege of having another copy painted by the same artist. The original is the work of Mr. Goldie, and represents the death scene of the saint in the desolate island of Sanpo, in sight of the Chinese shore.

FRANCE—The Archbishop's Reply

At a meeting of Ministers on February 25 M. Briand announced that, following upon the previous week's debate in the Chamber, he had instructed the Prefect of the Seine to reply to the Archbishop of Paris, that the terms of his proposal regarding the form of contract were unsatisfactory. Any fresh proposals of the Archbishop, based upon the Minister's recent declarations in the Chamber, would have the consideration of the Prefect. Later in the day the following communication was made at the Archbishop's house to a representative of the press: 'We received, through the Prefect of the Seine, this morning the Government's reply. The Minister of Public Worship asks us to submit a further text of contract based on his declarations in the Chamber. We can make no change in the text recently proposed by the Archbishop of Paris. Either the Government will reconsider its decision and accept the contract

or we shall find ourselves with the deepest regret unable to continue negotiations which at one time tended towards appeasement and religious peace.'

The Irish College

The Rector of the Irish College, Paris, has received official notice that two Irish foundations, quite distinct from the college property, but from which the students of the college received annually £257 sterling, have been sequestered. The least important of the two foundations was made by Rev. James Burke, an Irish priest of the diocese of Killaloe, resident in France. The second and more important foundation was made by Very Rev. J. B. Walsh, D.D., formerly Rector of the Irish College in Paris. By his will, dated 1825, he bequeathed his property for the advantage of Irish students in Holy Orders making their studies in France. Though these foundations were not college property, the fact of their sequestration is taken as a presage of the greater spoliation of the college which is impending.

The Conditions of the Contract

M. Briand (says the 'Catholic Times') has been glorified for his conciliatory speech on the question of the contracts, but the details of the terms laid down by the Government have not been published in the British press. The fact is, the Government have been endeavouring to impose conditions which would suggest that they have no genuine intention of coming to an agreement. They are demanding the sacrifice of the members of the religious Orders, depriving them and all foreigners of the right of entering into contracts. This is not merely an infliction of punishment on the Orders, but an effort to get the ecclesiastical authorities to become parties to the boycott of men who have played a noble part in facing the heat and burden of the fray. There are other conditions, such as the keeping of the churches in repair, which involve hardships for the clergy, and which they would find it extremely difficult—nay, impossible—to observe. If M. Clemenceau and M. Briand were really anxious for peace with the Church, they would not have interfered with the Mayors. Had these gentlemen, who are in close touch with the peasantry, been allowed to use their discretion, all difficulties would have been quickly removed. Many had signed the contracts, and were it not for M. Briand's circular, nearly all would have done so, as no objections were raised.

Peace or War?

With practically a unanimous vote (says the 'Catholic Times') the Chamber of Deputies has endorsed M. Briand's declaration of policy. Sufficient for the day is the evil we have done on it, says M. Briand in effect; now let us devote some little time to the work of ingeminating peace. But is it peace? Is it not rather a mockery to call it peace? For years past every fresh Ministry of the Republic has been engaged in the congenial task of wreaking all the harm it could upon the Catholic Church. The schools have been deprived of their religious teachers. The monks and nuns have been driven abroad. Chaplains have been removed from army and navy, from hospital and asylum. The State has ruthlessly broken its Concordat with the Church, has ignored the Papacy, has tried to shackle the hierarchy, has crippled the clergy, and has seized upon all the ecclesiastical property on which it can lay its hands. And now M. Briand talks of peace! If he has set his heart on peace, why not propose proper conditions to secure it? Certainly the Bishops will do all they can to effect a working agreement. The storm has left the French Church so shattered that they, its leaders, must think first and foremost of building it up again from its ruins. If only an arrangement can be come to which will leave intact the vital principles of hierarchical jurisdiction, they will not be found to stand in the way of a final settlement with M. Briand. Whoever may indulge in vain dreams about the future, the French Bishops indulge in none. They know that the battle is against Christianity as such; that religion itself is at stake in their country; and that whatever professions of peace might be made by their enemies, war would break out again as soon as a favorable opportunity offered. There is no peace in France.

GERMANY—The Centre Party

The leader of the German Centre intimated in the Reichstag on February 25 that the party would introduce measures for the establishment of Labor Bureaux and the protection and extension of the right of combination. The Imperial Chancellor assailed the Centre for having supported Socialist candidates, and said that without its help Social Democracy would have been reduced to two or three dozen seats. He said the Government distinguished between the Centre and the Catholic religion, which they never intended to attack.