

sectarian system of education but under the present directors the system is being deliberately and unblushingly used as nothing more nor less than a means to Protestantise the islands. An American gentleman travelling in the Philippines sends the following particulars to the *Catholic Citizen*, Milwaukee: 'To begin with, the head of the whole educational system is a Rev. Dr. Fred. W. Atkinson, a Protestant clergyman whose record in selecting only Protestants, and notably Protestant clergymen, for his leading assistants is sufficient proof of his bigotry. He has placed the city schools of Manila in charge of Rev. Mason S. Stone, a Vermont Protestant, a Presbyterian clergyman, who, in turn, has appointed only Protestants as principals and teachers in the public schools of this important city. There are only two Catholic teachers (ladies) in this city and 70 Protestants to teach Catholic children and to supervise the education of Catholic youth.' Moreover, according to this writer, the Rev. E. B. Bryan, a most bigoted Protestant clergyman, who has often bitterly denounced the Catholic Church and the friars, has been made superintendent of normal schools and not one Catholic is to be found among any of the American teachers who are employed under him in the education and training of native teachers. The correspondent adds that choice of places in the provinces is given to the native teachers who apostatise together with double the amount of salary which is given to those teachers who remain true to their faith. It is just possible that this account—which is certainly sufficiently startling—is somewhat exaggerated but in any case it will clear the air and reassure public opinion in America to have the matter officially discussed with the Holy See.

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Since the foregoing was written the following further cable, dated Rome, July 23, has come to hand: 'The Pope gave an audience to Mr Taft, the United States Governor of the Philippines, and assured him that the Apostolic Delegate in the Philippines would be instructed to execute the plans mutually agreed upon by America and the Vatican.' From this it would appear that our anticipation as to the probability of a settlement being arrived at has been fulfilled.

### The Terms of Peace.

The full text of the Agreement signed by the Representatives of the Boers, on the one hand, and Lord Milner and Lord Kitchener on the other, is given in our recent exchanges, and although the substance of the terms had been already communicated to us by cable, the information now to hand is interesting as being more detailed, definite, and authoritative. The chief points in the Agreement are as follow:—

'Burghers to lay down all arms and recognise the King as their lawful Sovereign; all prisoners to be brought back as soon as possible to South Africa without loss of liberty or property; no action to be taken against such prisoners save where guilty of breaches of the laws of war; the Dutch language to be taught in schools where parents desire it, and to be used in Courts if necessary; rifles will be allowed for protection; military administration will be withdrawn as soon as possible, and, as soon as circumstances permit, self government substituted; no special tax will be imposed on landed property to pay the cost of the war; three million pounds will be provided for re-stocking Boer farms; colonial rebels to be liable to trial according to the law of the colony to which they belong, the rank and file to be disfranchised for life, but no death penalty to be inflicted.'

It will thus be seen that, so far from insisting on the 'unconditional surrender' which Mr Chamberlain talked about some time ago, Great Britain has made concessions in all directions. The liberty and property of the burghers are retained, the native language is preserved, an indemnity of three million pounds is to be paid for the purpose of re-stocking the Boer farms, and, most noteworthy of all, an arrangement has been made whereby a virtual pardon is conceded to the Cape rebels who took up arms during the war, this question being to the very last the great bone of contention between the two parties.

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It must be admitted that the terms are most generous—so generous, indeed, that some of the ultra-Conservatives in England are beginning to complain that they are altogether too lenient. This feeling was somewhat pointedly expressed by an old soldier who, when asked to rejoice at the attainment of 'peace with honor,' is said to have replied: 'Peace with honor, indeed! It seems to me that we have got all the peace, and the Boers have all the honor.' There can be little doubt, however, that the policy of Britain on this occasion is as wise as it has been generous. If there is to be any real peace and true loyalty in South Africa, the old bitter Boer feeling must be worn down, and that can only be done by continued generosity and patient kindness. We could never bring ourselves to swallow, even with a liberal allowance of salt, the spread-eagle cables which appeared in the papers a short time ago intimating that after the conclusion of peace the Boers were cheering themselves hoarse over Lord Kitchener, and ver positively overflowing with loyalty to the country which they

had fought so fiercely and so long. If the Boers really indulged in such outbursts, in our opinion it meant very little, and the later cablegram announcing that a distinct reaction is apparent and that many burghers are wearing republican colours is much more likely to be the truth. It is sincerely to be hoped that the suggestion which, according to the cable, has been made in England, 'that the best means of overcoming bitterness would be by the appointment of prominent Dutchmen to the Executive Council or Repatriating Committee,' will be carried into effect, for it is only by a policy of this sort that the kindly feeling of the Boers—which is the surest guarantee of peace—can ever be secured.

### What the Clericals have done for Belgium.

Artemus Ward once sarcastically remarked that Shakespeare would have been an utter failure as a modern newspaper correspondent because he 'lacked the requisite imagination.' An illustration of the up-to-date correspondent's powers of imagination is furnished by the accounts given in many of the newspapers of the recent serious riots in Belgium. When the outbreak occurred the correspondents were, for the most part, in a state of blissful ignorance of the political history and industrial conditions of that interesting little country; but they got their imagination to work, and soon made the brilliant discovery that the Socialist outbreak, with all its attendant evils, was the direct result of the bad policy of the Catholic party in Belgium. One paper after another took up the foolish tale, and even a reputable journal like the *American Review of Reviews* lent its countenance to the silly fiction by finding space for the following:—'The Clerical party is chiefly responsible, by its narrow and illiberal policy, for the rapid growth in Belgium of bitter Radicalism and turbulent Socialism.' Fortunately, the American Catholic Truth Society has an official representative—the Rev. Father Van Der Heyden—residing in Belgium, and he promptly sent a complete and crushing refutation of the wholly unwarranted statement made by the *Review of Reviews*. He gave a detailed account of the reforms—some of which were referred to in our columns a fortnight ago—effected by the Clerical party since their accession to power in 1884, and the record shows that Belgium is, as we have often contended, really one of the most progressive countries in the world, and has in many important respects anticipated the advanced legislation of our own country.

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Here is the list, as given by Father Van Der Heyden, of the reforms achieved by the Catholic party since they assumed the reins of power. We quote from the Father's letter, dated Louvain, May 15, as it appeared in the *Catholic Standard and Times*. According to this, the Clerical party 'exempted all working men's homes from taxation, so that 52 per cent. of Belgian homes pay no personal taxes whatsoever. It passed a Bill pensioning aged workers, and at the present writing—one year after the passage of said Bill—177,000 old men and women enjoy the benefit of this pension. It reduced to one-fifth of a cent per mile the railroad fares of working men going to or coming from their work, whilst any other citizen pays one cent per mile in third class coaches, and almost three cents per mile in first class. It cut down by one-half, where working men are the interested parties, the legal expenses attendant upon the sale or transfer of property. It empowered the State to make loans at an interest of 2½ per cent., with every facility for payment of capital and interest, to help working men in securing their own homes. Eighteen thousand working men have in this way become proprietors of their homes in the last thirteen years, and the Government has 9,000,000 dol. standing out now on these homes—an immense sum, considering the size of the country. It must be added that if the Government loans at 2½ per cent., where a working man wishes to buy or build a home for himself, it pays him 3 per cent. for the money he leaves with it at the postal savings bank.'

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Notwithstanding all these concessions to the working classes, the burden of taxation is very light—lighter, indeed, than any other country in Europe excepting Switzerland. 'A Belgian,' says Father Van Der Heyden, 'pays seven dollars in taxes, a Frenchman fourteen, an Englishman eighteen.' On the political as well as on the economical side, the party has an excellent record. Since 1884 it 'greatly increased the list of eligibles for the Senate, which body is elected directly by the people. It granted plural suffrage, which is tempered universal suffrage. It produced proportional representation, which accords representatives to all parties, even to the parties in the minority, in proportion to the votes each list of candidates receives; whereas with the majority system, prevalent everywhere outside of Belgium and Switzerland, thousands who vote for a party in the minority are not represented at all in the legislative halls of their country. By introducing this latter reform two years ago the Catholic party reduced its majority in the House of Deputies from 72 members to 20, and put the quasi-defunct Liberal party on its feet again.' These are not the acts of a 'narrow and illiberal party,' but of a disinterested and progressive party—a party that is striving, and striving successfully, to improve the condition of all classes in the community.