

Religious Persecution in France

In a recent issue we quoted figures from a reliable authority showing what it will cost the French Government to provide and maintain schools and charitable institutions in place of those hitherto conducted by the suppressed religious Orders. But this is only one of the results which will follow the persecuting policy of the Combes Ministry; another, and a very serious one, is referred to by a correspondent in the London 'Tablet' of May 16, who says:—

The present French Government is engaged in a gigantic conspiracy to destroy true Christian religion. This scheme is being carried out with imposing vigor and great promptitude. First the teaching, preaching, and nursing Orders are to be destroyed, then comes the turn of the bishops, and, finally, that of the parish priests. All religious instruction is banished from every school. Difficulties in observing their religious duties are put in the way of every lay Catholic in France who may be in the army, navy, or employed in any way by the Government.

Persecution follows all who outwardly observe their faith. Efforts are made to close as many places of worship as possible; 155,000 persons who were all doing useful work for the State and country of France are driven from their occupations and reduced to begging.

The results of these criminal actions on the part of the present French Cabinet are not long in showing themselves, and prosperous, wealthy, and beautiful France is fast approaching to a condition of national bankruptcy. The peasant, the bourgeois, and the landed proprietor alike are terrified at the present condition of public affairs. The national banks of Belgium and Switzerland find that they are daily receiving vast imports of French gold.

Seized by a positive panic the saving portion of the French population is realising its capital and placing that capital in foreign hands. One of the first effects of the policy of M. Combes has been that of alarming capitalists who are daily expecting catastrophes of every description.

M. Edmund Dollfus, a wealthy financier, who is himself a Protestant, expressed himself a few days since in the following words to the editor of a leading American newspaper:—

M. Combes, by expelling the Congregations, has expelled with them a considerable proportion of French capital—a proportion that is daily increasing. French capital is making a vast exodus from the country where it owes its origin. The iniquitous and unjust measures taken against the religious communities have outraged the feelings of all honest-minded Parisians; in the provinces they have troubled most profoundly the feelings of the inhabitants of all classes, whose religious sentiments are stronger than those of the dwellers in towns. Having no further confidence in a Government capable of committing such infamous acts, all of those who possess money are busy exchanging their French securities for foreign securities, and this precaution the Congregations themselves were compelled to take in self-defence months ago. This is the cause of the sudden fall in French Rentes, and the corresponding rise in Italian, Spanish-Brazilian, and Argentine Government securities.

Between the 1st and 10th of May, 1903, in the Government Savings Banks of France, the following operations took place:

	Francs.
Deposits in the Caisse d'Epargne	2,717,779
Money removed from the same investment	10,231,096
Excess of removal over deposits	7,513,317

Between the 1st of January, 1903, and the 10th of May, 1903, the excess of money taken away from the savings banks (i.e., Caisse d'Epargne) over deposits is 41,900,116 francs, viz., £1,720,000! The Caisse d'Epargne, like our Post Office Savings Bank, is solely used by persons of limited means, and the amount to be invested is not allowed to exceed 5000 francs.

All these things are absolutely ignored by the principal organs of the English press, which are apparently laboring under the delusion that the expulsion of the religious Orders and the persecution of the Christian faith among the laity of France is viewed with indifference by the inhabitants of that country.

'TABLET' READERS!—Watch our advertising columns. The firms whose names appear there are progressive, enterprising, up-to-date. They want your trade and are prepared to cater for it. Give them a trial. And do us the kindness of mentioning the 'Tablet.'—***

PHYSICIANS AGREE that every disease with which suffering humanity is afflicted is certainly due to the neglect of some trivial trouble, which could have been easily cured if a remedy had been applied in time. Most complaints make their early appearance in the shape of Affections of the Throat and Lungs, and what is required in the initial stage is a preparation that will arrest the development of serious trouble. TUSSICURA has proved its efficacy in this respect in thousands of cases throughout the length and breadth of the Colony, and for this reason its reputation is widespread and daily increasing. Price, 2s 6d per bottle. Obtainable from all Chemists and Storekeepers.—***

Catholic Education in the Colonies

Mr. E. B. Sargent, Director of Education in the Transvaal, in a letter published in a recent issue of the London 'Times,' and written from the Oxford and Cambridge Club, Pall Mall, pays a remarkable tribute to the work of the Catholic Church as an educator in the colonies, and to the adaptability of the religious Orders to new conditions and pioneer life. Inter alia, Mr. Sargent says:—

This work was not, as a rule, accomplished through the instrumentality of her local ecclesiastical organisation, but by means of colonising settlements of men and women belonging to one or other of the religious Orders of the Church, or technically by the regulars and not by the seculars. Each settlement established, maintained, and controlled one or more educational institutions, and showed in its work all possible marks of vitality, including the faculties of self-preservation, adaptability to environment, and reproductive growth.

It was during a visit to Rhodesia, nearly five years ago, that I first had the opportunity of observing at what an early date in the British occupation of a country the religious Orders

Can Establish Flourishing Schools.

Had the first white settlers been consulted, they would have, no doubt, expressed their preference for an agency with which they were more familiar, but when they found that the education offered by the regulars to their children was superior to that which under such conditions they could reasonably have expected, and when no attempt was made to introduce doctrinal teaching or to proselytise, their gratitude was sincere, and found its expression in pecuniary assistance to the enlargement of the schools. In the various Australian colonies through which I afterwards travelled it became evident to me that though, as the population increased, Government took up the chief burden of the provision of schools, and though other Churches sometimes succeeded in the establishment of successful non-Government institutions, the Catholic schools still held their own, not only by reason of priority of foundation, but also in consequence of the guarantee which the stability of the religious communities controlling them offered for the permanence of the standard of the instruction supplied. It was not, however, until I had begun to investigate the conditions of education in Canada that I became fully aware of the powers of adaptation of these communities to local surroundings or of the fecundity which they exhibit. One instance must suffice. It is of a religious Order which in France devotes itself to other 'good works' as well as to education. A community professing this rule settled near New York and adapted itself to the local demand for school instruction. In the course of time it became the mother of numerous religious houses devoted to education, which spread through the States of the Union. One stray daughter began life in Nova Scotia, and before long descendants of the third generation in the New World were founding schools throughout the far western provinces of Canada. The number of the religious of this Order alone employed in teaching at the time of my visit was about 2500 in the United States and about 250 in Canada. This vigor of school colonisation on the part of the regulars extends over secondary as well as primary education. Boarding schools for boys as well as girls, often planned to accommodate twice as many scholars as are received during the first few years, testify to the manner in which

Rome Builds for the Future.

But they do not supply for our colonial youth the type of education which is characteristic of English public schools and colleges. Even the least successful imitation of such a school established by other Church agencies breathes the spirit of belief in the high destiny of England and the British race. In the corresponding schools established through the intervention of the Roman religious Orders it is inevitable that the thoughts of the teaching fraternity should turn to the mission of another Empire than that of England, and that, without any antagonism to our rule, they should unconsciously lead their pupils to believe that, as in past ages, Rome stands at the centre and Great Britain on the verge of the power and thought of Europe. This view is apt to be associated with a tendency to measure the relative importance of England and her colonies in accordance with their physical extent. 'What is your boys' idea of Great Britain?' I asked, on parting with the guide who had accompanied me over one of the great Catholic schools of Australia. 'An island that could be dropped into Port Philip' was the characteristically Irish rejoinder. The problem which thus presents itself for solution is to find an educational instrument combining the supremely effective organisation of the Roman Church with unwavering loyalty to English ideals of empire.

MYERS and CO., Dentists, Octagon, corner of George street. They guarantee highest class of work at moderate fees. Their artificial teeth give general satisfaction, and the fact of them supplying a temporary denture while the gums are healing does away with the inconvenience of being months without teeth. They manufacture a single artificial tooth for Ten Shillings, and sets equally moderate. The administration of nitrous-oxide gas is also a great boon to those needing the extraction of a tooth. Read advertisement.—***