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THE POPE'S CANADIAN ARMY.

G. R. MACFAUL, B. A.

The Roman Catholic church has a military organization in Canada.

A great gathering of the "The Gardes of Independante," of Ontario, Quebec and the Eastern States, consisting of some thirty-two or more corps, has recently been held in Ottawa. On Sunday, August 2nd, this army heard mass, paid their homage to the Papal-delegate and the Roman Catholic Archbishop, and desecrated the Lord's day. On Monday they were reviewed by the Mayor of the city and Governor-General of Canada.

An Ottawa paper said: "These semi-military corps have in organization a mission similar to that enjoyed by the papal guards. The different units assist as guards of honor on their bishops or other prelates, and also take part in the celebration of national holidays and feast days. By their drill and discipline they are also better fitted than the ordinary citizen to take places in the ranks of the militia when the time calls for such a step. Commandant Barthe of the Local Guard . . . and Capt. Charretier of the Champlain Guard, Quebec, both hold certificates from the School of Infantry, St. John's Que.

Why have the Roman Catholic Bishops of Canada an army as guards of honor? Is it simply to make a demonstration upon some feast day? Is it because the priests of Canada are so loyal to Britain that they want to assist in defending the country in case of war with a foreign foe? Is the state not fully capable of training soldiers without the assistance of Rome?

The bishops of the Roman Catholic church work only to extend the power of Rome, and, judging from her past history, I believe, and I am not alone in this opinion, that the real object of these military corps is to increase the prestige of the church of Rome, and place at her disposal a well-trained army, ready to take the sword, if the opportunity ever came, to strike a death blow to Protestants in Canada. The fact that some of these military organizations are known as "Garde Champlain," "Garde d'Honneur," "Garde Napoleon," "Garde Laurier," and other innocent names, serves to disguise, but does not change their real character and object. Other names, such as "Garde Leo XIII," and "Leo Zouaves Pontificaux," are more significant. The latter (the Pontifical Zouaves of Canada) have once been, armed, to Rome, where they joined the Papal troops, in fighting against Italian unity, to save the tottering temporal power, of which they witnessed the fall in 1870, and are now pledged to fight for the restoration of that power.

Why is the Pope not satisfied with spiritual power that he need become a military man as Julius II? Is there not to be seen in these organizations the old spirit of popery longing for temporal supremacy?

There are Protestants who will scout the idea of there being any danger to our country from these military organizations, but until the Pope of Rome issues an encyclical stating that previous popes erred in putting to death since 606 A. D., forty millions of the human race for heresy, and that Gregory XIII was guilty of a criminal act, in rendering thanks to God for the massacre of St. Bartholomew and in causing a medal to be struck in celebration of the murder of thousands of brave Huguenots, necessity demands that every true Canadian citizen be on the alert. Canadians and Canadian institutions do not need

to be guarded by the dupes of popish priestcraft. It should be remembered that these soldiers are sworn to obey their ecclesiastical superiors, and by the anathema of the Roman clergy doomed to an endless hell if they do not render implicit obedience. Jesuits are not to be trusted, and it is the duty of every true and patriotic Protestant to be ever vigilant.—*Canadian Baptist.*

THE CHURCH PAPER.

The influence of a good religious newspaper cannot be overestimated. In our day, when the facilities for communication all over the world are so great, and the tendency is to disseminate that class of news which appears most shocking and sensational, should we not pause for a moment to consider the claims of the religious press of this country, and its mission? People express surprise at the amount of pernicious literature read. Yet, in frequent cases, how little have Christian parents done to check the evil by about the only possible method, namely, that of creating a better taste by a supply of better food! Who can estimate the value of a beautiful thought or a precious truth impressed upon their memory which may never be forgotten. The religious newspaper is the champion of every righteous reform, the advocate of every good cause. Although it is not a paper to supply general news, it is eminently designed to stimulate and encourage humanity; it is the ally of every pastor and church officer, and the friend of every worker. The religious paper is a great and important factor in all forms of Christian activity. It is universally the testimony of pastors that their most efficient and earnest helpers are readers of church papers.—*Christian Life.*

WHY HE DIDN'T PAY.

A Missouri preacher, at the conclusion of one of his sermons, said: "Let all in the house who are paying their debts stand up." Instantly every man, woman and child, with one exception, rose to their feet. The preacher seated them and said: "Now, every man not paying his debts stand up." The exception noted, a care-worn, hungry-looking individual, clothed in his last summer's suit, slowly assumed a perpendicular position. "How is it, my friend," asked the minister, "that you are the only man to meet his obligations?"

"I run a newspaper," he meekly answered, "and the brethren here who just stood up are my subscribers, and —" —*Selected.*

NOVA SCOTIA CONFERENCE.—We are indebted to Rev. E. Crowell, M. A., clerk of the Nova Scotia Free Baptist Conference, for a copy of the Minutes of the thirty-eighth session of that body, held in August last. It is a neatly printed pamphlet of forty-one pages, from the press of James Wallis, Yarmouth.

—Twenty-four years ago a few Philadelphia women began the Sunday breakfast giving which has resulted in an association for that purpose. Breakfast was given on Sunday morning with religious services to men, the state of whose clothing seemed to forbid them to attend church. Last year 389 religious meetings were held by this association, with an attendance of 105,024. Of these only 53,321 received free meals—showing that the attendance was by no means only for the "loaves and fishes."

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