

DR. BURSELL'S CASE.

THE QUESTION THAT IS AGITATING AMERICAN ROMAN CATHOLICS.

Decision will settle the power of Mgr. Satolli to interfere with Archbishop Corrigan's Acts.

The next official utterance of the Roman Pontiff touching upon the affairs of the Catholic Church in the United States will probably set at rest for all time the controversy over the powers of Mgr. Satolli, apostolic delegate to this country. A direct issue between Mgr. Satolli and Michael Augustine Corrigan, Archbishop of the Diocese of New York, is involved and the advocates of each of these two distinguished Churchmen are eager for the word from Rome which will bring with it triumph for the one or the other. The point at issue relates to the right of Mgr. Satolli to restore to the pastorate of the Church of Epiphany in this city Rev. Dr. Richard Lalor Bursell, who was removed by Archbishop Corrigan six years ago for joining with Father Edward McGlynn in propagating Anti-Poverty Society doctrines. Dr. Bursell, who was the adviser of Father McGlynn, was not excommunicated as was the latter, but he was peremptorily ordered to abdicate his pastorate, which by hard work for twenty years he had made one of the most influential parishes in the diocese of New York. This he refused to do and sent an appeal to Rome. Archbishop Corrigan denied the priest's right to appeal from his mandate, and, although the appeal was sent, it is not clear from the facts at hand that it was ever presented.

That Archbishop Corrigan laid his side of the affair before the propoganda there is not the least doubt, because in July, 1890, the Pope ratified the sentence condemning Dr. Bursell to obey the order of Archbishop Corrigan transferring him to a country parish. Archbishop Corrigan selected as the retreat of the banished priest the parish of Roundout, a remote and unimportant one. In view of the active and important service previously rendered by Dr. Bursell the sentence was particularly humiliating, but Dr. Bursell obeyed the orders from Rome, and took up the burden of the simple and unimportant duties in the remote village, and conducted them with zeal and piety. He has remained there ever since, but has probably engaged more attention in the religious world than any other priest similarly placed.

When Father McGlynn was restored to the priesthood last autumn the case of Dr. Bursell naturally caused much discussion, and his friends reasoned that inasmuch as his loss of standing in the Church had been brought about by the excommunication of Dr. McGlynn, he, too, should be restored to full power as pastor of the Church of the Epiphany, whose congregation has remained loyal to him since the trouble began. No action was taken in Dr. Bursell's case, however, until a few weeks ago, although it is accepted as a fact that Father McGlynn left no effort untried to bring about the restoration of his old friend and champion. Much was accomplished by exciting the interest of Mgr. Satolli, and it is believed that Father McGlynn personally called the attention of the Pope to the injustice suffered by Dr. Bursell when he visited Rome a couple of months ago by invitation of the pontiff.

Mgr. Satolli took up the claim of Dr. Bursell to be restored to his old pastorate and both he and Archbishop Corrigan have laid the matter before the Pope.

Dr. McGlynn is confident that Mgr. Satolli, who enjoys the full confidence of the Pope, will be upheld. Other advocates of the right of Mgr. Satolli to resort to any means to adjust difficulties in the Church as his judgment may dictate are more conservative than Dr. McGlynn and look for nothing more formal than a suggestion from the Pope that Archbishop Corrigan accede to the apostolic delegate's request. Archbishop Corrigan's attitude in opposing the right of Mgr. Satolli to make even a formal request concerning the administration of the affairs of a diocese is said to be endorsed by several other bishops, some of whom are not usually in sympathy with the methods and acts of His Grace of New York.

The direct cause of Dr. Bursell's banishment from Epiphany was a lawsuit brought by the son and executor of one John McGuire, previously unknown to fame, who died at one of the meetings of the Anti-Poverty Society. Archbishop Corrigan refused to permit the interment of McGuire in consecrated ground, holding that he had absolved himself from the Church by advocating the precepts of a man (Dr. McGlynn) who had been excommunicated for advocating the views which McGuire endorsed. A suit to compel the Archbishop to permit the interment of McGuire's body, while it did not succeed, called forth Dr. Bursell, then pastor of the Church of the Epiphany, as a witness. Bursell disputed the Archbishop's right to arbitrarily refuse interment in consecrated ground to a member of the Church. Dr. McGlynn expressed similar views. Shortly after the suit was decided Dr. Bursell was removed from his pastorate. Coming, as it did, close upon the excommunication of Dr. McGlynn, the McGuire incident nearly precipitated a revolt against the Archbishop who was openly denounced, and the congregation denied his right to interfere with its affairs as it was free from debt, and declared that the Archbishop had no control over the political opinions and duties as citizens of its

priest or parishioners. Archbishop Corrigan is said to have become alarmed over the extent of the tumult, and when Dr. Bursell refused to obey and the congregation of Epiphany threatened to sell the church property and withdraw from the diocese, he hurriedly left for Rome to present his side of the case to the council of the Propaganda. Wiser council prevailed in the parish, and, aside from presenting Dr. Bursell with \$20,000, when the decree came from Rome ordering him to obey the Archbishop there were no further demonstrations, but the parishioners have ever remained loyal to their pastor, and are yet hopeful of welcoming him to his old place among them.

As an adviser of Dr. McGlynn, when the latter established the Anti-Poverty Society, Dr. Bursell achieved great prominence. He held that the Society was not antagonistic to the Church, but that men could entertain the political views encouraged by the Society and still remain good church members. He was very earnest and eloquent in his defence of Father McGlynn, and, with Father Ducey, of St. Leo's, defended the founder of the Anti-Poverty Society in a manner that aroused the admiration of the most learned members of the legal profession.

Both Dr. Bursell and Father Ducey, whose relationship to Father McGlynn has been that of brothers, contested almost every move made by the Archbishop of New York looking to the excommunication of Father McGlynn. Dr. Bursell held them and holds to-day that the excommunication of Dr. McGlynn was illegal upon every point raised, and his arguments, which were particularly pointed, destroyed what little standing he had with his bishop.

Dr. Bursell was born in New York city. His family was famous for its wealth and culture, and was closely identified with the church in New York. It was decided that Richard should be a priest, and at the age of eleven years he was sent to Rome to prepare for ordination. He studied in the American College and was ordained at twenty-three by the propoganda. At twenty-five he returned to New York and became assistant pastor of St. Ann's, where he remained for five years. At the end of that time he solicited permission to establish a new parish in Second Avenue. Cardinal McCloskey gave his consent, and the Church of the Epiphany was the result of his energy. The church was built in Second Avenue, near Twenty-first street, in 1869 and now owns more than \$500,000 worth of property, including a fine parsonage and parochial school. Eight years ago Dr. Bursell established the Church of St. Benedict the Moor for colored Catholics, the first and only one in New York, and it is now in a very prosperous condition.—Montreal Star.

Musical Notes.

Rosa Linde, the contralto, and Edwin M. Shonert, pianist, have been engaged for Henri Marteau's tour of this country under the management of R. E. Johnson.

Patti, at Craig-y-Nos Castle, is studying the new opera, Gabrielle, by Pizzi, in which she will appear in this country. The opera is laid in the time of Louis XVIII.

The great Salvini—Tommaso Salvini the father—expects to come soon to this country to visit the World's Fair, and it is believed that he will play here before returning to Italy.

Will S. Harkins has returned from Halifax, N. S., where he has been playing a summer engagement, and is now rehearsing for The Still Alarm for the coming season.

As a joint star with Pauline Hall in comic opera, Richard Golden will next season disport upon the mimic scene in a new opera, the libretto of which is the work of George M. S. McLellan.

Mrs. Brown Potter is gazing the good people of London with the story that she has recently refused £6,000 for an American tour of ten weeks.—Pupils of the late Joachim Raff are about to erect a monument to his memory at Frankfurt-on-the-Main. An Indian princess will shortly be seen on the London stage in the person of the Princess Ahmadi, belonging to the Royal house of Delhi. Queen Victoria some time since bestowed the title of Lady Ali on the mother of the Princess, together with a pension of £500 a year. Madame Cellini has had this young lady's voice under her control.

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SIAM WILL BE A BUFFER.

France Won't Take Over the Former Burmah Territory.

A Great Undeveloped Market Was One of France's Aims—Bangkok Still in a State of Terror—Lord Dufferin's Part.

LONDON, Aug. 1.—Edmund Yates, of the London World, has this to say of the Franco-Siamese dispute: "The fons et origo of the present Siamese difficulty undoubtedly was the desire of France to obtain the trade of Southwest China. Their surveys of other routes from Tonquin convinced them of the superiority of that advocated for so many years by Holt Hallet, which passes from Burmah up the Mekong Valley to Ssumao. This Chinese frontier town gives the only easy access to the provinces of Yunnan and Szechuan; hence the demand in the ultimatum for the east bank of the Mekong from China southward as the French frontier.

The people of this country are protesting at what they call a claim sprung without warning. This is not the case. Holt Hallet has for years kept the public informed concerning French intentions, as shown in the written statements of the leading authorities in these matters. The Tonquin and China frontiers do not afford a point of entry to southwest China in any way comparable for trade purposes with Ssumao. This is the cry of the French demands. It is a fight for what the French and English consider to be the richest undeveloped market in the world. France, by annexing the left bank of the Mekong, would be enabled to build a railway to Ssumao to tap it. She will gain the prestige of opening a means of communication of equal trade importance to the Suez Canal, together with a position in Indo-China similar to that created for her in Egypt by the canal."

The Post's Paris correspondent says: "A lengthy interview on Monday morning between M. Develle and Lord Dufferin resulted in a friendly entente, permitting Siam to be maintained as a buffer between the British and the French possessions. France abandons the part to which England lays claim, as having formed part of Burmah previous to the Ebuwa's overthrow. England agrees to necessity of an accurate adjustment at the Siamese frontier in relation to Tonquin and Annam.

The entente is so complete that Lord Dufferin will probably return to England on Tuesday or Wednesday. It has been agreed that the French blockade of the Siamese coast shall be raised immediately.

The Paris correspondent of the Central News says that it has learned from good authority that France demands as security from Siam that the terms of the ultimatum will be carried on by the temporary custody of Chantaboon, a town near the gulf of Siam; also that Siam shall establish no military stations at certain named places near the frontier of Cambodia or within a certain distance of the Mekong river.

A despatch from Bangkok to the Central News dated Monday, 7 p. m., says: "The uneasiness among the people here far from lessening is increasing. Seven more French gunboats have arrived at Koh-si-Chang, making a total of thirteen now there. Negotiations are still going on, but the progress made is not reported. The intentions of the French are awaited with fear and apprehension. Rear-Admiral Humann, commanding the French squadron, has issued a second blockade notice to take effect three days from Saturday. He will order the British warship Dallas and Swift now lying off Bangkok, to go outside the blockade limits. M. Pavie, the French minister resident, has gone to Saigon and Rear-Admiral Humann is under direct orders from Paris. Unless the French government interposes quickly an attack on Bangkok seems certain. The trading community is surprised that Humann is still allowed a free hand."

Replying in the House of Commons yesterday to a question asked by the Hon. George Curzon, Conservative, Sir Edward Grey, Parliamentary Secretary of the Foreign Office, said that he was unable to give exact information regarding the blockade of the Siamese coast and the occupation of several islands by the French. It was understood, however, that the occupation of the islands was only temporary, being in some way connected with the blockading operations. It did not appear that any British vessel had been seized by the French.

PHILADELPHIA, August 1.—Now that the Franco-Siamese trouble appears to be at an end, details of the negotiations are coming to light. The British Government, through its representative in Paris, is insisting that France should not annex the territory north of the eighteenth parallel of latitude ceded to Siam on condition that it should never be ceded to any other Government. England gave those Shan States to Siam in order that contact with French Indo-China which would inevitably result in friction and possibly in combustion. It was Lord Dufferin who as Viceroy of India, effected this arrangement shortly after he had added what had been independent Burmah to the British Empire. Very fitly it is he who is now taking care that the buffer which he placed with so much care between England and France shall not be absorbed by the latter. There was no doubt at the British Embassy that France would give way sooner or later, the British case being so clear to British eyes. This point, as far as the knowledge of the Embassy went, was the only one which England made a subject of intervention.

A correspondent asked at the British Embassy what would happen if France refuses to accept England's demands.

We shall negotiate and negotiate until she does, was the cheerful answer.

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