

A LESSON FROM SPAIN.

The *Contemporary Review* for June quotes from Father Balmez, the ablest Spanish defender of the Church of Rome, the following sentence, "Before Protestantism, European civilization had reached all the development that was possible for it; Protestantism perverted the course of civilization and produced immense evils in modern society; and the progress that has been made since Protestantism, has been made not by it, but in spite of it." The writer was sincere: he wrote in 1847, and England then he regarded as on the point of returning to the Roman fold. The views of Father Balmez are more difficult to hold today than fifty years ago, for the "most Catholic nation in the world" has suffered much, and has fallen far in the rear. For the misfortunes of Spain the writer in the *Contemporary* holds the Roman Catholic church largely responsible. The Spanish race is gifted and brave: it is docile and brilliant. Why should it fall behind its neighbors? The fatal fault seems to have been the neglect of education. Of its 18 million people about 12 million can neither read nor write. One-third of the population of Madrid cannot read nor write. In 1857 education was made "compulsory," but the law could not be enforced. Teachers were paid from five to twenty pounds. Teachers have in some cases been unable to read. The amazing ignorance of the people is not unfavorable to the perpetuation of the church's control. This ignorance renders it safe to represent reformers as only bad, and supposed relics of saints are as potent as of old, and indulgences are largely in vogue. Popular government in Spain is a "sham." "The education of the clergy is grossly inadequate, and that given in secular colleges is totally unsuited to the needs of the age." Reform in primary education is needed so that the people may take an interest in Church and State; "and in University education so that merchants and politicians may rise to a proper sense of their national and international duties." The Church is painfully indifferent to education. In this how different from the Roman Catholic church in this country! Begging has attained to an appalling development in Spain. Labor is not respected, and indolence is not scorned. In the northern provinces the people labor very diligently in order to secure the means of living. Peasants work from 10 to 16 hours a day all the year round at a wage of about 3 shillings a week. The mines, which are rich, are developed by foreign enterprise.

Gambling prevails in Spain, the state deriving a revenue of £200,000 a year from lotteries. Lotteries are carried on in the vestibules of churches and in convents. Sanitation is so neglected that Spain with her superb climate retains one of the highest death-rates in the world. The church spends 29,200,000 pesetas a year on incense and candles. The peasant that earns three pesetas a day must pay that much for a mass. For a prayer over a sick child, occupying a minute or two he has to pay 3 pesetas. There are, say, 72,000 priests, monks and nuns in the country.

The writer says that the sale of indulgences continues as in the time of Luther. "I have two of these precious *bulas* before me. They were bought in Madrid in 1901 and they bear that date. They were bought in an ordinary bookseller's shop for the sum of 25 cents. One of the *bulas* granted permission to eat meat in Lent. A large business is carried on in indulgences, the proceeds being divided between the government and the Vatican.

"A year or two ago an English Catholic noticed this practice in Spain, and the horrified Englishman denounced it at once to the Vatican. It took many letters to induce the oracle to speak,

and in the end came an unsigned message to the effect that any priest would explain to him how there was no "sale" whatever in the proceeding. The Vatican is perfectly well acquainted with this infamous traffic. It is one of the chief and most discreditable sources of revenue to the Spanish Church. Every priest knows how little the plenary indulgences really means. Poor Spain finds a blessed privilege in the traffic that lit the flame of Rebellion four centuries ago in Germany and that the church is keenly intent upon concealing from the educated Roman Catholics of England and the United States."

Enormous amounts of money are devoted to display in public worship. One robe on a statue of the Virgin is decked with 85,000 large pearls and with sapphires, amethysts and diamonds. The crown on this statue is worth £5,000 and the bracelets £2,000. The Spanish church continues to heap up barbaric treasures in times of distress and calamity. Besides miraculous statues there are costly shrines inclosing relics without number, such as a lock of the Virgin's hair. There is an immense sale of relics, scapulars, charms and other things that cost much and are really worth nothing.

The writer states that the church encourages the bull fight. A chapel is attached to the ring that they may pray before entering the arena, and a priest is in readiness to give the sacraments. The clergy bless a new plaza with great pomp. In 1901 there were 532 bull-fights in Spain, at which 3,058 bulls were killed. This would involve the goring and disembowelling of at least 10,000 horses. A dozen journals are devoted to bull-fighting! The debasing sport extends its ugly influence to all classes. Poor people, girls and boys, and little children take part in mock bull-fights. A poor cow, a blind bull, a sick calf, is bought and mercilessly tortured to make sport for the crowd. The truth is that the Spaniards were successful in crushing out all dissent from the religious beliefs and practices of the Dark Ages. In the last census of 1887 only 17,211 of the population declared themselves not connected with the Church of Rome. In no other country in the world has that church had so excellent an opportunity of working out her own plans and proving her superiority. In view of the results it seems probable that thoughtful Roman Catholics will feel sincerely thankful that the Spanish type of religion is not universal.

The Teaching Staff in Acadia Seminary.

On another page is an advertisement of the Baptist institutions at Wolfville, N. S. The following facts concerning new appointments to the teaching staff of Acadia Seminary—the school for young ladies—are of interest:

1. *Vice-Principal*.—This appointment made necessary by the resignation of Miss Patten, has been filled by the appointment of Miss Adeline Putnam. Miss Putnam is a graduate of Wellesley College, 1899, specializing throughout her course in English literature. The two years following her graduation Miss Putnam taught in both the Academic and Collegiate departments of Forest Park University, St. Louis. Resigning this position to pursue further study, she spent a year in residence at Cornell University, holding the graduate scholarship in English literature, and receiving her M. A. degree in 1902. After a summer spent abroad in travel and study of art she accepted the position of preceptress in the Minneapolis Classical School. This position she resigns to come to Acadia Seminary.

2. *Director of Piano and General Director of the Musical Department*.—The department of piano, which has had such a rapid growth during the last

three or four years, demands a strong man as director, and we believe that he has been secured in the person of Mr. George Pratt Maxim. After prolonged study in pianoforte, Harmony, Composition, Conducting and Pipe-organ, under several of the best American teachers, Mr. Maxim has filled important positions as director of music at Coburn Classical Institute, Waterville, Me.; Western College Conservatory of Music, Toledo, Iowa; and, later, Limestone College School of Music, Gaffney, South Carolina. Early in September Mr. Maxim will return from Europe, where he has been pursuing advanced study in piano and organ under such noted teachers as Philipp and Guilman, of Paris, and Leschetizky, of Berlin.

3. *Voice*.—Miss Ursula Archer, who has accepted the appointment to fill the vacancy made by the resignation of Miss Marvin, has studied singing and vocal culture under the best teachers in Toronto. Later she studied with William Shakespeare, London, who is recognized as one of the foremost teachers of this generation. Thus equipped, Miss Archer has had considerable experience as a teacher, having been a member of the staff of the Toronto College of Music, and during that time having successfully prepared pupils for the final examination in voice. With such training, experience in teaching, and native artistic ability, Miss Archer is bound to sustain the splendid reputation which the Vocal Department has achieved.

4. *Violin*.—Miss Evalena Warren accepts the appointment as teacher of violin. Miss Warren is a graduate of the Ithaca Conservatory of Music, specializing in violin. Miss Warren has had considerable experience as a teacher, having for five years, during the summer, conducted with great success large classes. Miss Warren possesses fine musical appreciation, and plays with excellent expression.

5. *Domestic Science*.—This important department is to have as its director Miss Annie A. Bool. Miss Bool holds a diploma in domestic science from the Training School in Truro, and has two years experience in teaching this branch in Chester. In addition to the above-mentioned qualifications, she holds a B license Normal School diploma, and has had considerable experience in teaching before making domestic science her specialty.

Parents who are intending to send their daughters away to school will do well to correspond with the principal of Acadia Seminary.

Johnny had been told to write a short composition in which he should say something about all the days of the week. The little fellow thought a few minutes, and then triumphantly produced this: "Monday father and I killed a bear; and there was meat enough to last over Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday."

When the church of Jesus Christ is clad in robes of pride instead of humility, the world is pleased but not convicted.—*Free Baptist*.

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