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ROME'S CLAIMS.

Archbishop Ryan, of Philadelphia, in a sermon delivered to the students of the Catholic summer school at Plattsburg, N. Y., spoke of the church and its mission in the world. In the course of his address he stated that the Catholic institution, relating, of course, to the Catholic church, is the oldest of all this age and the only one extant. He claimed that strength of the latter cannot be properly [illegible]. He [illegible] as quoted were:

Now this great institution, founded by Christ and blessed with such universal unity and stability, is precisely what is needed in our age and country. In order to give weight to unity in many diverse denominations and permanent stability in the state itself. Let us then go forth from this summer school with increased knowledge, both sacred and profane, but above all things with a profound conviction that we have in this institution of the church what the age and nation require. And let us prove by our individual lives the practical influence of that institution in governing and sanctifying the individual, and, therefore, with a power to influence the whole nation for good, and thus preserve it.

It seems almost incredible that a prominent prelate at this time should stand up and claim in all seriousness that the church of Rome is the harbor of refuge to suffering humanity. That institution was fairly tried for centuries but failed to bring about a better condition. If we turn a few pages of history and pause at the time before the Reformation, when it held sway over the Christian world, and look at the then existing conditions, there is very little, indeed, to bear out the statement of the reverend gentleman. Socially mankind was divided in two classes. One exercised the most cruel despotism, by the grace of the church, over the other. Superstition and ignorance were the characteristics of the age, as witness the persecutions for heresy and prosecutions for witchcraft, the sale of indulgences and the scandalous intrigues within the very gates of Rome. What did the representatives of Romanism at that time ever do to spread the deplorable conditions or to spread light and knowledge among the people? What is there on all the pages of history since the beginning of papal reign to indicate that an effort was made to promote liberty and progress and advance the cause of humanity? Suppose there had never been a reformation and a revolution, what would the world have been? It is not necessary to draw on imagination for an answer to that question.

In one of the dispatches a story is told that is interesting in this connection. A poor orphan girl enters a convent. In the agony of temptation to which human nature is subject, she whispers her confession to some spiritual counselor. The result is that in order to atone for her sin she tortured her tender body by sticking needles into it—that is, if the punishment actually was self-inflicted—until she now is at the point of death. And is this what is offered as the balm of Gilead which humanity needs. Anyone acquainted with the true principles of Christianity as with human nature knows that such alleged means of salvation are not Christian, but pagan. They utterly fail to cleanse from sin, to relieve guilt or to impart moral strength. And it is a fearful thing that the counsels offered by that institution for all the ills of humanity are equally worthless.

Archbishop Ryan's speech, however, is significant as revealing the real aim of the institution he represents. It is nothing less than "to bring the whole nation to God and Rome, even if it should be a sudden despotism imposed upon unwilling subjects." Rome is universal, it is only right that the whole power of Rome's despotism should be established. The efforts of St. Louis Spies are interesting in this matter.

THE CRETAN SITUATION.

Turkey seems to be not little disturbed at Greek fighting is taking place on the Turkish and the Greek soil. It appears there are well [illegible] Wednesday. The first reports were to the effect that the insurgents in Macedonia had defeated a Turkish detachment. A further conflict is now said to have occurred, ending with the dispersion of the rebels. The Turks have actual troops in the province to resist any ordinary insurrection.

The rising in Macedonia is the outgrowth of the Armenian disturbances. Both Armenians and Macedonians [illegible] the treaty of Berlin to 1878 promised protection from Turkish [illegible], but the promises never were [illegible]. The latter using that their [illegible] in Asia Minor and under the leadership of [illegible] Greece, [illegible] of doing the same, [illegible] Christians. There is no doubt of that cause is as just as that of the Armenians.

The last findings in the case of Bulgaria where ex-Prince Ferdinand and [illegible] were sentenced to [illegible] years' imprisonment, [illegible] Bulgaria, by the consent of the powers, [illegible] Russian influence, has brought the question to a [illegible] stage, and will further complicate matters in the Balkans. Ferdinand claims the position of ruler without the consent of Russia, which is a violation of the Berlin treaty, in as much as the provisions that the Bulgarian king can accept the throne only by permission of all the signatory powers. In this violation Russia would find a justification for interference whenever the czar's government thinks the time has come in order the troops to cross the frontier. Altogether the situation is such that European statesmen at present will have their skill tested to the utmost.

DECREASE OF CRIME.

It is claimed that during the last period of about twenty-five years, or from 1869 to 1894 crime has been on the decrease in England. Generally, the problem is to account for the increase of crime and to find a remedy for it, but if the statistics given are reliable, the conclusion seems to be well founded that these important questions are about to be understood. The decrease is said to be about 8 per cent on the average.

The number of persons arrested as offenders against persons or property twenty years ago was 107,618. Ten years later the number was 105,801 and in 1892-93 only 103,[illegible], a decrease all the more marked if the increase of population during the same period is taken into consideration.

Offenses concerning cruelty to animals, drunkenness, sanitary and hygienic rules are always large and such cases are more closely looked after, so there is a natural expectation that the increase in the number of such offenses would be larger on the contrary, the increase is only 24 above the record of ten years ago, but as the population has increased 12 per cent there is a real decrease of 10 per cent.

The criminal class "known to the police," including those at large as well as in confinement, show a decrease in number of 17,000 to 69,000. Those at large numbered in 1881, 20,860, in 1885, 21,225, in 1891, 20,808, in 1893, 19,848. Arrests itself making the last showing thus in every 100,000 persons there were "known to the police" 45 in London, 50 in provincial cities and 41 in the country. The Morning Post, of August 28th, 1894, says: "The anarchists, assisted by the surveillance of the police, are leaving London and settling in the provincial cities."

Houses of bad repute decreased to number in three years from 2,049 to 2,005. Juvenile offenders, those under 16 years of age, numbered 10,000 in 1869-70. This figure has fallen steadily until 4,000 in the last record. In every 100,000 of population there were 10 juvenile offenders in 1869-1870 against 23 in 1893, a decrease of 70 per cent.

It must be remembered that this decrease is not due to any change in the administration of the laws or to a relaxation of their rigidity. On the contrary the laws have been made more stringent, and the number of arrests for every hundred offenses shows that the execution of the laws is more thorough; for in 1866-1867 there were 41 to 45 arrests for every hundred crimes, and in 1892-1893 there were 86.8 arrests. Meanwhile the number of police has been greatly increased, and the expense on this account is now 223 per cent larger than in 1866. In the same way the laws against intemperance, against cruelty to children and against truancy are more rigidly enforced; in 1891 there were 90,[illegible] arrests and [illegible] prosecutions for violation of the school laws.

It is further claimed that divorces and cases of bankruptcy have similarly decreased in the period mentioned.

A writer in the Independent, from which journal the above figures are borrowed, argues that in this it is to seek the result of the work of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children as well as of the moral and religious training of the young in the schools. And it is not improbable that this claim is well founded. Every humanitarian movement is thus a source to society, and the training in which many of their youth are put in "Bonnie" and heavy service in the army, the civil offenses which in London City are raised [illegible] to the [illegible] of the children in [illegible] the [illegible] children in which a [illegible] attention.

MORE MISGIVINGS ARE [illegible]. The [illegible] in Chicago and New York for the [illegible] Chicago [illegible] Chicago [illegible] Chicago