

For the forty years of his political career he has gone on blaspheming in this way. He means to go on doing so to the end. 'Without the aid of the lying promises of any religion I shall go to my great repose, with a lofty resignation, content to have lived and proud to have, at least, made the attempt, like the Titans of old, to pull down the heavens.' A blasphemer of this kind must rejoice in having an opportunity of voting to commemorate the birthday of an atheist and anarchist like Diderot. Mind you, Clemenceau is working hard to oust Berthon, and become the next Prime Minister of France. He is a great defender of the godless-school system and of the atheistic schoolmasters who should, he holds, not be interfered with in the 'enlightenment' of the children by any authority, not by the parents, not even by the Government. At the same time, the mention of permission to nuns, or Brothers, or priests to open a school is enough to make this lover of liberty and equality jump skywards with rage.

#### A Bull of Bashan in the Chamber.

Unlike Clemenceau, his adversary, M. Jaurès, is a very shuttlecock in religion and politics. In both he has gone the whole round—accommodating himself to circumstances. He began as a pious Christian; he is now an extreme freethinker. He began as a moderate liberal; he is now an ultra-socialist. At the elections of 1893 a good number of socialist candidates was returned to the Chamber. Jaurès, who must be a leader, saw his opportunity. He began at once to talk free thought and extreme socialism. He was soon a leader of the party. Jaurès is a huge, clumsy man with a great rough voice. Without tiring, this born demagogue can keep on roaring like a bull of Bashan for two, three, or four hours. He has sometimes spoken during a whole sitting of the House. To the old, Eternal Law of God he opposes his new interpretation of the Rights of Man. In a speech glorifying free compulsory godless education—this neutral system is pearl in the eyes of all these men—Jaurès exclaimed: 'If God Himself appeared in visible form to the people, the first duty of man would be to refuse Him obedience, to consider Him not as a Master to Whom he should submit but as an Equal with Whom he might argue.' To this defiant declaration he added: 'In this doctrine of independence and liberty lies the beauty of our lay education.' Yet parents, who subject their unfortunate children to this system of education, whose special beauty lies in inspiring disobedience even to God, complain that children are growing up now conceited, disobedient, irreverent. In the same speech he asserted: 'The idea we must cherish above all is this—that there is no sacred truth; that no doctrine, no power can limit the unending quest of the human race. Humanity sits as a great commission of inquiry, whose powers are unlimited.' Magnificent sweep of oratorical gush all this, but how fearfully absurd.

#### The National Flag to be Buried in a Manure Heap.

There is a league of 'anti-patriots' among our politicians. The object of this league is to destroy that venerable sentiment—duty towards our country, patriotism. These faddists preach universal peace, the abolition of natural frontiers, the fusion of all peoples into one nation, co-extensive with the human race. Rather a big proposition! But they have set about realising the idea by means of a huge output of speeches, newspapers, books, and tracts. Of course they attack the army; they declare it a savage, shameful, uncivilised institution. The principal spouter of this clique is one Gustave Hervé. The league spreads books and tracts among the soldiers, encouraging them to mutiny in time of war. As a result of this propaganda there have been four or five serious mutinies in our large barracks this summer. The league is particularly anxious to get hold of the schoolmasters; these should prove so useful in teaching the youth of the country the sweet reasonableness of anti-patriotism. It is wonderful how all parties have become alive, in our day, to the importance of getting hold of the school and of the children. Hervé has succeeded so well with the schoolmasters that 14,000 of them subscribe for the

review edited by himself. His doctrines are concentrated in a famous declaration of his: 'I hope to see the French flag buried in the dunghill.' Poor distracted France, torn to death by her own sons, by her own political leaders! Knowing the principles of these men where is there room for astonishment at the Diderot celebration? They out-Diderot the master. Why should they not? In the road of 'progress,' begun by him and his fellow-Encyclopedists of the eighteenth century, are they not 150 years in advance? Yes, in advance in the work of degrading and ruining their country.

#### No Need to Despair.

But there is no need for despair, terrible though the state of France is. There is yet left a sufficient number of men with faith and truthfulness, with honor and virtue to bring about the resurrection of their country. Learning the lesson of organisation from their adversaries, they are combining in Catholic confederations through the land. Disunion among their enemies gives them at present good grounds for hopefulness. The revolutionary cliques are very much divided. Jaurès and Clemenceau rend and tear one another like demons. Indeed, Clemenceau already sees danger in the rising *Unions Diocesaines*. In a recent number of his paper, *l'Homme Libre*, he classifies the adversaries. On the one hand is what he calls the *autocratie clericale romaine*, on the other the *idée révolutionnaire de l'esprit libéré*. He says the separation of Church and State has not closed the struggle *longue et terrible* between these contradictory principles. With an admonishing finger he points to the divided and squabbling cliques of liberals, radicals, socialists, and anti-patriots: 'We have seen many offensive returns of the adversary; we shall see more of them.' I should think so, unless the hoary-headed blasphemer goes to his 'long repose' very soon.

## Diocesan News

### ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

November 1.

St. Patrick's branch of the H.A.C.B. Society will hold a euchre party on Monday, November 10.

His Grace Archbishop Redwood, who had been on a visit to the West Coast, returned during the week.

The Rev. Dr. Casey, S.M., who has been completing his studies in Rome, is returning to the Dominion in company with his Lordship Bishop Grimes.

Mr. Lance Girling-Butcher, son of Mr. George Girling-Butcher, secretary and organiser of the Catholic Federation, was amongst those students who were successful in the Victoria College University examinations.

Mr. J. R. Hayward, of Christchurch, was in Wellington during the week on business, and found time to attend a meeting of the Dominion Executive of the Catholic Federation in his capacity as one of its vice-presidents.

Regret was expressed at the meeting of the French Club for the loss which the club sustains in the departure of M. and Mme. Duflou for Auckland, and by way of recognition of their past invaluable efforts on behalf of the club Madame Duflou was unanimously elected a life member. M. Duflou is already a life member.

The retreat, conducted by the Rev. Father McDonnell, of Greenmeadows Seminary, for the Children of Mary concluded last Sunday. All the exercises were well attended, and the very practical and instructive sermons of Father McDonnell were much appreciated. Twelve young ladies were received into the sodality on Sunday.

The strike is the sole topic of conversation at the present time, and things have assumed a serious aspect. There has been a run on sugar and flour, and those

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