

invited to these Poincaré fêtes. There are congenital flunkies everywhere, who will hang around any Jack-in-office to catch his smiles and the scraps that fall from his table. But on the other hand, glad to say, we have many, lay and clerical, with whom the shortest way to their hearts is not through their stomachs, but by the way of their faith and their Baptismal vows. The chicken and champagne and soft presidential eloquence count little with them; their religion and its interests are for them first and all in all. They are true men, not flunkies or time-servers of those in power. They remember the saying: 'Seek ye first the Kingdom of God.'

A CASE IN POINT.

The other day M. Poincaré visited the Department of Lot. The Prefect invited all the county councillors to the presidential banquet. He received the following letter from M. Calmon-Maison, member for the canton of Gramat:—'Sir,—You have done me the honor to invite me to the dinner and soiree to be given on October 13 by our Council to the President of the Republic. You will understand, sir, that despite my respect for the head of the State, I cannot, by assisting at this fête, associate myself with a Government whose acts tend to transform our country into an atheistic nation.' Bravo! M. Calmon-Maison! Your mind and heart cannot be reached through your stomach. You will remain outside the doors of that banquet-hall, wherein the streams of soft eloquence and sparkling champagne will commingle. But all honor to you; that is the place which becomes every true Catholic in the present condition of politics in France. Well for the nation if the electorates bestirred themselves, roused themselves from their political torpor, and voted at the ballot boxes for representatives like you.

SOME ELECTORATES ARE BESTIRRING THEMSELVES.

Here is an instance just to hand. The executive of the Catholic Alliance of Haute-Garonne has addressed the following letter to candidates at the departmental elections:—'Monsieur,—If our information be correct you are a candidate at the cantonal elections in our department. Hence the Catholic Alliance of Haute-Garonne permits itself the honor to ask you for some explanations which your loyalty and manliness will not allow you to refuse. Departmental and cantonal councillors in their capacity of electors of Senators [members of the Upper House] have an important part in the political direction of the affairs of State. Consequently, those who aspire to the functions of councillors should make their political principles known to the body of the electors. The Catholic Alliance uses its right in demanding from you a clear declaration of your principles in regard to questions at present of greatest moment to the welfare of the nation. We would have you, therefore, clearly to declare—(1) Are you in favor of the re-establishment of good relations between the Church and the State? (2) Are you in favor of granting recognition of and true liberty of teaching to private schools? (3) Are you in favor of

securing sincere respect on the part of teachers and officials for the faith of Catholic children in the public schools? (4) Are you in favor of granting equality of opportunity in the matter of offices in Army, Navy, and the public administration of the country? On your answers to these questions will depend the attitude of the Catholic Alliance towards your candidature.—Ch. Niel, President.' That is plain speaking. Might this letter be useful as a copy for committees of the Catholic Federation of New Zealand at election times?

THE ADVERSARY DISTURBED: A GOOD SIGN.

Such movements as the setting up of Catholic Confederations, Alliances, and Unions up and down the land are causing much disquiet to the dark-lanternists and to people like M. Clemenceau. They see that the great Catholic masses hitherto inert and politically asleep are going to take a hand in managing the social and political affairs of their country. Hence notes of alarm, loud and strong, are being sounded by all the anti-Christian buglers. The *Lanterne*, a radical and Masonic organ, comes out to-day with a strong appeal to les groupes desorganisés de la libre pensée. The writer declares that the freethought groups are going to sleep, that their success for years has enervated them; that over-confidence is the evil of democracies; that even Freemasonry itself is wavering—fléchissante! Then the writer appeals to the scattered ranks of the 'enlightened to unite, make a final sursaut, and dash and wipe out all 'clerical' resistance! Organisons-nous, he exclaims, let us organise while there is time; our societies are mere skeletons; we need compact bodies full of audacity and activity, pleines d'audace et d'impudence d'agir! M. Clemenceau, in his paper, *Homme Libre*, joins in the cry. He thinks there are 'indications' that the Government is falling away from its former anti-Christian fervor. There is the Prime Minister issuing a circular permitting parents to complain if schoolmasters use atheistic class-books to demoralise their children—a fearful act of weak compromise; and there is M. Baudin, Minister of War, permitting the French Navy in foreign waters to raise the ships' colors and fire off cannon salutes on Good Friday. Intolerable compromise with Christian sentiment all this! Ignatius Loyola and Vincent of Paul are coming back to drive out Diderot and Voltaire from the Pantheon! Vision of a terrible calamity! Let all freethinkers, free-livers, free-lovers, Freemasons, radicals, socialists, and men imbued with the modern idea of the 'liberated spirit' arise and save 'our most enlightened patrie' from so dire a disaster. It is pleasant to hear these men screaming in this way—it shows things are getting on the right track.

(To be continued.)

Lord Howard of Glossop's elder son and heir, Mr. Bernard Howard, has been appointed an extra aide-de-camp to the Governor of New South Wales, and is leaving England for Australia.

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