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IS THERE ANOTHER PIGOT?

The curious statement is made that there is a spy among the members of the Irish Nationalist Parliamentary party, and a determined effort is being made to discover his identity with a view to his expulsion from the party.

CRIME IN IRELAND.

The following striking testimony to the freedom of the people of Ireland from the commission of the crimes which are common in other countries, is given by Judge E. T. Loyd, who six months ago was appointed stipendiary magistrate of Cahirciveen, in Kerry County.

TROUBLE OVER EUCHRE.

In this age when every Protestant clergyman is at liberty to make a code of morals to suit his own fancy it is difficult to know what is really lawful and what is sinful. We remember being once told by a clergyman of the Methodist Church that all amusements are contrary to the law of God and are therefore to be strictly forbidden to Christians.

WILL THERE BE WAR?

There are still rumors of a threatening war between the United States and Spain on account of the situation in Cuba. The Spanish Commission which investigated the cause of the destruction of the Maine warship has reported that it was due to some accident on board the ship itself.

refused. It is now rumored that Spain would be willing to leave this matter, and all other causes of dispute, to arbitration, and the Pope is spoken of as a possible arbitrator between the two powers. The King of Belgium has also been mentioned as an arbitrator who would be acceptable to both parties.

CHEAP CATHOLIC BOOKS.

An interesting suit is going on in the United States courts between John Murphy & Co., publishers, of Baltimore, and the Christian Press Association Publishing Co. The last-named company is composed chiefly of Bishops and priests who have organized for the purpose of producing Catholic books at the cheapest possible figure.

ANOTHER DISESTABLISHMENT AGITATION.

Periodically the question of the disestablishment of the Church of England is brought prominently before the public, and it is always the cause of a warm discussion when the collection of the tithes from non-conformists is made with special harshness.

The people of Wales are for the most part Methodists, and they have special objection to paying tithes for the support of a Church in which they do not believe. About eight years ago the collection of tithes in Wales, in a peculiarly harsh manner, seemed to bring matters to the very brink of a rebellion.

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.

The feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated on the 25th of the present month, March. The mystery which the Church commemorates on this feast is described in the first chapter of St. Luke's gospel, as follows: "And in the sixth month the Angel Gabriel was sent from God into a city of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary."

for the Established Church is admitted on all hands, except by the Anglican clergy and their immediate friends, and it is not at all unlikely that now that attention is once more directed to the anomaly, a new agitation will arise throughout England to bring about Disestablishment.

EXACTING SECTARIES.

A sect has arisen in Hungary which, from its peculiar tenets, has already given considerable trouble to the Government, and as it has recently increased very rapidly the trouble is also likely to increase proportionately, or at all events the manner in which it is necessary to deal with its adherents will give some color to the pretence that they are persecuted for conscience' sake, though this is not really the case.

Several members of this sect have recently been subjected by the authorities to harsh treatment for refusing to bear arms when their services were required by the Government, and one of their number who was very demonstrative in his refusal, and publicly denounced the Government for its tyranny in insisting on the performance of this duty, was sentenced to five years' imprisonment for contumacy.

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Thus the announcement is made to Mary that she will in a miraculous manner bring forth a Son who shall be also the Son of God. The incarnation and birth of God the Son is thus foretold, and the consent of Mary is awaited that the great mystery may be brought about, which is necessary in order that man's redemption may be accomplished.

This is consistent with holy Scripture, and the teaching of the three ancient creeds which have been handed down from the beginning as containing the constant faith of the Church. Thus in Galatians, iv, 4, Christ is spoken of in one breath as the Son of God and the Son of Mary: "God sent His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, that He might redeem them who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."

The expression "Mother of my Lord" is identical in meaning with "Mother of God" which is applied to the Blessed Virgin in the beautiful prayer which is known as "the Angelical Salutation" wherein it is said "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen."

THE ORANGE LODGES AND THE SCHOOL QUESTION.

Meetings of the Provincial Grand Lodges of Orangemen were held last week in Palmerston and Renfrew, for Ontario, and Shawville for Quebec. We are thus reminded that the dog-days are not distant when it is customary for that organization to hold processions and public meetings for the purpose of misrepresenting and abusing Catholics for daring to exist in the country.

We notice by the reports of these meetings that there has been somewhat less of anti-Catholic abuse this year than is usually uttered on such occasions. It is pleasant to observe any signs, however slight, of an approach to reason and common sense on the part of the Grand Masters and other such mock dignitaries as meet at the Grand Lodge gatherings, but we could not expect these meetings to be held without some rhodomontade, so we are not taken by surprise on observing that a good deal of vapor and froth was let off at the Renfrew meeting, culminating in a resolution which echoes back the sentiments which had been uttered in the Grand Master's address. It was resolved that "No truer words were ever spoken than those in which the honored head of our order in this Orange province warns us of the sleepless activity of the great enemy of our civil and religious liberties, making it necessary on our part to take steps to prevent that arch-enemy from gaining insidiously and by piecemeal what she no longer dares openly and in full light to aim at."

FATHER CHIDWICK TO CHRISTIAN ENDEAVORERS.

Few non-Catholics understand the teaching of the Catholic Church on the question of salvation outside her visible boundaries. They do not realize that she claims as belonging to her soul all the just, however seemingly separated from her. Those who profess in good faith another form of belief, and faithfully follow the moral law must be saved, although they have gone through their not knowing their true spiritual mother. "Other sheep I have that are not of this fold," said the Divine Founder of the Church. "Them also I must bring, and they shall hear My voice, and there shall be one fold and one shepherd."

Signs of the Times.

A Presbyterian clergyman, Dr. Alexander Whyte, has published a life of St. Teresa, which has already run into a second edition. We expect soon to announce a life of the Blessed Virgin by a Baptist elder and a novena to St. Francis of Assisi from the pen of a Methodist Bishop.—Ave Maria.

cept six in Winnipeg, which are also soon to be brought within the operation of the changed conditions. We hope that this report will prove to be correct. It would, indeed, be better if the legal status of the Catholic schools were admitted unreservedly, but we stand upon the substantial basis that justice should be done. We are fairly well satisfied if the object be attained in substance, and in practice, even if the unjust laws be not actually repealed. It remains still to be seen whether or not a satisfactory practical settlement of the school question has been, or is on the point of being reached. If this be really the case, we shall be pleased to admit that there is little if anything further to be looked for in this matter.

The Grand Master thought proper in his address to speak insultingly of Mgr. Mery del Val, the Pope's delegate to Canada, and of his mission. If the rumored settlement of the trouble be correct it will be seen that the Grand Master's influence is of but little account; but if it be not correct we shall continue to advocate the rights of the Catholic minority, as we have done hitherto, without regard to the Renfrew Grand Lodge pronouncement.

In regard to the denunciations of the Grand Master against the Pope for presuming to send a delegate to Canada at all, we need only say that it is the Holy Father's right to send his representative wherever he thinks fit. If it were true that Mgr. Mery del Val was sent out to hold negotiations with the Government, it is not an extraordinary occurrence that foreign princes or potentates send their representatives to various countries for the purpose of negotiation, and the countries which receive them suffer no humiliation by receiving them with due respect. But there is no evidence whatsoever that the recent delegate came to Canada on any official mission to the Government.

He came especially to examine and report upon the status of the Church in Manitoba, and while fulfilling this duty, by his prudence and wisdom he gained the respect and reverence of all who met him. His duties concerned only the internal administration of the Catholic Church, which is a matter on which the wishes of the Grand Lodge of Eastern Ontario will not be consulted, if it be at any time hereafter the Holy Father's wish to send another delegate, whether for a temporary investigation, or to remain permanently, just as there is now in the United States a permanent Apostolic delegation, though permission was not asked from the Orange or P. P. societies whether or not it should be established. The Grand Lodge only renders itself ridiculous by its impertinent obtrusiveness.

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This teaching of the Church, while far from encouraging the false notion that one religion is as good as another, inculcates the broadest charity and respect for the sincere convictions of all our fellow-men.

As a case in point, we give the appended letter to the United Society of Christian Endeavor from the Rev. John J. Chidwick, chaplain of the battleship "Maine," in which he says that he knew very well and admired highly Carlton Jencks, an Endeavorer who was killed in the explosion. Father Chidwick continues: "He was one of our best men, and although not of my belief, was one of my greatest comforts. Every Sunday evening I was accustomed to hold services for our crew, irrespective of belief. He was one of my zealous promoters for this service. Frequently we conversed on spiritual matters, not controversially, but for edification. The evening of his last day on earth was spent with me in this manner. Our men admired him for his attention to religious duties, and I am positive his example gave great glory to God from the souls of his shipmates. It is the teaching of our Church that men like Carlton Jencks are undoubtedly saved. He was fond of his God, and God was undoubtedly drawn to him. The disaster occurred shortly after the hour for retiring, and I know the evening prayers of our good friend united him with his Maker. I have recognized his body, and it is buried with that of his shipmates who went down on the gallant "Maine" in the cemetery of Havana."

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