

CATHOLICITY IN VERMONT

ITEMS OF CATHOLIC NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

To the Editor of THE TRUE WITNESS:

It may be of interest to your readers to learn something occasionally about the growth of Catholicity in the Green Mountain State, notwithstanding the difference in nationality that exists between it and your own locality, as there are many persons living in Canada who like to read Catholic news, even though it be from the States. The Diocese of Burlington, which embraces the late Pope Pius IX. in 1853; more than thirty-two years ago, at the same time as were those of Brooklyn, N.Y., and Newark, N.J. Their three Bishops—the Right Rev. Louis DeGoebriand, D.D., of Burlington; Right Rev. John Loughlin, D.D., of Brooklyn; and Right Rev. James Roosevelt Bayley, D.D., of Newark, afterward the Most Rev. Archbishop of Baltimore, now deceased—were consecrated together in the old St. Patrick's Cathedral, corner of Mott and Prince street, in New York city, on the 30th of October, 1853. At that time Catholicity was almost unknown in Vermont, being confined principally to Burlington and St. Albans, on the shore of Lake Champlain. On the 30th of October, 1855, however, Bishop DeGoebriand celebrated the thirty-second anniversary of his elevation to the Episcopacy, and had the pleasure of being congratulated by a large number of his own priests, who now have parishes with large congregations, located in different parts of the diocese.

THE GROWTH OF CATHOLICITY AT WINOOSKI FALLS.

About two miles from the business portion of the city of Burlington, in a northeasterly direction, and connected with it by a horse railroad that was but recently opened (and which, by the way, is the first that was ever built in the State of Vermont), is its principal suburb, the thriving village of Winoski Falls, so called from the cataracts on the Winoski river where it is located. It contains a large number of woollen and cotton mills that employ a great number of hands, and to which it is indebted, mainly, for its prosperity. The Central Vermont and Burlington & Lamoille railroads both pass through the place, and there is an air of thrift and activity pervading the village on week days. Only a few years ago, however, there was no Catholic Church in Winoski, and the people there were obliged to go to Burlington in order to assist at Mass. Now there are two Catholic Churches in the place—the Church of St. Francis Xavier and St. Stephen's Church. The latter was the first to be built, and has two lofty spires that form conspicuous objects from the country around. At the former church a chime of fine bells were recently procured, and on Sunday, November 22nd, they were solemnly blessed, or christened, by the Right Rev. Bishop DeGoebriand, of Burlington. The ceremonies began at two o'clock in the afternoon, and was witnessed by an immense congregation, the church being filled to its utmost capacity long before the appointed hour. The Bishop was assisted by the Rev. Fathers O'Sullivan and Lynch, of St. Joseph's College, in Burlington, and a sermon appropriate to the occasion was delivered in French by the Rev. Father D. J. O'Sullivan. When the time came for naming the bells, the largest one was christened St. John, the second in size St. Francis Xavier, and the third St. Mary. At the close of the ceremony the bells were rung. They are of a rich, melodious tone, and can be heard through the country for a considerable distance away.

CATHOLIC IMPROVEMENTS IN BURLINGTON.

Just west of the Cathedral, and fronting on Cherry street, in Burlington, a handsome new Episcopal residence has been in process of erection during the past summer season, for Bishop DeGoebriand and his assistant clergy. It is now so far advanced toward completion that some of the rooms have already been occupied by the Priests. It will supply a want that has long been felt there. The new St. Joseph's church in Burlington, which has hitherto been going up during the past year, is also nearing completion, and is a very handsome structure. Its pastor is the Rev. Father Jerome Cleare, and he has recently held a very successful fair that netted him about \$4,000, which amount is to be used to defray the expenses of completing the edifice. The new church is located a few blocks north of the Cathedral, and its tall and stately spire is one of the most conspicuous objects that a person sees in approaching the city, either from Lake Champlain, on the west, or from the top of the hill on the east. It is a great ornament to Burlington.

Another improvement in Burlington is the opening of a night school in St. Mary's Hall, opposite the cathedral, for the benefit of the young men and boys who may desire to attend. The classes are conducted by Professor J. H. Fitzsimmons, of St. Joseph's College, and the school is a great convenience for those who are obliged to work during the day time, a large number of that class of persons having already availed themselves of its privileges.

FATHER MICHAEL TRANSFERRED TO HENNINGTON.

Bishop DeGoebriand has transferred the Rev. Father John Michael, formerly of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, in Burlington, and of St. Stephens church, at Winoski Falls, to Bennington, a town located in the extreme south-westerly part of Vermont, and appointed him pastor of the Church of St. Francis of Sales in that place.

THE NEW CHURCH OF ST. CHARLES BORROMEO AT BELLOWS FALLS.

During the past year a handsome new church, dedicated to the honor of St. Charles Borromeo, has been erected at Bellows Falls, a village located on the Connecticut river, in the southeasterly part of Vermont, and a few weeks ago it was visited by the Right Rev. Bishop DeGoebriand, of Burlington, who expressed great pleasure at the early completion of the work, he having laid the corner stone not long since. On Tuesday evening, November 3rd, he held a special service there, and delivered an eloquent discourse before an immense congregation. The next day (Wednesday, November 4) was the feast of St. Charles Borromeo, the patronal feast of the church, and High Mass was celebrated at ten o'clock, after which the Bishop blessed the children and gave to each of them a small medal. Each child also gave to the Bishop a donation, which is to go toward the support of the foreign mission, called the "Holy Infancy," in eastern counties where the dreadful custom prevails of destroying little children. There are men filled with the spirit of God, the Bishop said, who go among these heathens and strive to prevent this terrible destruction. They have established the order, called the "Holy Infancy," and purchase the children from their would-be murderers. The children are afterwards placed in Christian homes, where they are brought up in the Catholic faith, and later on over half a million of their innocent little ones were thus saved from destruction and death.

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"Bess, dear, this must not go on. The child will become insane. You must try to find out what the trouble is! Poor little bird! We can't say we have done our duty if we let this child go away. She was sent to us, and the Master will come and ask us if we took good care of her and comforted her. Eh, Bess?"

"Yes, but, John, all we can do is to do our best. We can't say if it is best that she should stay with us. If it is, we will be glad. I shall try to prevail upon her to give up the idea of independence that she talks about; but we can't force her to do as we think best. She is so restless, sometimes I think it might be better if she had more to do."

"She can't do anything till she is cured of this melancholy. Who would employ a child in her state of mind? No, Bess, we must not let her go without knowing what has happened to her heretofore, and then we may be able to help her."

"You are right, John. I am afraid there is no cure for a broken heart. I've thought she has had a great disappointment that has broken her heart."

The Captain sighed, and could say no more on the subject. Turning to his wife he said: "Now, Bess, dear, tell me about yourself these weeks past! They seemed years to me."

"We shall drop the curtain and retire, because the conversation between these good people (thank God there are many like them) will be more interesting to them than to us, since they will discuss their own private affairs."

It was a bright day, and the sitting-room was, as we have before described, most cheerful and gay; but in the centre of the room a picture so sad, that she seemed out of place there, and neither sunshine nor flowers could brighten her soul. Every night dreadful fancies had chased one another through her brain, in which Daniel, Miss Crawford and Laura were prominent figures; and she arose so tired and haggard looking, that she alarmed Mrs. Hart when she saw her. They were alone after breakfast. Angelina sat by the window, resting her arm on the low sill, and her head on her hand, looking out, but seeing nothing. Mrs. Hart had been watching her, and drew her chair close to Angelina.