

## Universality in Miniature.

By Rev. Stephen McDonald, O.C.

NOT to everyone is it given to travel abroad and witness in a thousand different lands, among a thousand different peoples, that divine characteristic of the Church, its Catholicity. Countless, indeed, are those to whom the world and its allurements has no further meaning than is represented by their country village with its church or two and general store; at most a town some twenty odd miles distant might be numbered among the allurements. They live, die, and go to heaven, without once attempting to form an estimate of the broad world that lies beyond their own limited sphere. True, the daily paper comes regularly from the city, and its elaborate accounts of "coups d'état," yachting flukes, and campaign planks, are duly read and wondered at, but they excite, not ideas, but crude fanciful guesses as to what might be the realities. The column of local intelligence in the town weekly filled with interesting accounts of "sojourns," measles and other pastimes indulged in by country people are of inestimably greater importance to them.

If one of these toured about this earth of ours and saw what it had to present in the manner of apparently irreconcilable differences, his astonishment would be beyond measure. Different climes, different notions, different governments, and different men would one after another present themselves to his view. He would recollect at once what he has heard of a universal empire, and would behold at once the utter emptiness of such a project.

And yet, such an empire exists; one whose laws are regarded in every portion of the earth, by every class of people. It is of course the

Church to which I refer. By this does she exhibit her divine origin, reconciling what seems hopelessly estranged. It alone of all institutions on this earth can induce harmony where all was discord. It gives its laws and its dogmas to all classes without distinction, and demands equal recognition from all. The ten commandments are never modified by her to suit the vicious proclivities of any race, nor is any dogma smoothed over in deference to sentiment. This universal unity is not a name merely, but it is a reality.

We have other human societies which are, or have been, wonderful in their extensiveness, often embracing several lands; but even a superficial investigation will at once reveal that there is absent a unity of motive, a unity of belief; their members unite only in a name.

To see and appreciate the Church's Catholicity in its full extent, one should know all the peoples of the world, and be acquainted with their ideas, their customs, and their language. But we can obtain at least a very good idea of this universality by a look at our own country, America. Here we have representatives of every land under the sun, and as they come to their adopted country, they bring with them the faith that came down to them through a hundred generations from the days when the Church's missionaries first brought them the happy message of redemption.

Even in a single one of our great cosmopolitan cities we can find this great characteristic of divine origin. Truly these great cities might be termed miniature pictures of universality. On account of the numberless nationalities represented in their population, they present the