

TURNING OF THE TIDE.

RANDOM NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

NON-CATHOLIC MISSIONS.—In an interesting contribution to "The Champlain Educator," Rev. Bertrand Conway, C.S.P., says: "Men abroad have said sometimes that we were a mere money-making people without deep religious earnestness. Men abroad who knew us not have declared America hostile to the Church. These missions to non-Catholics give them the lie direct. The American non-Catholic is essentially religious. Even his indifference has been logically forced upon him by a religion which failed to satisfy his mind and heart. He will go anywhere—to the town hall, the school-room, the Catholic Church itself; he will drive many a mile, in all sorts of weather and despite many obstacles, to hear a Catholic priest declare authoritatively the doctrines of the Church. He wants certainty for his uncertainty; he wants dogma, not opinion; he wants a solid conviction of pardon and not an indefinite, emotional sense of conversion."

RELIGION IN SCHOOLS.—The question of moral training in schools is one which is occupying attention in the ranks of thoughtful non-Catholics. They are now beginning to realize the importance of the attitude of the Catholic Church in this regard. Speaking recently before the Brooklyn Teachers' Club, a prominent editor of a non-Catholic journal made the following observations: "The great company of educators needs to be sternly warned that morality must be specifically taught in the public schools. Righteousness is essential to a people's very existence. Righteousness does not come by nature any more than reading or writing does. Somebody must teach it. Any school which permits a pupil to be in it for six months without seeing to it that he has learned essential morality and has been taught what it practically means has shown its unfitness to be a place of training for future citizens."

EXPULSED ORDERS.—A Catholic American exchange says: "Up to date, 50,000 teaching Sisters and 30,000 teaching male religious have been driven from France and their property abandoned."

A WELCOME VISITOR.—Managing Director, True Witness, Dear Sir,—"Enclosed please find \$1.00, my subscription to the True Witness for one year. Your paper is a welcome visitor, every week, and would be greatly missed. It would be well if more people would appreciate this fact and subscribe for the True Witness, instead of the trash they read. Yours truly, B. B."

OUR NEIGHBORS.—Under the heading "Notes and News," the Catholic Universe of Cleveland remarks: "Why, it may be asked, should Catholics be continually obliged to assert their rights and protest against infringements of their liberties in a republic in which absolute religious freedom is a constitutional principle? A logical adherence to the Constitution would make any religious discrimination impossible. Yet in its practical workings, the government seems often to be distinctly anti-Catholic. Catholics no sooner gain justice in one thing than they are forced to fight for it in another. The necessity of their perpetual assumption of a defensive attitude is in itself a serious impeachment of the nation's consistency to its own principles. We have to pay for educating our children in our own way at the same time that we pay for an education they do not receive and of which we do not approve; we have to agitate for years to secure the most elemental justice for Indians who are unjustly dealt with for no other reason than that they are Catholics, and we are supposed to accept justice finally as a favor. And we do so accept it. Justice is so natural to us that we regard justice as a concession. Why this anomaly in a free country? Catholics are entitled to every right that their neighbors enjoy; is the fault with them or with the government that they must battle for their inheritance as if they were usurpers? In either case, and again, why?"

A CONVERSION AND LESSON.—The Catholic doctrine of purgatory and prayers for the dead won the Church a convert the other day down in Alabama. Nathan Brown, a Methodist, living in Huntsville, heard through a non-Catholic mission of the Catholic practice of praying for the dead and was much taken by it. Not long ago he fell sick, whereupon his physician sent a Methodist minister around to see him. Mr. Brown received him kindly, but informed him that his services were not needed, as he wished to see a Catholic priest. "The Catholics pray for their dead," said he, "and I shall need prayers after I am gone." Father Burns, of Huntsville, was sent for, and the sick man's countenance lighted up with joy as the priest entered the room. Being in immediate danger of death, he was conditionally baptized and anointed, but later rallied sufficiently to be instructed in the Catechism and receive Holy Communion, when he passed peacefully to heaven, as we confidently hope and believe.

THE PASSIONIST FATHERS, whose provincial house is in West Hoboken, N.J., have concluded negotiations for a tract of fifty-four acres at Norwood Park, Chicago, where they will found their first monastery in that Diocese. It will be known as the "Retreat of the Immaculate Conception." The site selected is a fine wooded farm with a residence, and only eleven miles from the site of the Summer Home and proposed isolation hospital for the little inmates of the St. Vincent Infant Asylum. The Passionists will minister to the Catholics of Park Ridge, and act as chaplains of the Asylum.

A NEW BISHOP.—Rev. John Bernard Delaney, chancellor of the Diocese of Manchester and Secretary of the late Bishop Denis M. Bradley, has been appointed a Bishop to fill the vacancy caused by Bishop Bradley's death.

GREGORIAN MUSIC.—Archbishop Farley, of the Archdiocese of New York, has announced that the St. Patrick's Cathedral famous mixed choir will be succeeded by a male choir which will produce Gregorian music in accordance with the Pope's recent letter on the subject.

TOO MUCH MEAT.—For three years since the completion of the large new dining hall at Yale, says the New York Sun, each boarder has consumed between two and three pounds of meat a day. In that time the hall has been managed at a loss of between forty and fifty thousand dollars.

The management of the hall was recently given to Capt. S. A. Smoke, lately of the United States Army, and the change in diet is intended to make the hall a paying institution as well as to increase its popularity, which has not always been great. A modification of the a la carte system, which is at present in force at the Harvard dining hall, will be the most important change. By the old system each boarder paid \$4.75 a week, and was served with meat for breakfast, dinner and supper. By the new system, for \$3 a week, the boarder will get cereals, fruit, tea, coffee, cocoa and desserts. All meats will be ordered as extras, at prices varying from 8 to 13 cents a portion. By this plan a student may spend from \$4 to \$10 a week for board, and the charge will still be within the provisions under which the hall was given to Yale—that no boarder should be charged more than \$4.50 a week.

DAMAGES FOR LIBEL.—Referring to a suit for libel entered by a priest against the "Irish Times," the Irish Catholic, Dublin, Ire., says: "The 'Irish Times' may well congratulate itself on escaping so easily from what should have been the consequences of the atrocious libel on the Very Rev. John Canon McInerney, P.P., V.G., Killaloe. The anonymous letter which was published by our contemporary contained as base allegations and insinuations as could be levelled against the character of a Catholic priest. Unable to sustain a single statement in the anonymous communication, counsel for the Irish

Times had to throw up the sponge and make a public apology to Canon McInerney, agreeing at the same time to pay a sum of £450 in satisfaction of damages and costs. It was announced in court that the Canon intended to devote all that remained of that sum, after the payment of costs, to charitable purposes—an intention on his part which will not surprise any one who is acquainted with his noble and self-sacrificing character. Meantime the experience of the Irish Times should teach the publishers of other journals inclined to adopt similar priest-baiting tactics, a very good and wholesome lesson."

LONG SENTENCES.—On March 19 the Criminal Court at Douai, France, rendered a verdict in the cases of twenty-seven prisoners charged with being implicated in the attempted assassination of two priests during the strike troubles at Armentieres last August. Thirteen of the prisoners were convicted and fourteen were acquitted. Of those convicted, two were sentenced to fifteen years' imprisonment and one to eight years' at hard labor, one to five years' in solitary confinement and nine to various terms of imprisonment.

CARDINAL LOGUE.—Referring to this eminent prelate's approaching silver jubilee of his elevation to the Episcopate, a correspondent of the Liverpool Catholic Times says:

Catholics all over Ireland and far beyond its shores will learn with deep interest of the religious celebrations which are to take place in the Priamial City on Sunday, the 24th of July. On that day His Eminence Cardinal Logue will celebrate the 25th anniversary of his elevation to the Episcopate, and the event will be signalized by the consecration of the magnificent edifice to the completion and decoration of which the Cardinal Primate has devoted so much energy. The clergy and laity of the archdiocese of Armagh are leaving nothing undone to raise sufficient money to free the Cathedral from debt and to have it in a condition to be consecrated on the day decided upon. Even outside of the diocese many friends of the Cardinal are availing themselves of this opportunity of presenting to him the most acceptable testimonial that could be tendered to him on the occasion of his silver jubilee. Needless to say, no more acceptable testimonial could be offered to His Eminence than his Cathedral Church absolutely free of debt, and so rendered fit to be consecrated to the services of Almighty God.

THE SCHOOL QUESTION.—On February 4 the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Australia (Eastern District), assembled in conference at Murtoa, Victoria, and unanimously adopted the following declaration, which will form a useful sequel to the telling pronouncement of the Archbishop of Melbourne:

- 1. Holy Writ enjoins the parents and the church to instruct the children in the Christian religion and to bring them up in the admonition of the Lord, but no such command is given to the State.
2. Civil government, which, according to Holy Writ, should look to the bodily welfare of its subjects, cannot and should not claim any authority in matters of conscience. Religion and all exercises of religion is a matter of conscience. Scriptural reading, therefore, being an exercise of religion, is entirely out of place in State schools.
3. The reading of a text-book, containing extracts from the Scriptures, is certainly not intended to be merely a new feature in the course of language or literature, but avowedly aims to afford a certain amount of religious instruction.
4. It is impossible to give religious instruction of an undenominational and undogmatical character, as the teacher more or less imparts his own religious convictions to his pupils.
5. The constitution of Victoria, as well as that of the Commonwealth, guarantees perfect liberty in religious affairs. The introduction of Bible lessons into the State school course, the conscience clause notwithstanding, would be conflicting with such liberty, as the taxpayers are required to support the State schools, and thus would be compelled to assist in inculcating religious views which possibly they cannot endorse.
6. Every church body should find

and maintain its own schools. The practicability of this plan is evidenced by the numerous parochial schools of the world in general, and of Australia in particular. An opportunity would thus be provided for all parents to give their children the desired religious training, and the churches would perform their duty, while the State would not be expected to undertake a task foreign to it. In this manner Church and State would remain separated, as they ought to be, and the question of reading the Bible in the State schools would be effectually settled."

A GREAT MUSICIAN.—A remarkable man is Senor Manuel Garcia, the well known professor of singing, who reached his one hundredth birthday on Thursday. Of an exceptionally musical family, his sister, Mme. Malibran, being the most famous, Senor Garcia was once an opera singer himself, though three-quarters of a century have elapsed since he fulfilled that role. Not only in music is the veteran renowned, for his is the invention of the laryngoscope, an invaluable adjunct of surgery. The venerable age of Garcia is best realized by remembering that his sister, Mme. Malibran, died sixty-seven years ago, having made for herself an enduring fame, and that among Garcia's pupils was Jenny Lind.

A SENSATIONAL CAMPAIGN is what one might expect in connection with the efforts of the proprietor and publisher of the New York Journal, to secure the Democratic nomination for the Presidency of the United States. One of the features of the preliminary steps leading up to the convention is, according to an American journal, "an attempt on the part of the Hearst managers to engage all the space in the St. Louis hotels during convention week, and thus practically bar the delegates and friends of the other candidates. The St. Louis hotel managers, however, refused to enter into the deal. There are few parallels in the history of national pre-convention campaigns to the work of Mr. Hearst. He has engaged quarters in St. Louis to house an army of men and his delegates and shouters will be entertained, roomed and fed at his expense."

HOME RULE FOR EGYPT.—An editor and proprietor of an Egyptian newspaper has organized an agitation in Egypt in favor of Home Rule. The people are much interested in the matter.

IRISHMEN IN AUSTRALIA.—The Hibernal Australasian Catholic Benefit Society is now in the 33rd year of existence and has a membership roll of 22,000 members, and over \$500,000 in funds.

FRAUD AT ELECTIONS.—Five officials in connection with polling booths at the recent municipal elections in Toronto were sentenced to one and two year terms in prison. A local journal says: "In the witness box, in their own defence, all save Thompson denied absolutely the irregularities charged, in spite of the most convincing evidence. That men of hitherto good reputation would stoop, first to ballot manipulation, and then to perjury, for mere personal consideration, is unlikely. The question now asked is: Whom were they acting for, and what false hopes were they deluded with to keep them silent?"

ELECTRICITY.—Discussing a new invention called the "Dynelectron," A. Frederick Collins in the New York Herald writes:

Electricity has been produced direct from fuel! This mere statement does not appear startling, but the possibilities of the achievement are stupendous when considered in relation to the country's commercial and social conditions. It will result in the saving of millions upon millions of dollars. It will lessen to an enormous degree the demand for coal, for a greatly decreased percentage of energy is realized from fuel. Made for household use, the new contrivance may furnish both light and heat so far below the present cost that housekeepers will hail them as one of the greatest blessings. In effect, all a man has to do is to throw a shovel

ful of coal into this new electric furnace, and it will do the rest. In manufacture, also, it is destined to work a revolution, the extent of which, measured in dollars, will make the story of Aladdin seem like everyday fact.

In this new process, instead of utilizing heat to develop steam and then converting the latter into mechanical motion, which in turn transmits its energy to a wheel covered with coils of wire and revolving in a magnetic field to generate a current—in the new process a furnace only is needed and electricity flows from a pair of elements as easily as from the battery which rings your doorbell. Mysterious as such a process must appear to those who have never given a thought to the roundabout way in which electricity is generated commercially, it is in itself a beautifully simple operation as evolved by Mr. James H. Reid, of Newark, N.J. To develop electricity in large volumes, continuously and economically, has taxed the ingenuity of men the last two hundred years, yet strange to say the greatest progress has been made during the last half century.

PRIZE FIGHTING.—Call it by the less shocking name of boxing or glove contests, or anything else; it still remains the brutal and dangerous, the heartless and immoral pastime that men know as prize-fighting. In the Quebec Legislature, on the order paper for last Tuesday, was an Inquiry of Ministry, by Hon. L. P. Pelletier, which speaks volumes. It concerns the laws forbidding boxing and fighting for prizes, and it inquires into the means that are taken to have that law put in execution. The immediate cause of this interpellation was a boxing match which took place last week after which one of the contestants died. It must be remembered that these two young men were no vulgar common prizefighters; they were adepts with the gloves, they considered that they were giving an exhibition of the "manly art," and they had decided to fight twenty rounds to see which was the "better man." They fought sixteen rounds; in the sixteenth the victim received a blow that laid him out. A few hours later and his late antagonist was a corpse. It was very sad to see a young man cut off thus in the bloom of youth, in the vigor of budding manhood, and to be sent from the arena of brutal struggle into the presence of God.

The lesson is a severe one. It is to be hoped that Mr. Pelletier's inquiry will have the effect of awakening the authorities to the grave necessity of doing something to prevent a repetition of such scenes. VALUE OF OLD MEN.—Under this heading, "Frank Leslie's Monthly" illustrates by example, in an extract given below, the subject in a manner which should convince all who are inclined to take too extreme a view of the question. It says:

America is the young man's country, we are told, because so many of the conspicuous figures among us are young men. The thing is said conventionally, as if there were some moral virtue in being young; as if, too, the greatest tragedy in American history was not the death some forty years ago of half a million of men in the prime of life, which deprived our generation of its wisest counsellors. Experience is the only school which gives a degree honored of all men, and a man of three score, with the vigor of life still in him, should be the most useful citizen of a community.

The awful catastrophe at Baltimore furnished a splendid instance. The conflagration had been raging for twelve hours. Chief Horton of the fire department had been disabled by a live wire. The fighters were without a head. Then William C. McAfee, veteran fire chief, retired for age and accounted an old man, offered his services to the Mayor. They were accepted. Donning his oilskins and grabbing his trumpet, the old chief went into action. At once the men knew they had a leader. They needed one. The fire was roaring down to the river bank, where were some great rosin works filled with turpentine. And as they went so must go East Baltimore.

"There will be a terrible time if the fire gets into that resin," yelled McAfee through his trumpet. "If enough of you men will follow me we'll go in there and dump the whole outfit into the bay."

They followed the leader and they saved East Baltimore.

SPHERE OF THE LAITY.—Under the heading "The Proper Sphere of the Laity," The Messenger Monthly Magazine remarks:

"Long before it had been decided to retire Bishop Doane, of Albany, from the Board of Regents of the University of New York, and without any intimation from the State officials or leaders of the party in power, it was agreed among Catholics and especially between the Right Rev. Thomas A. Hendrick, of Cebu, late Regent of the University, and many ecclesiastics, that it is desirable for good reasons to have laymen in preference to clerical representatives as hitherto on the board. Chief among the reasons for this agreement is the fitness of entrusting to the laity the civil offices for which they are peculiarly qualified, and the likelihood that they will be free and able to exert their influence more effectively than priests, who, precisely because it is presumed they are committed to certain views or principles, are not always regarded as unbiased or most desirable as political counsellors. It is gratifying to know that Catholics of their own accord anticipated this policy, and gratifying, also, to have as a ground of confidence in the Hon. Eugene A. Philbin, who has been chosen to represent Catholic interests in the Board of Regents, the knowledge that for some years he has been actively interested in the various measures proposed for improving our educational system, and successful in checking attempts to introduce politics into the schools and to discriminate against private interests in education."

FASTER IN ROME.—From a sketch published by one of our exchanges we take the following extract, which graphically describes one feature of the imposing ceremonies on Easter Sunday in Rome:

"The grandest of all the ceremonies," says the writer, "that took place at Easter was the benediction given by the Pope from the balcony above the central entrance to St. Peter's. The weather at this season of the year is always bright and sunny and warm. Every one is in holiday attire. The joy of the season is reflected in the face of rich and poor alike. Over the balcony is stretched a great white awning, which is to shade from the rays of the sun the Pope and the attendant Cardinals. had opportunities of seeing it frequently. Above us the great dome of St. Peter's and below the grand enclaving colonnade, and the vast space, in the centre of which rises the solemn obelisk, thronged with masses of living beings. And he tells of peasants from the Campagna and pilgrims with cape and staff, and Sisters of Charity with white hoods, and an enormous gathering of carriages; while the sunlight dazzles and beams, and the fountains are as showers of diamonds in its glare. No one thinks of the heat, or sultriness of the day, says an old writer, aggravated though it be by the crowd of many thousand panting bodies. So rich and varied, and yet harmonious a scene could be produced by one person only, and for a single and almost momentary act. The bell has been tolling a heavy, monotonous boom; it suddenly stops; every eye is turned towards one point—the window of the balcony is opened; the great white feather fans are seen approaching the front of the very high balcony.

The Pope is seated on the "sedia gestatoria." With targa on his head he looks down upon the vast multitude beneath; and in the silence that at once falls upon every one the voice of the Pope is heard, as he pronounces the prayers preliminary to the benediction of the city and the world, "urbi et orbi."

When, amidst a silence that is almost painful, and which is only broken in upon by the neighing of the horses away at the back of the square, the last words of the benediction have been pronounced, the canons of the castle of St. Angelo proclaim the joyous tidings to the city, the drums beat, the bells ring wildly out, and a great cheer rises from the hearts of the people. It is a moment of intense feeling; but it is of the past.