KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS AND CHAIR OF HISTORY

(From The New Century.)

On Wednesday last, on the campus of the Catholic University of America about 5000 Knights of Columbus assembled to witness the presentation of the fund to endow a chair of Secular History at that great institution.

It was indeed a memorable occasion and the Knights may well congratulate themselves that they are to be instrumental in purging American history of the errors that have defaced it, and in assuring a proper measure of credit to the Catholic Church and to Catholics for the part they have borne in the foundation and the upbuilding of these United States.

The skies were bright and the day was all that could be desired. The concert by the Marine Band that preceded the ceremonies was exceedingly enjoyable.

The distinguished churchmen who were to participate in the event met in Caldwell Hall, and at 4.30 o'clock escorted by the Grand Council of the Knights of Columbus, under Supreme Knight Edward L. Hearn, the procession to McMahon Hall was made to the music of "Maryland, My Maryland.

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His Eminence James Cardinal Gibbons occupied the place of honor on the platform, and about him were grouped the Catholic hierarchy of America. At the right of the Cardinal, facing the audience, were the venerable Archbishop Elder, of Cincinnati; the Rt. Rev. P. J. Garrigan, Bishop of Sioux City; Mgr. O'Connell, Rector of the Catholic University; and on the Cardinal's left, Archbishop Ryan of Philadelphia; Archbishop Farley of New York; Archbishop Ireland of St. Paul, and Archbishop Keane, of Dubuque.

Others on the platform were:

Archbishop Glennon, of St. Louis; Bishop Spalding of Peoria; Bishop Hortsmann of Cleveland: Bishop Maes of Covington; Bishop Foley of Detroit; Archbishop Chapelle of New Orleans; Archbishop Riordan of San Francisco; Rt. Rev. Matthew Harkins, Bishop of Providence, and Rev. D. J. Stafford, of this city.

Representing the faculty of the university were:

Dr. Grannan, Dr. Griffin, Dr. Robinson, Dr. Shea, Prof. Pace, Prof. Shanahan, Prof, Egan, Prof, Hyvernat, Prof. E. L. Greene, Prof. McGuire, Prof. Bolling, Prof. Melody, Prof, Neil, Prof. Zahm, Prof, Shields, Prof. Aiken, and Prof. Creagh.

The following national officers of the Knights of Columbus were on the stand:

Edward L. Hearn, Supreme Knight; P. L. McArdle, Deputy Supreme Knight; Daniel Colwell, National Secretary; P. J. Brady, National Treasurer; James E. McConnell, National Advocate; Rev. P. B. McGivney, National Chaplain; James A. Flaherty, Philadelphia, Pa.; William J. McCullough, Davenport, Iowa; George F. Monaghan, Detroit, Mich.; William A. Prendergastm Brooklyn, N.Y.; Joseph C. Pelletier, Boston, Mass.; Daniel J. Callahan, Norfolk, Va.; William S. McNary, Boston, Mass.; Charles A. Webber, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Hugh V. O'Donnell, Providence, R.I.; James A. Burns, Orange, N.J., and Joseph E. Smith, M.D., Brooklyn. N.Y.

The appearance of His Eminence the Cardinal on the beautifully decorated stand was the signal for an outburst of applause, which lasted for several minutes, and continued while the band played a number of patriotic airs.

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"The Star Spangled Banner" was played while the great multitude stood with uncovered heads, after which amid impressive silence the invocation was pronounced by Archbishop Ryan.

"We have come to-day to offer Thee," he said, "this gift for education. May it be accepted by the Most High, and may He send down upon us to help us in our undertaking His choisest blessing."

Mgr. O'Connell, rector of the University, who presided, made the opening address.

"We recognize here," said he, "a distinguished body of citizens from all parts of the great Republic. We regard you, Knights of Columbus, as one of the most noble and energetic outcomes of the Catholic Church in modern times. You have always been our friends, but to-day you are more. You come here to-day to enlarge the sphere of this institution, and for ages to come knowledge of this country's history will be drawn from an uncontaminated source.

"You have founded here a chair for the teaching of American history, and, starting from this day, the first fact to be recorded in history is the giving of this generous sum of money to present which you have assembled here, for you are making history.

"As long as this granite shall endure your noble work, started to-day, shall go on. This university receives this endowment with gratitude and will hold it in sacred trust, a gift from the Knights of Columbus, to teach the history af this land, which was discovered by Columbus."

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The formal presentation of the check was then made by Supreme Knight Hearn. The check, handsomely engrossed on white satin, four by ten feet in dimensions, was brought forward, and placed where all could see it. At the top were two crossed flags, beneath which was the inscription, "Knights of Columbus." It was drawn on the Union Trust Company of Providence, R.I., dated New Haven, Conn., April 11, 1904, and was made payable to the order of the Catholic University of America for $50,000. Taken by voluntary subscription, as was stated, the check bore a thousand names of the contributing councils.

Taking his place beside the check, Supreme Knight Hearn tendered the sum of money represented to the University, through His Eminence the Cardinal, Chancellor of the University, saying in part:

"This occasion is memorable indeed not because of the particular transaction about to be completed, but rather because of the great potentiality of the unshaken faith we have in the realization of the expected benefits therefrom.

"This has been long looked forward to with pleasurable anticipation by more than 100,000 devoted sons of the Holy Church, more than 100,000 advocates of justice, right and truth, and we sincerely believe it will be regarded with sentiments of justifiable pride by all Catholics for all time.

"We are here to present to the Catholic University of America, in the name of the Knights of Columbus, the sum of $50,000 with which to estabfish in the university a chair of American history. The reasons why such an institution should exist are direct, imperious, and valid; and they are, I believe, well set forth in the trenchant words of His Lordship the Right Reverend Bishop of Sioux City, Bishop Garrigan, in his first address to the Knights of Columbus in March, 1899. In that eloquent address, which will never pass from the memory of those fortunate enough to hear it, His Lordship said: "We ask you to join hands with us in correcting the many errors which have been spread abroad for the last hundred years, here and elsewhere, about our Church, about our faith, and about our people; to clear away the clouds that have been hanging over us for the last century, and bring the truth to the light of day, so that all men may place us where we belong.

"For the action of the Catholic Church, per se, we can prove continuity and independence. For the action of the Catholic Church in and toward the western hemisphere we can advance a similar claim, and it is our chief desire and aim to prove conclusively the validity of our contention. In order to do this we must have a correct insight into the conditions and results of the actions of the Catholic Church and of Catholic individuals. The cardinal principles, therefore, of our action in founding this chair of American history is to dig down through the years through the centuries to the bedrock, and there, locating truth, to stand firmly and fast upon it.

"We have been encumbered with the ultraconservative element, who, rather than provoke censure or criticism, accepted conditions as they fouhd them, without investigating th disposing causes; but we have grown alive to the necessity for action along positive lines. We want to know the truth and the whole truth. We want to rear a new class of historians, whose motto will be to find out and tell the truth.

"Truth-telling, in the natural order of things, is not difficult, but were we to premise our deductions on the experience we have thus far had with non-Catholic writers of American history, we must perforce conclude that the telling of the whole truth is an impossibility.

"In view of all obtainable facts, it cannot be a matter of wonder that we Catholics deem it advisable to institute a most thorough search for the ground truths of American history through the agency of the chair founded here to-day. We American Catholics boast unswerving allegiance to Church and State. We love our faith as we love our country, and we follow our flag as we follow our Church—even unto death. We are proud of the Stars and Stripes! We glory in the Banner of the Cross! Both are intrinsically inspiring, and there is nothing in either that incites controversy, nor should the one be set up against the other. The work accomplished in the field of humanity is grand, ennobling and sublime, and it is our love for both that prompts us to instigate this search for the whole truth.

"We believe this presentation of $50,000 to the Catholic University of America for the endowment of a chair of American history is but the beginning of the great struggle for truth; that we, the Knights of Columbus, faithful to Church and State, representing the highest and best Catholic element of the land, feel highly complimented and deeply obligated to the reverend trustees of the Catholic University for the privilege of taking the initiative in so worthy a cause.

"But we are like one in the darkness seeking for light, who, uncertain how best to find it, calls upon others more capable than himself for assistance. We are seeking the truth about our country's history, about the connection of the Catholic Church in the making thereof; and, not certain how best to attain that end, we call upon Your Eminence and you, the most reverend trustees of the Catholic University. We give you the limited means at our command, and bid you, in God's name, go, seek out the truth, and teach it to us, to our children, and to the whole world."

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Cardinal Gibbons formally accepted the gift on behalf of the University.

"You may rest assured," said His Eminence, "that this munificent amount will be well invested in the work which you have chosen to have it do. An able professor will be called to teach American history at the University, and he will show to all of us the leading part which the Catholic Church has taken in the discovery of America, and in the upbuilding of our country. It will be a work of love to vindicate the claims of the ancient Church before the discerning American people.

"This is one of the most conspicuous years that has dawned upon the Catholic University. We are walking hand in hand with you Knights of Columbus, and we congratulate ourselves that this is so. From Maine to the Rio Grande you have responded nobly to the demands made upon you, not only to the extent of this $50,000, but in the raising of other funds. We are cheered by the generosity of the laity, so fittingly represented some years ago by the Ancient Order of Hibernians and to-day so ably by the Knights of Columbus.

"You have not only given us $50,000, but you have signalized your interest by your presence here to-day in such vast numbers. And we are cheered by that interest as is Pope Pius, who is walking in the footsteps of his illustrious predecessor, Leo XIII.

"Gentlemen of the Knights of Columbus, you do not bear royal titles nor have you royal purses, but you have shown by your gift that you have royal Catholic hearts. (Applause.) When the Pope, bishop and laity are united there is no such word as fail and so this University must succeed, and in God's will it shall succeed. May you always deserve in the future, as you have merited in the past, the confidence of the Church."

As Cardinal Gibbons concluded and took his seat, smiling and bowing, Supreme Knight Hearn stepped forward. "Three cheers for Cardinal Gibbons," he called.

Hats were thrown into the air and cheers were given with a will, and the throng seemed to lose themselves in a burst of applause, which echoed among the surrounding hills. Cardinal Gibbons was much affected by the demonstration, and his eyes were moist as he bowed his acknowledgments.

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Right Rev. P. J. Garrigan, Bishop of Sioux City, made the next address It was he who originated the idea which had its culmination yesterday.

"This is one of those notable events," said he, "which show the unity and strength of the Catholic Church. I congratulate this University on this testimonial of its high merits, and I congratulate the Knights of Columbus on its generous gift to-day. I doubt if any act will ever surpass this act in national value. This act shall live. We hope that this shall contradict the old saying that history is directed against truth.

"For the fourth time in the history of this University it has received a notable expression of the favor in which it is held. I sincerely hope the procession will keep passing on.

"I understand that in addition to the gift of $50,000 which you have made to-day, there are other thousands coming for the establishment of a library and other educational factors. This is a proof of the fact that the University is a university of the people, as the Catholic Church is the Church of the people.

"I remember," continued Bishop Garrigan, turning toward Cardinal Gibbons, "how the idea of this gift made to-day took definite shape at the convention held in New Haven in March, 1899. I remember that I went to you and received your encouragement and support, and to this the success of the undertaking is due."

"And to your eloquence," interjected Cardinal Gibbons, amid laughter.

"Not one, but several professors of American history should be here to carry on the work. There should be here in the centre of Catholic learning at Washington original manuscripts in French and Latin from Europe, for reference, that our university may become a fountain of knowledge."

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Sir Knight John J. Delaney, of New York, known and respected by every Knight of Columbus, delivered an eloquent address in which he declared that if the Knights of Columbus had had their way the gift would have been presented without display. "But it was deemed," he said "that we might serve as an example to others to accomplish what we have done, and so the presentation has taken this form. The sum we have given to-day is small, but it signifies one thing, that we are loyal to the Church of our fathers, and that we are determined that it shall be our Church and the Church of our children. It is also a testimony of our loyalty to our Supreme Pontiff and the hierarchy of the Church in America. We are here today to stimulate the Catholic people in order that some good may be done."

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Cardinal Gibbons pronounced the benediction, after which the entire assemblage of thousands sang the Te Deum. This brought the presentation to a close.

The board of trustees of the Catholic University at the College entertained at dinner on Wednesday evening the members of the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus. The visiting ladies with the Knights were tendered a reception the same evening by Keane Council at the Knights of Columbus Temple.

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At the White House, on Thursday, at 2.30 o'clock, President Roosevelt greeted more than 5000 of the Knights, their wives, sisters and sweethearts, in the Blue Room. The President grasped each cordially by the hand, and so great were the numbers that it was feared that all could not be received on account of pressing business matters.

Few, if any, of the visitors were denied the pleasure of seeing the President.

In the evening, at Rauscher's, Keene Council tendered the visitors a reception and smoker. Mr. Wm. H. Callahan, Past State Deputy for the District, presided and introduced the speakers.

After an enjoyable repast had been served, the Knights turned their attention to the Rev. Father McGivney of Connecticut, Grand Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus, who was first called upon to speak.

Hon. John J. Delaney, corporation counsel of New York, was next called upon, and he stirred his hearers to cheers and applause by his reference to the growth and work of the order.

Others who spoke were Representative Wade lof Iowa; Representative Rider, of New York, and Representative Randsell, of Louisiana; Representative Goulden of New York, and Daniel Colwell of New Haven.

While the smoker was in progress at Rauscher's, a reception was held at the Knights of Columbus Temple, where visiting Knights and their friends were given a welcome on the eve of their departure for their homes

SOME IRISH SAINTS.

By a Regular Correspondent.)

As these brief records of Irish Saints seem to please many, we will continue them this week, taking the holy men at random from the Irish calendar. The first we will recall is

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ST. RUMOLD.— This great Saint renounced the world, where a mere youth and embraced the state of voluntary poverty. He had faithfully served God for many years in his own country when an ardent zeal for the Divine honor and the salvation of souls induced him to travel into Lower Germany, to preach the faith to the idolaters there. He made a journey first to Rome to receive his mission from the Head of the Church and with the Apostolic blessing went into Brabant, a great part of which country he converted to the Faith. He was ordained a missionary Bishop, but without a fixed See. He was slain in 775, by two Pagans, one of whom he had reproached for his evil life. His body was thrown into a river. but being miraculously discovered, was honorably interred by his virtuous friend and protector, Count Ano. A great and sumptuous Church was built at Mechlin to receive his relics, where they are still preserved with great veneration. The city of Mechlin keeps his feast as a solemn holiday, and honors him as its patron and Apostle. The feast of St. Rumald was celebrated as a double feast with an office of nine lessons throughout the province of Dublin before the days of the so-called reformation.

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ST. MALACHY.— This great saint was born in Armagh, and gave early signs of that virtue and holiness for which he has been counted worthy of canonization. He was ordained priest at the age of twenty-five. At that time the discipline of the Irish Church was in many places much relaxed, owing to the disturbance caused by the continual and desolating invasions of the Danes. St. Malachy immediately set himself to work to reform these abuses and to revive the former strictness. In the thirteenth year of his age he was chosen Bishop of Connor, and though he at first strenuously refused the dignity, was constrained, through obedience, to accept it. In order to obtain the confirmation by the Holy See of many things which he had done, he visited Rome in 1139. On his way through France he visited Clairvaux, where he met the great Saint Bernard, with whom he contracted a holy friendship. Among other great works, he restored the renowned monastery of Bangor, in Down, which had been founded by St. Comgall, and which the Danes had destroyed, killing nine hundred monks. On his way to Rome a second time, he again visited Clairvaux, where he died, on the 2nd November, 1148, in the fifty-fourth year of his age.

St. Bernard, who was assured of the glory of St. Malachy by a special revelation, advised his monks to recommend themselves to his intercession.

It will be seen that in those early centuries hundreds of Irish Saints went over the continent, converting the peoples of Europe, and many of them dying in the countries where they labored. Thus they carried back to the continent and spread all over it the light of Faith which St. Patrick had brought from there to Ireland.

THE SITUATION IN FRANCE.

(By an Occasional Contributor.)

We predicted a week ago that the hour was at hand when Mr. Combes would feel the counter-shock resulting from his abominable and petty persecutions. Already is his order for the removal of the crucifixes from the court houses causing disturbances in Paris, and throughout the Provinces. At Havre the workmen declined to take down the sacred images, and at Lyons the refusal of the workmen to do so obliged the authorities to have resort to the Bureau of Public Architecture. In order to prevent demonstrations on the removal of crucifixes from the Palace of Justice and other tribunals of Paris, the work is being done behind closed doors. This is but the rumbling of the storm that is gathering along the horizon. The calm that generally precedes a fierce outburst is already being felt, and the air is heavy with warnings. It is not a revoluntionary movement that we anticipate, not one of those upheavals that create a deluge of blood; it is rather a constitutional movement, but on such a gigantic plan that it will create a veritable reaction in France. All who live to witness it will behold the triumphal return of the religious orders, the re-establishment of Christian education, and the Church stronger than ever in that land. There can be no mistake about the situation. Fanaticism and blind prejudice have gone as far as human, and even religious, forbearance can fairly allow them, and they will have but themselves to thank if they find their castle of cards tumbling down about their ears. They had gone to extremes, and encouraged by the apparent impunity with which they were allowed to prosecute their evil purposes, they finally came to the fatal conclusion that they were omnipotent and invincible. Buoyed up with this vain illusion, they finally leaped the barriers of all restraint and goaded their seemingly resistless victims to holy indignation. We may yet have a period of continued outrages, but it can be of but short duration. The instrument now in the hands of the people is the ballot, and there are general elections to come in the near future.

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We have learned from a Canadian gentleman, who has just returned from a four months visit to Paris and the surrounding provinces, that the condition of affairs in France is entirely different from what we imagine it to be, or from what the press represents it. He says that the infidelity and anti-Christian trouble are only on the surface and that underneath is the broad, deep and powerful stream of a great faith. There is unlimited evidence of the devotion of the faithful, and unbounded testimony of the Christian charity in the land. They await only the proper moment to stir into life, and when that moment comes, France will go back, by leaps and bounds, to the epochs of her grandest faith. We believe this to be true, because we have unshakeable trust in the ultimate triumph of the Church in every great struggle; she came out victorious in the past, and Christ has promised it should be so in the future.

LATE MRS. JOHN LYNCH.

By the death of Mrs. John Lynch, which occurred on the 10th instant, at her residence, 172 Richmond street, Point St. Charles, St. Gabriel's parish loses one of its oldest, best known and most esteemed residents.

Mrs. Lynch was born in Wicklow, Ireland, 65 years ago, and came to this country when a child, residing for more than a quarter of a century in Point St. Charles. Ever industrious and kind, she endeared herself to all who knew her.

The deceased was associated with all the good and charitable works of her parish. Her last illness was borne with remarkable Christian fortitude. Her funeral service, which took place on the 13th instant, at St. Gabriel's Church, was very largely attended. R.I.P.

Love is a fire that is dreaded by those who have been burned.

Virtue may be its own reward, but some people make a trademark of it.

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