

Chiniquy and the Secular Press.

The following letter was sent to the Globe, but refused publication:— "Never was there a more striking illustration of the truth of the Psalmist's words, 'Iniquity hath led us unto itself,' than the death-bed statement of the late Father Chiniquy, published in your issue of the 23rd inst. That statement was evidently intended to wound as deeply as possible the Church at whose altars he officiated for many years, and one of whose highest dignitaries offered to administer to him the consolation of that religion for forty years unceasingly suffered. But in minds not lost to all sense of decency the effect will be just the reverse. The public sentiment of this city, which rose up in arms against the foul mottled 'Jumbo' Campbell some years ago, will not be edited by the spectacle of an apostate priest pouring out with his dying breath language as coarse and malignant as any that ever tainted the Sabbath air of the Queen's Park. To think of a man professing to be in union with Him who dying on the cross prayed for His murderers and at the same time giving vent in His last moments to the coarsest and most malignant falsehoods concerning the Church in which fifty years of His life were spent, is a sight incalculably revolting to anyone who cherishes the least spark of true Christianity. The dying Saviour entreating forgiveness for His executioners, and the dying Chiniquy petitioning Catholics with directness in a suggestive contrast between those two pictures. Death that softens bitterness and unites friends long parted, could draw forth nothing but ribaldry and venom from the heart of Chiniquy. Of his death-bed statement of his faith and reasons for the same, which occupies a column of the Globe, there is only a portion of one sentence devoted to a confession of his belief in Christ, all the rest being a tirade against Catholicism. He tells us in the usual stereotyped phrase that 'he has once and for all accepted Jesus Christ for his only guide.' In these words to which even a Unitarian could subscribe, we are not informed whether Chiniquy believed in the Blessed Trinity, in the divinity of Christ, in the inspiration of Holy Writ. There are men who 'profess to have accepted Jesus Christ for their Saviour,' who have nevertheless very unsettled and many ideas on these points. Evidently Chiniquy was very anxious to make a clear or full confession of faith or to give reasons for the same. What he wanted was something which would serve as a peg on which to hang a travesty of Catholic doctrine. This travesty is divided into three leading heads, of which the first consists of his attack on the Primacy of the Pope. He gives his reasons at length for rejecting this doctrine and very strange specimens of reasoning they are. The first argument is simply inimitable. 'There cannot be found a single word in the Holy Gospel to show us that Peter passed a single hour in Rome.' Considering that the Gospels were written to give an account of the life and teaching of our Lord, both of which were anterior to Peter's coming to Rome, this reason is ludicrous in its absurdity. It would be just as sensible to argue that Columbus never discovered America because Tacitus does not mention the fact in his history. Further on he positively answered, 'the mother of Zebedee's children that He had not received from His father the power to establish one of His apostles over the other.' How anyone believing in the divinity of Christ could dare to assert that He could not give one of His apostles authority over the others is incomprehensible. Any superior can put one of his subjects in authority over the others. Yet according to Chiniquy's death-bed confession what any earthly superior could do Christ could not do! And he supports his contention by a quotation which he dishonestly mutilates:—"To sit on my right hand or on my left is not mine to give" (Matt x. 23). It is worthy of remark that the Arians quoted these very words against the divinity of Christ, and mutilated them after the manner of Chiniquy. In order to see the dishonesty of the arguments of both one has only to refer to the words in full and to the occasion which called them forth. Incited, as St. Chrysostom expressly states, by jealousy of the pre-eminence given to Peter, the sons of Zebedee instigate their mother, who was nearly blinded by blood to our Lord, to ask Him to seat one of them at His right, the other at His left, when He would come into possession of His kingdom. The kingdom was not a spiritual but an earthly one which they fully expected Him to found. And they presuming on their kinship wanted the highest places in this earthly kingdom. He severely reprimanded them, gives them to understand that their portion in this world will be suffering, not glory, and finally tells them that "to sit on my right hand or left is not mine to give to you, but to them for whom it is prepared by my Father." Does Christ here say that He cannot put one of His apostles over the other? He emphatically states that He can grant such a pre-eminence. But to whom? Not to the ambitious, not to the self-seeker, not to flesh and blood, but to them for whom it is prepared by His Father. These last words which explain the whole saying and overthrow his position, are omitted by Chiniquy. After this exhibition of his death-bed reasoning and honesty, it is

not necessary to dwell on the various other so-called proofs he brings forward, such as St. Paul's withstanding Peter to his face, just as though faithful workers in the rank and file do not remonstrate at times with leaders whom at the same time they loyally serve. Neither will I intrude on your space by quoting texts in proof of the doctrine of the Primacy of the Pope which Chiniquy bitterly but harmlessly attacks. It is, however, when he refers to the Catholic doctrine of the Blessed Eucharist that he is all himself. That adorable mystery has the power of bringing out all that is best or worst in a man. And in his references to it Chiniquy reaches a depth of coarseness and offensiveness which the vilest hoodlum of our streets might envy. I pass this portion of his confession with nostrils compressed, just as I would avoid a festering carcass. His remarks concerning the arrival of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the Scripture are too rich to be passed over. "Every Catholic bishop and priest," he declares, "is fated to perjure himself every time he explains a text of the Holy Scriptures." Now mark how he undertakes to prove this extraordinary statement. "From the day in which he was ordained a priest he has sworn to interpret the Holy Scriptures according to the unanimous consent of the Fathers." But according to Chiniquy the Holy Fathers differ on almost every text on which they comment. Therefore when a priest interprets a text of Scripture on which the Fathers are not unanimous, he commits perjury. And a veracious testimony on almost every text, it follows that the poor Catholic priest is committing perjury almost every time he quotes and comments on a Scriptural text. It is charitable to suppose that Chiniquy's mind was wandering when he perpetrated this specimen of logic. I will let his first statement pass, though it is far from correct. But let it be granted that every priest is bound to interpret the Holy Scriptures according to the unanimous consent of the Fathers. This rule evidently applies only to those texts on which the Fathers are unanimous. No priest has sworn to interpret the text on which the Fathers are not unanimous, according to the unanimous consent of the Fathers. He has sworn nothing at all as far as the Fathers are concerned, with regard to the texts on which they differ. How then can he commit perjury when he interprets as seems to him best the texts on which they differ? His oath embraces only the texts on which they are unanimous, not those on which they differ. Let an example be taken from a court of justice. A judge is bound by his oath of office to interpret the laws according to the unanimous consent of the Court. Is he a perjurer then, when he interprets the laws according to his own judgment where there is no ruling or where there are various opinions concerning the true force of a certain ruling? Certainly not. The person who would say so would be regarded as crazy. And yet this crazy contention is one of Chiniquy's grounds for rejecting the Catholic Church. In his efforts to involve the Catholic priesthood in perjury, he has never laid himself open to a daily tort. If men as wise and holy as the Fathers, according to his testimony, differ in almost every text of Holy Writ, what is to be thought of the principle on which he and every Protestant sees, namely, that the Bible interpreted by every one's private judgment is the ultimate court of appeal in religious matters? Who guarantees him Chiniquy that he did not err when such great and holy men erred? It is with relief to myself, and I am sure to my readers, I take leave of this mass of absurd reasoning, malignant falsehood, misquotation flith. Heaven grant that Christianity will never witness another such death-bed exhibition.

AMERICANS SLAUGHTER THE FILIPINOS.

Manila, Feb. 6.—Owing to the distance embraced in the scene of Sunday's engagement, a semi-circle of fully seventeen miles, details regarding individual fighting have been extremely difficult to obtain. So far as can be gathered, the brush commenced at 8.45 on Saturday evening by the firing of a Nebraska Regiment sentry at Santa Mesa upon Filipino troops who were deliberately crossing the line after repeated warnings, with the evident purpose of drawing our fire. The first shot from the American sentry evidently served as a signal, for there followed almost immediately a terrific fusillade along the entire Filipino line on the north side of the Pasig river. The American outposts returned the fire with such vigour that the Filipino fire was checked until the arrival of reinforcements. All the troops in the vicinity were hurried out and the Filipinos who were deliberately crossing the line after repeated warnings, with their own reinforcements arrived. THE TROOPS ENGAGED. At 10 o'clock the fighting was resumed, the American firing line consisting of the 3rd Artillery, the Kansas and Montana Regiments, the Minnesota Regiment, the Pennsylvania's, the Nebraska's, the Utah battery, the Idaho's, the Washingtons, the Californians, the 4th Cavalry, the North and South Dakotas, the Colorados, the 6th Artillery, and the 14th Infantry. The Filipinos concentrated their forces at the points, Gallocan, Santa Mesa, and Galintagan, and maintained an intermittent fusillade for some hours. They brought artillery into action at Galintagan at 10.30, but only one gun annoy-

ed the Americans to any appreciable extent, a howitzer on the road beyond Santa Mesa. The 3rd Artillery silenced the Galintagan battery by firing two guns simultaneously, which was followed immediately by volleys from the infantry. At about midnight there was a lull in the firing, lasting until 3.45 a.m., when the whole Filipino line reopened fire. The Americans poured a terrific fire into the darkness for twenty minutes, and then there was another lull until daylight, when the Americans generally advanced. During the night, in response to Rear Admiral Devay's signals, flanked across from Cavite, the United States cruiser Charleston and the gunboat Concord, stationed at Malabon, poured a deadly fire from their secondary batteries into the Filipino trenches at Calococan. At daylight the United States double-turret seagoing monitor Monadnock opened fire on Malato, and kept the Filipinos' left flank blank, while the other vessels shelled the enemy's right flank for several hours. ABOVE THEM SIX MILES. By 11 o'clock the Americans had apparently completely routed the enemy and had taken the villages of Enayapong, Santa Mesa, Pao, Santana, San Pedro, Macorte, Pandan-an, and Pasul, had destroyed hundreds of native huts, and had secured possession of the water-main and reservoir, a distance of over six miles. The Tennessee Regiment joined the firing line at 10 o'clock on Sunday morning, and assisted in capturing Santa Mesa. BURNING A CHURCH. One of the most notable events of Sunday's work was the driving of the Filipinos out of the rebel stronghold at Pao by the reserve, a few companies of Californians, commanded by Colonel Duboce. The main road to the village was lined by native huts, full of Filipino sharpshooters. After they had been firing upon Gen. King and his staff, killing a driver, and firing on an ambulance of the Red Cross Society, Colonel Duboce ordered the huts to be cleared and burned. The Filipinos concentrated on Pao church and convent, where they made a determined stand in the upper stories. A platoon of Californians stationed on a neighbouring bridge poured a hot fire on the Filipinos, but was unable to dislodge them. In the face of a terrific fusillade Colonel Duboce and a few volunteers dashed into the church, scattered coal oil and retired. In the meantime Capt. Dyer's battery of the 6th Artillery bombarded the church, dropping a dozen shells into the tower and roof. Company L and part of Company G of the Californians charged into the church, but were unable to ascend the single flight of steps leading to the storey above. A company of the Idahos and the Washington Guards, stationed on each side of the building, picked off the Filipinos as they were smoked out. Many of the rebels, however, escaped into the brush in the rear of the church. The Americans captured 53 of the rebels, and during the fighting about the church 20 of the rebels were killed. Some 2,500 women, children, and non-combatants were allowed to enter the American lines after promising to go to their homes or to friends and remain there. A RUSH ACROSS THE RICE FIELDS. Another intensely exciting incident occurred during the engagement. The Washingtons and Idahos and company K of the Californians made charges across the rice fields between Pao and Santana, in the face of a terrific fusillade. The ground over which they passed was covered to-day with dead and wounded natives. The former were being buried in groups of five or six about where they lay, and the latter were brought to the hospital. It was at this point and at Calococan that the Filipinos suffered their heaviest losses. The 14th Regulars were in a particularly tight place near Simangan, and Colonel Dyer was compelled to rush past them with the reserve in order to prevent the regulars from being cut off. In the last line twelve men were killed before the rebels retired. Both sides chattered frequently during the engagement. The American "Hurrahs" were almost invariably met by derisive "Vivas." Among the natives the Ygorots were especially noticeable for their bravery, about 700 of these native savages facing artillery fire with their bows and arrows. SPREAD OF THE UNITED IRISH LEAGUE. London, Feb. 6.—The United Irish League, founded six months ago in Mayo by William O'Brien, is fast becoming the most formidable weapon in the agrarian agitation Ireland has known since Land League days. In Western Ireland the best land is kept in great tracts for grazing cattle, while the tenants are huddled together in miserable, stony holdings so small that they are insufficient to support the families in them. The original object of O'Brien's League was to compel graziers to sell their land to the tenants, so as to prevent periodic recurrence of the famine which the slightest failure of crops brings on these tenants. The league organization, which has spread like wildfire, now comprises 16 branches in Connaught, and is fast gaining ground in Leitrim and Munster. Enormous mass-meetings are being held throughout the west in furtherance of its object. All rich Nationalist sections are found standing together on its platform. The Government attempted to stop the progress by proclaiming its in-

ing, but found that this action only stimulated its growth. At a great meeting held last week at Clontarf, near where the Land League was founded, the platform of the United Irish League was read to embrace the whole National programme. Many of the grazing tenants have already signalled their willingness to subdivide their land, but O'Brien is determined not to part with so powerful a political lever as the league has become. His own health, never robust, has been undermined by his exertions, and he has left Ireland for a few weeks' rest under imperative orders from his doctor. C. Y. L. A. AT HOME. One of the jolliest parties of the season took place in St. George's hall last Monday evening, when the ever-popular Young Ladies' Literary Association gave an At Home. The room was soon crowded, a large and fashionable gathering having assembled. The social President, Mrs. Kavanaugh, took the chair, and announced the performers in the concert, who were the Misses Halliday, Dalby, McMahon, Whelan, and O'Donoghue, and Messrs. A. Hartline, Hollist-r, Dancy, and Armstrong. Dancing was kept up with spirit until midnight, when the supper-room was opened, and the daily refreshments served by Mr. G. Coates were soon demolished. North American Life. A Successful Financial Institution. The Annual Meeting of this Company was held in the Company's Building here on Thursday, February 2nd, 1899, when Mr. John L. Blake was appointed Chairman and Mr. William McCabe, Secretary. The Directors' Report presented at the meeting showed continued and marked progress in the great progress and solid prosperity of the Company in every branch of its business. Some of the leading features of the year's business, as mentioned by the President, were the following:— (1) Locking at the Company from every standpoint the report submitted shows financial strength, productive assets, solid growth, and large relative surplus, which is the supreme point to policy-holders, as it is from this source alone that satisfactory returns can be made to them. (2) The new business for the year exceeded that of any previous year. (3) Another marked feature of this Company is the relatively large amount of its net surplus to liabilities, when contrasted with that of its leading competitors. The President showed that this was one of the best tests by which to judge of the relative merits of the different Companies. (4) The following marked increases were made during the year:— Per cent. In Premium Income 11.56 In Interest Income 13.11 In Insurance 15.15 In Assets 15.15 In Net Surplus 10.78 In Insurance Reserve 15.15 The President stated that gentlemen representing the United States Insurance Departments had been in the city during part of last month, and had made a thorough study of the company's investigation into the affairs of the Company, with a view to its admission to do business in their respective States, and that they were fully and very satisfactorily with the soundness of the Company, and expressed themselves as gratified with every aspect of its affairs. The Hon. Mr. Allan, in concluding the adoption of the report, called special attention to the excellent character of the investments of the Company, which these were 27 per cent. are in first mortgage securities, nearly 20 per cent. in stocks and bonds, loans on policies about 6 1/2 per cent, the balance consisted of cash in bank, interest accrued, etc. He also called special attention to the fact that although these assets had increased very largely, the outstanding and accrued interest had very materially decreased, which is a proof of the excellent character of the investments. He also called attention to the promptness with which the interest thereon had been paid. James Thornburn, M. C., Medical Director, presented a full and interesting report of the mortality experience of the Company from its organization, which showed that the mortality had been exercised in the selection of the Company's business. The Consulting Actuary reported that he had made a full and interesting examination of the accounts, and balance sheet and policy copy of the annual report to the Insurance Department, and stated that he was very much gratified with the result of such examination, also with the thorough system of the work in every department throughout the office. He commended the Company for closing its books promptly at the end of the year, as had been its custom from organization, and stated that notwithstanding the large amount paid to policy-holders during the year, another substantial gain had been made in the net surplus, now amounting to \$474,029.08, or if made up on the same basis as that generally used, viz., by adding the difference between the cost and market value of the investments, the net surplus of the Company, such surplus would be \$522,644.83. He referred to the great difficulty which has been experienced of late years in securing investments, and pointed out the great decline in the rate of interest which gilt-edged securities yielded. In view of this he stated that the settlements of the Company's Investment Policies should be highly satisfactory to the holders thereof, as they compare favorably with the rate of the leading and best managed Companies on this continent. A special vote of thanks was unanimously tendered to the Hon. Mr. Allan and Agency Staff, for their splendid work of the year, during which the largest business ever done by the Company had been secured, largely exceeding that of any other Home Company at the same time in history. After the usual vote of thanks had been passed, the election of Directors took place, whereupon the newly-elected directors were sworn in. The Hon. Mr. Blake was unanimously re-elected President and the Honourable G. W. Allan and Sir Frank Smith Vice-Presidents.

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ISRAELI AN OFFICE SEEKER AND SOMETHING WORSE New York, Feb. 6.—The London correspondent of the Times cables the following:—An extraordinary embarrasment has fallen upon the Tory party, in the shape of a severe blow dealt at their trial, Benjamin Disraeli, Lord Beaconsfield. Disraeli's recently published life of Sir Robert Peel recalls how Disraeli once bitterly attacked Peel's character in the House of Commons, declaring that for forty years he had traded on the ideas and intelligence of others, and that from the days of William the Conqueror, there had been no statesman who had committed political perjury on so great a scale. Peel retorted with dignity that Disraeli's honourable member held those views of him, it was surprising that he should have been ready to unlace his fortunes with his (Peel's), in office. To this Disraeli replied as follows:—"I can assure the House that nothing of the kind occurred. I can say that I never asked a favour of the Government, not even one of those inane things which persons are obliged to ask. With respect to my being a solicitor for office, it is entirely unfounded." Now, a half century later, Disraeli is proved to have lied, and to have relied upon Peel's character not to expose him. On September 6th, 1841, he wrote Peel a letter, pathetically begging for office, and concluding as follows:—"I confess that to be unrecognized at this moment by you appears to me to be overwhelming, and I appeal to your own heart, to that justice and that magnanimity which I feel are your characteristics, to save me from an intolerable humiliation." Conservative leaders regard this exposure of Lord Beaconsfield's character as so serious that they have implored Lord Rowton, who holds the Disraeli's papers, and who would have long ago published a biography of the Queen herself had not requested him to refrain from doing so, to furnish them with some means of placing this disgraceful episode in a better light. THE LATE JOHN HENRY EGAN. At a meeting of the St. Louis and St. John Berchman's Sanctuary Society, held on the fifth day of February, 1899, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—"It has pleased Almighty God to call to Himself our late worthy and esteemed fellow-member, John Henry Egan. During the years of his membership he has fulfilled his duties most devotedly. It is our duty to leave upon record some expression of our sorrow for the loss sustained by this Society in the death of our treasurer and fellow-member. Be it resolved that this Society have a Mass offered for the repose of his soul; that a copy of this resolution be presented to his loving mother as a token of our sympathy. And that said copy be signed by the members of the Executive Committee on behalf of the Society.—J. O'Leary, Secretary. ST. PATRICK'S DRY AT QUÉBEC. Québec, Feb. 6.—Officers of the different Irish-Catholic societies met here yesterday, and decided to celebrate the coming St. Patrick's day with a monster parade from Tara Hall to St. Patrick's Church.

A PIANO FOR XMAS The most appropriate gift one can make at the Christmas season is a Piano. All the festivities of the occasion centre around good music. Christmas is a musical season—and good music cannot be had without a good instrument. Would you select a Piano that stands the peer of all instruments manufactured in Canada, and is ranked by the world's greatest artists from abroad, then choose a Heintzman & Co. Piano Toronto Warehouses, 117 King St. W., Toronto. Established 1816.

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