

OUR OTTAWA LETTER

By Our Own Correspondent.)

The fire at the University of Ottawa is still the subject of conversation at the Capital, and interest has been revived in it by the death of Rev. Father Charles J. Fulham, who succumbed to the injuries received on that fatal morning. After six days of sufferings that made his ending that of a veritable martyr, Father Fulham gave up his soul to God. He was only thirty-three years of age, and a native of Ireland. He had been ordained priest, as a member of the Oblate Order, at Ceylon, and about a year ago he came to Ottawa, in obedience to the orders of his superiors, and here took up the double professorship of English and Latin. His two brothers, who reside in Philadelphia, were at his bedside during his last illness.

On the morning of the fire Father Fulham was forced to leap from the fourth storey to the street, and in his fall he received the fatal shock. The funeral, a most imposing one, took place on Thursday, from St. Joseph's Church, and the Mass was sung by Rev. Father Emery, the rector of the University.

Another priest, another young member of the fine sacerdotal army of this diocese has passed away, and we might almost say that the unfortunate fire had a good deal to do with the sudden death that is to be recorded. Rev. Patrick O'Brien, was an Oblate of Mary Immaculate; he was in his twenty-fourth year. He had an attack of heart failure, and, in all probability, the excitement caused by the fire brought on the fatal blow to which he succumbed the other day. He was a native of Massachusetts.

It is rumored that the Faculty of the University propose reconstructing the institution at Ottawa East, near the scholastic building of the Oblates. Ottawa East is a suburb that will soon be annexed to the city, and bears about the same relation to the Capital as does Westmount to Montreal. If this decision is reached by the University authorities, they will probably sell the land on which the late university building was constructed. In referring to this proposed movement one correspondent, whom I have learned was well informed from official sources, says:—

"The authorities of the university look with favor, it is understood, on the plan to rebuild at least a part of the university in Ottawa East. The Oblate Order now owns 30 acres of land there comprising the grounds at the scholastic, and if the Kane property adjoining were secured, it would afford ample room for the erection of separate departments. The location of the university in the suburb would have other advantages, as the doubtful attractions of city life would be removed from the students. This would leave science hall separated from the other departments for the present, but as the students have to attend classes there only twice a week it would not be a very serious matter. For some years past the students have taken their recreation in part at the institution in the suburb where there is ample area for such objects. If the Ottawa East property is purchased for building purposes, the old playgrounds adjoining the Varsity Oval will be sold as well as the property on which the ruins of the university now stand. A high price could be secured for all this property, whereas land in the suburb could be secured very reasonably, leaving a good balance on hand for building purposes. With the steady growth of the city, and the annexation of the suburb the university, if rebuilt, in Ottawa East would not be lost to the city."

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception was celebrated in grand style in all the churches of Ottawa on last Tuesday. His Excellency, Mgr. Sbarretti, officiated pontifically at the Church of Notre Dame de Lourdes, while His Grace Archbishop Duhamel presided at the services at the Basilica. On that day the collection for Peter's Pence was made, and I learn that it was an exceptionally large one.

The electric car service of Ottawa

was stopped for two hours during Tuesday forenoon. Already the Electric Heat, Light and Power Company is beginning to feel the effects of the "anchorage." Montreal is free from that bother. During the last session of Parliament, in the month of March, a great deal of annoyance was caused by the extinction of the electric lights all over the city. This was due to what is called the "anchorage." It is a kind of flakey ice that gathers at the Chaudiere and takes possession of the machinery at the power-house. It gets into the wheels and is almost unmanageable. Some system will have to be devised whereby it can be prevented from gathering, otherwise the city is entirely at its mercy.

Dr. De Costa Ordained

Some time ago Rev. Mr. Briggs, an eminent Presbyterian minister had been found to be "heretical" by his church, and he sought admission into the Episcopalian communion. Some of the Episcopalian clergymen of New York objected to his being admitted to orders in their Church, as he preached and held doctrines to which they could not subscribe. Amongst the ministers who so objected was Rev. Dr. De Costa. Despite their protests, Bishop Potter ordained Rev. Mr. Briggs. Immediately, Dr. De Costa felt that he must seek elsewhere for the infallible teaching of Christ. Our readers will recall the amount of noise created in the religious world of New York, when, a few years ago, Rev. Dr. De Costa became a Catholic. Shortly after that important step being taken he entered upon a lecturing career, for the purpose of explaining his course, and also for the necessary and laudable purpose of making a living and supporting his family.

A short time afterwards his wife died. Since then the aim of Dr. De Costa's life has been to become a priest of the Catholic Church. He is now in his seventieth year; and with the burden and snows of time upon him he has had the courage to go to Rome to study for the priesthood. On the 29th November last he was ordained, and had the glorious satisfaction of hearing pronounced upon him, from episcopal lips, the sublime words—"Tu es Sacerdos"—"Thou art a priest unto all eternity, according to the order of Melchisedech." In its last issue the New York "Freeman's Journal" gives the following account of the ordination of Rev. Dr. De Costa, as well as explanation of how it comes that he was obliged to leave Rome before there attaining the object of his desires. The article says:—"Dr. De Costa, who went to Rome last January to prepare for the priesthood, found that the climate of that city did not agree with him as in former years, and at the end of July, acting on medical advice, went to Fiesole, situated on the mountains, near Florence, where the Nursing Sisters of Mary known as the Blue Sisters, occupy the ancient convent of San Girolamo, formerly the seat of the Jesuits. It was finally decided that he could not with safety return to Rome to continue his preparation. Archbishop Farley had authorized Monsignor Kennedy, rector of the American College, to have him ordained as soon as convenient, and the rector kindly obtained the requisite dispensation, placing the case in the hands of Monsignor Falcini, Vicar-General of Fiesole, who, by direction of the Bishop of Fiesole, took the arrangements in hand, acting with much zeal and interest, showing a broad and sympathetic nature. The Blue Sisters also acted an important part, being quite resolved that their patient should have holy orders, and employed all their skill in the work of building up his strength. In the temporary absence of the Bishop of Fiesole, Monsignor Novella, a Titular Archbishop, now Vicar-General of Florence, gave Dr. De Costa minor orders and the subdeaconate, Oct. 25 and Nov. 15; and the Bishop of Fiesole gave the deaconate on the 22nd, and the priesthood last Sunday, Nov. 29, in the venerable conventual Church of San Girolamo, where the other orders were conferred."

MAKING MONEY.—It will now be in order for American sensational journals to present portraits to their readers of the gang counterfeiters who were recently arrested.

Paper, ready for the press, capable of producing more than \$1,000,000 in almost perfect fac-simile of \$20, \$10 and \$5 government notes, was also found.

AN IRISH EXHIBITION.—Much prominence is given in press of Ireland to a proposal to hold an industrial exhibition in Dublin which will be open to the whole country.

LOCAL NOTES.

ST. MARY'S PARISH.—Rev. Father Brady expects to open the doors of the main entrance of his Church on Christmas Eve for Midnight Mass. The work is rapidly approaching completion.

ST. ANTHONY'S PARISH.—Rev. Father Donnelly and his parishioners are determined to see the end of the difficulty in connection with the education of his young parishioners.

DIVIDING ST. PATRICK'S.—A petition, for sometime in circulation, of a number of parishioners of St. Patrick's parish, in the northern district, has been presented to the Archbishop asking that certain territory be taken from the mother parish to organize a separate one for their convenience. Next week we hope to be able to publish the full text of the petition.

MRS. McSHANE'S ILLNESS.—The many friends of Mrs. James McShane, a prominent and zealous member of St. Patrick's parish, and noted for her enthusiasm in all good works, will regret to learn of her continued illness.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC.—All the Irish parish choirs—St. Patrick's, St. Ann's, St. Gabriel's, St. Mary's, St. Anthony's and St. Michael's are preparing elaborate programmes for Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. The inauguration of a new organ will be one of the features at St. Mary's, in which the well known and talented organist and choirmaster, Prof. James Wilson, and the priests and parishioners are much interested.

Catholic Topics And News Notes.

REV. DANIEL J. O'SHEA in writing to the "Pittsburg Catholic" refers to Catholic societies and their work in a way which is certain to make him unpopular in society ranks, but which at the same time shows that he is one who has the courage of his convictions in temporal concerns as well as in the spiritual sphere.

What, he writes, are they doing to prove their usefulness? From societies enjoying episcopal approbation we have a right to demand more than constitutions and by-laws and pledges. We want results. Religious societies, like political parties, sometimes expend all their energy in making promises and formulating programmes and platforms.

It seems to me that if some of our Catholic societies did not run so much to banquets and lodges and parades and would do a little more for the spiritual, mental and material improvement of their members, they would serve a more useful purpose, and would give more tangible evidence for their right to exist.

BISHOP McDONNELL SICK.—Bishop McDonnell of Brooklyn, who has been very ill, has been taken to the Sanitarium of the Dominican Sisters at Monticello, Sullivan County. The Bishop has been suffering from a severe attack of grip.

A NEW CHURCH.—Archbishop Farley dedicated, recently, the new church of St. Francis de Sales, the costliest church in New York with the exception of the Cathedral. The church will hold 4,000, and it was filled to its utmost capacity. Following the dedication Bishop Colton, of Buffalo, celebrated the first solemn Pontifical High Mass in the edifice.

The new church is built of white marble and is so constructed that an unobstructed view of the altar can be had from any part of it. Both the exterior and interior show mixed designs of architecture, the Roman predominating. The building

cost more than \$300,000. The parish was organized nine years ago.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE. if such were necessary, to the humble and loyal Catholic parishioner, of the self-sacrifice of the majority of our priests, may be had in the following item:—

"Archbishop Harty, before he departed for Manila, left his entire fortune, amounting to \$14,000 to St. Leo's Church, St. Louis, the parish in which he spent fifteen years of his life. When Archbishop Harty left last Monday evening for the Philippines he took with him only money enough to pay his passage and expenses. Purses presented to the departing prelate were also contributed to the parish."

THE LITTLE ONES.—The San Francisco "Monitor" says:—The Children's Christmas Tree Festival, under the auspices of the Sisters of the Holy Family, will be held this year at the Alhambra, on the 21st of December. At the request of many friends a small admission fee will be charged. Reserved seats can be obtained at the Convent, 890 Hayes street.

STATISTICS.—According to the latest statistics of the religions of the world "at the end of the nineteenth century," published by Father Krose, S.J., the Catholics number 264,505,922. Of these 177,657,261 are in Europe, 71,350,879 in America, 11,513,276 in Asia, 3,004,563 in Africa, and 979,943 in Australia.

Appeal for the Orphans

At no time of the year are the orphan children more liable to miss their parents than at Christmas. This season which is a season of joy to all others, may be one of grief to them. Think of the two hundred little orphans of St. Patrick's Asylum whose expectation of Santa Claus, are as great as those of the children in the wealthiest homes, whose parents and friends will bedeck them with the costliest gifts. Parents and children will exchange greetings and every home will be filled with joy. This joy will be all the more real if seasoned by acts of charity.

The Magi of old came to the shrine of poverty and offered their gifts. They were guided by the brilliancy of a star. Kind friends, the Star of Charity shines for you, offering you its light to guide you to the poor orphans. Do not close your eyes to its blessed brilliancy, but like the Wise Men of old follow its holy guidance, and leave your gift, no matter how small at the altar of charity. Your reward will be a thousand-fold in return.

J. R.

QUEER HUMOR.

We have frequently listened to the remarks of politicians, not all of them Protestants, who when reproached for their dependence on the power of the "reptile fund" in conducting an election campaign, repeated the old saying: "Elections are not run with prayers."

This is considered a clever saying, as are all the magpie utterances of a class of politicians, professional and amateur, who laugh at their own jokes.

These remarks were suggested by reading the following incident related by a Catholic American contemporary:—

It is said of Richard Henry Stoddard, the veteran poet, lately deceased, that attempting one evening, after Mrs. Stoddard and the servants had retired, to prepare an impromptu luncheon for a number of friends, he came upon a box of sardines. His somewhat vigorous remarks, inspired by a sardine can's objection to the "open sesame" of a dull jack-knife, attracted the attention of Mrs. Stoddard on the floor above. "What are you doing?" she called down.

"Opening a can of sardines."

"With what?"

"A dashed old jack-knife," replied the exasperated poet. "What do you think I was opening it with?"

"Well, dear," she said dryly, "I didn't exactly think you were opening it with prayer."

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Cherries, White	45	5 00
Plums, Greengage	40	4 50
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Peaches, Lemon Cling	45	5 00
Peaches, Yellow Crawford	45	5 00
Peaches, White Heath	45	5 00
Pears, Bartlett	40	4 50

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"Imperiales Superfines" In 7 lb. Glass Jars 3.50 each

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