

HAPPENINGS IN NEW YORK.

The Feeling Still Panicky and Unsettled.

How a Pastor Arranged to Meet a Heavy Liability--The Scarcity of the Easter Lilly--Some of the New Civil Service Rules--Alarm in Brooklyn Political Circles Over Leader McLaughlin's Illness.

New York, March 9.—The feeling in this city is still panicky and unsettled. The possibility of international complications have had a generally bad effect, and the war talk, which is being nurtured by the worst class of journals which ever disgraced a metropolitan city, add continually to the sense of unrest and nervousness.

The Ordnance Department made another shipment yesterday of projectiles for the new guns at Southern forts. The lighter Craig left the ordnance dock at Governor's Island at 1 o'clock with the load, which was turned over to one of the regular lines. Two other shipments will be made in a day or two, one to Fort Washington, Maryland. These heavy projectiles are all handled at Governor's Island by squads of army prisoners.

The corps of the army which seems least affected by the present activity of the department is the engineers. Ever since the appropriations for the new guns were made, two years ago, the engineers have been very busy men.

How a Church Debt Was Paid.

A very novel plan to pay off the debt on St. Monica's Church was originated and carried out by Father James Dougherty. It is nothing less than to have the lives of eleven of his parishioners insured, each naming the church as the beneficiary.

St. Monica's parish extends from Seventy-second street to Eighty-sixth street and from the East River to Second avenue. In the territory are more than 10,000 Roman Catholics. The parish property consists of a church, rectory, a sisters' home and a school.

Father James J. Dougherty, now at the head of the Mission of the Immaculate Virgin, at Great Jones street and Lafayette place—the Drumgoole Mission—bought the property and erected the buildings. When the Rev. James Dougherty, the present rector of St. Monica's, who is not related to his namesake, came from Kingston to take charge of the parish he found a floating indebtedness of more than \$100,000. He decided to pay it, and to do this he must have \$125,000.

But an official of one of the associations to which he applied—a life insurance company—suggested that, if he would procure a certain amount of insurance, they would advance the amount needed. The idea struck Father Dougherty favorably, and he discussed the matter with members of his flock. He proposed that some of them should insure their lives for \$10,000 each on the twenty year endowment plan, making the church the beneficiary in each case and promising that the premiums should be paid from collections taken up for that purpose.

Father Dougherty says that the annual premiums exceed \$8,000, and this amount of the church's revenue was used for no other purpose because it would not do to permit the policies to lapse. He feels he has made a good investment, and that the \$8,000 and more annually paid the insurance company is equivalent to so much deposited in bank toward wiping out the church debt.

of late years they have been pushed ahead for decorative purposes. The blooms, however, seldom have the dazzling fairness they possess at Easter-tide. This year, New York florists say, is a poor one for lilies, as the bulbs brought from Bermuda are not up to the usual standard. In times past the Bermuda growers were content to ship fresh bulbs only; but lately they have been sending out tons of flowering plants and the bulbs that bore these blossoms instead of receiving back any of the sap sent through the stalk has had to be content with the little that remained there.

Of course florists will not stand such conditions quietly, and as a result the Easter lily that will bloom in many a New York home this season will have come from far Japan. To the casual observer there is little, if any, difference in the Bermuda and the Japanese lily, but a close observation reveals the fact that the blossoms are larger, the stem darker and the leaves glossier. Then, too, they cost somewhat more, coming from the land of the chrysanthemum, than those just up from Bermuda.

Civil Service Rules.

The new rules recently formulated by the New York City Civil Service Commission were submitted to the Mayor yesterday by President Charles H. Knox. After examining them with considerable care the Mayor approved them and declared that they were in operation without waiting for the approval of the State Civil Service Board. In order to emphasize this point the Mayor immediately appointed W. E. McReynolds, confidential stenographer in his office, a place which, according to the new rules, belongs in Schedule A, and is therefore not subject to competitive examination. The chief feature of the new rules is the number of offices carrying high salaries which are included in this non-competitive schedule. It is estimated that the changes made from the competitive to the non-competitive class by the operation of the new rules will put between 200 and 250 good places at the immediate disposal of the present administration.

Mr. Hugh McLaughlin's Illness.

News of the serious illness of Hugh McLaughlin, the Democratic leader of Kings County, and also of the grave condition of his nephew, Under-Sheriff McLaughlin, has created a decided stir in Brooklyn political circles.

Despite efforts to convince the rank and file that the "old man" is all right, certain of his lieutenants are apprehensive of alarming news at any moment. Mr. McLaughlin was anything but a well man when he departed for Florida several weeks ago. To a friend he said: "I feel I am an old man, and I feel that I cannot stand the pressure of politics I must give it up and let others bear the burden."

Under-Sheriff McLaughlin is also in a dangerous physical condition from stomach and other troubles that are liable to terminate fatally.

The death of the McLaughlins would mean much to the Democracy of Kings County.

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THE TEMPERANCE CAUSE.

Two Junior Members of St. Patrick's T. A. & B. Society Contribute Interesting Essays.

At the last monthly meeting of the St. Patrick's T. A. & B. Society the junior members were called upon to prepare essays on the benefits to be derived by a boy who takes the pledge and becomes a member of the St. Patrick's T. A. & B. Society. As a result a number were received. They were submitted to the Rev. J. A. McCallen, S.S., Pev. President of the Society, for his decision. The two first prizes were awarded to Masters John E. Doyle and Owen P. Giblin. We give the essays as follows:—

To the Rev. President, Officers and Members of the St. Patrick's T. A. & B. Society:

REV. SIR AND GENTLEMEN,—I trust you will allow me to present to you my Essay, written in accordance with your request at your last monthly meeting, on 'What benefits may be derived by a boy who takes the pledge and becomes a member of the St. Patrick's Total Abstinence and Benefit Society?'

It would be high impossible for me to enumerate the many advantages that a boy of my age would derive by taking the pledge of total abstinence and keeping it faithfully through life. There are so many examples nowadays of 'ac course and ill-luck which befall the unbrak'd, that it ought to infuse in the heart of every boy or young man growing up a hatred for liquor that time could not efface. To what can we trace the cause of most of the crimes that are committed? Is it not nine cases out of ten liquor? Do we not read of crimes committed while in a drunken state that no sober and respectable man would stoop to. Take for instance our own fair city of Montreal. When we behold the many temptations that surround us on all sides, the saloons on every corner with their lights shining out, as so many evil eyes dawdling the young and old into their portals of sin; when we see all this, do we not consider it a benefit and a Godsend that there are such societies in our midst to help us to guard against all these evils?

There is no better time to make good resolutions than in boyhood days, as we know that all good resolutions grow with the mind. What a blessing it would be, if when a boy reached the age of manhood, and could look back and say, "I have kept the pledge of total abstinence since I made my First Communion,"—what parents would not be proud of such a boy? And if it was God's Holy Will that we should live to a good old age, and we could look back on our youth and say, "I know not the taste of liquor;" and we can do it, because it has been done by others before us. If we would only follow the advice given us by the Rev. Father McCallen, last meeting Sunday, it would help us a great deal. The Rev. Father also said liquor was of no use as a medicine, but on the contrary very often, when taken as such, was the cause of other complications which resulted in the death of the person taking it, so that we need never know the taste of liquor; and I believe that by taking the pledge of total abstinence when young, and keeping it, we will grow up respectable and industrious young men, respectful of the laws of God and man.

As to joining the St. Patrick's Total Abstinence and Benefit Society, there are many advantages to be derived from such a course. We all know the old saying, "In union there is strength," which may also be applied to a society of this kind. The members are brought together for their religious instructions and meetings, which serve as a good reminder of the promises made when taking the pledge, to promote as far as possible the cause and practice of the temperance. Then there is the showing of good example by being long to the society; as our Rev. President has said, it may be the saving of some other soul. We may not need to join a society for our own sake, but probably it might benefit some of our companions, who, seeing us persevere in society, would also give their aid to the noble cause of temperance. Then, again, in joining the Society we come in close contact with men who, older than ourselves, have set us a good example.

We are invited every Tuesday evening to the hall of the Society, where we meet our fellow members. Probably if we did not belong to the Society we might be passing that time away in other places, where we might be sorely tempted in various ways to break our good resolutions.

In conclusion I would appeal to all my companions of the parish to take the pledge of total abstinence and join the Society and persevere in it and thereby grow up young men who would be a credit to their parents, a credit to their parish, and a credit to their nation ally.

JOHN EDWARD DOYLE, 254 St. Martin street, Montreal, Feb. 1898.

ESSAY.

What benefit may be derived by a boy who takes the pledge and becomes a member of the St. Patrick's T. A. & B. Societies.

ANSWER. As the benefits to be derived from such a noble cause are many and varied, I will in my humble sphere try to point out a few that may be derived by the boy who has taken the pledge against all intoxicating liquor. He receives the blessing of His Supreme Majesty Our Blessed Lord and Redeemer, and that of His Holy Church for having enrolled himself under the turl of the good old banner of temperance, which banner has taught, old and young, rich and poor, the good lesson of sobriety of habits in all things, and alcoholic beverages in particular, is the most beneficial flag for wise and industrious men and boys to walk under. Then fore the boy who has taken the pledge hath planted his foot upon the ladder of a noble life.

that of a truth he has rolled that great burden of anxiety away from the minds of his loving parents and returned to them that lightheartedness which was theirs when he was in their arms. They now rest assured that if their boy should happen to be detained half an hour later than the time he promised to be home they are not afraid that he will be led to partake of beverages of intemperance, the curse of home and country. Why are they not afraid? Because he has done a manly act, and thus they have confidence in him; he by that one good step, has gained for himself what gold could not buy,—the full love of his good parents' hearts.

Furthermore, having put his foot upon the ladder of a noble life he is encouraged by all good people wherever he meets them; thus he keeps advancing up the ladder, all the time gaining the good will and respect of all who know him; he becomes respected by his employers and is sure of promotion to the first vacancy. If he is out of work he has nine chances to one to get a place, now that he can show that he is a member, as in most cases it is a boy who is of a temperate habit that is preferred. He can also rely upon the recommendation of his elder brethren.

Such are the benefits that a boy has when he becomes a member of St. Patrick's T. A. & B. Society, and by abiding by the constitution and by-laws you are taught to lead a good Christian life. You have not only your own life to consider but that of your fellow brethren; therefore, you should lead such a life in yourself as will not bring the blush of shame upon your head or that of your fellow brethren. The Society sets you this example by the mere fact that they approach the Altar in a body as one family and partake of the Blessed Sacrament.

Thus you see that a boy not only receives a temperal, but also a spiritual blessing by becoming a member of the society; it not only gives him a start in the right path but it builds him up therein, so that when he develops into manhood he is able to mingle in the best society of the land. All those benefits he has derived through being a member of a society which has taught him how to shun evil and to partake of that which alone is good. Now in conclusion any boy who becomes a member of the St. Patrick's T. A. & B. Society has the consolation of knowing that, should it be the will of Our Lord Divine to call him unto Himself, he will have a respectable funeral; not only that, but that his parents or relations if poor will not have to make some very grave sacrifices, or yet have to sink their home in debt to pay their last tribute to their dearly beloved son; therefore such a boy is in a certain degree a support to his father's household just by his being a member of St. Patrick's T. A. & B. He is also a bright light in this world whereby to show the path of the good and the just to others.

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