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# The True Witness



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## TOPICS DISCUSSED BY CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS

### LACK ORGANIZATION.

The "Antigonish Casket" says:—The question is often asked, how does it happen that a handful of infidels can successfully tyrannise over a vast Catholic population in France. In the same manner as a handful of well-trained European soldiers can defeat a countless horde of Chinese. The secret of success lies in the organization. The French infidels are organized in Free-Mason lodges, and all these lodges work together in perfect understanding and perfect harmony. So it has come about that almost every government official in France is a Free-Mason and an atheist. Only in the army and navy do Catholics hold a few positions, and the object of the new regulations made by the Minister of war is to deprive them of these positions.

### PARISH LINES IN CITIES.

Under the above heading the "Catholic Citizen" says:—The Catholic community in a city is never so strong that it can permit of division of feeling and action in certain matters. Yet there are possibly those who cannot engage in any work of Catholic public spirit without dragging in parish lines. They want everything "under the eaves of their particular church, or at least, in the vicinage. The consequence is, that works which require general participation, encounter much difficulty. If they are located nearer one church than another, or if they are engaged by committees consisting of more members of one parish than another, or if they happen to originate with the pastor of one church and not with another, they forthwith encounter the absurd prejudice that arises from parish lines.

We ought to cheerfully comply with the system which lays out parish lines for certain well defined purposes, attend and support the church within whose lines we reside, and call upon the pastor thereof as our spiritual adviser. But these lines ought not to segregate us out of unity with our fellow Catholics of other parishes in many matters of common concern and common sympathy.

We ought not to be strangers to the members of other parishes. A really strong local Catholic community demands, as a condition precedent, some method or occasion whereby we may unite the Catholics of the whole city. Others matters besides the common support of our orphans ought to suggest reasons for united action. In the support of a city Catholic library, or in the maintenance of a good Catholic literary organization, a single parish is usually deficient in resources and proper material, whereas, all the parishes may yield a discriminating selection.

### THE LANGUAGE QUESTION.

On this question the Catholic "Union and Times," of Buffalo, remarks:—Archbishop Keane has taken up his new charge, the see of Dubuque, with a kindly yet firm hand. Among other things, he has taken early occasion to lay down the law on the language question: for in the course of an address to the pupils of St. Mary's German Catholic parochial school, the Archbishop declared it absolutely essential that the English language should be taught.

Continuing — we quote from the "Milwaukee Citizen"—he said he "did not want the Germans to abandon their mother tongue, but while this was true, he insisted that English must be taught in all the German Catholic parochial schools in the archdiocese. He insisted further that the catechism must be learned in the English tongue. Continuing, he said that the objections to religion in this country were advanced in the English language and must be answered on the proper line. He said that a person born in this country should learn the language of his country. The archbishop was emphatic in declaring that English must be taught, in connection with German. Part of his address was in English and part in German, and made a very pleasing impression. He made similar remarks at the Sacred Heart and Holy Ghost parochial schools."

No doubt it was a delightful surprise for those pupils and teachers of German parentage or birth to hear the archbishop speak to them partly in their own Teuton tongue. But not

the least of his qualifications to administer the affairs of a great archdiocese, like Dubuque, with its many racial bloods, is his knowledge of divers tongues.

### NON-SECTARIANISM SPELLS PROTESTANTISM.

—This is the definition of the "Catholic Standard and Times," of Philadelphia, and we may add, that of every Catholic who observes the tread of events and has the power to think. And so it will continue, so long as Catholic laymen remain under the spell of fear and indifference. In explanation of this definition, the "Standard and Times" goes on to say:—

Recently we showed by the terms of official reports from the Bureau of Education, Washington, D.C., that grants of money and live stock are being systematically paid to Protestant missions in Alaska through the Rev. Sheldon Jackson. Alaska stands in relation to the United States in much the same position as the Indian Territories. Recently it was stated, publicly and emphatically, that the Government had once for all made up its mind that no more money would be paid to contract schools of any denomination, and it has rigidly carried out its stern decree in regard to the unhappy Catholic Indians. As for those who are not Catholics, so far as their material interests are concerned, they are in no way affected by the decision. Practically the change of policy means the coercion of the Indians to accept the Protestant religion or starve. The methods by which this insidious scheme is being worked are graphically described in a number of letters now given to the world in the November issue of the "Messenger of the Sacred Heart." One of them tells how in a certain agency nineteen public schools have been erected under cover of being non-sectarian. All these are simply Protestant schools, and open and undisguised Protestant teaching is given in some. This is exemplified in the fact that Bibles are being given in them by Protestant clergymen and the children are being compulsorily baptized in the Protestant faith, even against their protests. These flagrant violations both of the Constitution and the Government's stern declarations against the sectarian principle are being perpetrated under circumstances which make the proselytism a thousand-fold more intolerable and galling. In the fact that it is the Indians' own money that is being utilized to paganize or Protestantize them is found the very cynicism of arbitrary wrong. The Indians in some of those places have petitioned that their children be sent to Catholic schools and the expense deducted from the allowance made to them, under covenant, in lieu of the lands they handed over to the Government. But these petitions the rigidly impartial State Department has stonily refused. The Indians must not do as they please with their own money, but must have it bestowed as martlets in Washington and in Congress wish.

Meanwhile the pall of starvation hangs over the Catholic schools. Nothing more pitiable than the present condition of the schools thus left derelict ever appealed to the hearts of the just and merciful. The teaching staffs in many cases are in a state of absolute famine, and the few poor Indian charges whom they have left suffer the pangs of hunger as well. The children pine under "half rations," while the religious who teach them half starve themselves in order to spare their slender store for their more tender charges. Think of it! Forty days and nights in the wilderness with naught but spiritual sustenance to uphold the brave hearts who thus devote their lives to the service of those miserable "wards of the nation"—the most pitiless guardian that was ever set over brother as his keeper.

We can add nothing to the pathos of this story. It must go straight home to every noble heart, Catholic or Protestant, and awaken the generous impulses of the better part of the people. But for Catholics it can have but one message. It must rouse them to instant effort for the relief of the stricken Catholic Indians and their teachers.

### THE POLICY OF SILENCE.

—Under this title the "Catholic Colum-

bian" very truly says:—Archbishop Chapelle has once more, thanks be to God, broken the policy of silence, that has so long injured the Catholic Church in America.

Just as he silenced the libeller, Gen. Funston, in calumniating the Spanish friars, before setting out on his mission, so he has now uttered a vigorous protest against the seizure by the U. S. authorities in Manila of the College of San Jose. He shows that the college was Church property and that the United States succeeded only to the civil rights of Spain and not to its ecclesiastical rights flowing from the connection of Church and State. He warns the administration that the inauguration of a policy of rapine and injustice, under technicalities of law and at the instance of the Katipunan scoundrels like Buencamino "who have systematically deceived the American authorities," would be disastrous, in alienating the church's moral support and in exciting the antipathy of a Catholic people, as the Filipinos are.

Well done, Apostolic Delegate. Speak out, speak out, speak out! The old diplomacy is effete. The policy of silence plays into the hands of the enemies of religion. The lodges love darkness and whispers. To checkmate them effectively, speak out, boldly, soon, fully, and persistently, so that the people may know the truth before this anti-Catholic administration's tools have wrought the crimes against the Church in the Philippines that it contemplates.

There is no doubt that sometimes silence is golden. But there are times when it is imperative for our leaders both clerical and lay to speak out in no uncertain tones.

## CATHOLIC NOTES FROM AMERICAN CENTRES.

### THE FINANCIAL SIDE.

—At a recent meeting of the Board of Trustees, of the Catholic university of Washington, various reports were read, from which we take the following extracts:—

The report of the committee on finance, through its chairman, the archbishop of Boston, approved as satisfactory the financial account of the university. It recommended the early sale of the New York and New Jersey properties, and was well satisfied with the investments, all of which are well secured. The endowment funds at present amount to \$856,283.33, showing a cash increase over last year of \$38,476.70. The total receipts from September, 1899, to September, 1900, including current revenues, bequests, endowments, amounted to \$158,744.43; the total expenditures, which include the endowments placed in investments, amounted to \$156,298.24.

The report shows that, besides the trust funds, which amount to nearly \$900,000, there are other valuable assets in property, amounting to \$155,858.45. The permanent properties of the university, buildings, libraries, museums, equipment, etc., were reported valued at \$858,763.92, making a total valuation of university property and trust funds of \$1,869,670.02.

Most Rev. Archbishop Keane reported the result of his work in the matter of endowments during the past year. Thirty-two thousand two hundred and forty-one dollars and seventy cents represents the cash received from his work, while promises aggregating in the neighborhood of \$500,000 were received. The thanks of the trustees were extended to Archbishop Keane for his admirable work during the year, and hopes were expressed that he might still be able, in a certain way at least, to assist in the completion of the endowments.

The right reverend rector, Monsignor Conaty, then made his report, in which he spoke of the present condition of the university and detailed its immediate needs. He gave a list of bequests made by will to the university during the last twelve months and not yet received, but likely to be paid in during the coming year. This list aggregated \$41,000, willed for general university purposes. He also specified the chair endowments expected to be received soon, namely: the Michael Cudahy chair, the Knights of Columbus chair of history, the Archbishop Williams chair, the Archbishop Kenrick chair, as also the chair promised by the Catholic Knights of America, making in all

five chairs, representing \$250,000, to which is to be added the Archbishop Hennessy endowments for the archdiocese of Dubuque, as also some smaller endowments.

### A WISE MOVE.

—It is stated that Archbishop Corrigan intends to open a petit seminaire in New York city, for the education of boys who desire to prepare for the priesthood. It will be a preparatory school for the higher seminary, St. Joseph's, at Dunwoodie. The course will extend through six years.

### A TIMELY HINT.

—The "Pittsburg Observer" asks: "Ought Catholic societies that give receptions, to keep up the dancing until 2 o'clock in the morning?" and then gives its opinion that the three hours from 8 to 11 p.m. are sufficient for any evening's innocent fun.

### A SENSIBLE MOVE.

—The Catholic Mutual Benefit Association voted last week, in Buffalo, at the second triennial convention of the Supreme Council to do away with "pass-words," "grips," or secret communications of a similar nature to determine a member's standing, as such proceedings smacked of tomfoolery and Freemasonry.

### C. B. L. CONVENTION.

—The eighteenth annual convention of the New Jersey State Council of Catholic Benevolent Legion was held at Plainfield, Oct. 9. President Henegen's report shows that within the past twelve months the organization paid out \$206,000 in New Jersey as death claims. About \$60,000 was paid to members who reached the age of expectancy. The election resulted as follows: President, Anton Steines, of Newark; vice-president, David E. Barry, of Jersey City; secretary, John J. Ghegan, of Newark; treasurer, John Hogan, of Camden; chaplain, Rev. P. T. Carew, of Netcong.

### PRIEST AS WITNESS.

—Supreme Court Commissioner Trimble, of New Jersey, in striving to discover whether the assassination of King Humbert was the outcome of a plot hatched in New Jersey, has encountered in the hearing in Patterson on the one hand the invariability of private telegrams and on the other the refusal of a priest to divulge anything he has learned in his priestly capacity.

Father Fabris, pastor of the Church of Our Lady of Victories, declined to take the oath when called, but agreed to affirm upon his word as a priest and a Christian. Father Fabris said that he respected the sanctity of an oath and would not pronounce unless under compulsion. Commissioner Trimble recited the formula of "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth," and the priest interposed a new objection. "The whole truth is more than I can pledge," he said. "What I say shall be the truth, and nothing but the truth, in consonance with any priestly character."

Father Fabris identified the original letter of Sperandio Carbone, which told of the drawing to kill the King of Italy. Sperandio was known in Patterson also as Luigi Bianchi. Under that name he had written a receipt for the priest, who said that it and the letter were from the same hand. He said that he had no personal knowledge of a plot to kill the king, and further he did not care to enter into the matter or express his opinion.

### A BENEFICENT WORK.

—The "Sacred Heart Review" says:—The St. Vincent de Paul Society has undertaken a new work, and for that purpose has interested Rev. E. J. Moriarty, located at Concord, Mass., who is pastor of the local Catholic Church, as well as chaplain at the Concord Reformatory. The special work as outlined is to look after all boys who may be discharged from the Reformatory, and to follow them up, so to speak, in the various parishes, and assist them whenever it may be found necessary to procure employment, etc. That duty of looking after them, after they are discharged, devolves upon the local Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. In addition to this work, and in connection therewith, it has been suggested by the Rev. E. J. Moriarty that a line of instruction should be followed up, that is, at various times during the year, talks should be given in the Reformatory to the inmates, particularly those who may be Catholics, instructing them on matters of interest, mainly topics of the day.

## ECHOES FROM IRELAND

### THE ELECTIONS.

—In its review of some phases of the recent great election struggle in Ireland, the Belfast "Irish Weekly" says: Galway has been avenged. Dublin has sent a message of cheer and good hope throughout the country. College Green, the very heart of Ireland, in home of the future Irish Parliament, has sent Mr. James Carew, the West Britisher, to the right about. St. Stephen's Green Division, the one blot on the Nationalist record of the Metropolis, has done similarly by Mr. James Campbell, the place-holder and place-hunter. The Dublin Four are again Nationalists. The Dublin Nationalists were for years severed from the great volume of National opinion. Stubbornly they adhered to the political policy which they thought most consistent with the vindication of National principles. It was a misfortune that there should have been a gulf between the citizens of Dublin and their fellow-countrymen, but to every observer it was apparent that the gulf was not impassable. The disensions of the past are almost completely forgotten, and the distinction between Parnellite and anti-Parnellite is a mere incident of the past. Mr. Nannetti is known and respected as a Labor champion. As he said after the result, when called upon to carry the banner of Nationality, he felt it was his duty to enter into that contest and to do one man's part to attempt to put down faction and have a unity party to govern the country. Mr. Nannetti will represent the Labor interests of Dublin. Mr. McCann will be a worthy spokesman of the great commercial classes. Both gentlemen are pledged to do their best to advance the material welfare of their country, and both are unflinching advocates of the National policy by which the material interests can best be furthered.

The loss of Derry to the Nationalists is a regrettable incident. For this discouragement the Nationalists of the old city are in no sense to blame. Priests and people worked like Trojans to retain the seat won after arduous and anxious labors. From the first many knew that the struggle was a forlorn hope, but that did not daunt their stout hearts. They were true grit to the last minute of the poll. If the Marquis of Hamilton has supplanted Count Moore, if the Orange papers can crow that "the crimson banner floats proudly again from the historic walls," and proclaim the value set upon their victory by "Protestants throughout the British Empire," if the Abercorns and the Orange lodges misrepresent the city, the fault is not the fault of the Derry men. They did their best to achieve success. In their ranks there was not a ripple of disunion. When the next chance comes they will be ready to fight the same battle. Their first business now is assiduous attention to registration, by which only they will put the Abercorn retainers to the rout. As to South Tyrone, we regret the success of Mr. T. W. Russell, though only by the narrowest majority. Dr. Thompson made a plucky fight in the short period at his disposal, and obtained a very large support from the Nationalists. Major Howard's small poll only confirms the opinion we held all along, that the division in the Unionist ranks was superficial and not deep. Mr. Russell rallied to his side the bulk of the active Unionists of South Tyrone, but on his insignificant majority over a candidate started at the last moment he has nothing to congratulate himself. Of the remaining Irish elections those that possessed the deepest interest for Irishmen were announced in Cork City and North Louth. Cork City has resulted in an overwhelming victory for Mr. William O'Brien and Mr. James F. X. O'Brien. Their majorities ran to almost three thousand. The poll was fairly exhaustive, and no shadow can be left as to the mind of the capital of Munster on the burning question of Parliamentary and National unity and solidarity. That question was the test at the election, on which, from its merits, as well as from the personnel of the candidates, a degree of interest far above the average was concentrated. Mr. O'Brien polled 5,800. Mr. Maurice Healy polled 1,900. Mr. O'Brien, therefore, re-enters Parliament with a mandate from the Corkmen the significance of which cannot be mistaken.

It was a matter of deep regret that he ever quitted Parliament, where his influence was always exercised for the benefit of the people, whom he had served in many ways, and whose cause he has earnestly at heart. Cork, which was his constituency in bygone days, now sends him back to Westminster to help in building up the new party, from which Ireland has so many reforms to hope. For the Irish elections have made it abundantly clear that the heart of Ireland is a sound heart, that the people want a strong and compact and honest Parliamentary Party, and that such a party is going to emerge from these elections which are laying the dust and turmoil of late years. The signs are brightening that we are on the eve of better times for the old country, and that another onward march in the long and trying road to the goal is about to be undertaken. With a new party acting in comradelike harmony in the letter and the spirit, with a powerful organization prudently directed, and welding into one great mass priests and people, whose union is irresistible, our people will find it no insuperable task to ring the death-knell of English rule in Ireland. The new party will include many of the wiser heads of the old movement, men who have grown grey and poor in the cause. Their country is not ungrateful to them for the work they have actually accomplished or honestly tried to accomplish. None of them have been the gainers by the incessant anxieties attendant upon public work for the advancement of the National cause. None of them look for the benefits which form the rewards of political life in a large degree in other countries. Their anchor is the confidence and generosity of their constituents, and neither will be wanting. North Louth has returned Mr. T. M. Healy. His majority is exceedingly narrow. His success is a petty affair compared with the Cork annihilation of faction in the South of Ireland. Mr. Healy polled 600 less than at the last election. He polled only 300 more than a candidate who a fortnight ago was a stranger to the constituency. Had a local man gone forward in a county where local clannishness is intense, Mr. Healy might have fared worse. Had the election taken place a day or two later after Cork and the unchallenged return of the supporters of Parliamentary discipline, Mr. Healy's majority might not have been 300. As it is, Louth has recorded a remarkable protest against the continuance of faction. Whether Mr. Healy will profit by the warning given him by a formidable body of the Louth electorate remains to be seen. The governing principle of majority rule must prevail. But, however distasteful it may be to those who reasonably took exception to the methods adopted by Mr. Healy during the past few years, he is again their member. It cannot be gainsaid that he has left himself open to damaging criticism, and that he has felt its influence is witnessed by the comparatively small majority in respect of which he returns to Parliament as the member for North Louth. No doubt some of his supporters would have preferred a bigger majority, in order that Mr. Healy might have a clean card to continue his course as a free lance in Irish politics. But such a figure is no longer possible, if the cause of Ireland is to be served according to the dictates of the National conscience. Mr. Healy's reduced majority may have a chastening effect on his impetuosity and prove a "sober lesson."

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As has been previously announced, the opening of the classes at Trinity College, Washington, D.C., will take place on November 6th; but owing to unforeseen circumstances, the dedication ceremonies have been postponed until the 22nd.

### THE SEXTON'S TRICK.

—A strange person who had preached in a Staffordshire parish was amazed at the conduct of the warden, who, after the service, proceeded to take from the plate the largest coin there on and carefully pocket it. "What are you about," he gasped. "The warden only smiled. 'I have led the collection in this church for a dozen years with this half crown,'" he remarked, "and I'm not going to part with it."