

CHURCH HISTORY.

Work of the American Catholic Historical Society.

A GREAT COLLECTION OF PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS.

Among the many excellent Catholic organizations that have sprung up in the United States during the last few years, the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia occupies a unique position, not only by reason of the scope of work which it has laid down for itself, but also because of the great success which has attended its efforts. Its history is a complete refutation of the charge, made by some and formulated in the minds of others, that Catholics do not take interest in Catholic educational movements. In illustration of its progress as compared with other organizations of a similar character, Protestant as well as secular, I may cite the fact that it has already, in the eleventh year of its existence, outgrown its present quarters, which were occupied and found amply large by a secular association of similar aims, for forty years. Nor has the development of its library been the only evidence of its prosperity; it has outstripped most other organizations in the increase of its membership, and it has rivalled many in the wealth and usefulness of the matter in its publications.

The inception of the society was the crystallization of the individual enthusiasm of a few men who had devoted themselves for some years previously, alone and spasmodically, to Catholic historical research. These gentlemen, scarcely numbering half a dozen, came together in the city of Philadelphia, on July 4, 1884, and issued a call for organization to which their own signatures and those of a few friends were attached. In response to this call a meeting was held on July 22, when an organization was formed. During the first year or two of the society's existence, the efforts of the few enthusiasts attracted but little attention, and it was as much as they could do to keep their forces together. However, by hard work and persistent endeavor, they succeeded in breaking down the prejudices which they encountered everywhere, and in securing for themselves at least an opportunity to be heard in regard to the work they had undertaken. To these few men Catholic Americans owe a debt of gratitude the full weight of which will only be appreciated in future years.

On April 30, 1885, the society held its first public meeting, at which His Grace Archbishop Ryan presided, and papers were read by Very Rev. T. C. Middleton, D.D., O.S.A., and Right Rev. Mgr. Seton. On Dec. 26 of the same year, a charter was procured in the courts of Philadelphia, and the society thereby became an incorporated body. On July 10, 1886, our Holy Father, Leo XIII., extended his blessing to the society, and on September 6 of the same year, His Grace Archbishop Ryan gave his formal approbation to the society's work. By these few formalities it may be said the society obtained the right to exist. It, however, had not made much progress, for at the time it numbered less than a hundred members.

Early in 1887, in spite of the discouragements it had met with, the Society issued its first volume of "Records," an octavo volume of 388 pages, full of interesting Catholic historical matter. The publication of this volume was begun with scarcely a dollar in the treasury, but proved to be the beginning of the society's prosperity. Since 1887, it has published two annual volumes of "Records," and has established an historical magazine which is now beginning its third year.

In the five volumes which the society has given to the public it has not only recorded much interesting Catholic history, but has published many documents which had never seen the light before, and whose publicity are necessary for writing the history of the Church. Many of the articles published received most favorable comment, and there is reason to believe that the publication as a whole has created a taste for Catholic history, and to a considerable extent has stimulated the production of Catholic literature.

In its library department the society has made even greater progress and shown more useful results than in its publications. During the ten years of its existence it has collected and arranged for use a library of many of the rarest Catholic historical books and pamphlets, which constitute an excellent working library for Catholic literary purposes. Among the books that have been collected there are not a few by Catholic Americans the existence of which were not known to Catholic bibliophiles until they had been discovered and placed on record by the society. The greatest wealth of the library probably consists in Catholic pamphlets, the preservation of which is of much importance, because of the light which they frequently throw upon obscure points in Catholic history, and because of the danger of their being lost, owing to the unstable condition in which they are usually put forth. Next in importance to the collection of pamphlets is the collection of Catholic manuscripts, letters, and leaflets. Of these a great many have fallen into the society's hands, and on many occasions bundles have been secured which, when arranged, turned out to be complete biographies of Catholic men and women who played important parts not only in the growth of the Catholic Church in this country but in the development of the social and political condition of the country as well.

Possibly the most far-reaching result of the ten years' effort of the society has been the creation of the machinery necessary for the performance of its work. Without anything to go by, or any other society to copy from, an organization has been built up, extending over the entire country, and capable of dealing comprehensively with the great work of bringing into existence a specifically Catholic American literature. The society has now in the neighborhood of 2,000 members, representing every State in the Union and even Canada, and embodying within itself much of the talent, standing, and influence of the Church throughout the country. It carries on its roll men and women of literary ability, who can give us a Catholic literature, and others of wealth and influence which need only to be united and properly directed to supply the requisite facilities for the production of such a literature. It has in Philadelphia a well organized following of men and women thoroughly alive to the importance of the work before them, and willing to make sacrifices in the prosecution of their undertaking.

Monuments, &c.

Attention is directed to the advertisement of Messrs. McIntosh & Son, marble cutters, 524 Yonge street, Toronto. Those purposing the erection of memorials to departed relatives will find at this establishment a large and varied selection of monuments in marble and granite, with a price-list to meet the taste of the purchaser. Several of these monuments to the dead are erected in St. Michael's Cemetery, and they are creditable to the art and skill of the Messrs. McIntosh.

Soap.

The gentleman who writes the soap advertisement of John Taylor & Co. is a born wit. His illustrations are happy, and as clean as the wash of the article which so justly merits his praise. For general use we believe the "Eclipse" brand is not excelled, if indeed approached, in this Dominion.

FLAGS OF ALL NATIONS.



CUSTOM TAILORING



OUR STOCK OF SPRING WOOLLENS
IS COMPLETE IN EVERY DEPARTMENT.....

GENTLEMEN
REQUIRING

SUITS AND SPRING OVERCOATS

—TO MEASURE

—WILL SAVE MONEY BY CALLING ON US

C. MARTIN & CO., Cor. King and West
Market Sts., Toronto.



ACME CAKE BEATER. PRICE \$1.00. SPECIAL OFFER. ACME CAKE BEATER. PRICE \$1.00.

Beats a Cake in One Minute.

The most wonderful invention of the period.
No Disabes and Spoons to Clean! No Tired Back and Arms!

Nine Ladies out of every ten will buy our Acme Cake Beater if shown and explained to them. Mixer cake of any kind with one operation, from ordinary griddle cake to the finest fancy cake, in one minute. So simple and practical that people wonder why it was not thought of before. With it a child can make cake equal to a grown person.

To introduce it quickly where we have no agent we will send for 50 cents, silver, well wrapped, stamps or money order, one Acme Cake Beater, with recipes and full instructions. If you afterwards order a dozen beaters you may deduct the 50 cents, and you have your.

SAMPLES FREE!

or we will return your 50 cents if you get us an agent who will order a dozen beaters. Better still, get up a Club of 12 neighbors and friends and send us \$5.00 for a dozen beaters, which sell for \$1.00 each, making a clear profit of \$7.00 for a few hours or an evening's work. One lady sold 11 in one hour. Another agent 16 in two hours and a half. Another secured a sale of 12 in one evening. One man sells \$12.00 worth every day. Full particulars send for stamp.

BUTLER MFG CO., 612, CHICAGO.

Freehold Loan & Savings COMPANY.

DIVIDEND NO. 71.

NOTICE is hereby given that a dividend of 4 per cent. on the capital stock of the company has been declared for the current half year, payable on after the first day of June next, at the office of the company, corner of Victoria and Adelaide streets, Toronto. The transfer books will be closed from the 17th to the 31st May, inclusive.

Notice is hereby given that the general annual meeting of the company will be held at 2 p.m., Tuesday, June 10th, at the office of the company for the purpose of receiving the annual report, the election of directors, etc.

By order of the board,
S. C. WOOD,
Managing Director.

Toronto, 17th April, 1895.



TO CONTRACTORS.

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned and endorsed "Tenders for Works," will be received at this Department until noon on Friday, May the 10th, for the following works:

Houses for (1) Engineer and Gardener, Blacksmith's and Carpenter's Shop and Ice House at the Brockville Asylum; (2) Experimental Building and addition to Boiler House, Conservation Hall, Agricultural College, Guelph; (3) Lock-up at Webbwood and Sturgeon Falls, Nipissing District; (4) Lock-up at Massey, Algoma District; (5) Lock-up at Dunchurch, Nagerman, Township; (6) Addition to Lock-up and Registry Office at Bracebridge, Muskoka District; (7) Westernally School at Strathroy; (8) and Registry Office at Mirden, County of Haliburton.

Plans and specifications can be seen and forms of tender procured at the above mentioned places and at this Department. An accepted bank cheque, payable to the undersigned, for five per cent. on the amount of each tender for each of the above works will be required. The cheques of the unsuccessful parties tendering will be returned when the contracts have been entered into for the several works.

The bona fide signatures and business addresses of two parties as securities must accompany each tender.

The Department will not be bound to accept the lowest or any tender.

WM. HARTY, Commissioner.
Department of Public Works,
Ontario, April 22nd, 1895.

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BAKING
POWDER**
THE COOK'S BEST FRIEND
LARGEST SALE IN CANADA.

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* TEACHERS FIND OUR

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THE MOST SATISFACTORY FOR

Fine Touch and
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The Record, the Name, the Age, the Number Sold and in Use TELL THE TALK.

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