



OBERAMMERGAU AND PASSION PLAY.

GREAT EVENT FOR 1910.

Every Five Years the Departure of Plague Commemorated.

Oberammergau is already busy with preparations for the performance of the Passion Play which will take place next year.

The great problem of the Passion Play committee is to prevent the performances from degenerating into commercialism.

EXORBITANT PRICES OFFERED.

No one can witness the Passion Play who has not spent the previous night in the village itself.

Three great tourist offices of London, Berlin and Munich have secured a certain amount of beds for the night before each performance.

The burgomaster, Herr Bauer, has promised all his available beds to an English woman who has taken a villa at Garmisch, twelve miles away, and will convey her guests to the village in a motor car.

SPECULATORS BUSY.

The large firms of tourist agents have already about 8000 applications and the local bureau is receiving scores daily.

Anton Lang, who will be the Christus, as in 1900, is now 35. Since the last performance he has married a pretty young woman and they have three children.

All profits from the sale of seats will be administered by the committee for the benefit of the village as usual.

Why I am a Catholic.

Eminent Paulist Gives Explicit Reason For the Faith Within Him.

The following pointed logical reasons by the Paulist Father Bertrand Conway will help to answer the question:

"I am a Catholic because the Catholic Church guarantees to me the way in which my desire for union with God, through Jesus Christ, His Son, may be accomplished.

"Men are greatly at variance over the problems of religion, over what constitutes revealed truth, and true form of worship."

WE HAVE THE TRUTH.

"We are not seeking for truth; we

have it. We know we came from God and that we are to return to God. Some say that Nature is God that is the Pantheist teaching; the materialist says there is no soul, no spiritual life, the agnostic says, it may be true there is a God, and a life after death, we can't tell anything about it.

WE ARE FREE MEN.

"The Catholic Church says man is free. She upholds the dignity of human nature, which is stamped with the image of God. No man is so low or degraded that he cannot rise from his low estate; he has a free will and God, the Supreme Being, who is not merely a Spirit on a great white throne, but who is also present in the universe in whom we live and move and have our being, demands the homage and service of all men, the good and the bad."

"When the cry for liberty first went forth in this land it might have died out had there not been a body of sturdy men willing to sign their names to a document embodying their principles and ideas and willing to risk their possessions, their lives, their all, in the struggle for freedom, as they conceived it."

No One Would Buy Abbey,

The Abbey of Solesmes, in the Sarthe Department, which was confiscated by the State under the so-called separation laws, was offered for sale at auction for the second time, but there were no bids and the property was not sold.

It is known that the Benedictine order, its former owners, had spent an immense sum upon the abbey before they were forced to leave France. There are all kinds of reports as to the magnitude of the amount, but it is generally believed to have exceeded \$2,000,000.

There were rumors some time ago that Americans were thinking of buying the property and building a summer hotel. It was also thought that the Government might take it over, but the recent experience shows that both these hopes or expectations were wrong.

CONCERNING SECRET SOCIETIES.

PAULIST'S LUCID DEFINITION.

Position of Catholic Church with Regard to Them.

(We have received a letter from a subscriber asking for some light upon the workings of secret societies, and also why the Church is so opposed to them, forbidding its members to join them.)

A Catholic knows that if he joins one of these societies condemned by the Church he commits a mortal sin by doing so, that he ceases to be a practical Catholic, as he is cut off from the reception of all the sacraments of the Church, and his share in the prayers of the Church, and dying, can not be buried in consecrated ground.

I shall endeavor to throw some light on this subject, and I feel it will be of interest to Catholics as non-Catholics alike.

NO INDIVIDUAL ATTACK.

I desire here to state that I do not attack any individual Mason, but the society; I know many good, honorable men, members of the Mit-tack the person, but I do not.

Previous to that date these societies, guilds, etc.—the Free Masons of those days—called Operative Masonry—were men who worked in stone—were men who worked in stone—were men who worked in stone—were men who worked in stone.

A MILITARY-RELIGIOUS BODY.

The Knight Templars were formed in France about the year 1118. They were a military-religious body founded to free the holy places from the presence of the Turk.

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modern Templarism, it becomes requisite to bridge over a period of 400 years. The tracing of the traditional existence of the old Knights Templars during this term of 400 years is historically impossible.

Why has the Catholic Church condemned Masonry and kindred societies? As early as 1738 Pope Clement the XII. called the attention of the Catholic world to this matter and forbade Catholics, under pain of excommunication, to belong to the Masons.

The oath of secrecy and obedience is opposed to natural justice and honesty. The form of oath as given in "Eckert's Freemasonry," Vol. 1, p. 35 is as follows: "Whoever takes such an oath violates one of the most vital principles of the natural law."

To bind the will unconditionally to a power unaccounted for by civil or ecclesiastical authority, is a violation of the natural law and the Divine commands.

The doctrines of Masonry are anti-Christian and anti-Catholic, hence must be condemned by the Catholic Church. Masonry claims to be world-wide like the Catholic Church.

Masons in the United States disclaim connection with European Masons; but would a Mason of Europe be received in any lodge in the United States and vice versa?

Masonry denies the existence of God. Proof—Proudhon, p. 25; also pp. 28, 30, 35.

These quotations have not been called in question by Free Masons. Masonry opposed to Christianity. Proof—pages 42, 44, 45.

Masonry opposed to Catholicity. Proof—pages 47, 49, 52, 54, 56, 57. No doubt these sentiments may seem to some Masons present as entirely new, or they may allege that such may be the teaching among Masons in Europe, but in the United States it is not so.

The Catholic Church does not consider the society as it is in one place but she takes the society as she finds it. Are Masons of the United States admitted in a lodge in Europe? If so, they co-operate in the work done there.

This work, which is authentic-written for Masons only—clearly states the same doctrine as the Masons of Europe. God, Christ, Christianity are all repudiated, and Nature alone is to be worshipped.

CANINE DEFENDERS OF CHURCH.

POLICE DOGS' NOBLE WORK.

Sacrilegious Marauders Put to Rout and Demoralized.

Six police dogs did more to save the Church of the Sacred Heart at Montmartre, Paris, in the small hours of Friday morning last (Oct. 16), from a mob of anarchists, revolutionists, socialists and apaches—as a certain class of Paris ruffians are called—than the force of police stationed there to defend it, says the Michigan Catholic.

A FERRER DEMONSTRATION.

In connection with the violent campaign against social institutions now being actively carried on under the mask of Dr. Francisco Ferrer's name, a meeting was held Thursday night in a hall called the Elysee Montmartre. Between two and three thousand people listened for several hours to incendiary speeches, and then about midnight poured out into the streets burning to put into practice the theories they had heard.

MOB MAKES FOR CHURCH.

The multitude did not know what to do. For a few minutes they hesitated and seemed on the point of disintegrating when some improvised leader yelled out: "Au Sacre Coeur!" (To the Sacred Heart). The sinister cry went straight home. It was taken up by hundreds of voices and ran from lip to lip.

Only a dozen or so policemen, with six police dogs, were on duty to protect the edifice. Reinforcements were sent for in hot haste, but the mob had got a start, and swept along, thundering rhythmically ferocious anti-clerical slogans, in a few minutes it reached the vicinity of the church, and tore along the Rue Muller, which ends in a steep flight of steps leading to the church door. Up the steps the crowd flung itself.

Then, just before the leaders reached the top, the little group of policemen with discriminating judgment, slipped the unmuzzled dogs from the leash.

DOGS CHARGE MOB.

"Mord, Le Turc!" (Bite 'em, Turk!) "Mord, Dame!" (Bite 'em, Dame) yelled the policemen. The panting dogs needed no encouragement. They leaped into the heart of the oncoming mob snarling, barking, biting, right and left. Then rose a yell, a panic. The leaders tried to turn back, upsetting those crowding up the steps behind them, spreading terror and confusion in their frenzied rush to escape those terrible fangs snapping at their legs and arms.

Thoroughly demoralized now, the mob fled, chased by the dogs and police, only to run into the arms of reinforcements swarming from police stations to help their comrades. The battle was a fierce one, but victory finally was with the police. The injured limped home or into chemist-shops to have their wounds dressed, while the prisoners were dragged to police stations, glad, perhaps, to find a refuge there from the four-footed members of the force.

Bishop McFaul Purchases Farm For Consumptives.

Bishop James A. McFaul of the diocese of Trenton announced last Sunday that he had purchased a farm of 131 acres near Pennington which will be opened next year as a refuge for the consumptive people of his community. They will have the run of the farm, upon which shacks will be erected, and will be cared for without regard to race or creed.

SOMETHING ABOUT FERRER.

EXTREME LIBERALISM LEADER.

Punishment Meted Out Small in Comparison to Fruit of His Teaching.

Alejandro Rodriguez of Brooklyn, one of the few men in that community who has studied Prof. Ferrer's books and who followed closely his arrests and trials, said in response to an inquiry regarding the nature of the evidence adduced at the trial: "All recent publications and new communications on the subject of Ferrer have been interdicted in Spain. We know only that the main support of the accusations against him rested upon the text books used in his modern schools."

Of these schools, Ferrer had established ninety-six in different cities of Spain. They were a imitation of those of Paul Rodin, of Paris, originator of free thought schools in France fifteen years ago. Five years later Ferrer copied them in Spain.

His ideas had been chiefly derived from the Spanish Republican, Zouarilla, then exiled in the French capital. When Zouarilla died, Ferrer assumed the leadership in extreme liberalism and, returning to Catalonia, he founded the Escuela Moderna.

"Ferrer's schools," said Mr. Rodriguez, "were more advanced than any in this country. Yes, he was an anarchist, a philosophic anarchist. It was not in his psychology to associate himself personally with violence, such as bomb throwing."

INTERNATIONALISM THE KEY-NOTE.

"It is true that the man who threw the bomb at the carriage of the king and queen on their wedding day was a pupil of Ferrer. This bomb killed twenty-three persons, but did no injury to the king and queen, and Moral, hiding from the police, committed suicide. The civil court at that time acquitted Ferrer of being implicated."

Sepor Lerroux, it was learned elsewhere, testified at the trial that the only principle taught at Ferrer's school was that of "internationalism." It had been reported that other evidence, however, to the effect that when, on the occasion of the visit of the King of Spain to President Loubet in Paris, Ferrer was in that city when an attempt was made upon the life of Alfonso.

RELIGION INSPIRES FALSEHOOD.

From one of the text-books used in Ferrer's so-called "Modern schools" in 1905, the New York Evening Post cites the following illustrative of the teaching and its temper: "Society to-day is divided into the privileged and the disinherited. The former usurp everything, while the latter die of hunger. That capital should appropriate the fruit of the workman's labor is an injustice supported by the law. Religious education inculcates falsehood" and teaches foolishness. The soldier's uniform conceals crimes against humanity and the misery of his own existence. To maintain order is to maintain injustice against the workman. All religions are based on ignorance and imposture, and aim at exploitation and oppression. The gospels relate the life of the so-called Jesus Christ, and it is truly a misfortune that such ideas exist for the deceiving of the people." Tragic as is the death of Professor Ferrer, who was one of the most influential of the "Modern Schools" promoters, and appalling as the outcome may be in the fierce reaction of angry revolutionaries, the incident is of relatively small importance compared to conditions as they will be when this teaching begins to bear fruit.

Cork Harbor Board has approved the expenditure of £8500 for the construction of a new wharf and stores on the Marina for the accommodation of large grain vessels coming to Cork. The view was expressed that the new wharf would enable Cork to be a distributing centre for a large district in Munster.