

RANDOM NOTES AND REMARKS.

FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS.—The Catholic Union and Times, of Buffalo, in its report of the recent convention of the L. C. B. A., held in St. Paul, Minn., says:

These conventions are also becoming costly to a degree which will, eventually, endanger the perpetuity of the Society. Delegates are paid per diem from the time they leave their homes until they return. Previous to the recent convention the per diem was \$2.50 a day, with mileage additional. At St. Paul last week the delegates adopted an amendment increasing their per diem to \$3 a day. Hence, roughly estimated, it may be said that the expense of the convention is fully—if, indeed, it does not exceed—the enormous sum of fifty thousand dollars, or more than double that of the Detroit convention of 1901.

The convention made such an outcry against amendments which sought to reduce the size of future gatherings that all such amendments were withdrawn, and the convention of 1907 will be made up as heretofore by direct representation from branches.

As far-away Denver has been chosen for the 1907 convention, and most of the delegates live in the East, it is quite within the probabilities that its expense may reach seventy-five or even one hundred thousand dollars.

The assessment rates were increased. An amendment to the effect that the beneficiaries of a member dying within one year of initiation can receive but one-half the amount of the certificate, was adopted. No exception was made in favor of a member who, although in robust health, might meet death by accident, fever, contagious disease, etc. All are treated alike, the consumptive and the physically perfect.

The question of the publication of the official paper of the Association, "The Fraternal Leader," was according to our contemporary, a bone of contention, and the contract was awarded to a member of the Supreme Council at a figure \$2800 a year more than the lowest tender. The contract is for a period of three years.

The election of officers occupied much time and aroused much feeling. The results reported as follows:

President—Mrs. E. B. McGowan.
First Vice-President—Mrs. Mary A. Flanagan.
Second Vice-President—Mrs. Mary Marzolf.
Recorder—Mrs. J. A. Royer.
Treasurer—Mrs. Felice M. Girardot.
Trustees—Miss Kate Mahoney, Mrs. Maria J. Quinn, Mrs. A. J. Brady, Miss Bertha McEntee.
Auditors—Mrs. M. H. Murphy, Miss Margaret Kelly.

DIVORCE.—A Catholic lawyer recently delivered an address on this subject before the annual meeting of the Indiana Bar Association. We take one extract from it, as follows:

"No class of people have the opportunity for insight into human life comparable to lawyers. No class have the opportunity of seeing and judging the effects of divorce like the lawyers. The world at large knows naught save the fact that a divorce has been granted and a couple separated. But the lawyer in the case knows better than anyone outside the family what that separation involves—the rupture of the wedding covenant, the disruption of the home, the division of the competence that joint hands and heads have gathered, the disposition of the children, the cruel consequences of their divided custody—and too often he is professionally called to witness the downward path which frequently characterizes the career of those whom the law has released from the marriage bonds."

AVERTED DISASTER.—Father Irwin, a Passionist Father, prevented a panic and possible loss of life during a mission at St. Thomas' Church, Dickson Bay, Pa., recently. The Church was crowded at the time the priest was at the altar delivering an address, when suddenly the floor gave way and 500 or 600 people fell into the cellar, a distance of eight feet. The altar stood, and at it the priest, who raised his voice, and went on with his address as if nothing unusual had happened. The fears of those dropped into the cellar were soon dissipated, and instead of a panic they knelt, prayed, and finished the services. No one was hurt.

HOME RULE.—Mr. John F. Red-

mond, Ireland's leader, made an able and convincing address the other day at Glasgow. Touching upon the question of Home Rule, he said:

In the House of Commons the minds of all thoughtful men of all parties are bent in the direction of self-government for Ireland to-day more than at any time for the past twenty years.

The reasons are not, I think, far to seek. The experience of the last four or five years has shown the complete breakdown of the Parliamentary machine. Here was a government with great power, with a larger majority than any government in our lifetime, and facing an opposition more divided and powerless than any opposition probably that was ever seen for the last eighty years in the House of Commons, and yet that government, with its great power, has been unable to make the Parliamentary machine work. It has not been face to face with obstruction; it has had the most ample opportunity of amending the rules of the House to suit its wishes and its needs.

The House of Commons, the governing assembly, is at one and the same time a great Imperial Senate, which has charge of all the great Imperial questions affecting hundreds of millions of subjects of the Crown in every part of the world, dealing with questions of great high and world-wide state policy, dealing with questions affecting the well-being of the world and of humanity, questions which certainly are sufficient in themselves to tax to the uttermost the whole time for six months of the year of any legislative assembly; but in addition to that the House of Commons is the local Parliament of England, the local Parliament of Scotland, the local Parliament of Ireland, and the local Parliament of Wales, charged with the duty of looking after the smallest petty interests of each of those localities, and the result has become unmistakably apparent that it is impossible for it to fulfill the functions of those assemblies and that if it gives adequate time to Imperial matters, those local matters must be neglected, and if it gives adequate time to local matters, then all the world-wide interests of the Empire must be put upon one side."

ITALIAN STATISTICS.—On more than one occasion have we written on the subject of Protestantism in Italy. The fourth volume of the Italian census of 1901 has just been published and it contains some very striking figures. We take them as they have been gathered together by the European Catholics press, and give them with the accompanying comments.

The following is the result:
"The Catholic population consists of 10,608,000 under 15 years of age, and of 20,931,000 over that age. The total Protestant population is given as 16,723 under 15, and 48,872 above that age; and when it is considered that these figures include many thousands of Waldensians, many thousands of German, American and English Protestants, and heaven knows how many hundreds of imported missionaries, it will be seen that the tens of thousands of pounds that are spent annually on Protestantizing Italy are singularly unproductive. The Israelites are put down at 35,617, a surprisingly small figure for the whole of Italy, where they have had colonies since the time of Our Lord. There are only 2472 Greek schismatics, 280 Mohammedans, 56 Buddhists. Brahminism does not flourish in Italy, for it is represented by one very solitary individual, and there is also one Copt. But the most significant figures are those testifying to the existence of atheism, irreligion or indifference. Over 86,000 persons declared that they had no religion, while 794,000 refused to make any statement as to their religious belief. It is probably safe to say that this enormous number, which has doubtless by this time reached a full million, is composed mainly of Socialists and the children of Socialistic parents. From the same interesting volume we learn that there are in Italy 3189 monasteries and convents, with 58,764 religious of both sexes. In Rome alone the number of religious is given as 6141.

LAY CO-OPERATION.—Strange as it may appear, the Roman press gives a brief forecast of an encyclical that His Holiness Pius X is preparing. It is to deal with the work of laymen in matters of Church concern.

MORE CONVERTS.—In connection with an item that we publish in this column of the propaganda of Protestantism in Italy, we learn something that indicates the reverse of the medal. Seven converted Protestant ministers received Holy Orders from the Cardinal Vicar at the Church of St. John Lateran, on last Trinity Sunday. Of these, one was the Rev. Alvah Doran, a native of Chicago, formerly attached to an Episcopal church in Philadelphia. He has been a student of the American College, Rome, for the past year and a half. He had taken a previous course at Overbrook. Father Doran has left Rome for Philadelphia. It is expected that he will exercise his ministry in the same diocese in which he had acted as an Episcopal minister.

A HINT.—To those who rush matters and do not take a moment of leisure for meditation, the following hint may save their nerves: When writing on a train, there will be no perceptible jar if the pad rests on a pillow.

MARTYRS IN CHINA.—A press cablegram from Shanghai on July 23 contained a report from Ichang in the province of Hupeh, that a French bishop, a priest and two converts had been killed, two priests taken prisoners and three chapels burned at Sichuan, near Singan-Fu.

Later advices are to the effect that the victims were Belgian Franciscan monks, the Vicar Apostolic of Hupeh province and his brother.

According to a Paris cablegram the French Government, which exercises a protectorate over all Catholic missions in the Far East, has promptly instructed the French Minister in Peking to demand the exemplary punishment of the murderers and the surrender of the two priests carried off as hostages.

Ichang, where the crime was committed, is the furthest navigable point for trading vessels in the Yangtze-Kiang, and is the centre of the last Boxer rising had its origin. An Italian missionary was murdered there last May.

IRISH LANGUAGE.—A Dublin correspondent of an American journal writes:

From an official return just issued it appears that nearly one hundred thousand children are now being taught Irish in the National schools. This, of course, is only a minority of the children attending these schools, but it is tenfold the number who were being taught Irish in them a few years ago. The children in practically all the Irish Christian Brothers schools, probably 100,000 more, are taught the language.

LIFE-SAVING STATIONS.—The United States Government expends \$2,000,000 a year for the maintenance of its 235 life saving stations, 200 on the shores of the Atlantic, 20 on the Pacific, 10 on the Gulf of Mexico, and 5 along the Great Lakes chain. The work, systematically begun in 1871 in New Jersey, the coast of which, sandy and with few bays, offers many dangers to navigators, has been extended so that it now practically covers the chief danger points of the whole coast line of the country, more than 10,000 miles in extent and longer than the coast line of any other country.

Eight hundred persons are employed in the life saving stations. Their work counts most, of course, in winter time, except on the northern lakes, where travel is suspended in winter and the perils of navigation are greatest in the summer. Since the establishment under Government control of the life saving service of the United States, the number of wrecks at points within signaling distance of Government stations has been 14,000 and the number of persons saved or helped to safety by the life savers has been 90,000. The number of persons lost during the same period of wrecks of which notice to a life-saving station could be given has been 1000.

It is believed that the total property in ship and cargoes saved during this period by the Government employees amounted to \$160,000,000. There are about 730 wrecks a year on the coasts of the United States—that is, at about the rate of two a day. By the use of life-lines, non-capsizeable boats, ocean rafts and other like appliances the means of safety to passengers has been largely increased, and it is a rather curi-

ous proof of their efficiency that the loss of life on steamboats on interior rivers is more than twenty times greater in a year than from wrecks at sea along the coast line.

ONE OF THE TRUE MEN.—An old subscriber from Ontario writes: "I have been a subscriber to the 'True Witness' for 24 years, and I hope it will come to my home as long as I am able to read."

If all Catholics in Canada were imbued with the same spirit of loyalty towards the Catholic press what a mighty influence they would wield in the temporal domain. It is a profound knowledge of the necessity of the Catholic press that urges our loyal friend, in sending his subscription, to take up his pen and give expression to the noble sentiments that fill his mind.

ABOUT MOSQUITOES.—A village of four hundred inhabitants thirty miles from Bivalve, Md., was practically depopulated last week on account of mosquitoes. They are so thick that over two-thirds of the inhabitants have left their homes, going to the bay on steamers to berid of the pests.

OF IRISH DESCENT.—It is of interest to learn, says the Dublin Weekly Freeman, that George Washington is now being claimed as of Irish descent. Dr. Thomas Addis Emmet, in his recent book on the Anglo-Irish connection, brings into prominence some facts that go to show that the Father of his country was an Irish-American. It seems that the Washingtons were early settled in Youhal and in portions of Roscommon. In Youhal at the time of Raleigh's colonization there was great immigration from that then important port. From this Cork exodus George Washington is said to have sprung. The name is not unfamiliar now in Cork, Kilkenny and Roscommon.

IRISH LAND ACT.—A return has just been issued showing that up to the 1st of May sales under the new Land Act amounted to \$5,675,000. The returns show that the average price was twenty-three years purchase (twenty-three times the yearly rent of the farms.)

ECCLESIASTICAL STUDENTS.—According to one of our Catholic American exchanges a movement has been organized in Wisconsin, to aid ecclesiastical students of limited means.

A neat little booklet has been published giving the articles of incorporation and by-laws of the St. Joseph's Catholic Student Fund Society. The business and purposes of the corporation, as set forth, is to "raise money with which to assist worthy ecclesiastical students of limited means, while making the classical course, and for said purpose to receive donations, legacies and bequests. Clergymen are eligible to membership in the society on payment of a fee that shall not be less than \$10 annually. Laymen may become honorary members on payment of an annual fee of \$10. The incorporators are Bishop Schwebach, of Le Crosse; Revs. J. J. Loughran, McCook, Neb., W. A. Goebel, Janesville, Wis.; A. B. C. Dunne, Eau Claire, Wis.; L. J. Vaughan, Altoona, Wis.; Felix A. Byrne, Stanley, Wis.; Robert Hughes, Manitowish, Minn.; D. M. Gorman, Dubuque, Ia.

It is provided in the by-laws that students to whom aid shall be given shall not be less than fourteen years of age, shall have been born in this country or lived here at least five years. The sum of \$1000 shall be the basis of aid for each student. The beneficiaries must be young men making a preparatory or classical course for the priesthood, must be actually in need of aid, so much so that they will be compelled to abandon their studies if they do not receive it, shall have completed at least two years of a Latin course, must show marks of vocation for the priesthood, and must be of unimpeachable conduct and at least mediocre talent. They shall not be compelled to attend any particular college but may attend any college or seminary approved by the directors. They shall not receive over \$200 a year from the society.

A GENEROUS ACT.—The official paper of the Catholic University, Washington, D.C., makes the fol-

lowing announcement in its July number:

"Mr. Edward Johnson, of Watertown, Wis., has given the university the sum of \$5000 to found a theological scholarship for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. It is to be known, in memory of his deceased wife, as the Mary Crowley Johnson scholarship. For this generous action the university hereby returns its sincere thanks to Mr. Johnson, and assures him that the memory of his beloved wife will always be held in special honor by us, also that the holder of the scholarship will ever consider it his duty to remember at the altar of God the soul to which he owes the superior opportunities that he is enjoying."

CATHOLICS IN U. S.—In noting a recent statement made by Bishop McPaul, Trenton, N.J., that there are 15,000,000 of Catholics in the United States, the New York Sun remarks: "This is a higher estimate of our present Roman Catholic population than is warranted by official statistics, but it may not be excessive."

A.O.H. AND THE GAELIC.—The first division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America to work in the Gaelic language was instituted in Boston July 14, and a Lowell man was honored by being elected the first president.

Since the first society for the revival of the Gaelic language was organized in Boston, the Gaelic Society, efforts have frequently been made to start a purely Gaelic speaking division of the A.O.H., but it met with little or no success, and about a year ago the matter was again agitated, this time by a number of the students in the different Irish schools.

The division was formed with nineteen charter members. Following the institution the following officers were elected: Dr. George P. Madden, of Lowell, president; Patrick Twomey vice-president; Denis Cohan, recording secretary; Daniel Sullivan, treasurer; John Galvin, sergeant-at-arms; Patrick Higgins, sentinel.

The new society will be known as Division 75. County President Cummings, State President John A. Ryan and others made addresses. There were songs in Irish by a number of the members.

THE ROYAL DECLARATION.—The Northwest Review says:

The Tablet, of July 9, commenting upon the House of Lords' refusal to take even the preliminary steps for securing a modification of the terms of the Royal Declaration, says: "We suggest to our Canadian fellow-subjects that it is about time that the protest were renewed, and this time in terms that will compel attention. The outrage affects the Catholics of Canada even more than the Catholics of the United Kingdom—inasmuch as the Catholic population is proportionately greater there than here." This is one of those cases which would soon "compel attention" if it were in the hands of a Catholic Centre Party; but so long as we are ruled by men who are Liberals or Conservatives first, and Catholics afterwards, we have little hope of redress. Party discipline kills all noble initiatives.

THE PASSIONISTS.—An exchange says: By the death of Father Stephen Kealy, Father Felix Ward, another man of Irish blood, becomes the head of the Passionist Order in this country. At the last Chapter Father Ward was elected first assistant to the Provincial, and now succeeds him in that office. It is notable how large a proportion of the order is now of Irish blood or birth.

CARDINAL NEWMAN.—Dr. Barry gives a delightful picture of Cardinal Newman, while the great man was still an Anglican. An extract or two from Dr. Barry's new book will be interesting. He says:

"Every sermon was an experience. The still figure, the clear, low, penetrating voice, the mental hush that fell upon his audience while he meditated alone with the Alone, in words of awful austerity. . . . His discourses were poems, but transcripts too from the soul, reasonings in a heavenly dialect, and views of life, seen under innumerable lights as from some Patagonian mount of vision. They can be read after all the years, for their illustrations, their lucid

English, their exquisite brief touches of pathos, their creative faculty, as real as Dante's, yet altogether different, by which they call up the dead or the past or the invisible to our shrinking presence. Newman never paints. He deals not in colors as Carlyle did; he is without dimensions; for him not the eye but the ear is that spiritual organ to which revelation is vouchsafed. His sentences glide upon a musical scale; he flows along as a river; is not fixed on canvas; in all his pages it would be hard to find a portrait of the outward man. His method may be termed introspection, but so deep and persistent that it leaves a feeling of concrete substance."

The volume is elaborately illustrated with portraits of the Cardinal. In one part, speaking of him as a Protestant, Dr. Barry says:

"His inbred reserve compelled him to guard his personality with a manner as little familiar as he could make it. Shy men are formalists, and so was he. The clerical style is heightened in his first essays by a gravity of demeanor and a severity of speech, that have left on critics like Dr. Abbott an impression far from favorable to him, as though he were wrapped in predestinarian gloom. He was utterly in earnest, masterful by temperament, severe on himself, not inclined to hope, and, in any case, melancholy as youth will be until it finds a definite vocation. . . . He shocked High Church and Low Church by a resolute turning towards the only Christians he could discover in primitive ages."

Students and lovers of Newman—and their name is legion—will be glad to have this new work. It is different from aught that has yet appeared concerning one of the great figures of the nineteenth century.

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS.—

What the Church wants most in this country at the present time is high schools and boys and girls to fill them.

But where are Catholic schools of this grade? As Archbishop Glennon said in his opening speech at the late Conference, Catholic education suffers from two causes: insufficient funds and insufficient advertising. We have been following the foolish policy of hiding our educational light under a bushel. It costs but a trifle to let the world know what you are doing for it and where you are doing it. The schools that succeed are the schools conducted by brainy and energetic and practical educators. And only such are fit to direct the development of youthful minds in this age and country. Thank God, this class is coming to the front in our Catholic schools and colleges, and for that reason the future of Catholic education was never so bright.—Western Watchman, St. Louis, Mo.

HOMES FOR THE POOR.—The Glasgow Municipal Housing Commission, formed some time ago to inquire into and report on the nature and extent of the overcrowding in slum life in Glasgow, says a correspondent of the Catholic Times, has at length issued its report. The report, to remedy the evil and its concomitants, recommends the abolition of "back lands" the condemnation and destruction of uninhabitable houses, the obtaining of further power by the Corporation to deal more summarily with dirty dwellings, and making landlords more particularly responsible for the sanitary conditions of their tenements, suggesting that in houses where the rentals are under £10 caretakers should be appointed, and finally stipulating that in the event of the said recommendations being fully acted upon the Corporation prepare to provide suitable dwellings for the poor who will be dispossessed. This is both a sane and a significant finding on the part of the Commission. It is interesting to Catholics to recall that more than twenty years ago the late Very Rev. Dr. Munro, of St. Andrew's Cathedral, demanded, but failed to get formed at the time such a Commission, and indicated the prevalence of this great social cancer in the heart of the city which it has taken the progressive rulers of Glasgow almost a quarter of a century to find out for themselves. It is now to be hoped that another quarter of a century will not be frittered away in devising "ways and means" to cure the evil.

GLADSTONE MEMORIAL.—The citizens of Liverpool have erected a memorial to the late Mr. Gladstone at the cost of about \$25,000. Undoubtedly one of the attractive features of the memorial is the great banquet given in the Irish Building, World's mammoth hall easily the sixteen hundred or without unnecessary or was attractively decorated. Those in attendance, the best thought, the best of the patriotic thought, the people. Hence, when an oratorical program evening began to unfold the past glories of Ireland in proud tones, and her aspirations, sketched in the audience, men and went to their patriotic cheered the eloquent speech. Mr. O'Connor, who earned the good will of from the outset. Father Dempsey, who dress of welcome, extended Hibernians a right royal city of St. Louis. no uncertain tones, and from the first word they were receiving a heart of a man with thorough sympathy with every respect. Mr. Dolan, National the Hibernians, responded in a simple but for that the order which to keep alive the fire and faith. He said its upbuilding and cementing feeling among children of the Gael in Ex-Governor Francis, the World's Fair, responded, Louisiana Purchase was glad to be with a predominating character of purpose in fact. Governor Francis glowing welcome to the and said the great exult to have them with Judge O'Neil Ryan favorite speaker with a voice. While Judge Ryan of radicals on some Irish question, nevertheless, men, no matter whether Nationalists, agree that the present represent the burning Irish heart, a republican shibboleth are born free and equal, entitled to certain inalienable and principally the right government. Judge Ryan's undying sentiment in his manner, and at once a coincidence with him.

Hon. P. J. O'Connor, sector of the A.O.H., most charming speaker, Sunny South, and right upheld the reputation South State for orator nor apothosized American blood and said never been found in brave men were needed. Hon. John T. Keefe, Director of the A.O.H., usual conclusive manner glowing tribute to the He said the Soggarth central figure in every Irish history that was ther by the sword of of peace. Father Phelan, editor man, aroused much er saying that future history clear that the greatest tion ever held in the v then assembled in Par the Pike. The reveren the Irish were not a people. The former, came into life at the w latter was the noblest Ireland, he continued home of the Irish; it cradle. Father Phelan that the lost field of regained by an Irish deny aroused from that went into battle its usually necessary n phernalia, touched the his auditors and, at evoked their generous Rev. John R. Larke drew the horoscope of the future. Father L quisite word painter, resonant voice. The of the future Celt was bright colors of hope the determined lines of triotism. It pleased the audience, and Fa ceived loud applause. Archbishop Glennon, lain of the A.O.H., cent form and easily a previous oratorical effing to St. Louis. H mission of the Irish that seemed to appea