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VOL. XII, No. 4

The Catholic Register

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TORONTO, THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1904

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Chronicles of An Old- Timer

Lawrence Devany, a Hamilton Alderman who was very popular and became attached to Thos. D'Arcy McGee in a Damon and Pythias manner—How a Literary Correspondence between McGee and a Mrs. Nolan became lost to the World.

Chicago, Jan. 22, 1904.

Dear Register,—It occurs to me that while discussing Catholic municipal representatives in your paper I should not omit to make mention of Alderman Lawrence Devany of Hamilton. I made the acquaintance of that lovable character in the early fifties in his own town. He was then engaged in the business of an auctioneer. He was Irish born and had then been in the country several years, but still a young man. I believe the first occupation he had been engaged in was that of peddling. His auction house in Hamilton was on the south side of King William street, near James, and but a short distance from the central market. He was a good-looking, well proportioned man, and had as a helpmate a wonderfully thrifty, fair-haired little woman, who looked after and managed the biggest part of his business. He took life rather easy, yet he thrived and made money. As an auctioneer no one surpassed him in the wit and satire, and whenever he had a sale his room was always crowded, for people liked to hear his hits. He was one of those whole-souled, genial men who had a heart full of sympathy and a hand full of money to extend when anything appealed to him that he thought worthy of his generosity. Although not a deeply read man, he had sufficient intelligence to be interested in many things and was full of public spirit. He was deeply sensitive on matters pertaining to his religion and nationality. He had a wonderful aptitude for humorously describing peculiarities of character, especially those of public men. For instance, "Wee-y-horse Rymal"—Joseph Rymal—was at one time member of parliament for Wentworth County. He was a farmer and stock-raiser, who acquired quite a reputation as a parliamentary humorist, and Devany loved to take him off. Devany was elected alderman for his own ward in the late fifties, but how long he continued to act I cannot say, but he was never beaten as a candidate.

He was one of the principal supporters of the St. Mary's festivals which were held annually in the Mechanics' Institute Hall in support of some Catholic charity in Hamilton, and were always freely patronized by Protestants as well as Catholics. An event took place at one of those festivals which was of a regrettable character, but which drew out the latent sympathy of the public on his behalf. A gentleman who had taken too much wine and was himself a real good fellow, fell into an angry altercation with Devany, and in the heat of the moment, struck him on the face with a tumbler, opening his cheek under the eye, and inflicting a very dangerous wound, which threatened his life for some time. There was one general burst of disapproval in the town at this angry assault, and sorrow for both men. No one regretted the deed more than the assailant himself, who from a joyful, convivial gentleman, fond of companionship, became altered, serious

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and sober, and never afterwards allowed a drop of liquor to cross his lips. I knew this gentleman well in Ontario afterwards and loved him. He was a Grand Trunk Railway contractor but it is not necessary to mention his name, although long since deceased.

Devany myself well and had a great interest in him, he was so interesting and companionable. I had the pleasure of introducing him to the late T. D. McGee, when engaged in one of his lecture tours before he settled in Canada, and I was glad that he had found a great admirer for that gentleman in whose leadership I was myself then so largely interested. To show the ardent and attaching character of the man I will state that I afterwards asked him what he thought of McGee, when he burst out in exclamation: "I like him ever so much! I'll stay by him! Right or wrong, I'll stick to him!"

Those declarations at that time were music to my ears because you know we had our little political differences always among ourselves, and I was then a very devoted McGee man. The statesman, it appears, reciprocated the auctioneer's devotion and the two became fast friends, somewhat akin to Damon and Pythias or Jonathan and David, and the spectacle was delightful to behold. Devany made a good deal of money and retired from the auction business, and in order to be near McGee, removed to Montreal, where he could see, hear, and constantly be under his influence. Some short time before going to Montreal Devany lost a little daughter by drowning while skating on the Welland Canal, while endeavoring to save two of her playmates, March 3, 1864. Whereupon McGee wrote a very feeling little poem—an "In Memoriam," which is inserted in Mrs. Sadlier's volume of his poems.

I met Mr. Devany but once, I think, after he removed to Montreal, when he described to me somewhat of his intercourse with my old friend, and the cup of his happiness seemed to be filled to the brim and he remained true to his devotion to McGee to the last. To enjoy his esteem and confidence, to be admitted to a knowledge of a great statesman's secrets, was a means of great happiness for him. I was happy that he was happy and that his love seemed to constantly increase while my own admiration for the man was undergoing the process of cooling. Death takes no cognizance of friendship and soon parted those two devoted souls. Devany died March 3, 1868, whereupon McGee wrote one of his greatest poems—Requiem Aeternam—in seventeen stanzas, from which I copy two, showing what strength of sorrow he felt in his friend's demise:

"The dearest friend will turn away,
And leave the clay to keep the clay;
Ever and ever she will stay—
Miserere, Domine!"

"Friend of my soul, farewell to thee!
Thy truth, thy trust, thy chivalry;
As thine, so may my last end be!
Miserere, Domine!"

Just one month after writing this poem the author met his own death by assassination. A short time since I was seeking among my thoughts another instance of friendship like unto that of Jonathan and David and Damon and Pythias, little thinking it was to be found among my own friends and acquaintances of a generation ago. But it is of no literary value until such time as some one weaves it into a new story of the friendship of a man for a brother man.

There is another story about the friendships of D'Arcy McGee that I want to tell before it is lost, but this story is about his friendship for a woman and is of literary interest. There was in Toronto in my youthful days a young woman who used to write verses for the Toronto Mirror, named Mary Ann McCarthy, who was beautiful as well as talented. Her father was head doorkeeper when parliament assembled in Toronto in the early fifties, a tall, genial, old gentleman, who had hundreds of friends; she also had a brother named Henry, who was a fine, genteel specimen of a young man of the official kind, who married a daughter of one of our Toronto patriots, Mr. John Shea. The family moved with the various migrations of the seat of Government until it was finally fixed at Ottawa. At the latter place in the course of time Miss McCarthy made the acquaintance of Mr. McGee and became one of his literary friends and correspondents. In the meantime she married a respectable young widower named Nolan and went to live with him in the isolated region of Gaspe, where Mr. Nolan kept a store among the habitants and made money. The correspondence between McGee and Mrs. Nolan went on unremittingly, it being understood that ultimately it was intended for publication in a volume. What an interesting volume that would have been to be sure had it ever seen the light of publication! But, alas, as Burns has it, the best laid schemes of mice and men gang aft a-gley. When about one hundred and fifty letters had been exchanged on both sides, Mr. Nolan's house caught fire and was burnt down, and with it that precious correspondence. I can well guess at what their friends had lost by the destruction of that no doubt highly sentimental and in-

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The Pope and Sacred Music

The Sacred Congregation of Rites has communicated the following document to the press. URBIS ET ORBIS. Our Holy Father Pope Pius X., by a "Motu Proprio" of November 22nd, 1903, in the form of an "Instruction on Sacred Music," happily restored the venerable Gregorian Chant to its former use in the Churches and at the same time gathered into one body the chief prescriptions for promoting and restoring the reverence and dignity of the sacred chant in the temples, giving it through the privileges and exemptions granted by the Holy See, to the greater basilicas of the city, and particularly to the Holy Lateran Church. The privileges and commendations with which, according to times and circumstances, other and more recent forms of Liturgical Chant were invested by the Apostolic See and by the Sacred Congregation having been at the same time revoked, his Holiness has been good enough to grant that the said more recent forms of Liturgical chant may be lawfully retained and sung in those churches in which they have been introduced until the earliest time at which the venerable Gregorian Chant can take their place, everything to the contrary notwithstanding. Concerning all these things his Holiness Pope Pius X. has ordered the present decree to be sent to this Congregation of Sacred Rites, SERAFINO CARDEAL CRETONI, Prefect of the H.R.C. DIOMEDE PANICI, ARCHBISHOP OF LAODICEA, Secretary of the H.R.C.

A False Charge

One of the charges which anti-clerical papers have been making against the religious Orders in France in order to justify their expulsion is the contribution by the members of those Orders of more than an ordinary percentage to the statistics of criminality. It now appears that for the purpose of bolstering up this charge they put forward false figures, which have been widely copied outside France. The Rev. George Bertrin, a professor in the Catholic Institute, Paris, has made an examination of Government figures—it will be readily admitted that the compilers were not particularly favorable to the religious Orders—and he has discovered that in the four years ending with 1901 the proportion of convicted criminals per 100,000 in the liberal professions was as follows: Lawyers, notaries, and procurators, 48; artists, 26; medical men, 18; lay masters of schools, over 6; religious masters of schools, over 5; members of the clergy, including masters, 3. Whilst these figures bear witness to the superior morality of the "clericals," it is to be noted that juvenile crime is assuming alarming proportions in France. Within twelve months 627 persons between eighteen and twenty years of age were brought up at the Assizes, and fifty-three male and sixty-seven female youths of from sixteen to eighteen years old committed suicide. People are asking is this shocking record is not the fruit of godless education.

No Catholic Here

Toronto, Jan. 20, 1904. To the Editor of The Register: Dear Sir,—We note with genuine satisfaction the great strides the new course of studies known as "Domestic Science" is making in the Province of Ontario and would like to ask whether any Catholics are now being appointed to positions in this connection, either in university, colleges, Normal or High School. We feel that at least one Normal School principalship of Domestic Science should be given to a Catholic. Yours faithfully, FAIR PLAY.

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Expelled a Priest From France

Premier Combes Placed on His Defence in the Chamber

Paris, January 25.—The Chamber of Deputies was the scene of much excitement in connection with the case of the Abbe Delsor, the Alsatian priest who was expelled from France recently. His expulsion has revived the animosities growing out of the Franco-Prussian war, a considerable element of the press and public asserting that the expulsion of Delsor as a foreigner marked the final abandonment of Alsace to Germany. Owing to the Chamber taking up the question, extra military and police precautions were taken inside and outside the Bourbon palace. Police precautions were also taken to protect the Strasburg Statue, on the Place de la Concorde, where a popular manifestation was announced to take place, and for the suppression of disorder in the neighborhood of the German embassy. The chamber was packed. In the course of the debate the interpellations were addressed to the Government. The speakers sought to make the issue the Government's abandonment of Alsace. Premier Combes, replying, declared the agitation had the same theoretical character as Boulangerism. It was an effort to revive the expiring Nationalist element. After a long and heated discussion in the course of which numerous resolutions, some blaming and some praising the Government, were handed in, Premier Combes intimated that he would accept a motion made by M. Sarrien as the order of the day, pure and simple, with the understanding that this should be taken to imply approval of the Government's action. The division resulted in a Ministerial victory, the vote being 295 to 243. During the sitting of the Chamber there was a noisy pro-Alsatian demonstration in the Place de la Concorde, which resulted in the arrest of about sixty persons for refusing to move on. Order was restored later and the persons arrested were released.

HISTORY OF THE TROUBLE

The Abbe Nicholas Delsor, deputy for Molsheim, Alsace, in the German Reichstag, was expelled from French territory on January 7 without explanation. He was about to lecture to 300 persons at Luneville, near Nancy, and his expulsion was by order of the Prefect of Meurthe-et-Moselle. A Commissary of Police arrested him and conducted him to the frontier. M. Conrad des Essards, Deputy for Meurthe-et-Moselle, was to preside at the meeting to be addressed by the Abbe, and on January 14 he interpellated the Government in regard to the priests' expulsion. He declared that hearing of Abbe Delsor being in Luneville, he asked him, solely in his character of a priest and an Alsatian, to address his former compatriots, and asserted that it was only the Government's action which had given a political character to the affair. The following account of the incident was furnished by the French Ministry of the Interior: "By the application of the law relating to the congregations, a certain number of schools have been closed at Luneville. Moreover the Prefect of Meurthe-et-Moselle has issued a decree ordering the closing of the chapel at Luneville Castle. These decisions caused a certain effervescence in the locality, and the Catholic Club had organized a meeting, in the course of which Abbe Delsor was to deliver a lecture and utilize the opportunity to criticize the decrees of the French Government.

"As the population of Luneville includes a rather large number of Protestants and Jews, the demonstration organized by the Catholic Club seemed to be of a nature to provoke a disturbance which might degenerate into a conflict. The Prefect of Meurthe-et-Moselle put the Minister of the Interior in possession of these facts and asked to be left at liberty to adopt such a decision as the situation should require. The lecture by Abbe Delsor was forbidden; this action has been taken, therefore, because the lecture might have given rise to incidents which it was the right and duty of the authority to prevent."

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Affairs in Ireland

Mr. John Redmond Refers to the Prospects of the Coming Session of Parliament

London, Jan. 25. A most interesting series of interpellations with leading politicians on the present position of affairs in Ireland has begun to appear in Mr. Stead's new "Daily Paper." The interpellations were obtained by a well-known Irish Pressman on Mr. Stead's staff, and it is intended that they shall cover all the more important phases of current Irish politics. The first to appear is one with the Chairman of the Irish Party. I found Mr. Redmond, says the interviewer, in his pretty though modest home in Leeson Park, a quiet and old world-like suburb of the Irish capital. He was willing to talk, and he talked to some purpose. The Dublin evening papers had just issued "Stop Press" notices containing the substance of the "Pall Mall Gazette's" "revelation" as to the alliance between Lord Rosebery and "the Duke." Mr. Redmond smiled. "The Duke of Devonshire," he said, "is, to my mind, a better Liberal or even Radical than Lord Rosebery; if there is any foundation for the statement, it means that we shall have a revival of the old Whig Party which may have influence, but which can never attain to power." "But if the Duke and the Earl succeed in rallying all the fighting forces of Liberalism under a Free Trade banner might they not form a ministry?" "Well," said the Irish leader, "anything is possible for the moment. But an anti-Protection Ministry would not necessarily be a Ministry that could survive. In the very first place the Irish Party should be taken into account. Then, I fall to see how a Rosebery-Devonshire or a Devonshire-Rosebery administration could hold the support of the Radical section of the Liberal Party. In a week or two we may be able to make a forecast. Just now I prefer to let matters develop, and to look to Ireland and our own organization, leaving the English parties to settle their own affairs."

"You have not referred to the great Fiscal Question in any of your recent speeches," said I. "Except in so far as the Fiscal problem affects the position of English parties, it has no particular interest for us at the present moment. Years would pass before any noticeable benefit would accrue to the farmers. Protection, if arranged in Ireland by men desirous only of developing Irish industries, would be one thing. As far as the English situation is concerned, I have refrained from expressing any opinion, and when the Irish Party meet in council and decide upon a definite course of action, you may take it that they will be guided by one principle only—the interests of Ireland."

"Is it too early to ask what the programme of the Irish Party for the next session is likely to be?" "Of course, we are committed to an amending Land Bill, and I believe there ought not to be much trouble in passing a very satisfactory Laborers Act. In my Waterford speech I dealt as fully as possible with the Catholic University problem. It must be faced, and if the Government remain in office they must not shirk the matter. Besides, I have made up my mind to press the question of Home Rule, and to do it in such a fashion that no party can pass it over. Everything that has happened within the past four or five years strengthens our demand for a thorough reformation of the present system of government."

"I suppose you would argue, Mr. Redmond, that the necessity for an amending Act to Mr. Wyndham's final Land Act makes the case for Home Rule stronger?" "A better illustration of the utter hopelessness of doing anything practical in Ireland or for Ireland under the present system could not be mentioned," said Mr. Redmond earnestly. "See the position we have been placed in. Mr. Wyndham plainly stated what he meant to accomplish by certain clauses of his Act. Take those relating to the Congested Districts as an example. You will not ask me to go into details which I have already discussed in speeches in the West and South of Ireland. But the fact is, that the Irish legal officials in the House of Commons sat there night after night listening to the Chief Secretary's pledges, and endorsing them; yet when they came back to Ireland and read the Act as drafted and passed under their own supervision they signed their names to a legal opinion which, to put it mildly, falsified the Chief Secretary's interpretation and their own interpretation of the provisions of the measure, for whose phraseology and terms they were responsible."

Archbishop Begin Has Gone Abroad

Quebec, Jan. 25.—His Grace Archbishop Begin left at noon yesterday for New York, whence he will start by the next steamer of the French Transatlantic line for Havre, France. Archbishop Begin has been advised by his medical advisers to pass three or four months under the treatment of Viehw. He is accompanied by his private secretary, Rev. Arthur LaLamme.

Unbelieving England Far From Merry

Rev. Henry Day, S.J., in a recent lecture upon the social conditions that co-operate with unbelief in modern England and make for the increase of crime, said of the working classes of London and Liverpool: "Work, with poor wages, from morning till night; the deterioration of food, drink, and sleep; scarcely any family life; no thought of God, no comforting religion; the public-house in place of the church on Sunday; a sordid existence, without any ray of redeeming hope or worthy enthusiasm; the ancient paganism without its glory—this was some of the work of the secular principles of the modern unbelief of the day. How sad was the contrast with the picture of 'merry England' in the days of her ancient Faith! And how different would London and Liverpool, and their problems of poverty, be today if spiritual Christianity were again supreme, and its beneficent efforts were not thwarted by the errors of pagan darkness. If to-day, in speaking to the people, we could appeal with effect to the great motives of Christian virtue; if we could imbue the rich with the zeal of charity and brotherhood; if, at the same time, we could infuse the larger hope into the shrunken hearts of the poor; if we could convince all minds of the high thoughts and deep convictions of Christian duty, justice, and righteousness, and truth; yes, if we could inspire all with the enthusiasm of living for the world to come, how different then would be the condition of the world's salvation! No more should we bear of the war between the classes and the masses, of the grinding toll of labor, of the evils of sweating, of overcrowding in great cities, of poverty being submerged and sunk in the fiery pools of profligacy, drunkenness, and vice. For no longer then would the passions of men and their worldly interests alone urge them on the course of material progress."

Col. Lynch Released

London, Jan. 25.—The Daily Telegraph this morning says it understands that Col. Arthur Lynch, who commanded the Irish Brigade against the British forces during the war in South Africa, and who was afterwards convicted of treason and sentenced to imprisonment for life, was liberated yesterday morning "on license." Lynch has not received the royal pardon.

Cardinal Wins Libel Suit

The suit for criminal libel which was announced a few weeks ago, was brought by Cardinal Serafino Vannutelli against the "Express," a daily paper of Liege, Belgium, has just been decided in favor of the Cardinal. The paper has been condemned to pay \$2,000 to be spent in inserting in the principal papers of Belgium, France and Italy an ample apology for the attack unjustly made against the Cardinal. M. Poncelot, the Cardinal's attorney, announced that his client asked for no pecuniary award, but would be satisfied with a widely diffused apology in all the principal papers of the continent.

It is not what a man is doing, provided it be an honest and useful work, but how he is doing it that should make him respected or the reverse.

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