

LENLEN PASTORALS OF IRISH PRELATES

The Irish Weekly, of Belfast, Ireland, in referring to the Lenten Pastoral of Irish prelates, says:

The Pastorals of the Irish Bishops to their respective dioceses on the eve of Lent are replete with reading for the deep and earnest consideration of the people.

His Eminence alludes in weighty words to the paramount necessity of Catholics vindicating their rights to the religious training of Catholic children.

The evil of intemperance calls for His Eminence's sternest words. In Ireland the annual sum paid to the State as duty on spirituous drink is eleven million pounds.

The Cardinal makes the very gratifying announcement that the restoration of the National Cathedral of St. Patrick is fast drawing to a termination.

Archbishop of New York, a distinguished son of the Archdiocese of Armagh, has promised to testify by his presence his love for the old land and his devotion to her patron saint and apostle.

His Lordship the Bishop of Down and Connor enumerates the prevailing errors and vices of the age and their causes and calamitous consequences, and defends the Church against misrepresentation and prejudices.

Like his brethren in the venerable Hierarchy, Dr. O'Doherty stigmatises intemperance as the one great blot on the face of Ireland.

The Lord Bishop of Dromore deplores the fact that many questions which concern the vital interests of the country are still left in an unsatisfactory condition.

astic and unstinted support from the constituencies at home. We consider then, it is the imperative duty of not only by generous contributions such support is at once forthcoming, but only by generous contributions to the Parliamentary Fund, but in every way by which the Government can be made to understand that in demanding university education for Catholics the Irish members have the country solidly behind them."

It is most satisfactory to His Lordship to find that temperance efforts in his diocese are being crowned with most encouraging results. One scandalous custom of supplying drink particularly animadverts on—the scandalous custom of supplying drink at wakes—'an abuse which is not only a heavy tax on the slender resources of many, but still worse, a shame and a reproach to us as a Catholic people.'

SECOND AUSTRALASIAN CATHOLIC CONGRESS

As briefly stated in our last issue, the second Australasian Catholic Congress has been fixed for October 23 to October 30 of the present year.

The date was fixed and other arrangements made at a representative meeting of the Catholic clergy and laity, which was held in the Archbishop's library, Melbourne, on December 22.

The difficulty, then, is not insurmountable. True, our Government, unlike our northern neighbor, knows no denomination—knows nothing but citizens—and can not consequently portion out public funds pro rata, as it were, among the different religious bodies.

THE SCHOOL QUESTION.

Rev. James M. Hayes, S.J., who is stationed at St. Ignatius College, Chicago, and is one of the oldest and best known educators in this country has come forward with a statement with reference to the situation and outlining the Church's position on public schools.

"In reply to an alleged severe arraignment of the present public school system by His Grace the Archbishop of Chicago, series of resolutions and statements have been given out by ministers of different denominations, and among these a set by the Chicago Baptist Ministers' Association.

"In the first of their resolutions the Baptist Ministers' Association sets forth: 'We affirm our confidence in our public school system and our loyalty to it.'

"In regard to the first resolution I would merely express my admiration for the unhesitating spirit of loyalty to honest conviction implied in it.

"The charges denied by this second resolution are that the system is 'Godless,' that it is 'un-American,' that it is 'unfair to Catholics.'

"As the present public school system is maintained on conscientious motives that Catholics base their objections to the system, the answer may perhaps be given in words of non-Catholic authorities.

"Now we, the Protestant minority of Lower Canada," says Sir John Rose, 'can not forget that whatever right of separate education we have was accorded to us in the most unrestricted way before the union of the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada in 1841, when we were in a minority and entirely in the hands of the French Catholic population.'

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"In 1880 a Californian State council of Congregational clergymen convened at San Francisco adopted a carefully prepared report touching the school question. The spirit of the report may be seen from the following extract: 'As matters now stand the non-religionist party are, in some of our states, oppressors.'

B. McMichael, D.D., the scholarly president of the Protestant Institution, Monmouth College, Illinois, expressed himself very frankly on the subject. "After commenting on a then recent plaint of President Porter's that 'the tide is now setting strongly towards the complete secularizing of our public educational system,' the Rev. Mr. McMichael continues: 'Such schools do not provide an education such as the Church requires, and therefore she must educate her own children. . . . She only asks that she be not robbed of her resources by taxation, and compelled to support an atheistic system that robs her of heartstones and her altars of her sons and daughters.'

"Now it seems to be that if a system characterized as 'tyranny' by an honored jurist of Massachusetts, as 'oppression' by a state council of Congregational ministers in California, and as 'robbery' by an eminent college president in our own state—all of whom are non-Catholic authorities—if such a system can not be called even unfair by its chief victims, the Catholics, without being themselves 'most emphatically declared' by the Chicago Baptist Ministers' Association to be both 'un-democratic' and 'un-American,' then indeed will it have become apparent that the use of two weights and two measures has not yet become a lost art in Chicago.

"As regards the charge that the system is un-American—that is, unworthy of America, unworthy of a nation that is constitutionally and traditionally the peer of the highest in its respect for human rights—a glance at the situation to-day will suffice.

"What is this situation? 'In no country in the world,' says the Jesuit Father Higgins in the Catholic Telegraph; 'in no country in the world except in the United States are Catholics forced to support by taxation a system of Godless schools which they can not use, and then maintain their own schools if they wish to give their children the religious education to which these children are entitled. In no other country in the world does a Catholic majority compel a non-Catholic minority to pay taxes for the support of Catholic schools and then throw on them the burden of building and keeping up their own schools. Not satisfied with inflicting this injustice on Catholics, the secularists add insult to injury by the shallow sophistry with which they seek to defend the wrong on the plea of giving Catholics the same sort of schools as suits agnostics and infidels.'

"Now, being neither agnostic nor infidels, the rights of conscience, we claim, are the rights, not of the infidel or agnostic conscience, but the rights of Catholic conscience, which are certainly of as much value in the eyes of the law as those of agnostics and secularists, unbelievers and atheists. Now, if the systematic withholding of these rights be not un-American, might it not be well asked what would be un-American?"

DECLINES A JUBILEE GIFT.

Rev. James F. Mealia, pastor of St. Edward's Catholic Church, St. Edward's place, Brooklyn, thanked his parishioners on Sunday for the affection they had shown in presenting him with a jubilee purse of \$1000, but told them he could not accept it as a personal gift.

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OUR CURBSTONE OBSERVER.

This week I want something that is less practical. I read that one of the worthiest Montreal had dismissed taken by the city for having rendered his generous by removing the snow down to the boards, said, in giving his judgment was the neighbors, who move their snow and ice have been sued. This is the way to look a neither a lawyer, nor one versed in the mutations of the city; no person who would prize the judgments of sequently, I have not against the decision of I take it for granted t legally and theoretically, my years of observa Curbstone, teach me t Infernal nuisance in neighborhood is the c ever bent on cutting t ice down to the bare s the tiny strips that ex his front door to the I were a betting man I ing to wag a dollar cent that nine out of citizens will agree with contention. To proper the case you must pause your own experiences manner.

MY OWN EXPERIENCE

had a house of my own, when I used to rent a house in winter in a flat, in thirty-six flats; twelve to speak, of three flats can understand that the sidewalk, in front of door, was not more than wide. All went well, no great snowstorm came, point each one had shoe space and the entire front clean. But after the there were three houses which no shovelling was had been unoccupied; and nanted by a woman all who was ill, and the th habit by people who di some reason or another, shovel the front, or have The result was that of thirty-three, twelve dug street level, another doze of about two inches of the the balance of them had away the flying snow. I cond snowstorm came r worse, for the work was irregular. Finally, the February came, and of ants, only four had dig digging and shovelling, t and cleaning, thus creat ditches that constituted tiffly-constructed man-tr snow continued to fall, c ed it off in a reasonable these four ceased not t drains. One night I wa home from a meeting; it ighly dark; the lamp light to cast a feeble ray alon front had been extinguish a lady ahead of me, and her a man. As I was fu my pocket for my latch- icted the man take a head into the snow-drift; scar disappeared than the lady and attempted some kind

Ruling Passion Stronger than

(From The Western Wa

A prisoner escaped from Louis jail six months ago awaiting trial for murder. mer was subsequently tried tended to be hanged. It caped prisoner's guilt there is, not a particle of doub was this certainty of conv nerved him to make one of daring and sensational est recorded in the annals crime. To have executed daring of the most reckless to have planned it need more than average quick