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THE FITTEST AT THE TOP.

The Catholic Record sends congratulations to Mr. Joseph A. Chisholm, K. C., upon his unanimous election for the third time to the chief magistracy of the city of Halifax. Mr. Chisholm occupies amongst his fellow-citizens the same degree of respect and confidence which was the portion of Patrick A. Collins, of Boston, ten years ago. In that great city few cared to oppose Patrick A. Collins. There seemed to be a consensus of opinion favoring his retention as Mayor. The choice of such men as Mr. Chisholm for high station is an index that public opinion is veering around to the point which denotes a greater interest in municipal affairs. Too long has the characterless ward boss plied his trade, and there is an end of him in our municipal and parliamentary life. For Canada it were important that would no high places of trust men of the type of Joseph A. Chisholm, K. C., Mayor of Halifax.

"A SPECIALIST AT THE GAME."

An amusing case has been heard at Limerick, when Michael Leathy, a farmer, who described himself as a matrimonial agent, sued Patrick O'Neill, another farmer, to recover five pounds, a commission said to be due for arranging a marriage for the defendant. The plaintiff told the Court that he had brought about more matches than any one in the county. "In fact," he added, amid laughter, "I am a specialist at the game." The defendant denied that there was any promise of a commission, and said that the plaintiff, who was a distant relation, simply acted in a friendly manner. The county court-judge dismissed the action.

WOMEN AS BANK CLERKS.

The dignified Bank of England has for some time past employed quite a small army of lady clerks, and now comes the news that a branch of the London Joint Stock Bank is following in the footsteps of the Old Lady of Threadneedle street.

The duties which the newly-enrolled lady bank clerks are called upon to fulfil consist for the main part of checking work, and are carried on under much the same conditions as prevail in the Bank of England.

A prominent London banker with twenty years' experience says that the male clerk need not fear the feminine invasion. For simple work the lady assistant is quite satisfactory, but for the more complicated forms of banking she would not do, he thinks. In the event of a sudden rush of business during the day the girl clerk is apt to "lose her head." Of course, some of the men do that now and again, he adds "but more seldom."

THESE BIG HATS.

"Oh, that cat!"
"What the matter, girl?"
The cat went to sleep on my new hat and I wore her down town without noticing her.—Washington Herald.

SUNDAY VESPERS.

Attendance at Sunday Vespers is a practice which is too much neglected by the faithful nowadays. Although every one cannot say the Divine Office every day, as it is incumbent on the clergy and religious to do, the faithful should desire to join in it as often as possible. Vespers on Sunday enables them to fulfil this duty. Vespers is the most solemn of the day offices. It is the evening prayer, by which we thank God for the blessings of the day, and prepare for the night. It is the most eloquent of evening prayers, consisting as it does of the most beautiful psalms and accompanied by antiphons and hymns, and terminating with the sublime canticle, the "Magnificat," which expresses, in the words uttered by the Blessed Virgin, the feelings of all Christians as they contemplate the mystery of the Incarnation.

The holy and eloquent Cardinal Giraud, Archbishop of Cambrai, spoke thus in a celebrated instruction to his people:

"It is not only on account of its antiquity and because it is a portion of that grand Liturgy which has been the edification of centuries, which has enchanted solitude, animated catacombs, and given life to our basilicas whose vaults and pillars have seemed tremendous with joy at the sound of the organ and the chants and sacred instruments, as if sensible of our festivals; it is not only on account of this that the Office of Vespers, commends itself to our fervent piety, but because it contains such admirable prayers drawn from the pure source of the Word of God and from the Holy Scriptures, and as breathed forth by the Holy Spirit Himself, Human tongues never uttered language more elevating, more touching, more worthy to express the greatness and goodness of God, more appropriate to the numberless needs of man and his miseries. It is mostly the prophet king whose melodious harp is heard emitting sounds sweet and powerful, tender and terrible, which cause the very fibres of our souls to tremble with joy or sadness, love or penitence, admiration or thankfulness. Under the most rich and varied forms with the pomp and dignity of a style unexampled and forever above imitation, the grandest verities of the faith, the lovely principles of morality, the most startling prodigies proceeding from the right hand of God, are brought before our eyes."

WORSE THAN ST. JOHN.

Writing of the base ball craze in the staid old town of Kingston, the Canadian Freeman says:—

Almost every society, Sunday school and other local organizations in Kingston have organized a baseball club in connection therewith. The latest to join the craze is the retail merchants, policemen and guards in the Penitentiary. Surely the old town will be well represented on the athletic field this summer. The next to hear from now will be the clergy.

MANDY GRADUATES.

When Mandy graduates, by jing!
We're going to see her through.
There ain't a god-darned blessed thing
Her old Pap wouldn't do.
She's goin' to have a brand-new dress.
Just like them fashion plates,
We won't spare no expense, I guess,
When Mandy graduates.

When Mandy graduates, by jing!
She's goin' to speak a piece.
It's all about some ancient king.
What lived, I think, in Greece.
Then, too, she's going to take a part,
In one o' them debates,
They'll see our gal is all-fired smart,
When Mandy graduates.

When Mandy graduates, by jing!
The knowledge sure will flow,
I guess she knows most everything,
That any one kin know,
I mean the things you lea a from
books,
An' figgerin' on slates,
An' purty? Well, she'll have the
looks,
When Mandy graduates.

When Mandy graduates, by jing!
I sorter wonder how,
She'll git along. She's had her fling;
She's eddicated now,
But she don't know how garlens grow
An' housework she jest hates.
Sich thoughts I s'spose is foolis'
though,
When Mandy graduates.