

CATHOLIC CHAPLAINS.

SOME OF THE PRIESTS WHO HAVE OFFICIATED IN CONGRESS.

INTERESTING HISTORY OF HON. AND REV. GABRIEL RICHARD, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM MICHIGAN—BISHOP ENGLAND—FATHER MATHEW—FATHER PIER—FATHER STONESTREET—HENRY CLAY AND JEFFERSON DAVIS.

N. T. T., the Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Catholic Mirror, has the following interesting letter in the last issue of that journal: From time to time the question has been asked, "Has there ever been a Catholic chaplain elected by either House of Congress?" and as many erroneous statements have found their way into print, the writer has taken pains to examine the records of Congress with the object in view of ascertaining the true facts of the case. In pursuing the investigation much was found that is of special interest to Catholics, many facts being recorded which go to show that during the earlier history of Congress the Catholic clergy took a more active part in legislative proceedings than most people supposed. It may be a surprise to many to know that a Catholic priest was once elected to Congress, and served with distinction through one session. Before proceeding to speak of the chaplains a brief sketch of this remarkable man will not be out of place. Not only does this priest bear the distinction of being the only Catholic clergyman ever elected to Congress, but the only member who had the strange fortune of coming directly from a prison cell to the House of Representatives; not, however, with the full powers of a representative, but as a delegate from a then far western territory. Rev. Gabriel Richard was a delegate in Congress from the territory of Michigan in 1823. Lammans's Directory of the United States Congress says of him: "He was a Roman Catholic priest, and a man of learning. Born at Saintes, France, Oct. 15, 1764, educated at Angiers and received orders at a Catholic seminary at Paris in 1790. Came to America in 1798 and was, for a time, professor of mathematics in St. Mary's College, Maryland. He labored as a missionary in Illinois and went to Detroit Mich. in 1799.

DURING HIS PASTORATE of St. Ann's Church in Detroit it became his duty, according to the Roman Catholic religion, to excommunicate one of his parishioners who had been divorced from his wife. For this he was prosecuted for defamation of character, which resulted in a verdict being given against him for \$1000. This money the priest could not pay, and as his parishioners were poor French settlers they could not pay it for him, and he was thrown into prison. While confined in the common jail, with little hope of ever being liberated, he was elected a delegate to Congress and addressed from his prison cell in the wide of Michigan his seat on the floor of Congress.

The career in Congress of Father Richard was a remarkable one. He delivered several speeches on matters pertaining to his territory, which marked him as an able speaker. He was not only a thorough French and English scholar, but was conversant with the Spanish, German and Italian languages, and had learned the Indian language of the tribes in Michigan. In 1809 he took the first printing press to the West, and became the first Catholic publisher in the North, printing and publishing the *Evening Star*, a paper that gave moral office to the English colony at Detroit. The English authorities at that laid hands on the good man and dragged him into imprisonment. After the surrender of General Hull, in 1812, he was released, and soon afterward published the laws of the new territory in French. At this time there was great suffering among the settlers, their crops having been taken by the soldiers, and Father Richard purchased wheat and gave it to the destitute people.

A SINGULARLY ODD-LOOKING PERSONAGE. He was of middle size, with sharp features and a high forehead. His hair was white, and he was dressed in a simple, plain, and somewhat shabby manner. He was a native of France, and had spent many years in the West. He was a man of great energy and perseverance, and was well known to the people of Michigan. In 1824 he was elected to Congress, and during his term he was one of the most active members. He was a man of great influence, and was well liked by the people. He was a man of great energy and perseverance, and was well known to the people of Michigan.

Senator. Rev Dr. Pise was a native of Maryland, his father being an Italian and his mother a native of Philadelphia. He was born at Annapolis, Nov. 22, 1801. HE GRADUATED AT GEORGETOWN COLLEGE, and afterwards entered the Society of Jesus and went to Rome to study theology. His father soon after died, and he left the society and returned home. He was afterward professor of rhetoric at St. Mary's College, which position he occupied until 1825, when he was ordained priest by Archbishop Marchal in the cathedral in Baltimore, where he was stationed for a short time. He was made a doctor of divinity at the College of the Sapientia, Rome, in 1832. Upon his return to America he officiated at St. Matthew's, Washington, for a while, and it was while here that he acted as chaplain of the Senate. He afterward became rector of Transfiguration Church, New York, and later of St. Peter's, in Barclay street. From there he went to Brooklyn and purchased the Episcopal Church of the Emmanuel, which he dedicated to St. Charles Borromeo, where he resided until his death, in 1858.

Rev. Father Rider, S. J., President of Georgetown College, opened the Senate with prayer on two occasions during the year 1840, and the records show that the late Father Boyle was the last priest who said prayers in the old Senate chamber, now the Supreme Court room. The House of Representatives has never elected a Catholic clergyman to its chaplainship, consequently the statement recently published that Father Boyd was elected chaplain of the House while at St. Patrick's Church is incorrect. On numerous occasions he officiated, and, during one session, when the House failed to elect a chaplain, he alternated with two Protestant clergymen in offering the opening prayer.

FATHER AIKEN was the first priest to make the sign of the cross in the new hall of the House. "On Jan. 24, 1859, Rev. Charles Stonestreet, S. J., then pastor of St. Aloysius, opened the House with prayer. Speaker Orr conducted him to the speaker's desk. Father Stonestreet, clothed in his cassock and wearing his beads, made a large sign of the cross and read the prayers of Archbishop Carroll for the authorities. The prayer over, he finished with a devout sign of the cross. As FATHER STONESTREET LOVES THE REPUBLIC, and prays for it from the bottom of his heart, he read the prayers with a great deal of feeling. The above account of Father Stonestreet's prayer is found in a Georgetown college journal of 1859. Again, under date Feb. 9, 1859, is found the entry: "To-day Father Stonestreet, vested in his religious habit, opened the United States Senate with prayer. The president of the Senate introduced him into the hall."

Without doubt, one of the greatest addresses ever heard in the Capitol was the one delivered by Right Rev. John England, D. D., first Bishop of Chicago, on Sunday, January 8, 1838. Of the circumstances which led to his delivering the address, the Bishop afterward said: "Duty calling me for a few days to Washington, some of my friends were kind enough to procure from several members of Congress the expression of their wish that I should preach for them. Having the permission of the Archbishop of Baltimore to do so, I set out on my journey, and being permitted by the chaplain of the House of Representatives to occupy his place, I consented." The invitation extended to Dr. England was signed by a majority of the representatives, and after the discourse was delivered, they sent a note to him signed by twenty-seven members, in which they said: "We were gratified in hearing the discourse delivered by you yesterday in the Representatives' chamber, and our gratification will be much increased by your coming here. If not inconsistent with your views, we would respectfully solicit its publication in such manner as would be most agreeable to yourself."

The bishop replied: "I have just received your very flattering request that I should publish the address which I delivered yesterday in the Representatives' chamber. I should very gladly comply therewith if it were in my power, but I have not written nor have I taken a note of my discourse; I noticed, however, a gentleman taking notes. I shall endeavor to discover if complete notes were made, and with the aid of his manuscript, I will easily be certain of being substantially correct. My duties call me hence immediately, but I send you what lies in my power to meet your wishes." THE DISCOURSE WAS FULLY PUBLISHED IN FULL, and can be found in volume iv. of Bishop England's works, published by Murphy & Co., 1849, the original manuscript of which is in the library of Congress. In this connection it may be mentioned that the works of Bishop England are becoming very scarce, the Carroll Institute of this city being obliged to pay a very large price for a few years ago for a missing volume to complete its set. Another memorable address by a Catholic priest was the one delivered by the great apostle of temperance, Father Mathew, in the hall of the House in 1849. The story of Father Mathew's visit to Washington is an exceedingly interesting one. Seldom, if ever, has a man received such honors from the hands of Congress as did Father Mathew, and, too, Congress as did Father Mathew, and, too, it is doubtful if any other man ever intentionally created such a commotion in political circles as the capital in so brief a visit as he did. The fame of the great temperance orator had reached America years before he landed in New York on the morning of July 2, 1849, so that when it was known that he was on our shores, invitations poured in upon him from all the large cities of the Union. The great meeting in Irving Hall, New York, was one of the most noted in the City's history. Daily leaves in the City Hall were the programme for a week. While there, Hon. Millard Fillmore, Vice-President of the United States, and Hon. Lewis Cass called upon him and invited him to visit Washington. About this time Wm. Lloyd Garrison extended him an invitation to visit Boston as the guest of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society and Father Mathew unwittingly complied with the request. This afterwards caused much embarrassment to Father Mathew, as will be seen later on.

In Boston he addressed very large audiences on temperance, and refused to be dragged by Mr. Garrison into discussing the slavery question. His acceptance of his equal honor, and on December 13th he arrived in Washington. As soon as his coming was made known to Congress a resolution was unanimously carried in the House admitting him to a seat, the highest distinction that could be conferred upon the subject of another country by the representatives of our republic. The following day, when Father Mathew entered the hall, the members rose to receive him, and an informal reception was held during the noon recess. In the meantime a resolution had been offered in the Senate extending him the courtesies of that body, which gave rise to a most animated debate. Senator Walker of Wisconsin had moved "that the Rev. Theobald Mathew be allowed a seat within the bar of the United States Senate during the period of his sojourn in Washington."

Mr. Clements was the first to oppose the passage of the resolution, and said: "The reason which prompts me to make objection is that I have been informed that the individual named in the resolution has been charged with denouncing a portion of this confederacy with the maintenance of an institution which he is pleased to characterize as a sin and a crime, and in so doing he has insulted the governor of Georgia to express his views in relation to the institution of slavery, he refused to answer. Under these circumstances I do not think I could conscientiously suffer such a resolution to pass. I therefore object to the adoption of the resolution."

Mr. Clay expressed deep regret that any opposition should have been made, and in concluding his remarks he spoke of the resolution: "It is intended as a homage to a distinguished foreigner for his humanity and his benevolence, his philanthropy and his virtue. It is but a merited tribute to a man who has achieved a great social revolution, a revolution in which no blood has been shed, a revolution which has involved no desolation, a revolution which has caused no bitter tears of widows and orphans, and a revolution which has been achieved without violence, and a greater one, perhaps, than has ever been accomplished by any benefactor of mankind." Mr. Seward delivered an eloquent eulogium upon the object of this intended compliment. Mr. Hall said he would gladly vote for the resolution as a tribute to the virtues and the philanthropy of Father Mathew, although he disapproved of the course which he had taken on the slavery question. JEFFERSON DAVIS THEN TOOK THE FLOOR and made a very bitter attack on Father Mathew. He said: "Shall this Senate, having upon its floor those who represent a slave holding constituency, vote an extraordinary compliment to one known as the ally of O'Connell, and in whose opinions he coincides? Why, if he came here as a guest, should we not, in the name of our country, the peace of the country, did he not say that our domestic affairs are our own, and that he came here to express no opinions in relation to slavery? No; but he comes covertly, a wolf in sheep's clothing, and I shall oppose his entry into this chamber by my vote."

Mr. Cass deprecated the introduction of the slavery question, respecting which the public mind was already in high state of excitement. "This is but a complimentary notice of a very distinguished stranger." Mr. Foot, Mr. Downs and others followed in support of the resolution, which was finally carried by a vote of 33 to 18—an honor which had been previously conferred by America only on Lafayette, and now accorded to the humble Irish priest who had won a name even more glorious by his services in the cause of suffering humanity. Father Mathew delivered his famous address in the hall of the House of Representatives the following evening, and the next day he was the guest of the President of the United States at the executive mansion, who gave a grand dinner in his honor, to which fifty guests, including the foremost men in the country, had been invited. The President, in person, presented each member of the distinguished company to Father Mathew. It is said of this dinner that, though the choicest wines of Europe sparkled on the board, not a drop was used by the company out of respect to the guest of the evening.

And now in closing this fragmentary review of the part Catholics have taken in the public domain, it is sadly enacted at the capital, we cannot help but admire the tolerant spirit of our legislators of the past, and wonder why the lawmakers of the present time seem less liberal. Queen Victoria has a remarkably fine head of hair, for a lady of her age; but her son, the Prince of Wales, is quite bald. He had been married for over two months, but he had night, to-day, have been as well covered as that of his royal mother. It's not too late yet. Mother Graves' Worm Extirminator has no equal for destroying worms in children and adults. See that you get the genuine when purchasing. Thos. Sabina, of Elington, says: "I have removed ten worms from my feet with Holloway's Corn Cure." Reader go thou shalt do likewise. Department of Railways and Canals. Mr. L. D. Dion, a prominent official of the above department, Ottawa, writes: "I am very glad to give you to-day the testimony that Nasal Balm has completely cured my catarrh, from which I suffered for nearly three years." Mr. Parquet, Bellevue, Ottawa, says: "I was radically cured of piles, from which I had been suffering for over two months, by the use of Thomas' Electric Oil. I used it both internally, taking it in small doses before meals and on retiring to bed. In one week I was cured, and have had no trouble since. I believe it saved my life." D. Sullivan, Malcolm, Ontario, writes: "I have been selling Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil for some years, and have no hesitation in saying that it has given better satisfaction than any other medicine I have ever sold. I consider it the only patent medicine that cures more than it is recommended to cure."

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