Persons and Facts

On Monday next, at 8 p. m., the students of St. Boniface College will repeat the French comedy, "Le Grondeur," which was given with such telling effect on the 22nd ult. There will also be good music and some interesting English selections. Entrance 25 cents, reserved seats 50 cents.

The words of the message from the Australasian Catholic Congress to Ireland are: "That the Catholics of Australasia, assembled in public Congress, wish to convey their unanimous sympathies to the Archbishops and Bishops of Ireland and to the leaders of the Irish people in their campaign to obtain the legislative independence of their country and to assert for themselves the rights of Catholics to their University."

Honours have fallen thickly upon Sir Edward Elgar since Christmas last. He has been knighted by the King, doctored by the Universities, and now he is to become the first occupant of a new Chair of Music in the University of Birmingham. Few greater compliments have been paid to musicians than that contained in the stipulation of the donor of the £10,000 for the endowment of the Chair that it should first be occupied by Sir Edward.

One of the features of the Australasian Catholic Congress in Melbourne was a session in which Irish was spoken.

Major Alcee T. Beauregard, one of the most prominent and highly esteemed citizens of San Antonio and a nephew of the famous Gen. Beauregard, died suddenly some days ago. After attending High Mass he started for home, stopping at Mahnek Hotel to await a car, as had been his custom for years. Death came to him while seated in a chair in the hotel lobby.

There has been, since the close of the Spanish-American war, a great awakening at the university of Salamanca in Spain, demonstrated chiefly by a rapid increase in the number of students. This university was founded in 1200, and is one of the oldest educational institutions in Europe. In the 14th century the number of students went as high as 17,000. In 1880 it had been reduced to 200. In the present year there is an attendance of over 900. The university of Salamanca is of especial interest to the Irish students, on account of the seminary, which supplied many of the priests who continued to minister to their countrymen during the penal times, and which is still in existence.

Once when an Irish Catholic soldier in his command lay dying and asked the services of a priest, no priest could easily be found by his non-Catholic comrades, and it seemed the poor fellow would be forced to die unshrived. But in some way the general came to know. Calling a young artilleryman, he mounted him on his own horse and ordered him on a life and death ride of fourteen miles for the nearest Spanish clergyman who could speak English. The priest arrived in time and the poor soldier made his peace with God before he passed beyond the sound of war. Catholics will grant that this action is to the credit of General Miles. It is true in every detail. The young artillery officer wrote an account of it shortly after, and his article, entitled "With Miles in Porto Rico," was published by most of our American Catholic journals. Later Gen. Miles corroborated its statements in a letter to a Catholic editor.

At the celebrated Hospice of St. Bernard, in Switzerland, there arrived lately a splendid piano, the gift of King Edward. The King, accompanied by General Codrington, visited the Hospice in 1868, and then presented a piano to the monks. It has since stood in the principal room, protected by a cover bearing the inscription "Fideliter, fortiter, feliciter." Monks and numerous travelers had thus found musical amusement in the midst of the icy mountains. This year the King learned that the old piano was worn out, and so he sent a new one through the British legation of Berne. This was with great difficulty taken from Martigny by sledge over the snow-covered mountain roads. The monks received the gift joyously and thankfully.

In the Piazza di Spagna, the centre of the English colony in Rome, the column with the statue of the Blessed Virgin, which was raised when Pope Pius IX promulgated the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, 50 years ago, sparkled with hundreds of electric lights, during the recent illumination of the whole city of Rome on Dec. 8th last.

The Australian Catholic Congress passed the following resolution: "That this Congress, in the name of God and His Church, heartily welcomes the many results of sound scientific truth in our own age; and recognizes in all its triumphs the goodness of Almighty God. This Congress is assured that both theology and human science, when pursued with a single eye and in a reverent spirit, are intended in their several spheres to lighten the path of life for man, and in perfect harmony to reflect the glory of Almighty God."

Last Saturday afternoon Mr. Daniel Smith, provincial factory inspector, met with a serious accident. It seems that, while he was driving south on Main street north, the bolt of one of the shafts broke, causing his horse to run away. With only one of the shafts attached to the cutter, the frightened animal dashed through the subway and turned down Henry avenue to King street and then continued the journey southward.

During its mad career, Mr. Smith was thrown from the cutter and was dragged for a considerable distance but he still retained his hold on the reins. When nearing the corner of James and King streets the horse came to a stop and Mr. Smith was extricated by C. H. Forrester of Le Claire Hall, who drove him to his home on Smith street, where Drs. McKenty and McCalman attended to him.

On Saturday night the symptoms were so alarming that Rev. Father Cahill was called in to anoint the sufferer. No sooner, however, had Extreme Unction been administered than those alarming symtoms immediately disappeared. At latest accounts, Mr. Smith was doing as well as could be expected in spite of several scalp wounds and the breaking of small bones near the wrist. Prayers are requested for his complete recovery.

The three last days of 1904 were delightfully mild. Cold resumed its sway with the New Year, the thermometer sinking to 15 below on the 2nd; but the cold does not seem to have a firm grip yet, for on Wednesday the mercury rose to 15 above zero.

Pio Centra, the faithful body-servant of Leo XIII. did not long survive his illustrious master to whom he was very much attached. He died on Dec. 17.

Miss Mary Hasselblad, the Swedish-American convert, received the veil from the hands of Cardinal Macchi among the Brigittine nuns on Nov. 25. The ceremony was performed in the church of Santa Brigada, and there the nun will pass her life in strict enclosure. Pope Pius X. sent an autograph benediction to this, the first American member of the community.

Mrs. Constance Mahlman and her daughter, Miss Marie, of Grymes Hill, Tomkinsville, Staten Island, have decided to enter a convent. Mother and daughter will take the veil together in the spring. Mrs. Mahlman has been a resident of Staten Island for many years. Her large estate on Grymes Hill is one of the show places of the island.

The French Normal School of St. Boniface opened last Tuesday with some thirty pupils, two of whom are Sisters of the Holy Cross and two Brothers of the Cross of Jesus from St. Jean Baptiste and St Pierre. The session will last three months. Inspector Goulet takes all the classes exept music, which is under Madame Prieur's direction.

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Obituary

DEATH OF MR. PATRICK CONATY.

Mr Patrick Conaty, father of the Rt. Rev. Thomas J. Conaty, D. D., Bishop of Los Angeles, Cal., and of Rev. Bernard S. Conaty, rector of the Church of the Sacred Heart, Worcester, Mass. died at the residence of the latter on the evening of Sunday, Dec. 4. He had been seriously ill from Nov. 17, when he sustained a stroke of paralysis. As soon as grave symptome were noticed Bishop Conaty was summoned, and he was constantly with his father during the last week of the latter's life. It was a happiness inexpressionable to the venerable invalid, between whom and his oldest son the closest affection existed. Bishop Conaty, Father Bernard, Miss Conaty and the other members of the family were at his bedside as he passed away.

Mr. Conaty was born in County Cavan, Ireland. in 1823, and was the only son of his parents. At the age of seven he came with them to Taunton, Mass., and during the seven years of their residence there attended the local achools. He returned to Ireland with them in 1844, and in 1846 married Miss Alice Lynch. In 1849 he returned to Taunton, his eldest son, the future bishop, a little child, and here other children were born to him, including the present Father Bernard Conaty.

Two of his sons became priests, and one of these, after a distinguished and nationally influential service, was promoted to the high office of rector of the Catholic University of America, and still later was chosen to be a Bishop of the Church.

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For lands owned by private individuals apply to the various real estate agents in the city.

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