

# THE CASE OF POLICEMAN SHERIDAN.

THE case of Sergeant Sheridan, the Irish constable who committed a number of crimes while in the employ of Dublin Castle, to which spirited references were made by Irish members in the House of Commons, has only been briefly touched upon by the secular press of Montreal. In consequence interest in the subject has been aroused, and the following article from the "Daily News" of London, will prove good reading:

The case becomes worse with time. Unless cleared up by a public inquiry, it is one that will leave charges of the gravest character over the whole of the Irish constabulary. Already it has filled the Irish people with the conviction that they can never count on justice under the present police system, and must even expect to be accused of crimes which the constables themselves invent.

As Sir Robert Reid told the House of Commons on Thursday, there is not a blacker instance in the most despotic Courts of Europe of the frightful danger incurred when policemen are free from all popular control. Even the Chief Secretary for Ireland, while refusing to prosecute Sheridan, admits that "his conduct has been dastardly and outrageous." Mr. T. W. Russell told the House that this was one of the most deplorable and saddest cases he remembers in connection with Irish politics.

So far only a few of the facts, and those of the barest have reached the public. Some of the fuller details can now be disclosed. The first definite case against Sheridan as to his inventing crimes and then accusing other people of them, occurred at Hospital, in Limerick, where he was stationed as a constable. A man named Bray, of that place, was known to be on unfriendly terms with a Mrs. Quinlan, who kept a small farm half a mile off. This man was discovered by Sheridan and another constable lying drunk in the lane one night. The young Irishman had been to a neighboring town to settle some business, and had evidently collapsed on his way home the worse for liquor. Sheridan took the man's cap and carried it to a spot near Mrs. Quinlan's hayrick, and then set fire to the hay, returning in a few minutes to rouse the drunken Bray. With the aid of the other constable, he led him to the hayricks, where the stupefied man was charged with setting fire to the hayrick.

No opportunity was given to the prisoner to secure bail, but within six days he was put on trial—not in his own county, but in Cork—before a packed jury. He was sentenced to three years' penal servitude. After serving two years and three months Bray was discharged, with his health so shattered that he died three months later.

Not long after Sheridan secured the conviction of another man for a crime he had himself committed. This time he was on patrol duty with a colleague named Anderson, and he arrested a laborer named Murphy, who was resting on a fence outside the village. Murphy asked what he was charged with, but could get no answer, either there or in the barracks. The man was afterwards charged with killing a donkey owned by a villager called Cragan. It is now admitted by the Government that they have evidence that Sheridan was himself the criminal, but others go further, and say that he had seen Murphy safely locked in the cells. All the people in the locality say he arrested Murphy first, and did not commit the crime until later the same night. Murphy was so terrified at the sentence inflicted upon Bray that, to avoid a protracted trial, and in the hope that he would be treated leniently, he pleaded guilty the first time he was brought into court. He was sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

All this time Sheridan was rising in favor in the constabulary, receiving rewards for these convictions, and fast making for promotion. He was removed from Limerick to Leitrim. There he cut off the tails of several cows with a razor, and he and Constable Reid charged a man named MacGoohan with the offence. The victim was hauled before a packed jury in Sligo, where he was tried by Judge Andrews. MacGoohan's co-

licitor advised him to plead guilty, but he declared he would sooner go to his grave than admit he had committed so dastardly an outrage upon a neighbor's cattle.

On the first day of the trial two Catholics were allowed on the jury because the panel was exhausted, the judge declaring that absent jurors would be fined if they did not turn up in the morning. On the day following, when the jury was being empanelled, sixty Catholics were ordered to stand aside, and a packed jury settled the case. When MacGoohan in the dock heard Sheridan's evidence he turned to Reid, and said, "Now you tell the truth, and let an innocent man go free." The appeal disconcerted Reid, who broke down completely in his evidence. The judge then disparaged Reid to the jury, and said, "If you acquit the prisoner it can only be by blackening the character of Sergeant Sheridan."

MacGoohan was sentenced to three years' imprisonment and Sheridan got £5 reward. A young farmer who knew the prisoner went about the fairs declaring openly that he believed the constable had committed the outrage himself. Sheridan then invited a friend of his own to organize a moonlight expedition against the young farmer. When MacGoohan's time was up he went before a magistrate and swore as to his innocence.

That was the beginning of the discovery of Sergeant Sheridan's guilt. MacGoohan was compensated by the totally inadequate sum of £100. The aged mother of the man Bray is receiving 10s. a week from the Government, and Murphy was asked whether he would be satisfied with £25, and took that paltry sum, against the advice of his friends.

The truth in these cases was only established after the constables called as witnesses at a private inquiry were given an indemnity. The affair, however, was found to be so bad that the Chief Secretary was forced to go back upon his word, that the witnesses should not suffer. In his own words, he had the position put to the four constables thus: "You have given this information under promise of indemnity. You can have that indemnity; but it must be clear to you that you can be employed in no position of trust in the Royal Irish Constabulary in the future. If you care to lounge about in the depot doing nothing, drawing your regulation pay, you can do so, but my advice to you is to get out of the Royal Irish Constabulary and seek elsewhere to make good the grave offences of which you have been guilty." Reid and Anderson thereupon elected to go.

Sheridan had been dismissed previously over a totally different case, and he has openly declared that the Government dare not prosecute him. He is known at present to be in America. But there is a growing feeling that the man ought to be placed on trial. Until he is the belief will grow that the Government is afraid that revelations of an equally black character would follow were the man to be arrested. It is stated emphatically that Sheridan's case is by no means an isolated one in the Irish constabulary. Mr. Power told the House of Commons that his experience as a magistrate convinced him that the case was a typical one, as there could be no promotion for a policeman unless he identified himself with the persecution of the people. The Irish members are therefore pressing for a public inquiry, and the public is likely to agree with them that the time has arrived when the whole system of administering justice in Ireland needs the fullest revision.

## CATHOLICITY IN NEW ENGLAND.

THE Catholic Year-Book of New England, which has been admirably compiled and edited by Mr. John Francis Martin, contains a large amount of interesting matter on the subject indicated by the title. From it we learn that the ecclesiastical Province of Boston, which comprises the New England States, contains one Archbishop, seven bishops, and 1,578 priests, both secular and regular; 679 churches with resident priests, 213 missions with churches, total, 931, to which should be added 140 chapels. There are four seminaries, 12 colleges for boys, 40 academies for girls, 269 parochial schools; 136,460 boys in attendance; fifteen orphan asylums, with 1,877 inmates; 47 charitable institutions; and a total Catholic population of 1,740,000. The suffragan bishops in the Province of Boston are those of Burlington, Portland, Providence and Springfield.

The price of this Catholic Year-book is 25 cents, and it is published by the J. K. Waters Co., Boston.

## CATHOLIC FEDERATION IN UNITED STATES.

THREE hundred delegates attended the annual meeting of the American Federation of Catholic Societies which opened in Chicago last week. Pontifical High Mass was celebrated at Holy Name Cathedral by Rt. Rev. P. J. Muldoon. Bishop Messmer preached, and Bishop McFaul was present.

At the opening meeting in Association Hall, the delegates were welcomed by Dr. Howard S. Taylor in behalf of Mayor Harrison, and by a representative of Governor Yates. President T. B. Munahan then took the chair, and detailed the progress of the organization. Among the afternoon speakers were Bishops McFaul and Messmer, Nicholas Conner, of Dubuque, and M. P. Mooney, of Cleveland.

A great open meeting was held in the evening at Studebaker Hall. Bishop Muldoon presided. In the course of a brief address he said:

"We must educate our people not only to know their rights, but to exact them. Too long have we been asking for favors when we should have demanded our rights. We should demand of the United States Government our pro rata for the education of our children in our parochial schools."

The meeting was the occasion for some important utterances. The Federation expressed itself strongly and unmistakably through the speakers.

Bishop McFaul made the most telling address of the evening. He launched into the friar problem and school affairs of the Philippines in no uncertain manner. He condemned the public school system inaugurated in the islands and maintained that it was the evident policy of the administration to choose the teaching for from among Protestants. He took occasion to slap at the army for "drunkenness," "immorality," "abuse" and "outrages." In precluding his remarks on the Philippine question, he said:

"It is some encouragement to know many are convinced that if this organization had been ready for action at the outbreak of hostilities between Spain and America the religious difficulties incident to the occupation of our new possessions might have received the immediate attention which would have allayed, if not prevented, the unfortunate friction now so deeply deplored, and the selection of commissioners to adjust the relations of religion to the state might have been such as to prevent the enkindling of religious animosity."

"With the news arrived that the Catholic churches in the Philippines were desecrated and looted, officers of high rank in the army attempted to refute the charges, yet the desecration and looting of these sacred edifices are now so certain that claims for damages to ecclesiastical property will be accepted by the government. Reports, too, of the frightful spread of drunkenness and immorality, after the occupation of Manila by the American army, were vigorously assailed. Is there now any one who has the audacity to question their truth? Since then we have all heard of the 'water cure' and the murderous orders issued by an American general. The introduction alone of the public school system was just cause for alarm."

In declaring that "injustice was being done the church by non-Catholics," Bishop McFaul asserted that if the Filipinos were Protestants and Catholics had attempted to establish a system of schools as the administration is now doing there would be such an uprising as would shake the foundation of the republic.

In answer to the warning of Archbishop Ireland not to discuss the Philippine affairs the speaker said:

"It has been said that as the friar question was in the hands of the Vatican, Catholics should allow it to rest there. However this may be, the Federation proposes to keep up the agitation and invites the assistance of the Catholic press."

The fact that of the 967 American teachers in the islands but nineteen are Catholic called forth this rebuke:

"In obtaining American teachers only about a half dozen Catholic institutions were asked to propose candidates, whereas over one hundred

non-Catholic colleges, teachers' agencies, etc., furnished the balance at the request of the authorities. Here discrimination against Catholics is evident."

"One of the letters received by the Federation from the War Department declares that 'it is the purpose of the Philippine Government to maintain in the archipelago the same kind of free non-sectarian instruction which exists in the United States and which has proved to be for the interest of all religions.' This is an astounding assertion, since everyone knows that the American public school system has been one of the chief factors in leaving millions of Americans without the boundaries of any religious organization; in fact, that it has contributed largely to the dechristianizing of America."

With regard to the criticism of Archbishop Ireland, the spirit of the convention seemed to be to air rather than to suppress the Philippine grievance. Bishop Messmer, of Green Bay, Wis., voiced the prevailing sentiment when he said after the meeting that the Federation would brook no dictation from anyone regarding its rights to discuss the Philippine question.

## THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR.

LAST week the "True Witness" briefly stated that a new Home for the Aged Poor had been started in San Francisco, owing to the munificence of a Catholic citizen. Additional particulars have come to hand. Archbishop Ireland laid and blessed the corner-stone of the new building, which is to be dedicated "to the honor of God," and is under the patronage of St. Ann, mother of the Blessed Virgin. Within Order of the Little Sisters of the Poor, the history of their going to California, the gift of the site and all that led up to the memorial building, a photograph of Archbishop Riordan, one of Edward J. LeBreton, who has not only given the five acres of ground which will surround the institution, but who will build it in stone and brick and equip and furnish it for the accommodation of 250 old people; the names of the Sisters belonging to the house; the usual articles placed in a corner stone, having historic value, and many objects of religious devotion.

After the stone was set and sealed the Archbishop made a short address, in which he said the building was a manifestation of one of the noblest possible charities—the relief and protection of the old and poor.

It was not limited to creed or nationality, but all who needed its shelter would find its doors open. It was a charity for all classes, as all humanity embraced the children of the Eternal Father, he said, and continued: "God is ever ready to pour His blessings on all, so the home to be erected will bring a blessing and rest to the homeless and sorrow pressed who are admitted. Their declining years within it will be made peaceful, and their souls aided with the spiritual comforts of religion as they pass forth to the tribunal of their just and merciful God."

After the ceremonies on the site of the proposed home there was an informal gathering of the priests present at the services, and at the request of Archbishop Riordan a vote of thanks was unanimously offered to Mr. LeBreton for his munificent gift to the cause of charity. In responding he said: "The works of charity performed by the Little Sisters of the Poor appeal strongly to those who realize the sufferings of humanity to which age and poverty are added. It is sixty-three years since they commenced their mission in France, and since that time ninety-three homes for aged poor have been established. The sisters depend entirely on the providence of God to sustain them, and their dependence has never been in vain. When they establish a home it is never abandoned. Their work has never failed. Every home they have founded is flourishing to-day. Almighty God takes care of them from day to day in a particular manner, and they begin each work with energy and hopefulness, and with untiring zeal press it forward to success."

## CATHOLIC SUMMER SCHOOL.

Cliff Haven, N.Y., Aug. 9th. THIS, the fifth week of this session of the Summer School, is known as Alumnae Week, being especially devoted to the propagation of the work of the Alumnae Auxiliary Association. This organization, which is composed of women interested in the advancement of the school, has for its particular object the endowment of a chair in literature. Already, a lecture course in this department is supported, and a large sum of money laid aside as the nucleus of a permanent endowment fund.

Plans for the coming year's work were made, the constitution revised in regard to a few minor matters, and officers and a third of the board of directors at the general meeting held this week.

One of the announcements of the present week which aroused great interest concerned the donation of money to erect a building which will provide class rooms for those pursuing work in the special courses. The names of the donors are for the present withheld. By means of this generous gift a serious inconvenience in the matter of arrangement of classes will be removed. The gift is also significant in that it shows that people of philanthropic ideas now realize the amount of good accomplished at Cliff Haven, and are desirous of helping it along.

Of the special courses two have been more fruitful than those in Pedagogy and Psychology. The persistence and enthusiasm of the members of these classes is due in large measure to the strong work of the lecturers, Joseph S. Taylor, Ph. D., district superintendent of New York city, and Prof. W. T. O'Callaghan, also of New York.

Dr. Taylor, who is giving the course in Principles and Methods of Teaching, devoted the past week to a consideration of the various theories of Co-ordination, Correlation, Concentration and Inter-relation of studies and the relation of these theories to class teaching and school management. He presented first Dr. Harris's views as embodied in his famous report of the committee of fifteen, then the late Col. Parker's brilliant scheme of concentration; next the Herbartian scheme as applied by Dr. Frank McMurray, and finally DeGarmo's radical method of a three-fold co-ordination. The discussion was concluded by practical illustrations of correlated school work, selected from Dr. Taylor's own publications.

Prof. O'Callaghan devoted most of his time to Descriptive Psychology. The superiority of association by similarity to the association by contiguity was explained and illustrated.

The extension of the meaning of the term association so as to include association of sensations, percepts and ideas summarized the work on association. The phenomenon of retention and the different doctrines thereof were explained; and the fact of retention was shown to be a necessary antecedent condition, or all mental development. Dr. Harris's theory of the nature or sense perception was discussed and applied. Then followed a treatment of the development of percepts of size, weight and other attributes of matter from the tactile muscular and movement sensations.

In the course in Metaphysics, Rev. James J. Fox, S. T. D., directed his attention to causation, a subject of profound interest and wide application. The concept of cause was carefully elucidated and defined, and the various classes pointed out and discussed. Next week, the director of this course, Rev. F. P. Siegfried, of Overbrook, Pa., will lecture.

A man who has not been heard at Cliff Haven in some time, but who has always been a prime favorite, is this week's lecturer in the Alumnae course in literature, Rev. Hugh T. Henry, of St. Charles Seminary, Overbrook. Father Henry is well known as a critic and as a translator. His name frequently appears in some of the best magazines. His translation of the Latin poems of Pope Leo XIII. which was published recently won instant success.

He took up the work at the point left off by Dr. Follen, the first lecturer in this course. The work of Dryden was the subject of discussion. Father Henry largely used the historical method of treatment, giving in detail the influences which first

led Dryden to write poetry, and which afterward made him the founder of the English classical school.

The morning lecturer this week was an old friend, Alexis I. du Pont Coleman, a professor in the College of the city of New York, and a well known authority on literary subjects. Mr. Coleman is the fourth lecturer in the course on the medieval period, his subject being Literary Types of the Middle Ages. He discussed in scholarly fashion the Troubadours, the Trouvires, the Arthurian Romances, the Nibelungen Lied and the Beginnings of Drama.

Few new lecturers at Cliff Haven have ever given a better first impression than did the evening lecturer of this week, Jean F. P. Des Garmes, of Washington, a graduate of Georgetown and a leading lawyer of the Capital city. He gave an interesting and Shakespearean tragedy. From close comparative study of French and Chakespearean tragedy. From the common foundation of dramatic theory to a widely different application of these laws in the work of each dramatist, the lecturer led the attention of his interested audience.

A recital of note was given on Wednesday evening by Madame Julia Rudge, instructor in vocal music at the school. Her selections were operatic for the most part, but were somewhat varied by the addition of a few German lieder. Her voice is a pure contralto that gives evidence of skilled training, being held well in control and being voluminous and yet sympathetic in tone.

Solemn High Mass was sung on Sunday, Rev. Emil Gefell, D.D., of Rochester, being celebrant; Rev. Thos. F. Duffy, of St. Agnes' Church, New York, deacon, and Rev. Walter Slattery, of Dunwoodie, sub-deacon. A masterly and forcible sermon was preached by Rev. Wm. O'Brien Pardon, S.J., one of the foremost men in the Society of Jesus. He took for his subject "The Dechristianizing of the Race." Intense interest was aroused by his remarks, particularly referring to the Philippines, when he declared that the American spirit of fair play must win in the present discussion about the friars.

"What a stain," he said, "would there have been upon our escutcheon if we had condemned 500 men to transportation from the very homes they had created, from the very civilization they had built up, without allowing one of them to have a lawyer to plead his case before an impartial jury!"

The usual weekly entertainment at the Auditorium was a great success. It was a vaudeville performance, consisting of music, readings and tableaux. Gibson pictures, arranged by Mr. G. Prahl, of New York, formed the larger and more interesting part of the evening's entertainment. Another notable feature of the programme was the clever singing and acting of Guy H. Bartlett, of the De Wolf Hopper Co.

A reception at the New York Cottage to the dignitaries visiting Cliff Haven was an important social event. Addresses were made by Dr. Charles Nammack and Rev. Wm. O'Brien Pardon, S.J., on the work and influence of the school. A "musical melange" at the Healy served to sharpen the wits of the guests, and a concert at the Albany gave an opportunity for the display of talent of no mean order. Two hops, one given by the members of the Champlain Club and another by the guests at the Rochester, greatly added to the festivities of the week.

## A SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFERENCE.

THE Sunday School Conference, which will be held at the Summer School at Cliff Haven, on August 27th and 28th, promises to be most interesting. Many of the dioceses will send representatives who will make reports on the Sunday School work. Priests are coming from many places who are most anxious to take part in the first discussion on Wednesday morning, Aug. 27th. This discussion will be on the nature of the matter, and the exact number of questions from the Baltimore Catechism which should be taught to children prior to first confession.

On Wednesday evening reports from the different dioceses will be read. There will be no attempt at rhetorical effect; only plain facts stated.

On Thursday morning the question of aids and devices in the Sunday School will be considered. The discussions are open to all. No papers will be read except the reports from the different dioceses, and in some cases these reports will be oral.

A large attendance is expected and, indeed, guaranteed, but there ought to be an extra large attendance; for not only should the priests and Sisters be there and take part in the discussions, but the parents of the children should also be in attendance.

## AN HISTORIC ROMANCE —OF THE— Times of Queen Elizabeth

### CHAPTER XXX

"Slightly indisposed," he replied, and laughed: "Such trouble received from our emphasized the woe of all the victims, her altar, its enclosure, blood to gall! You lay by awhile, until the pains, by sending in ordinary with a rope and knife, is quite capable of it, if she thought wash away the stain of her rival has led to sanctity! I should not wonder lost his head!"

I scarcely knew make. "You are rewarded," I thought, "and you deserve merit." But he was had done a great deal had really been fond saw him sitting there, wretched and broken, sion stirred in my sought to comfort her that the Queen would gain into favor. But he motioned silent, and continued right. She is only, I acted. If politics were my head to frame me to the block as sent Mary Stuart.

state policy it is as should rot in the T others have been made vanish into one of if it is preferable to fish by the hand of was the case with the dagger or poison days. That would in the annals of this in duplicity and hypocrisy Queen Bess' outdoers. At the outset pressed us to pass to death, and meanwhile the Queen of Scots said that her innocence, she and I were first would made clear when the accused went, it was by Her that Parliament petitioned the execution of the sentence less she replied how he comply with such a request for the prayers that in this moment might act in accord Spirit of God. At she more than once to Paullet and Drury keeper) to intimate wish, that they should means privately to of their prisoners, P and unfeeling bigot, cause she was a Catholic fused in emphatic blood without, a was well that he did would Elizabeth have title! Thereupon she sad, and bewailed her friends and servants would carry out her Then she signed the and delivered it to her tary Davison to appe Seal, and to trouble about it. That was And yet, when official came from Fothering head of England's gr had fallen, and for 2 were public rejoicings, made as if she did no cause, and gave way of grief that conster tendants. She declared deceived by her minister never intended the was executed, caused Davis rested and fast into it violating his duty, and ley and others, who h in her services and she would never have from her presence with abuse!"

My uncle sat for a the fire in silence; then a calmer tone. Let us on that subject, for I hither to complain of whom nothing better peeted. My purpose, you, a passport, to leave England, while I to grant it. You miss other career than that at, since for that you