

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

Correspondence of the Register.

New York, Jan. 19, 1894.

I have just returned after spending a pleasant afternoon in the religious atmosphere of Barclay street, the Catholic Paternoster Row of New York. Grouped around old St. Peter's, that relic of the early fighting times of Catholicity in New York, are a dozen Catholic Publishing Houses, whose windows are replete with Catholic art and literature. The numbers and evident prosperity of these firms is a cheerful sign of the interest taken by Catholics in the rich storehouse of learning these words contain. On this occasion I was drawn thither by the news of the re-opening of the Excelsior Catholic Publishing House of Mr. P. J. Kennedy. It certainly repaid the trouble. The energetic publisher has had his place completely refitted, and it stands now, in fixtures, appearance and stock, among the first in the publishing line in the whole city. Everything about it displays elegance of taste and a thorough knowledge in the selection of the valuable stock. A conversation with Mr. Kennedy soon showed why he has gained and why he deserves success. Rome, Ireland and America form points of a triangle in which his energies work, and Rome is at the apex. However, he has made a speciality of Irish literature, and his library of works bearing on Ireland affords a fund of learning for a student in that line. This fact has been appreciated by the lately established Irish Literary Society, as they have made him American publisher of "The New Irish Library." Two publications of the Society are now in his hands—"The Patriot Parliament of 1689," by Thomas Davis, and "The Bog-Stars"—a series of tales of Elizabeth and Ireland by Standish O'Grady. Mr. Kennedy certainly deserves credit, not only for the ardent, religious spirit which characterizes him in common with the other "Apostles of the Press," but also for the zeal for Catholic literature and faith in its future which prompts him to enlarge his stock and beautify his premises in these hard times. Everyone will wish him the success his energy has merited.

In political circles, strange to say, the question as to who shall rule Hawaii seems to be held of greater importance than the question of averting starvation at home. It looks almost like the ancient royal device of pursuing an erratic foreign policy to draw conversation from disagreeable topics which present themselves at the doors. If Mr. Cleveland was in earnest in his intention to restore the deposed Queen, he must be weary of his undertaking before now. The New York press is almost a unit against him, even such a thorough Cleveland organ as the *World* censuring his course of action. All of which shows how a convenient opportunity of territorial acquisition destroys the virtuous self containment of our neighbors here. Labouche had better send over a few of his apostles of the gospel of "stay at home and mind your own business" to convert the people on this side the ocean. It would, indeed, be consonant with British precedent if he did. Editor Stead is even now instructing the Chicagoans in the alphabet of civic government, having, we presume, quite finished the good work in London, and the *Times* newspaper, between sobs over the fate of the men whom the poor Matebeles killed in defence of their country, praises the magnanimous conduct of the President in the Hawaiian affair. We are none of us consistent, and in view of these examples we can scarcely blame people here for forgetting that the "Monroe Doctrine" ought to cut both ways.

In Catholic circles there is little news, except the announcement of two lectures at the Catholic Club, one by Frederic Couderc, U. S. Counsel at the

Paris Arbitration, and another by Chauncey Depew on his impressions of the Pope. Our "separated brethren," however, furnish us a little news which we have beatowed on them gratis these many years. A Persian Presbyterian writes in the *Saturday's World* that the missionaries in his country have spent their money on a fine house and easy living, and have consequently lost touch with the people. He shows, in fact, that for a man of merely ordinary talent, it pays to go into the missionary business. A conclave of leaders of different sects held in the Methodist Book House is not so outspoken as the old Persian, but they censure the extravagance of their missionaries severely enough to show they have grave reasons for so doing.

I clip from to-day's *World* a record of one day of persecution and retaliation in the West. It requires no comment. These are but the ordinary consequences of such a campaign in a free country, and Catholics would be far more or far less than men if they did not resent the attempt to deprive them of all political or social rights in this or any country. We may deplore the fact that human nature is too weak to tolerate this bullying in the spirit of the martyrs. The fact remains that honest freemen, conscious of innocence, will strike back when attacked by lies, or treachery, or blows. Whether such scenes will happen in Canada depends solely on how far the secret plotters are prepared to go. They have assumed the offensive, and Catholics will surely retaliate if driven to desperation, like their brethren in the West. Here are the despatches:

OMAHA, Jan. 18.—Roundsman Charles Bloom, one of the best-known and most efficient officers in the city and the recognized head of the anti-Catholic circle in his district, handed in his resignation to-day, being charged with writing a letter to Mayor Bemis in which the lives of the Mayor, the Chief of Police and Republican National Committeemen Rosewater were threatened. The letter was signed "Guiteau-Prondergast," and the writer declared that he would kill the Mayor if certain things were not done.

The matter was kept quiet for a day or two, and then it was referred to the Chief of Police. The result was that to-day the Chief preferred the charges against Officer Bloom. He was taken before a meeting of the Commissioners and required to write the letter as it was dictated to him by a member of the board. Not only was the handwriting found to be identical, but the same words were misspelled in both letters.

Bloom's trial was set for to-morrow. Some time ago the Chief of Police ordered all of the force to desist from mixing in politics. This was deemed to be necessary in view of the activity of the American Protective Association members on one side and the Catholics on the other. Bloom is said to be a member of the A.P.A.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Jan. 18.—W. A. Sims, the American Protective Association lecturer, was stoned by a mob at Kaukauna, Wis., last night. The mob got beyond the control of the police, and Gov. Peck was called on for troops. During the lecture stones were thrown through the windows and several persons were hurt. At the close Sims demanded the protection of the police. The crowd at the stairs learned where he was going and followed, arriving at the bridge by a different route almost at the same time that Sims did.

Another demonstration was made, but the officers held the bridge against the mob, and all they could do was to throw stones and other missiles at the lecturer as he ran across the bridge. Gov. Peck was not at Madison and did not get the message until this morning. After hiding with friends last night, Sims, escorted by a bodyguard of his A. P. A. friends, armed with rifles, was escorted to the depot this morning and took a train for Ashland.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Jan. 18. A subpoena has been issued for J. V. McNamara, the ex-Catholic priest, to whose lecture last Tuesday night the riot at Turner Hall was largely due. The complainant is J. F. Mullin, whose arrest McNamara caused in the hall the night of the lecture because he was said to have called the ex-priest a liar. It is believed that McNamara has left the city.

EMORIA, Kan., Jan. 18.—The A. P. A. excitement has reached this city. Judge J. F. Culver, who admits he is President of a lodge that numbers nearly eight hundred members in this city, says he has received a letter threatening him and Wm. J. Murray with death. It was decorated with a skull and cross-bones. Lodges are being formed in all the surrounding cities, it is said. Yesterday a man named Bradley went to Burlington and attempted to organize a lodge, but was chased out of town.

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