

The CATHOLIC CHRONICLE...

DEVOTED TO FOREIGN NEWS

ROME

Rome, April 9.—At the present moment the City of Rome offers an unusual spectacle to the stranger...

Yesterday and to-day the sky of Rome, as if in sympathy with the prevailing gloom, has been clouded...

The cause of the trouble arises from the discontent of typesetters with their wages, they wanted changes in the relations between their employers and themselves...

The case of the cab-drivers is particularly painful, for some time past they have been agitating for an increase in the fares they might legally demand...

On last Thursday afternoon the Very Rev. Father David Fleming, O.S.F., General of the Franciscan Order, delivered a discourse on "Eastern and Western Monachism"...

Father Fleming, treating of the importance of the subject, described monastic life as the embodiment of the principles of the Gospel...

The learned lecturer then reviewed the monastic life as lived in the East, where the monastic mode of life of St. Antony dominates primarily...

Then came St. Benedict, who established the great Order of the West. The Irish system, which had spread from Ireland to Scotland and England...

And so the eloquent speaker went on in clear, incisive language that expressed the clearness of his thoughts, to tell of the work and aims of the monastic Orders...

In conclusion, speaking of Grottaferrata, he described it as a light destined to shine brighter as the years go on. The two rites celebrated together in Grottaferrata show that there is no antagonism between the Latin and Greek rites loyal to the Holy See.

The whole discourse was noted for the interesting and striking pictures of the grandeur of monastic life as an influence towards civilization presented by Father Fleming.

FRANCE

THE CARTHUSIANS.

Mgr. Henry, Bishop of Grenoble, writes a touching letter to the Very Rev. Prior-General of the Carthusians lamenting the departure from the diocese of the monks of the Grande Chartreuse...

Other notable Carthusians of the monastery near Grenoble are, or were, for some have gone to their reward, the Prince de Broglie Revel, the Count de Quinsonas, the three brothers of the noble family of the De Chaffaults...

On April 15, Cardinal Vaughan was the recipient of numerous birthday congratulations on having completed his seventy-first year.

ENGLAND

CARDINAL VAUGHAN AT 72.

On April 15, Cardinal Vaughan was the recipient of numerous birthday congratulations on having completed his seventy-first year. His Eminence having been born at Gloucester, on the 15th of April, 1832...

JUST THE THING THAT'S WANTED.—A pill that acts upon the stomach and yet is so compounded that certain ingredients of it preserve their power to act upon the intestinal canals...

SEUMAS MacMANUS ON AN IRISH IRELAND

(From The Dublin Evening Mail.)

This is Ireland. It is well to keep the remarkable fact in mind, for it explains many seeming mysteries. It explains, among other things, why it is that there are some hundreds of thousands of our people not yet awake to the fact that a revolution—one of the greatest in a century—has been surging around them without their seeing it...

There are some thousands of complainant people, who read their Evening Mail religiously, and thank God that they are not as those Gaelic League fanatics, of whom they have heard distant rumors, who will be as shocked as they will be incredulous, when I hazard the prophecy (which I do with easy confidence) that, ere two summers have faded beyond the Broadstone, a significant proportion of them will have found themselves stealing into the Gaelic League bookshop...

The postal officials, a few years ago smiled this smile—smiled it with that easy contempt which only one's very well-paid servant can affect. The shopkeepers next affected the smile, the schools tried the same, the press, the banks, and the railways...

There are in Ireland, according to the last census, nearly 700,000 people who are Irish speaking, and of these about 40,000 speak Irish only. Among this Gaelic-speaking population, by far the greater portion of which is found along the Western and Southern seaboard, the organizers are at work preaching the gospel of the Gaelic League, and pressing home its principles...

Ireland is surely and quickly on the way to becoming a bilingual nation. Twelve years hence it will not be an easy matter for any aspirant to secure a leading position in commercial or professional life, or to enter any public office without a knowledge of his country's language...

For the convincing of incredulous ones, I should like to set down a few dry facts here. The Gaelic League was established more than nine years ago for the revival of the Irish language as a spoken language. Its progress, while sure and steady, was in no way phenomenal for the first half-dozen years of its existence, but it has, during the past three years, advanced by leaps and bounds...

the year ending March 31st last, there were issued by the Gaelic League alone 213,000 books in Irish, and 40,000 propagandist pamphlets. Of this great total of a quarter of a million, 138,000 were O'Gowney text-books. The remainder consisted of books of Irish poems, Irish folklore, biography, an Irish novel, Irish school readers, students' handbooks, Irish recitations and Irish songs and music...

Besides the Irish columns regularly printed by many daily, tri-weekly, bi-weekly, and weekly and monthly papers and publications throughout the country, there are published the weekly organ of the Gaelic League, 'An Claidheamh Soluis' (two-thirds or three-fourths of which is in Irish), and its monthly magazine, 'Irisleabhar na Gaedhilge' (entirely in Irish), and also a few other monthlies, entirely, or almost entirely, in Irish...

The Commissioners of National Education have been forced to concede new privileges in favor of the teaching of Irish in the schools. If taught as an extra subject, the substantial fee of 10s. per pupil for all pupils to whom it is taught actively is awarded. They have conceded that it may be taught as an ordinary subject in all schools...

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Because this is the twentieth century (I had almost said although this is the twentieth century), I know there are many people who would ask what is the use of reviving the Irish language. To some of these people it would be impossible to give an answer, because they do not realize the meaning of the word "use," and so soulless are they that they consider nothing is useful unless they can eat it, wear it, look at it, strike it with a brassy, or make it ring upon a counter...

But people who, like you, my reader, realize that man is something more than an animal, recognize that we have to consider many things other than what we shall eat and where we shall be clothed, and that such other things have their use in the Divine plan—a use rather greater, as it is loftier, than the use which the mere materialist understands. Any language is a precious inheritance; it is the golden deposit that the streams of thought have through ages been carrying down to a people from the mountains of the past...

We who subscribe to the doctrines of the Gaelic League believe, too, in the aphorism, "No language No Nation." We naturally wish to preserve our national distinctiveness, and I fancy that, in this we would have the support of not merely those who think with us politically, but likewise of all right-thinking, sincere people, who, while hotly opposed to us in many things, still maintain that they are Irish and that they wish to remain Irish. Gradually, but truly, we were losing this national distinctiveness. We were losing it in the same ratio in which the census, decade after decade, showed that our language was slipping from us...

For those to whom, politically, I am bitterly opposed I have enough respect to believe that the latter would far outnumber the former. As for the Liffey winds to the sea, so surely will Ireland, a generation hence, be a bilingual nation. More than that I fear we cannot hope. It seems to me that the exigencies of commerce will hold the English language with us, but, even if it do, the possession of our own beautiful old tongue and the intellectualizing and spiritualizing influence which it will exert over our people will re-establish among them the old traits and the old customs, that were passing, or, haply, had passed, and will re-establish for them the old ideals that were going or gone, and thus counterbalance the materialistic tendencies which the language of commerce must impose upon any people. We shall be Irish in soul and heart, as well as in name and tongue.

Go saoghlaidh Dia an Ghaedhilge! SEUMAS MACMANUS.

THE ROMAN CATACOMBS

An Interesting Lecture Delivered by Rev. Dr. Spetz at St. Mary's Church, Berlin.

Berlin, Ont., April 23.—There was a large and appreciative audience present at St. Mary's Church on Wednesday evening to hear the excellent and interesting lecture delivered by Rev. Theo. Spetz, D.D., on "The Roman Catacombs." The discourse was illustrated by splendid stereoscopic views, which added to the interest of the evening's entertainment.

Within the last 50 years of so the discoveries made in the ruins of various cities of antiquity in Europe, Asia and Africa, revealed to us much of their history, character and civilization that has been travestied, doubted or completely forgotten in the course of ages.

Thus, for instance, the great Dr. Schliemann excavated the classic city of Troy in Asia Minor, and proved to a wondering world, that the famous Iliad, Homer's immortal poem, was not pure fiction of the poet's brain, as many believed, but a true sketch of Ilium or Troy with its inhabitants and their doings.

Niniveh, Babylon, and the great cities of Egypt, besides many others, were rediscovered, unearthed, at least in part, and the treasures found in them enabled the student to reconstruct their history with surprising accuracy and detail.

Around the city of Rome, also, the excavations and explorations of Giovanni Battista De Rossi and others before and after him have brought to light the marvels of a strange subterranean city, that had been built by the Christians of the first three centuries; during the time of those horrible persecutions, with which pagan Rome disgraced itself before the entire world in its futile attempt to destroy Christianity root and branch throughout the length and breadth of their enormous Empire.

Formerly it was believed that all the Catacombs of Rome on both sides of the Tiber formed only one connected system. But such is not the case. The condition of the soil and the tributaries, forming deep valleys between the hills, make it practically impossible to unite all the cemeteries. Yet it is true that at a later period a number of adjacent Catacombs, that were originally separated, were joined together, where the conditions allowed it to be done.

The speaker explained in a careful and interesting manner the nature of the soil and rock surrounding Rome, in which nearly all of the Catacombs are cut. On the top of the formation of rock and cement, is a layer of common earth, mixed with ruins and rubbish from decayed buildings, from 10 to 20 feet thick. This ground is very fertile and more or less perfectly cultivated. Numerous views were shown of catacombs, the entrance of which is usu-

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