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OUR NEW YORK LETTER.

Spiritual Starvation in American Public Schools.

Rev. Father McCluskey, S.J., Speaks Plainly on an Important Subject.

Catholic Parents Admonished for Sending Their Children to Godless Schools.

The New Bankruptcy Law Before the State Legislature.

New York, March 23rd, 1898.

Rev. Father McCluskey, S.J., of St. Francis Xavier Church, has courageously taken a stand against the non-Catholic action of professed Catholics in sending their children to public schools, and not providing in any way for their spiritual education.

With a portion of the press—whose policy has reached almost unathomable depths of degradation, who serve as scavengers of carriers to tickle the depraved palates of godless patrons—such a thing as an honest straight-forward note of warning from a priest whose whole aim in life is the greater glory of God, is eagerly snatched at.

Special classes for the unfortunate children who do not attend Catholic schools will be held every Monday and Thursday at four o'clock, until the day of the first communion, on May 21.

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THE MAINE DISASTER.

The Report of the Naval Board of Inquiry Completed.

President McKinley's Probable Action upon the Reception of the Document—What Spain Thinks of the Preparations now going on in the United States—The Compensation Bill for the Officers and Crew of the Ill-fated Battleship.

Judging by recent dispatches it would appear that President McKinley has not changed his views in the least in regard to the question of war with Spain.

The report of the board of enquiry, it is said, has reached Washington. The President has suggested to the party leaders that one or both Houses of Congress shall adjourn until Monday.

Should this arrangement be made, the President will have two days in which to examine the Board of Enquiry's report, and possibly make some representations to Spain on the subject of an explanation.

It is almost the unanimous belief among public men that no long delay is now possible, but that Congress will pass a resolution in favor of immediate intervention.

If the reply from Spain should prove satisfactory—if, for instance, an apology is tendered with the promise of ample reparation—he will hold the consular reports and other correspondence bearing on the Cuban question and make them the basis of subsequent representations to Congress for dealing with the general and broader question.

The President, on Tuesday last, called into consultation with him Senator Davis, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee; Senator Shelby M. Culom, a member of the committee; Senator Eugene Hale, Chairman of the Naval Affairs Committee.

One purpose of these conferences was to prevent premature action by either house of Congress when the Board of Inquiry report is made public. The President is most anxious to deal with Spain himself, and to show Prime Minister Sagasta, who has not yet refused anything the President has ever asked, the most punctilious consideration and courtesy.

A New York daily paper contains the following despatch from Madrid, bearing date 22nd instant. It says: The papers here publish full reports of the movements of the United States warships, and of the defensive preparations making by the Government of the United States.

It is reported that the Spanish warship selected to convey the torpedo flotilla has sailed from Cartagena for the Canary Islands. It appears that the delay in the voyage of the boats is due to the fact that the Ariete, one of them, sustained some slight damage while on her way from Cadix to the Canaries.

ECHOES FROM ENGLAND.

Appeal of Cardinal Vaughan in Behalf of Destitute Children.

His Holiness the Pope may be 'Called Upon to Settle the Cuban Dispute—Will There be Another Royal Visit to Ireland?—Boys for the Canadian Territory—Other Interesting Notes.

LONDON, March 15, 1898.

An appeal under the direct approval of Cardinal Vaughan, has been issued for more extensive support for the institutions for destitute Catholic children.

It is learned from Rome that negotiations are at present in progress between the Pope and the Queen Regent of Spain, and the Papal Nuncio and the Spanish Government.

It is freely stated in official circles that there is to be another royal visit to Ireland in the near future, and that in all probability it will fall to the lot of the Prince of Wales and the Princess to do the honors.

Last week there was a great gathering in Cumberwell Baths for the purpose of bidding farewell to a herd of Catholic boys, who in the course of a few days will sail for Canada.

His Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Daley, Bishop of Birmingham, held an ordination on Saturday at St. Mary's Seminary, Oscott. The order of Subdiaconate was conferred on the Rev. Herbert Vaughan (son of Colonel Vaughan and nephew of His Eminence the Cardinal), the Rev. J. Powell, the Rev. J. Connolly, the Rev. C. Bailey, the Rev. L. Emery, the Rev. H. Macdonald, the Rev. J. Bradin and the Rev. W. Bull.

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OUR OTTAWA LETTER.

Grand Celebration of the National Festival.

Her Excellency the Countess of Aberdeen Delivers an Able Address—The Subject was Old Celtic Legends.

OTTAWA, March 24, 1898.

Although almost a week has elapsed since St. Patrick's Day, the method of its celebration is still a prolific subject for conversation and divides the interest with the doings and sayings of the wiser in the Parliament buildings.

In opening the concert Mr. Monaghan made a happy and patriotic speech, occupying a box with Rev. Fathers Constantine and F. J. of the University, were Rev. Fathers O'Reilly and Stanley, two worthy natives of Ireland, who would take back with them a pleasant recollection of the love that still burns in the new world for the old land of our fathers.

How the old Irish jig came in fashion—Believe me the story is true—By Adam and Eve twas invented; The reason why—partners were few.

The great feature of the evening, however, was the address delivered by Her Excellency the Countess of Aberdeen, who chose for her subject that most interesting one, old Celtic legends.

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FROM THE OLD LAND.

Mr. John Parnell Appointed to the Office of City Marshal.

Tenants' Rights Association Pass Resolutions—The Orangemen Nervous About the '98 Celebration—Recent Deaths—Religious Notes and Echoes of the Centenary Demonstrations.

DUBLIN, March 16, 1898.

Mr. John H. Parnell, M.P., has been elected to the office of city marshal of the Corporation, rendered vacant by Mr. Clancy's retirement.

His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin has just appointed the Very Rev. Michael Brady, of St. Laurence O'Toole's Dublin, Archdeacon of Glendalough, in succession to the venerable Archdeacon Keogh, whose demise was announced lately.

Death of an Irish Lord.

Lord Holmpatrick died on Sunday at his residence, Abbotstown, County Dublin. The deceased baron (who was the first holder of the title, having been one of the Diamond Jubilee peers) was well known as the Right Hon. Lord Trant Hamilton, and as a commoner he represented County Dublin in Parliament in the Conservative interest from 1863 to 1885.

Tenants' Defense Association.

At a recent meeting of the Mount Merrick Branch of the Ulster Tenants' Defense Association, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

1st.—That owing to the low price obtainable for all kinds of farm produce and the high price of labor, we look upon the recent decisions given by the sub-commissioners as wholly inadequate, and as depriving the tenants of the benefits of the Land Act, which states that no rent shall be charged on the improvements made by the tenant or his predecessors.

2nd.—That we view with satisfaction the action of the Chief Commissioners in increasing the rents fixed by the Sub-Commissioners, which rents are still too high; such decisions are weakening public confidence in the fitness of the Chief Commissioners for the equitable performance of its duties.

3rd.—That owing to the action of the landlords in opposing the fair working of the Land Act, and in attempting to intimidate the Land Commissioners, we consider that the time has come for the farmers all over Ireland to combine so as to be able to counteract the influences which are at work to deprive them of the benefits of the Land Act.

4th.—That we view with indignation and alarm the action of the landlords in trying to do away with the tenants' property in the shape of occupation and tenant-right interest, and we pledge ourselves to stand shoulder to shoulder with the other tenants of Ulster until our just rights in this respect are properly recognized.

5th.—That owing to the dissatisfaction which exists with the present working of the Land Act, and the opposition of the landlords to every attempt to do justice to the tenant farmers, we call upon the Government to pass a Compulsory Purchase Bill on a fair basis, as we believe that is the only solution of the land question.

Orangemen Arming.

It is learned on reliable authority that the Ulster Orangemen are arming to attack all celebrations of '98 wherever possible.

Rec'd. Dr. Alexander Heron, J.P., corner for S. uth D. wn, hold an inquest in the house of Mr. Michael Walsh, Castle street, Newry, on the body of Matthew W. Lee, a quarry laborer, who was concluded on Eighth Page.