

proved that our suspicion was founded on fact. The Washington correspondent of the New York Times has thrown some new light on the subject by informing the public that the agitation was begun as soon as it was known that the Admiral was about to marry a Catholic lady, and it is otherwise known that several ministers who have in the past rendered themselves conspicuous by their A. P. A. proclivities, took part in promoting the agitation, simply because the Admiral was to marry a Catholic.

The Times' correspondent says: "It was religious bigotry which poisoned the shafts against the Admiral. The story which spread everywhere in Washington on Monday and is still alive was that the house which the American people had given to Dewey was to become the property of the Roman Catholic Church."

This story it repeated with the utmost circumstantiality, accounts for the Admiral's haste in marrying and for all the subsequent events by ascribing them to the greed of the Church and its desire to obtain the Dewey house for a paragon and to get hold of the property as soon as possible. The influence of this religious bigotry was as soon as the Admiral's engagement became known, and especially after the marriage. There was a distinct cooling off in the enthusiasm for him because he was a Catholic.

It is further explained that care was taken by the propagators of this unfounded report to endeavor to prevent the story which was thus privately circulated, from appearing in print, and it was actually kept out of print until it appeared in a Southern newspaper.

We do not, by any means, consider the American people as a whole responsible for this exhibition of religious fanaticism by a small coterie of Washington bigots, but truth compels us to say that there are throughout the country a goodly number of persons to be found whose sentiments are quite in accord with those of these narrow minded people. A proof of this is to be found in the single fact that even before the name of Admiral Dewey was hushed at a public entertainment in Washington, it had already been broadly stated by many that before his marriage the Admiral was regarded as not merely a possible, but even a probable successful candidate for the Presidency, but that the marriage had put his name outside of the list of possible aspirants to that dignity. The Admiral himself, however, never had any thought, much less any desire to seek the office, for when the subject had been mentioned to him, he had always declared that he had no political aspirations. Notwithstanding this, and in spite of the large measure of ingratitude which has been shown towards him, he has declared several times that if his services are again required in time of war for the public benefit, he will always be at the disposal of his country for such a purpose.

MANUFACTURING CHURCH HISTORY.

We have on several occasions pointed out the tendency of reporters for the public press to evolve out of their own brains ecclesiastical news so far as the Catholic Church and the Pope are concerned, and we have had during the past week another instance of this tendency to invent Church history.

The item to which we have now occasion to refer is in the form of a telegraphic despatch from a Washington reporter to the press and is as follows:

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH WILL OBSERVE ITS DAWN ON NEW YEAR'S EVE.

New York, Dec. 12.—News of interest to Roman Catholics comes from London to the effect that the Apostolic Delegate there has received the text of the decree of the Pope designating the year 1900 as the holy year. The decree permits the celebration of midnight Mass in all Catholic churches on the night of Dec. 31. This is the first time in the history of the Church that any priest has been permitted to celebrate Mass at the midnight Mass. This is also without precedent. Another feature of the decree settled it, that so far as the Catholic Church is concerned, the twentieth century will begin on Jan. 1, 1900. The language of the decree is too plain to admit of dispute.

The statement that the Holy Father has appointed the year 1900 to be a Holy Year of Jubilee for the Catholic Church is correct, and it is probably correct also so far as the statement is made that special privileges are granted in the Pope's decree in regard to the celebration of the holy sacrifice of the Mass at midnight of December 31st, which means on the morning of New Year's Day, the feast of the Circumcision of our Lord Jesus Christ, for the inauguration of the year of Jubilee. It is quite within the authority of the Supreme head of the Church to grant such privileges, and the occasion is one which is worthy of a special exercise of the Pope's supreme authority to make such a concession as an inducement to Catholics throughout the world to gain for themselves the graces

to be obtained by the performance of certain good works to which the blessings of an Indulgence are attached for those who perform such works in the state of grace and friendship with God.

The power of granting such Indulgences was conferred by Christ upon St. Peter when our Lord said to him: "Whosoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." This power of granting such Indulgences comes to the Pope as the successor of St. Peter, and the Indulgence itself is the "remission of the temporal punishment due to sin when the sin itself has been forgiven by God."

In fact as certain good works—which are really works of penance for sin—are always prescribed for the gaining of Indulgences, they may be regarded practically as a commutation of works of penance for sin, rather than an absolute remission of such penitential works, though the remission of certain penitential works is also within the power of the Head of Christ's Church. An Indulgence is, therefore, not what many Protestants are accustomed to misrepresent it to be, "a license to commit sin." It is a remission or a commutation of the punishment of the penitential works which are prescribed to be imposed on penitents who have committed certain sins.

So far, therefore, we have no reason to doubt the accuracy of the Washington despatch. But when the news-maker adds that the Pope has made the twentieth century begin for the Catholic Church on January 1st, 1900, he is, of course, drawing on his own vivid imagination, for the sake of enabling some imaginative newspaper editors to write sensational articles on the ignorance of the Holy Father.

The Montreal Witness has been caught in the trap thus laid by the Washington despatch maker, and in its issue of the 12th inst. it has an editorial article attempting to prove that the Holy Father "persists in declaring the hundredth year to be the first in the next hundredth, and the nineteenth hundredth year to be the first of the twentieth century," and that he has thus "reached a conclusion so absurd mathematically."

The Witness concludes its article by saying: "The Roman Catholic Church, if it celebrates next New Year as the dawn of a new century, will be celebrating an obvious scientific error. Yet it is said that the Church is to depart from many of its traditions with regard to Mass in honor of this departure from fact. It would seem that the Church is to be governed not by facts, but by an old usage of the Italian language."

It is needless to say that the Witness has been betrayed by its old time hostility to the Pope and the Catholic Church, and by its desire to show off some acquaintance with the fancied "usages of the Italian language," into making the statement that the Holy Father's decree is inconsistent with mathematical science.

The Jubilee is proclaimed with the design of animating the faith of Catholics, and increasing their love for God, and their gratitude for the blessings conferred by God on mankind. It makes no difference to mathematical science whether the graces of the Jubilee are conferred in the last year of the nineteenth or the first year of the twentieth century. As a matter of fact, however, the Jubilee is to begin with the celebration of Christmas of the present year 1899, and as it will continue during the whole year 1900, it will unite the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, though there is no absolute necessity that this should have been the case; but the supposed mistake of the Holy Father has no existence save in the brains of the Washington newspaper man, and the overcredulous editor of the Montreal Witness. It is not the first time that these and other authorities have endeavored to make fanciful ecclesiastical history wherein the Catholic Church has been concerned.

Since the above was written, the Washington history manufacturer has sent another despatch acknowledging that his first account of the matter was incorrect, inasmuch as the Pope's Jubilee decree states expressly that the twentieth century will begin on 1st January 1901. This correction appears in the columns of the Montreal Witness and other papers, showing how utterly baseless were the wretched attempts at witicism which were supposed to be made at the Holy Father's expense.

His Grace, the Archbishop of Montreal, has likewise sent to the Witness the following letter in reference to its ludicrous editorial on the subject. This letter appears in the Witness of the 14th inst.:

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THE POPE AND THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

To the Editor of the Witness:

Sir.—In last night's Witness I read a New York despatch announcing the appearance of a Papal decree relative to the inauguration of the approaching century. As I have not seen the text of the decree in question, I am not in a position to speak on the subject. However, on the strength of that despatch you published in last evening's issue an editorial against which I deem it my duty to protest. The writer refers to the Pope in terms calculated to give offence to every Catholic. He alludes to Papal infallibility, indirectly it is true, and in a manner which shows once more the false notions held by some separated brethren concerning Catholic dogma. As a matter of fact, the question at issue, "When does the new century begin?" has no connection whatever with the infallibility of the Pope.

I remain, yours truly,

Paul, Archbishop of Montreal, Dec. 13, 1899.

THE HOLY YEAR.

The following is a translation of the Decree of the Holy Father proclaiming 1900 as the Holy Year. It will be noticed that the pretence of some newspapers that the Pope makes a mistake by saying that the year 1900 will begin the twentieth century is absolutely false, as he states that it will begin after midnight of 31st December, 1900.

It is the highest degree proper that those who will celebrate the beginning of the Sacred year happily indicated by our Most Holy Father and Lord Leo XIII should rise at night to approach the Altar of the century and prostrate themselves before His altars, and that a most acceptable sacrifice should be offered up, namely, that the divine Lamb should be present at the feast, that they may at the most suitable time find help, grace and mercy for now the acceptable time: Behold! now is the day of salvation. Behold! now is the day of salvation.

But if the Kingdom of God, that is, the Church of the present time, is said to be like to the ten virgins who met the spouse by night, especially on this happy solemnity, it is proper that all should apply their minds more particularly to these sacred words: Trim your lamps: Behold the spouse cometh: Go forth to meet Him.

Also inasmuch as at midnight of the last day of December of next year the present century will come to an end, and the new one will begin, it is most fit that thanks be rendered to God by some pious and solemn rite of this century, and that further blessings should be received for the future in the urgent necessities of the times, that the new century be begun auspiciously.

Therefore, that the coming year 1900 may be prosperous, through the aid asked from God and His only begotten Son our Saviour, and that it end prosperously, so that we may hope that a much happier century may follow it, our Most Holy Lord Leo XIII. has benignly granted that on the 31st of December both of the present, and of the coming year, in all churches and chapels where the Most Holy Eucharist is lawfully kept, the same Most August Sacrament may be exposed for adoration at midnight, according to the prudent liberty granted by the Ordinary of each locality, the rite being granted to read or sing one Mass only before it at the same hour (namely) the Mass of the Circumcision of our Lord and the Octave of the Nativity: and by special favor, the faithful may receive Holy Communion either during the Mass, or out of Mass: all other requisite conditions being observed.

All other things to the contrary notwithstanding. Dated 18th of November, 1899.

Cardinal Mazzella, S. R. C., Bishop of Prestepe, Prefect. D. Panici, S. R. C., Secretary.

REV. DR. DE COSTA.

We have much pleasure in publishing the following letter, lately received from Dr. De Costa by a priest of Hamilton diocese who had for a long time been in communication with the distinguished convert:

New York, N.Y., Nov. 30, 1899. Dear Father—You will rejoice to know that I am now in the Church. I expect to make my profession Sunday afternoon at 5 o'clock. It is a long struggle that I have been through, but I have been wonderfully supported, and the prayers of the faithful have been a great grace of consolation and strength.

Especially am I indebted to you and your friends for the deep interest taken. I thank you and all from the bottom of my heart.

By the end of next week I hope to send you my "Statement."

In haste, very respectfully in Christ. B. F. De Costa.

St. Andrew's day.

As one fault leads to another, so one good deed disposes us to perform others. Maxims are to the intellect what laws are to actions; they do not enlighten, but guide and direct, and though themselves blind are protecting.

THE TRANSVAAL WAR.

The latest news from the seat of war is the most disquieting and unexpected which has been received for the beginning of hostilities. The hopes of the British public were centred upon General Buller, who has been known as a determined fighter, and who when backed with a large army was thought to be invincible.

Furthermore, so late as Thursday, the 11th, a report came from London to the effect that General Buller had succeeded in relieving Ladysmith, which has been so long besieged, and that ten thousand Boers had been captured.

The War office did not credit this story, as it was deemed that the battle before Ladysmith had not been taken place yet, as there had been no intimation that Buller and Clery had reached Ladysmith; nevertheless, the news was given to the public, and it was because such an event was desired that it was credited, and the public were misled.

On Friday, the 12th, however, the whole situation changed suddenly when the authentic information came that General Buller's army had experienced a decisive check, having been repulsed in an attack upon the Boer position, and that General Buller had been obliged to retreat to a new position. The Boer army, having been repulsed in a repulse but not a defeat. The Boer army, having been repulsed in a repulse but not a defeat.

New energy has been infused into the Government by this defeat, and General Buller has been appointed General-in-Chief, with Lord Kitchener as his second-in-command. General Buller, however, will still direct the campaign in Natal. It has been decided that the Boer army will be sent immediately to South Africa, and it is estimated that General Buller's army will be sent immediately to South Africa, and it is estimated that General Buller's army will be sent immediately to South Africa.

The state of affairs is made much worse by the fact that General Buller, when he was repulsed, had been badly wounded, and his army was in a state of confusion. The Boer army, having been repulsed in a repulse but not a defeat. The Boer army, having been repulsed in a repulse but not a defeat.

It was reported that the Canadian contingent had been with General Buller when the defeat was inflicted, and that it had suffered severely. This report was not true, as the Canadian contingent was not with General Buller when the defeat was inflicted, and that it had suffered severely.

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HON. F. R. LATCHFORD.

Commissioner of Public Works Banquet at Ottawa.

Ottawa, Dec. 10.—Ottawa's citizens, without regard to political affiliations, gathered there last night to do honor to Hon. Francis R. Latchford, the new Commissioner of Public Works in the Ontario Government.

The banquet was held at the Hotel McLeod, and was presided over by Hon. J. G. Blair, Hon. R. W. Scott, Hon. John Costigan, Hon. R. W. Stratton, Messrs. N. A. Belcourt, Mr. F. H. Latchford, Mr. P. D. Ross, Mr. J. W. Whalen and George O'Keefe, police magistrate, were seated at the head table.

The speech of Hon. F. R. Latchford was most appropriate, in that he pointed out the occasion was strictly non-political. He expressed his pleasure at meeting his fellow citizens of Ottawa and the large and representative assembly of Canadians. On the basis of citizenship he expressed his delight in meeting his fellow citizens of Ottawa and the large and representative assembly of Canadians.

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A VALUABLE GIFT FROM JUDGE MACMAHON.

On Thursday, Dec. 14, a very interesting occurrence took place in the township of Biddeford, in the establishment of a library in connection with St. Patrick's church, of which Rev. Father Noonan is the very much respected pastor.

Justice MacMahon made known his intention to establish a public library in several of the parishes in Western Ontario, specifically for the township of Biddeford and the township of Gilmerville. Thursday, he carried out his purpose by presenting a valuable collection of books to the church, which he had gathered together in the course of his travels.

Rev. Father Noonan introduced Judge MacMahon to the audience assembled in the school-house. His Lordship was delighted to see, by the presence of such a large audience, the interest manifested in the work that had been undertaken of founding a public library in the township of Biddeford. It is a very valuable collection of books, and it is estimated that it will be worth about \$200.

Everything must have a beginning, and the library is no exception. It is a very valuable collection of books, and it is estimated that it will be worth about \$200. It is a very valuable collection of books, and it is estimated that it will be worth about \$200.

The reading public was by this library—small as it is—supplied with history, fiction, and other books. It is a very valuable collection of books, and it is estimated that it will be worth about \$200.

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THE CHURCH IN THE PHILIPPINES.

To the Editor of the Catholic Record:

Sir.—As the reading of your recent editorial in reference to the building of Catholic churches in the Philippines may astonish many in Canada, perhaps, it may not be amiss to point out a few facts in connection with the military occupation of the islands. They will in a manner account for the atrocious crime of looting the Catholic churches. Nearly all the armies of the world to-day are made up of soldiers who are largely responsible for the continued fighting in the islands are American soldiers dismissed from the army of occupation on account of their scandalous conduct. The stories of American soldiers holding up unfortunate natives for their camps at Manila and elsewhere, re-a city from which one of the regiments went to the front, saying that the men who are largely responsible for the continued fighting in the islands are American soldiers dismissed from the army of occupation on account of their scandalous conduct.

The reading public was by this library—small as it is—supplied with history, fiction, and other books. It is a very valuable collection of books, and it is estimated that it will be worth about \$200.

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CATARH

Attacks the head first, but it soon creeps down into other and more vital organs. It is the cause of many stubborn cases of catarrh, and is often mistaken for other diseases.

Doctors do not recognize its many forms.

DR. SPROULE

has made a specialty of this treacherous disease. His treatment is constitutional and reaches all parts of the body. He will advise and diagnose your case FREE, and tell you just what the proper treatment will be. Send for a FREE BOOK on Catarrh. Address Dr. SPROULE, 7 to 13 Duane St., Boston, Mass.

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Mr. WATKIN MILLS

England's... Most Eminent Bass

ASSISTED BY MR. HENRY S. SAUNDERS Solo Violoncellist and MR. W. SPENCER JONES Accompanist

AUDITORIUM—ONE NIGHT ONLY

Thursday, December 28th.

Popular and only prices, 50c and 75c. No extra charge for reserve. Plan opens at Auditorium at 7 o'clock, Dec. 28th, 1900.

Note: Mr. Mills will sing selections from all the great masters. Also, from his own compositions. Also, from his own compositions. Also, from his own compositions.

Concert will be under direction of Messrs. Poesche and McCormick.

1900.

SOUVENIR OF THE HOLY YEAR.

The Catholic Almanac of Ontario and Clergy List. Splendidly Illustrated Throughout.

APPROVED BY THE APOSTOLIC DELEGATE AND THE ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS OF ONTARIO.

The history of Catholicity in Ontario is a grand history, and Catholic parents could easily supply their children with the very valuable information by subscribing to the Catholic Almanac—Fergus Patrick McVay, Bishop of London.

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