

president of the St. Vincent de Paul societies, was one of the first-night speakers. He was introduced by Rev. Father Southwell, Prior of the Carmelite Fathers in New York, and spoke of the great work effected by the Fathers since the parish was organized, twelve years ago. He dwelt especially on their work amongst the sick and poor in Bellevue Hospital, where the members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society have had constant opportunities of witnessing the zeal and the great spiritual advantages afforded thereby to the poor of the city by the American Carmelites.

* * *

The Very Rev. Father Luigi Malfatti, who has lived for many years in the Island of Malta, has been elected Procurator General of the Calced Carmelites in Rome.

* * *

His Excellency Mgr. Falconio, the Papal delegate to Canada, gives the Catholic Record, of London, Ont., a hearty endorsement. Writing to the editor, Thomas Coffey, Esq., he says: "For some time past I have read your estimable paper, The Catholic Record, and congratulate you upon the manner in which it is published. Its matter and form are both good; and a truly Catholic spirit pervades the whole. Therefore, with pleasure, I can recommend it to the faithful."

* * *

PIOUS CRANKS.

A topic lately discussed is "Are Religious and Pious People Cranky?" There are many opinions pro and con. We accept the comments of a worthy Jesuit, Father Merrick. He says:—

"If I meet an agnostic friend, most probably he will say, 'How are you, Father M.? Do come and take dinner with me. I have some old port wine I wish you to taste.' If I meet a very devout friend, the first thing he will say, probably, will be to complain of the weather

or to inquire why the sacristan lit only five candles at the eight o'clock Mass instead of six. I unreservedly throw all the blame on the devil. I believe the pious people are naturally just as good fellows as the infidels, but the devil won't let them alone. Take a novice, for example. I remember seeing a novice, when I was one myself, passing a broom seven times over the same corner of a room, with his eyes quite shut. What was the sense of that? Decidedly our guardian angels are not going to suggest to us to be silly or cantankerous. Who does it, then? If not nature or our guardian angels, it must be the Old Boy. I hold for a principle that, if the above named individual would only leave pious people in peace, life would be a great deal more pleasant for all of us. I cannot admit that, as a class devout, God-fearing persons, God-loving persons are naturally disagreeable, unnatural, etc. Therefore, let us blame the devil for it all. There will be no great harm done even if we are mistaken."

* * *

Replying to a query, "Do we charge for putting poetry in the Messenger?" As a general rule, we don't, though we feel we should, in some cases. In others, we would willingly pay our poets—could we afford it—to keep their lucubrations away, says the esteemed Father who wields the pen for this excellent Canadian publication of the Jesuits. The Carmelite Review has received its quota of May musings and June blushing roses and the editor promises to pray for his persecutors.

* * *

There are only about 25,000 Freemasons in France, and they have succeeded in electing 400 Deputies and Senators. Every 60 Freemasons have one representative in the French Parliament, while people outside the lodges have only one representative for every 18,000. This