

Ribald Atheism in the Schools of France.

Teacher Mocks Catholic Pupil's Prayer. The Lord's Prayer and Ave Maria Held up to Ridicule.

Maurice Barres, one of the foremost literary men of France, and a member of the French Academy, gave a lecture the other night, writes the Paris correspondent of the New York Evening Mail. It was not widely advertised. But the title was interesting—"Les Mauvais Instituteurs." ("The Bad Teachers"). So I bought a ticket to the Salle Wagram.

Doings in a French School.

It was an interesting lecture. It was a partisan plea by an able man who endeavored to divert himself of partisanship. He did not quite succeed. He felt his topic too deeply. He did succeed in affecting an audience of perhaps a thousand men and women of the better classes to tears of indignation.

This is the story that M. Barres told, as of his own knowledge, of what happened a few weeks ago in a school in the suburbs of Paris:

The teacher of this school is married. His wife has charge of the children under 6 and he of the pupils between 6 and 13 years of age. He is secretary of the mayor, which adds to his influence in the town.

Every child sent by its parents to church is warned that if it persists in going or if it makes its first communion it will be refused its certificate of examinations for promotion to the higher schools.

The parents do not dare complain; most of them are poor, many depend

upon municipal work; the reprisals of the school principal would react not only upon their children, but upon themselves. Besides, there is no one to whom they could complain for all the local authorities are in socialistic sympathy.

Scolding at the Lord's Prayer.

The other day M. Barres said a little girl of 7 who had committed the fault of going to church on Sunday was ordered to stand on a table before the entire class and recite the Lord's Prayer.

"Our Father who art in heaven," she began.

Then the schoolmaster: "Hold on there! Your father is not in heaven! Don't tell fairy tales! I just passed him in the street!"

All the children laughed. "Give us this day our daily bread," the child continued.

Again the schoolmaster: "Stop! Stop! It isn't your father who gives you bread. It is the baker."

And so the interruptions from clause to clause. But the tiny girl, sobbing from embarrassment and fright, was forced to go on until the close.

Mocked at the "Ave Maria."

Again the next Sunday she was at church. Again on the Monday she was put upon the table, and this time forced to recite the "Ave Maria."

"Hail Mary," she went no further. "Wait! Wait!" called the schoolmaster. "Good manners above every-

thing. Does that woman visit your home? Have you been introduced to her? You must never salute any ladies except those you know."

At that point, M. Barres, says, a 10 year old boy pulled the sobbing baby down from her perch of shame and told the schoolmaster that he was bad and their mothers would not like it. And from the boy and girl and their companions the story came.

I think most Americans would like to meet that boy and show him a good time for a day. However, that is beside the question.

Barres a Responsible Man.

I do not vouch for these facts. I have called twice at the home of M. Barres to ask him to verify his statements and give me names, dates and places. He is absent from Paris. I put forth the story merely as he told it.

I add only that it is entitled to the same credence as if William Dean Howells, or Dr. Van Dyke, or Mark Twain, or Presidents Eliot or Butler had told on the lecture platform in New York of an incident that they vouched for having happened in a public school at Yonkers or White Plains.

Secularization of education, like several other good phrases, apparently has different meanings in France and America. It is worth at least the impartial investigation of The Evening Mail.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

The Catholic Sun, of Syracuse, New York, is an excellent Catholic weekly. We have much pleasure in publishing the following clipping taken from its columns and headed, "Exchanges Please Read."

The Catholic press, far and near, is so generous to this journal, in honoring it with comment, quotation and republication, that we cannot feel otherwise than grateful.

Still, there is one thing that grieves us. We notice that several esteemed contemporaries persistently refer to this journal as the Syracuse Sun. The sole Freeman's Journal, of New York, is the latest to wound us in this way. There are others that do so week after week.

Now, the truth is that there is no paper called the Syracuse Sun. This is the Catholic Sun and such has been its name for years. We do not object to the term Syracuse Catholic Sun, if our friends so desire to put it, but do not leave out the word "Catholic."

We are earnestly trying to produce a bright, helpful Catholic journal, and it pains us to find it intimated that we are not doing so. It is pleasant to be quoted, but it hurts to find the glory going to something that does not exist.

MGR. BERNARD O'REILLY.

Mgr. Bernard O'Reilly, once confessor to Emperor Napoleon III, and godfather to King Alfonso XIII, died recently at Mount St. Vincent, N. Y.

Mgr. O'Reilly was born in County Mayo, Ireland, and was 91 years old. When he was 16 years old he emigrated to Quebec. There he was graduated from Laval University. For a time he was connected with St. John's College, in Fordham, N. Y., and later, in 1847, he entered the Society of Jesus. During his stay in Canada he kept in touch with Irish affairs, and was an eager worker for home rule.

He was chaplain of the Sixty-ninth New York Regiment in the Civil War. On the close of the war he went to France, and as confessor to Napoleon III, remained there until the downfall of the empire.

He was well known to nearly every royal personage in Europe. He was godfather to the present King of Spain and wrote the biographies of Pope Pius IX. and Pope Leo XIII.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS.

Rev. M. J. O'Brien, D.D., chancellor of the diocese of Peterboro, Ont., and Rev. F. J. Sullivan, of Lindsay, Ont., arrived here on Thursday, May 2, for

the purpose of taking the Empress steamship, which sailed on Saturday morning for Europe. Rome is their objective point. The reverend gentlemen, who are prominent members of the Knights of Columbus order, spent a few hours pleasantly on Thursday seeing the town under the guidance of Mr. John Keefe, manager of the James Robertson Co.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

Messrs. P. J. Mooney, and M. F. Mooney, contractors, have been at Grand Falls looking over the ground with a view of tendering for the building of the new Catholic church, and grading and changing several miles of track for the C. P. R. & C. Drury, builder, chosen by the insurance company to appraise the damage caused by fire to the Minto hotel, was also there.

Messrs. J. S. Gibbon & Co., on Saturday completed the purchase of the Lloyd estate wharf and warehouse at the foot of Union street. The price is said to be in the vicinity of \$12,000. The property is particularly well adapted for the coal business and is now used by Mr. J. S. McGovern. The warehouse is a large brick structure. The property will give the new owners excellent opportunities to carry on their large and steadily growing coal business.

Mr. J. J. McCaffrey, proprietor of the Queen Hotel, Fredericton, has purchased the John G. Adams property on Queen street, in that city, and will convert it into part of his hotel, the improvements to be made this summer. The price paid was about \$6,000.

Dr. R. F. Quigley will deliver his lecture on "Cardinal Newman," in the Lyceum, Charlottetown, P. E. Island on May 16th.

Mr. John F. Gleeson has removed from the Canada Permanent Co.'s building to 120 Prince William street, in the offices formerly occupied by the New York Life Insurance Co., opposite the Bank of New Brunswick. The offices of the Exhibition Association, Leonard J. Hughes, and the registrar of probates will also be found there.

HIS SAD MISTAKE.

"Yes, he thought he was getting a prize when he married her."

"He fell in love at first sight, didn't he?"

"Yes. He saw her getting off a street car in the right way and at once concluded she was the one woman in all the world for him."

"Go on."

"He found when it was too late that she had become confused and got off the car in the right way because she thought it was going in the other direction."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

MUST RESPECT THE CHURCH.

Writing from Rome, Henry Watterston, Louisville's distinguished editor and lecturer, says: "No thoughtful man can look upon the Church of Rome with reverence and respect. Nor can any such believe that its downfall would 'mend human conditions.' But ever since the ecumenical Council revitalized the old feudal standards and applied new tests, the Vatican has changed the old lines to read: 'Whilst the Church stands, Rome shall stand; and when Rome falls, the world, meaning by Rome unyielding Catholicity. The prelates of the Vatican, many of them great men and all of them great theologians, are quite one and wholly sincere in the opinion that Pius Nono was right; that Leo was right, and that in following in their footsteps the present Head of the Church is right; that Catholicism has only to stand its ground, yielding not an inch or a rood; in a word, that innovation is not only blasphemous, but politic. They point to the misadventures attending the Revised Scriptures. They point to the difficulties encountered by all attempts to modify the Westminster Catechism. They point to the massive solidarity of the Roman hierarchy. It is not easy to meet and answer their contention, especially here in Rome itself, where the Vatican is so large and impressive, the Quirinal so unimposing, the Holy Father so great a figure, the King such a small one."

MARY'S PROPOSALS.

"Did Miss Flype receive many proposals while at Blackpool?"

"Many! Why, receiving proposals has got to be a habit with her. She has got so used to them that she can't hear a soda water bottle pop without exclaiming, 'This is so sudden!'" — Tatler.

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK.

The first morning the new teacher was at the village school he taught a lesson in mental arithmetic and gave the following example:

"If I had seven oranges and 11 more are given to me, then I give five of them to a friend, how many oranges have I left?"

The new teacher could not understand the puzzled expression of the children's faces or why he received no answer, but thinking they must be rather dull repeated the question. After a little silence a small hand was raised.

"Well, little boy, how many are left?"

"Please, sir," timidly replied the boy, "we always do our sum with apples."—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

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