

Father Martin Callaghan

REVIEWS THE WORK OF THE YEAR.



REV. MARTIN CALLAGHAN, P.P.

On Sunday last at High Mass, Rev. Martin Callaghan, pastor of St. Patrick's, this city, having in view the custom and usage of the past, made the following statement in regard to the spiritual and temporal phases of the work of the old parish during the year which will close with this issue of the "True Witness."

Father Callaghan said:— I am prepared to let you have a thorough idea of how the parish of St. Patrick stands at the present moment without being disproportionately long. It is proper that you should not be unacquainted with the situation, and still less misapprehend it. In reminding or informing you of what has happened in our parish during the current year I shall not touch upon the financial question. The parish is not in many respects at this date what it was twelve months ago. You will be in a position to judge from my report whether it has improved or not. The year 1903 will never pass into oblivion. It marks the beginning of a new epoch in our history. No previous year could point to a record of greater importance.

Many changes have taken place which were unanticipated, except by the few that belonged to the inner circle. What is that most deserving of being noticed is the transfer of St. Patrick's parish from the Sulpician Fathers to His Grace the Archbishop, from a most influential community to the Irish secular clergy. This transfer caused a profound sensation, not only throughout this city, but far beyond its boundaries. The news was anything but welcome to the parish. No wonder. For upwards of fifty years it was served by a class of priests who were loved, esteemed and revered. Not less distinguished were they, for their learning than their piety, for their noble disinterestedness than their unaltered zeal in promoting the glory of God and the welfare of souls. Their memory is enshrined and embalmed in all hearts.

The gentlemen of the Seminary were at all times devoted to the Irish people. From the day they took them under their charge till the hour they were relieved from all re-

sponsibility they did their utmost to preserve and transmit the faith of the Emerald Isle. Most assuredly they are entitled to a tribute of gratitude of which nothing will dispossess them.

You must have had to suffer in your feelings from the transfer in question. Was it not the greatest prudence on your part not to have said or done anything that might give scandal and that you might repent. You trusted in the Providence of God and you have not been disappointed. You felt confident that no serious injury could be inflicted upon a parish over which watched St. Patrick, our national Apostle.

If at certain moments you were afraid of contingencies that presented themselves to your minds you have dispelled all fear. In your breasts you nourish now nothing but the most sanguine hopes.

Never was the state of affairs more satisfactory, prosperous or promising. It was in the spring of this year that the warden system was introduced. This system is calculated to awaken the most practical interest in whatever concerns your welfare, though it does not prevail amongst English-speaking Catholics and may degenerate into an evil of the most alarming magnitude. Our canonical parish is enlarged and its civil erection gazetted. You may consider it unnecessary to advocate compulsory education. Scarcely any of our children fail to attend school. Our children may choose between at least a score of educational establishments most admirably conducted. The average attendance may be computed to 1,300 pupils; 600 boys and 700 girls are daily educated. All our children are fond of study and qualified for the most unlimited progress in all kinds of knowledge.

We have had in our midst a High School. It could not be continued, as it started. For its continuation it would be necessary to paralyze all the energies of the parish and drain all its pecuniary resources; it would be necessary to exhaust all the funds in the exchequer of St. Bridget's Refuge. Was it fair that I should be left severely alone to face all that it would cost to run an institution which was of an inter-parochial and

international character whatever else it might have appeared to be? The High School has not ceased to exist. It has always held and still holds a place of distinction in the hearts of a chartered board of prominent citizens. With the reforms in certain ways and the amount of money on hand nothing will be easier for the Catholic High School than to assert itself in the proper form and guarantee to the public all the success that might be desired to the friends and patrons of education.

In a few years we shall be obliged to have a school for the majority of our boys. By having it we shall cancel a debt of \$20,000, for which no interest has to be paid. You should not be slow in removing our boys from the premises they are occupying. The neighborhood now is anything, but an elevating or inspiring description. What could be too good or grand for our dear little fellows, no matter what kind of parents they may have? The future of state and Church is in their hands. Should you not hasten to provide them with a school which in point of location, accommodation and efficiency will be unsurpassed in the land?

During the course of this year we had two pilgrimages which besides the manifold spiritual advantages they had netted a handsome bank deposit which is reserved for the school of which I am speaking. Who has yet forgotten the mission given during the last Lenten season by the Passionists? It made a deep and lasting impression upon the minds and hearts of the thousands and thousands that followed it. I am hoping that the mission which will be given under the direction of the Paulists at the opening of the coming Lent will not be less productive of the happiest results, not less efficacious in uprooting vice and prescribing scandal, in fostering virtue and enforcing this principle of duty.

Mostly all our children are catechized during the week either by Rev. Duke Callaghan or Rev. P. Heffernan. The balance are religiously instructed on every Sunday afternoon in St. Patrick's Hall by Rev. Father Killoran. He has between 90 and 100 boys and girls listening to

his catechetical instructions. He has them graded. Fifteen young ladies question them upon the lesson which they were given to prepare upon the previous Sunday. I am sorry the Sunday catechism is not more largely attended. All the parents who should send their children to this catechism should see that they do not lose this opportunity in their Faith.

The cause of charity has always been dear to the parishioners of St. Patrick. Never has it been said that anybody died from being starved or frozen.

Two Sisters are in charge of our poor. A committee of gentlemen has been formed to assist them in their work. It has for its president Rev. P. Heffernan. It has regular meetings, at which all who may apply for food, fuel or anything else are given a hearing and treated with the greatest consideration.

The St. Patrick's Cadets are not in any sense a disappointment or embarrassment. They are really a credit to the parish, to themselves and their parents. The junior division is in first class condition. It is composed of boys who frequent St. Patrick's School. The senior division drill in the Catholic High School building. A number of gentlemen who are not by any means deficient in brain, heart or prominence have volunteered to see after this division in all kinds of ways. Our Cadets should be congratulated upon the reputation which they have earned for themselves. They have served to enhance our parades and celebrations. They cannot but contribute towards the prestige of our parish.

This parish can be visited without any difficulty in the space of a month by four priests. We have just visited it in all its length and breadth. The number of widows, or widowers and unmarrieds is almost incredible. We have reckoned 1,800 families, 6,000 communicants, 8,000 souls. Five priests suffice for the ministry. We could not in our visitations have been accorded a better reception. We have been treated like princes. St. Patrick's parish has to depend less upon the members living in the vicinity of the Church as well as at a comparative distance. Stand by one another and by the priests in charge of your spiritual welfare. Nothing will ruin our parish but the spirit of disloyalty or an injudicious dismemberment. Should it go down it will remain down never to rise. I must avail myself of this opportunity to express my unfeigned delight in having as curates the priests sent me by His Grace the Archbishop. No pastor could have worthier curates than the pastor of St. Patrick's. They are high-minded, true-hearted and self-sacrificing.

You should thank God for all His mercies. The best manifestation of your gratitude will consist in not offending Him and in accomplishing His holy will.

C. M. B. A. NOTES,

A BIG SOCIAL.—As already announced the big progressive euchre party and social of Branch No. 232, will be held in the Windsor Hall, on Friday evening, January 22nd, 1904. The Committee of Management are sparing no efforts to make it one of the greatest successes that has ever taken place in the Windsor.

The supper is to be served by the Windsor Hotel in the large dining room, and it promises to be one of the features of the evening's entertainment. Accommodation will be furnished for all at one sitting as the dining room is large and spacious.

Another pleasant feature of the evening's pleasure will be the music, by Ratto Bros. orchestra having been engaged for this occasion.

The progressive euchre part of the programme will prove to be not the least enjoyable of the evening, as the committee are hard at work selecting a number of most beautiful and costly prizes for the six ladies and six gentlemen who will have the first luck of the New Year's to win them. A new card table (green in color), which has just been introduced by Mr. H. P. Sullivan, manager for N. G. Valiquette's West End store, St. Catherine street, will be used for the first time.

The Committee of Management desire to inform their friends that this is the only entertainment that the Branch will give this season, and as the tickets are strictly limited to 200, they should not delay in procuring them, as no tickets will be sold at the door on the night of the entertainment.

The tickets have been placed at the sum of \$3.00, which admits one lady and gentleman, or two ladies, and extra ladies' tickets at \$1.50.

LESSONS OF THE NEWS.

CHURCHES BURNED.—A despatch from Metuchen, N.J., of date Dec. 21, says:—

St. Francis' Church was destroyed recently by fire, which started from some unknown cause while the children of the parochial school were in the Church practicing the singing of hymns for Christmas. All of the children escaped without injury. The rectory, which adjoins the Church, was also badly damaged by the fire. The loss is estimated at about \$8,000.

Rev. Father John Graham, the pastor of the Church, was ill with pneumonia in the rectory, and was carried out shortly after the fire started and before the flames spread to the rectory. He was thoroughly wrapped in blankets and so conveyed to a near-by house, and it is believed he suffered no harm.

Another despatch records the destruction by fire of the Church of St. Augustine, of Jeffersonville, Ind. It was a brick building and the largest Catholic Church in southern Indiana. It was built thirty-five years ago at a cost of \$30,000, and had just been equipped with a new organ at a cost of \$3,000, and a new altar at a cost of \$1,500. The fire started in the belfry, but the cause is unknown.

PARNELL STATUE.—An American newspaper says:—

Augustus St. Gaudens, the eminent sculptor, is making rapid progress on the monument of the late Charles Stewart Parnell, which will be erected in O'Connell street, Dublin.

For some time he has been engaged on the models at his studio in Windsor, Vt., and has so far advanced that he is having two models of the monument made in New York, to be forwarded to the committee in Dublin. When the latter makes its choice the process of completing the statue will be pushed along rapidly. Work on certain portions will be proceeding even while the models of other portions are being prepared.

AN ORDINATION.—Local journals in Peterborough record the ordination of Rev. Patrick Kelly, on December 20, in St. Peter's Cathedral. His Grace Archbishop of Toronto officiated.

Rev. Father Kelly is the son of Mr. Thomas Kelly, 352 Simcoe St. He received his early education in the Peterborough schools, where his course was one which reflected a great deal of credit. His classical course was taken in St. Michael's College, Toronto, and in Ottawa University and for the past five years he has been preparing for the priesthood at the Grand Seminary, Montreal. His record in these different institutions has been a brilliant one, suggesting great natural gifts, and what is most important, the power to apply them.

AMERICAN SCHOOLS.—In the United States, as in some districts in Canada and in other countries, the school question is now, and will continue in future to be a question which must command public attention until solved. The other day Archbishop Quigley, of Chicago, addressing a meeting of the Catholic Women's League said in part:—

The education of the child should rest with the Church and not with the State.

"Protestants and non-Catholics," he declared, "are undertaking through the public school system to prevent the Catholic children from becoming firmly cemented to their Church, and to keep the Catholic Church from getting a stronger foothold. The purpose of the non-Catholics is to prevent the growth of the Church. They will scruple at no violation of justice to gain their ends."

"In adopting the rule that a candidate for teacher must attend the normal school for a time, the Board of Education has taken action against which we must always protest. The rule which prevents candidates from entering the schools without normal school training is tyranny and oppression."

"There is no reason why a Board of Examiners cannot be appointed to examine into the fitness of all candidates to become teachers without regard to the source of their preparation."

"The State must provide schools for the minority as well as for the majority. The State should divide

the public school system and maintain a separate system for the minority—separate in the sense of religious teaching.

"The two systems could be under one control, but in the Catholic division Catholic principles should be taught. This would give the minority an equal chance with the majority. This would be just and equitable, but not satisfactory to the Protestants."

"The cry all over is for non-sectarian education. The Catholic schools are recognized by the State, but they are not supported by the State because non-Catholics believe that it would be dangerous for the State to support them."

THE LAND ACT.—Mr. John Redmond, M.P., in a speech delivered in Bunninadden, County Sligo, Ireland, Dec. 20, denounced the Dublin Castle legal advisers of the Government, who are supporting the Irish landowners in their refusal to sell the vast tracts of grazing lands, thus violating the promises of the Government and frustrating the good anticipated from the working of the new Land Purchase Act. The Irish Parliamentary Party, he said, would demand their amendment in the coming session of Parliament.

ENGLISH SCHOOL QUESTION.—Before the Church Union, Lord Halifax characterized the disunion caused by non-conformist resistance to the Education Law as "a shame and a disgrace." He said, "Members of the Church of England had been for many years taxed for undenominational religious education, which was satisfactory, no doubt, to Non-conformists, but which failed to satisfy Churchmen. The cry of religious equality was a dishonest cry when they saw Churchmen, Romans, Jews, Agnostics, being called to pay for religious teaching to which they conscientiously objected; and when any of these called for his own teaching, the Non-conformist became a Passive Resister. What Non-conformists claimed was really an endowment of Dissent. They made a great mistake if they thought Churchmen would submit to it. Indeed, Churchmen intended that education should in future have a greater amount of religion infused into it than in the past."

PURE AIR CURE.—Through the generous donation of an admirer of King Edward, amounting, it is said, to \$1,000,000, His Majesty decided to erect a sanitarium in one of the rural districts of England. In laying the corner-stone the other day the King referred to the great importance of fresh air and sunshine in maintaining health.

The location of the sanitarium is of the most picturesque character. It is protected at the north by the pine woods; all the living rooms are at the south, and gain every ray of sunshine that is to be had, and that is by no means scarce, even in winter. There are gardens, in which will be placed seats and shelters of all kinds, commanding fine views, and so graded as may be needful for the treatment of the patients that it will be possible to prescribe the right gradient for each degree of lung power.

Of late years, and in the present day especially, when philanthropy is so flourishing, it has been discovered that it is not only, or even principally, the very poor, who want help. There is a large class just above them, teachers, governesses and members of other ill-paid professions, clerks, shop attendants, and the like, for whom no provision for sickness exists. For this class the King's sanatorium is provided, though, of course, the very poor are not entirely excluded. The new building also aims at providing accommodation for a small number of patients who are in the category of the "well-to-do," and a large number who may be described as the "less-well-to-do."

Moreover, an important matter, from a medical point of view, which cannot always be attended to, is the separation of the more active and robust patients from those in advanced disease or suffering from fever.

OTHER GIFTS.—Following up the donation to the King, referred to in the foregoing paragraph, comes the report that the University of London has been, recently, the recipient of a sum of \$250,000 to extend its operations. The name of the donor is not published.

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