



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Founder of Free Public Education.

A subscriber asks: "Where and by what authority the first public school for the benefit of the poor was established?"

The Monitor never makes a haphazard statement upon any subject. We have always been in order to fortify our statements, facts, dates and documents, which dispel the disagreeable falsehoods created by cunning and contemptible enemies of the Church.

Free education for the children of the poor commenced in the Catholic Church exactly thirteen hundred and sixty years ago!

A Council held at Rome as early as the year 896 promulgated a Decree ordaining that there should be three kinds of schools throughout Christendom, viz. Episcopal, for the education of ecclesiastics for the Church; Parochial, for the instruction of children of all classes; and others, such as Colleges and Universities, wherever there could be found place and opportunity.

The Council of Lateran, which was held in 1179, ordained that in every Cathedral parish there should be established a Grammar School for the gratuitous instruction of the poor.

These mandates of the Church of God were so well and universally observed that from the days of Charlemagne, in the ninth century, down to the time of Leo X., in the sixteenth century (when Protestantism became a stumbling block in the progress of the Church in Europe), free schools were founded in all the principal cities, towns, and villages in Europe, where they nestled beneath the shadow of ten thousands of churches, abbeys and monasteries which decked every portion of our quarter of the globe.

The Church not only provided schools for the poor and the lowly—who are her favorite children—but she also founded immense universities where the most learned men of every land engaged in order to fill the ranks of each Faculty.

THE MANCHESTER MARTYRS

Celebration of the Anniversary of their Execution by St. Ann's Young Men's Society.

An Historical Resume of the Story as to How they were Sacrificed to Appease England's Wrath—An Enjoyable Concert and an Amusing Drama Contributed by the Society.

The annual commemoration of the Manchester martyrs was held in St. Ann's Hall on Monday evening last, under the auspices of the St. Ann's Young Men's Society.

Representatives from every Irish Catholic Society in the city were present. Mr. J. J. Gethings, president of the society, coming forward made a happy opening address, the patriotic sentiments expressed by him in connection with the "immortal ones" being cheered to the echo by the vast and enthusiastic audience.

At the close of the first part, the President introduced the lecturer of the evening, Mr. J. Murphy, assistant editor of the TRUCK WRECKER, who was accorded an enthusiastic reception.

In addressing before you to deliver an address on the heroic scenes of this martyrdom, to perpetuate the story of which we have gathered here this evening, I desire at the outset to offer my apologies, and I do so with an inward conviction, understanding full well the indignant nature of your audience.

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The Newfoundland legislature does not open until February, the date at which the *modus vivendi* expired. It is probable that the new Government will then bring forward their policy, and it is thought it may be in the direction of some reciprocal arrangement with the American fishermen if the United States Government approaches the subject in a friendly spirit.

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