Circular of the Picnary Council's Com mittee

A Stirring and Rioquent Document.

The university board appointed by the late Plenary Council to arrange the de. tails of the great Catholic University of America have issued an appeal to the Catholics of the United States. After citing the facts of Miss Caldwell's generous gift, the purchase of the lot in Washington and other matter already made known in our columns, they con-

States, and especially to those among them who are possessed of wealth, to provide the means to endow the eight professorships with which the university generosity of the Catholics of the United will enter upon its work, and also to found the bourses of which mention has been made; and the members of the board, speaking, as they do, in the name of all the bishops of the United States, have no misgivings as to the result of their appeal. The creation of this university is the first work of general and national significance undertaken by the Church in this country; and when we consider what the various dioceses and parishes have singly accomplished in a few years in building churches, schools, colleges, academies, asylums and hospitals, it is not possible to doubt that the united energies of eight million Catholics, whose earnestness and generosity are attested by so many and such noble monuments, will prove equal to any enterprise, however vast or difficult. It is obvious that the dignity of the Church in America demands that it should have at from many lands, bringing with us our least one institution which, transcending national customs and languages, together local needs and interests, shall assume a national and representative character; and what other institution can so well take this position as a great intellectual centre of Catholic intelligence and influence, which will unify and complete our educational system and be a crown of honor and a focus of light for our schools, colleges and seminaries? No system of education, indeed, can be complete which does not terminate in a university; and since we Catholics have an educational system peculiar to ourselves, we must, to be consistent, have our own university, where all the sciences will be taught, and where theology, which is one of them, of which the Church in America is will irradiate the whole group, so that the intercommunion and mutual accordant relations of them all shall be made manifest. To assert that we American Catholies have not yet advanced far enough to be able to appreciate the worth of a university, or to feel a desire to avail ourselves of the advantages which it offers, is merely to betray a lack of knowledge of our real condition. European thinkers who are observant, and who have the best right to speak with authority upon the subject, give America a high rank among the intellectual nations of the consequently in the world; and if invaworld; and while we recognize that mul- sions, conquests, and penal laws brought titudes of our Catholics still bear the in a secular reign of darkness from which marks of wrongs inflicted upon them in Europe, this fact only makes us the more | ready to break forth into day, these resolved that here, where government is neither unjust nor cruel, where all men are free and politically equal, and where opportunities to rise to better things are offered alike to all, we shall so use our those who built and maintained the great rights and the blessings which we receive from God through the republic as to lift ourselves to the level of the best. And if the present phase of our national life drives all Americans too exclusively in the way of material progress, this is only another motive to urge those who have at heart the religious, moral and intellectual interests of the people to hold more hrmly before their eyes true ideals, and to create institutions where the ablest and most brilliant minds may form centres of attraction to which the more generous natures among our youth will the German's patient toil, his perseverbe irresistibly drawn, and where they will learn that what really ennobles man is not money, but conduct and intellect. America is only a younger, a freer, more living Europe: We have brought hither the qualities which conturies of Christian influence, of effort and struggle, have developed there, and on a more open and a larger field these energies sot with greater power and richer gain."

The board then recites the glorious part that the Church has played in the formation of the European universities, dwells upon the immense help such an institution would be to fit American Catholics for the conflict against the errors of science and the corruptions in literature, and concludes in these words:

"And help in this direction is what, among many other services, may be directly auxiliary to mental discipline, where theology is not isolated from the rest in the cause of religious, moral, and

other sciences, but where they are all intellectual progress. cultivated and taught, singly indeed, but "The object of this circular is to make first students of the new university, but appeal to the Catholics of the United when all the different faculties will have been called into existence—and unless we form an exaggerated estimate of the States and of their enthusiasm in the cause of education, this will be done within a very few years-then our young priests the most distinguished for talent will be brought into friendly intercourse with the brightest young Catholic laymen who, from every part of the country and from our many colleges, will go up to the university to acquire more thorough discipline of mind, and to fit themselves to fulfil with honor and distinction the du ties of whatever career in life they may choose. From this intermingling of Catholearned professions, our leading men will get an understanding of one another's views, hopes, and aspirations which, later on, will enable them, whether laymen or clerics, to unite and co-operate in whatever works may be helpful to the cause of religion and patriotism. We come with the thousand divergences of opinion and sentiment which characterize men in the different parts of the world, and so the unity of purpose and the sympathy which Catholic faith tends to produce are here opposed by difficulties which are inherent in our peculiar situation; and a university which will be the intellectual centre, not of the Catholics of this or that nationality, but of all the Catholics of the United States, whatever their origin or language may be, and whose professors will be chosen singly with a view harmonize and unify the many elements

> "The genius of the two peoples from which the bulk of our Catholic population has been drawn-the Irish and the German-is of itself sufficient to reassure whoever might have misgivings as to the success of the great work in behalf of which this appeal is made. During the three hundred years which followed the conversion of Ireland to Christianity that island was not only the great centre of missionary activity, but it was also the chief seat of learning in Europe, and only in our own time a new dawn seems wrongs and oppressions have neither crushed the buoyant hopefulness of Irish hearts nor extinguished their desire of knowledge, and the descendants of monastic schools of the sixth and seventh centuries, where Irish monks copied and explained the classical writings of Greece and Rome to thousands of youths gathered from every part of Europe, will, after the lapse of so many ages, here, in a new world where God has given them a home and freedom, eagerly take up again the long interrupted work. And when to their quick and large-hearted zeal, to their enthusiastic spirit of self sacrifice in behalf of whatever cause appeals to a generous nature, there comes as an ally ance, his deep thoughtfulness, together with the learning and wisdom which he may bring from the universities of the fatherland, we can, without risk, affirm that our American Catholic University will lack neither rich endowments, nor able professors, nor students eager to obtain the best intellectual discipline.

"The members of the board constitu ted by the third Plenary Council of Bal timore, and entrusted with the interests of this great educational work, make appeal, then, with a confidence which the vital importance of the enterprise and their acquaintance with the enlightened zeal and generous spirit of the faithful inspire, to all Catholics in the United States, and especially to the more weal thy among them, to endow this first Amer.can Catholic University from the hoped for from a Catholic university, very start with such bountiful liberality where the pursuit of knewledge is made that it may not be possible to doubt its perfect success or their own deep inte

"Let some of the energy and helpfulever in the light of their relations to one ness which each manifests in diocesan another and of the limitations which the and parish works be shown by all in this inductive method imposes. In such a great national undertaking, which, while centre, if anywhere, will be found and it concerns every diocese and every padeveloped that philosophical habit of rish, will be a fountain head of strength mind which is not narrow, nor exclusive, and a focus of light for the whole Church nor unyielding, nor self-assertive, but in America; and when, in five years which is large, docile. and disposed to from the 15th of August just past, we look at the object of its contemplations celebrate the centennial anniversary of from every point of view. And this fair the consecration of the first American and reasonable intellectual character, bishop, we may assemble for this comwhich becomes more noble and attractive memoration, at the nation's capital, in when associated with the serenity and our own Catholic University, thoroughly peace that belong to faith, will be brought organized and complete in all its faculout and confirmed not only in our most ties. We exhort especially the priests, gifted young theologians who will be the whose abiding interest in whatever may promote the cause of religion and patriotism is manifested in so many ways, to take also this great work to heart, to explain its merits to their people, and to insure its success by becoming its earnest and eloquent advocates. When numbers unite for a high and worthy end, enthusiasm is born, obstacles are removed, and what seemed most difficult is accomplished almost without effort. The Church of the United States is committed to this work, and failure, therefore, is not to be thought of. But it is not enough to succeed: we must succeed in a way which will show that we are worthy of success. Let this university be a standing monument to proclaim how meaningless are the words of those who say it is lic minds and hearts, representing all the not possible to get Catholics to unite for any great purpose outside the domain of faith and morals. Let all have a share in what is for the common good of all. Some will endow chairs, a greater number will found bourses, others will unite to endow a chair or to found a bourse, and the multitude whose means are not so large as their hearts will come forward with their contributions to help bear the general expenses incidental to so vast an enterprise. The board will meet again on the 11th of November next, and it is hoped and believed that by that time sufficient means will have been contributed to en able those who are entrusted with the work to proceed without delay to make this great Catholic project a great Catholic fact. Mr. Eugene Kelly, of New York, is the treasurer of the board, and those who wish to have the honor and merit of taking part in the work may communicate with him, or with any other member to their fitness, must necessarily tend to of the board, all of whose names are appended to this appeal.

"Most Rev. James Gibbons, D.D., Archbishop of Baltimore. "Most Rev.M. Heiss, D.D., Archbishop f Milwaukee.

"Most Rev. J, J. Williams, D.D., Arch bishop of Boston. "Most Rev. P. J. Ryan, D.D., Arch-

oushop of Philadelphia. "Most Rev. M. A. Corrigan, D.D., Coadjutor-Archbishop of New York.

"Right Rev. J. Ireland, D.D., Bishop of St. Paul. "Right Rev. J. J. Keane, D.D., Bishop

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"Mgr. John M. Farley, 308 E. Thirtyseventh street, New York, Secretary of "Rev. John S. Foley, D.D., Baltimore.

"Rev. Thomas S. Lee, Baltimore. " Rev. P. L. Chapelle, D.D., Washing-

"Mr. Eugene Kelly, 33 W. Fifty-first treet, New York.

"Mr. Michael Jenkins, 126 Park ave nue, Baltimore.

"Mr. Bernard N. Ferren, 1731 Spring Garden street. Philadelphia. "Mr. Thomas E. Waggeman, 3300 O

street, Washington."

Gleanings.

Kindness is the only charm permitted the aged; it is the coquetry of gray hair Great men undertake great things because they are great, and fools because they think them easy.

The man who lives in vain, lives worse than in vain. He who lives to no purpose, lives to a bad purpose.

A penitent's tear is an undeniable ambassador, and never returns from the throne of grace unsatisfied.

To most men experience is like the stern lights of a ship, which illuminate only the track it has passed.

Whatever stress some may lay upon it a death-bed repentance is but a weak and slender plank to trust our all upon. Truth, the open, bold honest truth, is always the wisest, always the safest for

every one in any and all circumstances. It is absurd to indulge to all kinds of excesses and vice, and imagine yourself cunning enough to conceal it from the

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