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CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

The Rev. S. S. Cutting, a Baptist missionary, who lately made a tour through the United States, furnishes interesting testimony as to the efficiency of the Catholic Church wherever he has gone.

"One feature in the West which has arrested my attention is too important to be unnoticed here. The one force which I found everywhere organized and effective was the Roman Catholic Church. In a town of 5,000 inhabitants which I have in my mind I was told that one half the population were Roman Catholics.

THE CHURCH IN ALSACE.

Alsace is a conquered province, and Prussia treats it like a conqueror. Not but that the "Sister Island" would be glad of a similar treatment, for Alsace has a legislature of its own, and is yet represented in same proportion as the rest of Germany in the Imperial Parliament.

In the spiritual province the new regime has yielded results which cannot in any way be applauded. The expulsion of all clerical orders from the country, the suppression of the seminaries for boys, the introduction of the general clause for words spoken in the pulpit, and the importation of the Prussian May law for the coercion of the Church, have not only saddled the various localities with greater burdens, especially for education, than they had been in the habit of bearing, but have also called forth great discontent among the vast majority of faithful Catholics.

Apart from all these legitimate grievances, Herr Grad, himself a Protestant, finds fault with the Protestant propaganda that is being encouraged in Alsace by the powers that be, at the expense of the Catholic Church, which cannot be said to enjoy equality of rights, for up to this day not a single Catholic priest has been able to procure a license to edit a newspaper either in French or in German.

RIDICULOUS THE IRISH.

The ridicule of the editor of the Catholic Columbian for the Irish name is so intense as to deserve ridicule. He seems incapable of comprehending the difference between jocularity and derision. We have the best of reason for believing that his attempts to prejudice the Sunday News in the estimation of our Irish fellow-citizens is not appreciated by them.

This touches this exact point. There are vulgar people in this country who imagine that an Irishman is necessarily ridiculous, and think that what would be impertinence to Odd Fellows, Masons, Red Men, &c., is "jocularity" when used on Irishmen. In the St. Joseph's Benevolent, the School of the Total Abstinence, the Holy Name societies, are men at least the peers of any attached to the News Office, and fully capable of seeing how much "jocularity" there is in calling their public and proud profession of their attachment to the land from which they are exiles, a "public display of Paddy, in all the glory of green regalia."

THE RESOURCES OF THE NORTH-WEST.

Mr. James Trow, M. P., in a late letter to the Stratford Beacon, thus speaks of the resources of the North-west:—

Only labour is necessary to develop these resources. Agriculture forms the basis of production, and it is the bounden duty of those who control the destinies of the great Dominion to adopt a liberal policy in aid of immigration. Now is our opportunity; while the nations of Europe are plunged in war and bloodshed; while tens of thousands are struggling in misery. We have ample room for many millions. Professor Macoun asserts that we have in the North west 169,000,000 acres of good agricultural and pastoral lands, and 40,000,000 acres of lake and swamp lands. The great territory is equal to twenty-six states the size of the Province of Manitoba. There are only two kinds of property in the world—land and labour. We are in possession of the former; all we require is the latter to make these waste lands valuable. There are now tens of thousands of Mennonites in Southern Russia dissatisfied with their situation, who are very anxious to remove and join their brethren in Manitoba if any encouragement were given them. Now is the time to take advantage of these circumstances. Those of that class who have become settlers in Manitoba—now numbering over 1,500—are prosperous and happy. They brought with them to the country over a half a million dollars in cash, and their personal goods and effects were valued for as much more. Every settler adds material for as much more. The moment he locates upon our soil he becomes a consumer, and soon a producer; and thereby contributes to the revenue. The development of the North-west by railway communication should be pushed forward at once. The profits that should accrue to the farmer are eaten up by enormous freight charges. Wholesale competition by railway would relieve them from this evil. This is certainly the work of the Dominion Government, who holds every acre of unsold land in the West. The construction of railways has been encouraged in almost every Province out of the Dominion exchequer. Manitoba is yet, comparatively speaking, in its infancy, with an empty treasury, having no revenue from the sale of Crown Lands. It is dependent upon the subsidy of \$90,000 from the Dominion Government to defray the expenses of Government, public works, education, &c. We cannot expect the local Government to undertake works of such magnitude; indeed it is questionable whether the above sum is judiciously expended.

THE ARMY OF AUSTRIA.

It is anticipated that the proposal of the Austrian Government to renew the present military law, which was passed in 1867 for a period of ten years, will be strongly opposed by the delegations. The left of the House, which is mainly composed of the Representatives of the German portions of the Empire, has, it is stated, determined to vote, it is true, the renewal of the law of 1867, but to insist that the effective of the army on a war footing shall be reduced from 800,000 to 600,000 men. The military papers, seconded by the Ministerial journals and the whole of the Hungarian press, protest strongly against any such diminution of the military strength of the Empire; pointing out that Germany shows no signs of reducing her army forces in any way whatsoever, and that the French Chamber, however high party feeling may run, never declines to pass the estimates necessary not only for the maintenance, but also for the increase of the army in efficiency. To effect a saving in the expenditure of the Empire by reducing the numerical strength of the army would be, it is urged, a most false economy; and at the present moment, especially, when war is raging on every frontier of Austria, and when before long Austria may be compelled to draw the sword for the preservation of her most vital interests, such a step would be absolute madness. Altogether it does not appear probable that the party in opposition will succeed in obliging the Government to effect the reduction it desires; but it is thought likely that the delegations will reserve to themselves the power of making such reductions, should the course of events render them justifiable or expedient by deciding that the strength of the army shall be decided upon year by year by parliament, instead of being definitely fixed, as it was in 1867, for a period of ten years.

THE FASTEST WAR VESSEL IN THE WORLD.

Her Majesty's twin screw steel despatch vessel Iris was launched at Pembroke, on Thursday, April 12, of the past year. She is the quickest cruiser in the world, and is the first man-of-war constructed of steel. Her principal dimensions are length between perpendiculars, 300 feet, and over all 333 feet, extreme breadth, 46 feet 1 inch; mean draught, 18 feet 9 inches, displacement, 3,750 tons; and midship section, 777 square feet. Her armament will consist of ten sixty-four pounders, eight side and two revolving, the latter being mounted on the poop and forecastle. The Iris will also carry a nine pounder and a seven pounder field piece, and will be fitted with the Whitehead torpedo. She is bark rigged, with wooden masts, and is steered by hand gear. Her complement is 259, and the officers are for the most part accommodated under the poop. The ship is propelled by direct-acting, horizontal, twin-screw, four-cylinder engines, designed to turn two screws. They are driven with 60 pound pressure of steam, and are intended to work up to 7,000 indicated horse power, and are calculated to make about ninety-five revolutions per minute when developing their contract power. There are, in all, four high-pressure cylinders, having a diameter of 41 inches, and four low-pressure cylinders, with a diameter of 75 inches, the stroke being 9 feet. The engines give motion to a couple of four-bladed screw propellers of 18 feet, six inches, in diameter, and so adjusted that the pitch can be varied from 17 feet, 6 inches to 22 feet, 6 inches. In order that the screws may obtain a good supply of water and exercise their full power of thrust, the tubes are carried out 51 feet from the body of the ship. Steam is furnished by 12 boilers of slightly different dimensions. There are in all thirty-two furnaces, each 7 feet long by 3 feet 11 inches wide, and possessing a total area of grate surface of 700 square feet. The Iris carries 500 tons of coal in her ordinary bunkers and 250 tons additional in her reserve bunkers. The total weight of the machinery, with water in the boilers and condensers is about 1,000 tons, and the contract price is £293,960.

THE DARDANELLES.

This strait, anciently known as the Hellespont, has taken its present name from the four forts built at its entrance in the seventeenth century—two by Mahomet II. and two by Mahomet IV. These were constructed to prevent the approach of war ships to Constantinople. Put in good condition and armed with the artillery of these days, they would trouble the passage of any fleet, though they have been repeatedly passed, and might therefore make the presence of the Porte to close the strait rather more than a diplomatic curiosity. This pretence has been formally recognized by treaties in 1809, in 1841, in 1876 and in 1871. In 1871 the Conference of London, called in consequence of Russia's repudiation, in 1870, of certain clauses of the Treaty of Paris, decreed the continuation of this restriction as declared in the Treaty of Paris, but conceded the Sultan's authority to permit the passage of the ships of friendly Powers in time of peace. This concession indicates that the closing of the Dardanelles had in course of time become of greater interest to another Power than to Turkey, and it was thus given to the Padiashah. In the circular of 1868, in regard to the passage of the Wahab, the Sultan claimed to exercise this restriction as a territorial right, as an ancient one; but that treaty even deprived the Sultan of the right of consent in regard to it. There are, therefore, some rational and legal entanglements that are rather queer. The Dardanelles are within the Sultan's territory; but they are closed, not by his will, but by the will of England, which Power does not exercise authority there as it might by mere force on the high seas, but constitutes the sovereign Sultan the executive of its will; and calls on Europe to maintain the right of the Porte, and not to let victorious Russia encroach therein, because this would be a violation of the privileges of Turkey.

RITUALIST APPEAL TO ROME.

Several Ritualist clergymen in the English Church have formulated the terms on which they propose to secede to Rome. Another section of them refuse to join the movement on the ground that the true policy of the Anglican party is to remain within the English Church, and continue to advocate its reform from within. The more violent portion of the party refuse to wait, and they propose to make an immediate appeal to the Pope, or rather to the Congregation of Rites, on the following points: (1) That the present married clergy may be re-ordained, continuing in the married state, and allowed to act as priests not possessing the cure of souls (this would exclude their hearing confessions). (2) The privilege of reciting the Anglican rite for communion service in English, with the exception of the canon of the Mass, which would of course be in Latin. (3) That these regulations shall entail no precedent, but be distinctly regarded as an exceptional concession to clergymen in the English Church, all priests, notwithstanding these privileges, to be allowed to follow the present rule of the Latin Church if they choose. This would permit them, for example, to recite the whole service in Latin if so disposed. These are the points on which Rome is invited to grant a relaxation of Church discipline for the accommodation of certain clerical rebels now in the English Church. The concession as to marriage is evidently the main difficulty, but they say that they are only claiming the same indulgence as Rome already grants to priests in the United Greek Church, not the orthodox Russian Church, but that branch which flourishes in Greece and Poland. The practice there is to a large extent for young men in training for the priesthood to get married before they are made deacons, and they are then admitted to the regular priesthood as married men, and have the cure of souls in all respects except the hearing of confession. These English Ritualists want the same tolerance of a married priesthood, with the same limitation as to hearing confession.—Liverpool Courier.

TRACES OF CATHOLICITY IN ENGLAND.

There is no Protestant country in the world which has retained so many marks and signs of the "ages of faith" as England. And this is one of the most striking of the differences between England and the United States, although it has been scarcely noticed by those numerous writers who have treated of American peculiarities and of English life. Not only is the Constitution of England substantially what it was when the Edwards and the Henrys swayed the sceptre, not only is the social life of the people to a very great extent founded upon the ideas inherited from the middle ages, but there is hardly a village or a hamlet that does not show to the eye of the well-informed traveler indications of its Catholic origin and history. Every English village has an old weather-stained church, which, as it were, cries aloud that it was not built for the use of Protestants; but was intended for the children of the Catholic Church. A deep sanctity approached by stone steps, actually worn

away by the knees of generations of communicants, vacant niches from which the statues of the saints have long been thrown down, queer looking holes in the pillars which divide the nave from the aisles through which the people could see the altar and the tabernacle, a "rood loft," on which was formerly a large crucifix with statues of the Blessed Virgin and St. John on either side, in which stowed away some hero as old lumber is often found a quaintly carved wooden confessional box, brasses let in to the chancel floor bearing inscriptions requesting prayers for the soul of the departed knight whose very dust has long ago been dissipated, stone tombs on which recline in full priestly vestments the sculptured effigies of former parish priests; all these things speak plainly of the Holy Mass, the sacrament of Penance, the belief in Purgatory, the remembrance of the Saints, the honor paid to the Blessed Virgin, and the love to the Holy Church which in ages long gone by.

TALKING ACROSS THE BRITISH CHANNEL.

On Saturday last some further experiments were carried out on the telegraph cable connecting St. Margaret's Bay, near Dover, and the village of Sandgate, on the French coast. The Mayor of Dover and several other gentlemen connected with the town drove over to the bay, and assembled in the little telegraph hut erected on the beach within a few yards of the shaft of the burings connected with the proposed channel tunnel—a gross and material way of connecting the two countries, compared with the delicate communication we were about to establish.

Mr. Bordeaux, the superintendent of the Submarine Telegraph Company, at once established a communication with the opposite coast, and at his request, conveyed by an ordinary pocket telegraph instrument, the telephones were attached to the French end of the cable, and in a few minutes we were conversing across twenty-two and a half miles of wire at the bottom of the sea. The portable instruments, made in polished mahogany, and in shape like a champagne glass without a foot, were used. By placing one to the ear, and speaking into the cup of the other, a continuous conversation was kept up without difficulty. Although the wires were being used on the ordinary business of the station, and the clinkings of the Morse Instruments being worked at Dover and Calais were going on all the time, yet the voices could be plainly heard and their tones distinguished.

The songs sung in that little hut on the French coast were reproduced note for note and word for word, piano and forte, like the distant murmur of a shell—a small far-off voice—in that in which we stood. "Star of the Evening" and "Auld Lang Syne" came rolling across that rough and stormy channel, down which ships were staggering with shortened sails, and through that tumbling surf, without the loss of a tone or a note. Whistling was tried with equal success, and the tunes were equally distinguishable with the songs. It was suggested that the popping of a cork might be made out, and our French friends were asked to listen attentively to what would happen. Unfortunately no bottles were at hand, but a reverend gentleman equal to the occasion put his finger into his cheek, and admirably imitated the drawing of a cork. "You have just drawn a cork," came the voice from the other side, with just a shade of melancholy in its tone. A hearty laugh was raised by this mistake.

After thanking our friends for their songs and other efforts to amuse an audience so far off, Mr. Bordeaux gave a short lecture on the construction of the instrument, and the party separated, much impressed with the success of the experiments and of the important part it is likely to play in the communications of the future. At present it is clearly needless for military purposes, as the most perfect stillness is necessary so as not to drown the little voice.—Times.

A HEROIC IRISHMAN.

On Thursday, January 21, the steamship Metropolis, bound for Brazil with 200 railroad laborers, forty-eight other passengers and crew, and 500 tons of iron, was wrecked on Currituck beach, North Carolina.

Prominent among the heroes of the Metropolis tragedy stands the humble and unpretentious-looking Irishman, Timothy O'Brien. By his own unaided exertions he rescued from the breakers and surf nearly fifty persons. Timothy is a native of the county Limerick, Ireland; is about thirty-four years of age, five feet six inches high, very stoutly built, a Hercules in strength, and of the greatest physical endurance. This is the second wreck from which he has escaped with his life, the first being that of the steamer Golden Gate, which was lost off Anapulco, on the Pacific coast, in 1863. She was burned to the water's edge, and O'Brien was one of the twenty-five persons who swam ashore, a distance of seven miles. Soon after the Metropolis struck, on Thursday morning, and began to break up, there was a general rush for the rigging. O'Brien secured a position high on the mainmast, but when it became apparent that the only chance for life was to swim ashore he boldly jumped from the rigging, over the heads of the others, and struck out for the beach, which he reached safely—the fifth man from the wreck. Realizing the peril of his fellow-passengers, O'Brien hastened over to the Currituck club-house, three-quarters of a mile distant, where he procured a pair of overalls and a quantity of dry matches. He returned, built several fires, after which he began the work which marks him as a hero. These were full of the struggling victims buffeted with the breakers, and, one by one, they were sinking, never to rise again with life, when O'Brien, at ten o'clock, plunged boldly in to their rescue. One by one he brought the nearly exhausted, and in some instances, half-dead victims ashore, and placed them in the hands of others at the fires. He never halted until five o'clock in the evening, when the last survivor had reached the shore. In the seven hours, during which he was thus engaged, O'Brien had saved nearly fifty people, many of whom would have perished but for his great coolness and his manly aid.

The last and crowning act of this great feat of humanity was the rescue of Mrs. Anne Huet, the only surviving female of the wreck. She was struggling feebly with the breakers, supported only by a life-preserver, but evidently exhausted and about to sink. O'Brien saw her awful position, and, calling to a young man named John Doherty to help him, he started through the surf for the dying woman. Twice the treacherous wave snatched her from his friendly grasp, but at last he caught her and, with Doherty's assistance, brought her ashore in an unconscious condition. She was alive, however, and was at once subjected to the somewhat barbarous remedy of being rolled upon a barrel to get the salt water out of her, and then placed upon a bed-tick beside one of O'Brien's fires. In about thirty minutes she revived to find her husband beside her. He had been washed ashore about forty yards below on the beach, and when dragged out his first exclamation was, "Is my wife drowned?" He was told she was saved and, overjoyed, was carried to her side, where he remained until she opened her eyes to realize that both had escaped watery graves.

SHALL THE CHINESE BE BARRED OUT?

WHAT THE PRESIDENT MEANS TO PROPOSE.

At the Cabinet meeting last week the President announced his intention of sending to Congress a message on the subject of Chinese immigration. He thinks the way to prevent a wholesale influx of Chinese is by treaty, and he objects to the imposition of a tax of \$250 on each Chinaman. The members of the Cabinet approved the message.

The paper embodying the views of the late Senator Morton on the Chinese question so far as written by him, which was submitted to the United States Senate last week, is incomplete, but the character of conclusions reached by him as an individual member of the joint congressional committee on Chinese immigration is clearly shown. After devoting much space to the fundamental principles of the theory and practice of our government, the paper says: "In California the antipathy to the Mongolian race is equal to that formerly entertained in the older States against the negro, and although the reasons given for this antipathy are not the same, and the circumstances of its exhibition are different still it belongs to the same family of antipathies springing from race and religion.

"As Americans, standing upon the grand doctrines to which I have referred, and seeking to educate the masses into their belief, and charged with the administration of laws, by which equal rights and protection shall be extended to all races, and conditions, we cannot now safely take a new departure, which in another form shall resurrect and re-establish those odious distinctions of race which brought upon us the late civil war, and from which we fondly hoped God in His providence had delivered us forever. If the Chinese in California were white people, being in all other respects what they are, I do not believe the complaints and warfare made against them would have existed to any considerable extent. Their difference in color, dress, manners, and religion have, in my judgment, more to do with this hostility than their alleged vices, or any actual injury to the white people of California.

"The inquiry the committee were instructed to make does not involve the political rights or privileges of the Chinese. As the law stands they cannot be naturalized and become citizens, and I do not know that any movement or proposition has been made in any quarter recently to change the law. But the question is whether they shall be permitted to come to our country to work, to engage in trade, to acquire property, or to follow any pursuit. In my judgment, the Chinese cannot be protected in the Pacific States while remaining in their alien condition. Without representation in the Legislature or Congress, or without a voice in the selection of officers, and surrounded by fierce, and, in many respects, unscrupulous enemies, the law will be found insufficient to screen them from persecution. Complete protection can be given them only by allowing them to become citizens, and acquire the right of suffrage, when their votes would become important at elections, and their generations in great part converted into kindly solicitation."

The paper goes on to say that Chinese labor has much improved California, that all labor should be free; and lastly, that the laboring men of California have ample employment, and are better paid than in almost any other part of the country. The late Senator Morton was evidently unaware of the prevailing destitution among white workmen in California, owing to their inability to compete with laborers who have no wives or families, are not citizens, who live in crowded cellars where white men would die; who are, therefore, able to work for a pittance on which white families would starve. In conclusion he says: "Labor does not require that a price shall be fixed by the law, or that men who live cheaply, and can work for lower wages shall for that reason be kept out of the country." This is a bold statement of a general truth; but there are imperative exceptions, and this is one. If the Chinaman comes here to be a citizen, brings his wife and family with him, lives in accord with morality and health, and then works for less wages than a white man, he should be let alone, and be protected. But there are requisites: if he come as a non-settler, a selfish collector of money, immoral, unhealthy, there must be a law made to protect respectable white labor, or it will be destroyed.—V.V. STEPHENS.