

FATHER ELLIOTT

AND HIS MISSIONS AMONG NON-CATHOLICS.

Writes of His Plans and Hopes—Will go to the Cleveland Diocese—Methods of Reaching Non-Catholics—The Outlook for the Future.

Father Elliott, the distinguished Paulist, whose missionary work among non-Catholics in Michigan caused so much comment and met with such success, is about to take the field again. This time his labors will be in the diocese of Cleveland. Father Elliott has great faith in the results of these missions, and he thus speaks of his hopes and purposes:

Some of our Protestant friends show alarm at the Catholic missionary movements now taking shape in this country. Millions of money, they say, are being poured into the south to catch the blacks, and the very Government of the United States is being prostituted to aid in Catholicizing the Indians. So, too, with recent attempts to secure an audience for Catholic lecturers. Rome is going to assail the very citadel of Bible Christianity in this Protestant land.

MISSION OF THE CHURCH.

Well, there is more truth in this than is always the case with Protestant forebodings, though neither money nor governments are concerned in the matter. The Catholic Church is going, without a shadow of a doubt, to explain to the non-Catholic public the higher life of religion as enjoyed in her fold. Catholics have the true development of man's nature committed to them both to practice and to preach. All that there is of the noble ideals of the Gospel are commonplaces to instructed Catholics, easily believed without fear of doubt, intelligibly communicated to the earnest inquirer.

We want to prove this. We want to show the vital force of Catholicity. The spiritual and moral good of mankind, taken one by one and personally, is the aim of Catholicity—an aim which we can attain by unrivalled instrumentalities. And having settled our American household of the faith into a fair state of order, we are bound by every law of charity and duty to address "our brethren who are separated from us on account of disagreement concerning the Christian faith," to use Pope Leo's words to the Catholic Summer School. * * *

STUMBLING BLOCKS MADE STEPPING STONES.

The very stumbling blocks of our Protestant friends often become their stepping stones to the Church's door. For example: In many lectures to Protestants last winter and spring, I was often asked, "Why do you not turn the drunkards and adulterers and other open sinners out of your church?" And when I answered that by keeping them mixed up with the faithful Christians we realized their conversion more certainly, I met with hearty approval. Excluded from the sacraments on account of his sin, the Catholic sinner is still present in church, still listens to God's word, still feels ashamed by contrast, no less than by the admonitions of his conscience. Pity for the sinner is a note of Christ's following, and it is better practised in Catholicity than elsewhere.

METHODS OF REACHING NON-CATHOLICS.

Our methods of reaching non-Catholics are those of the Apostles. We shall ask our countrymen to hear us about the inner witness of the spirit joined to the unity of the same spirit in the bond of Catholic peace. It is not in splendid ceremonies and edifices, processions and institutions that Catholicity consists or most promptly acts, but in the synthesis of the divine action within our hearts, with the same divine action in the brotherhood of the Christian Church. If we can show a higher form of prayer—and we claim the highest—we have a right to a hearing from the prayerful Protestants.

Hence our Protestant public may expect an entire union of effort in the noble enterprise of winning back to the one true Church the Northern nations—all will work together—bishops, priests, seculars and religious, men and women. The office of priest is Apostolic. The vocation of the laity is Apostolic, efficacious in proportion to intelligence and virtue. The times are Apostolic, for they offer advantages in the resources of civilization which are tantamount to victory for whatever cause is right.

It is an age of travel, and that means the circulation of truth incarnated in

Catholic character. It is an age of liberty, and that gives religion its dearest prerogative, access to souls. It is an age of varied study, and that means a thirst which can only be slaked at fountains springing into eternal life. Those who are conscious of hatred of all error and of love of all men must hail with abounding joy the liberty, intelligence, the migratory habits, the international tendencies of these times, for they announce in trumpet tones the Divine invitation to the religious union of Christendom.

The Catholic Church has never hesitated to condemn the cowardly error that one religion is as good as another; nevertheless she welcomes with joy the free decision of guileless non-Catholics in her dispute with the throng of Christian dissidents who are inheritors of the great schism. Given the truth and a worthy exponent to find an auditor becomes a necessary condition of peace of mind.

THE OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE.

I believe that the struggle with infidelity has had the effect of loosening denominational bonds rather than belief in God and in Christ.

Religion should be catholic in its organism, and should be international in its scope of action as well as form of government. The only serious claimant to such qualities is the Church of Rome; and it gets and will continue to get the attention of the calmer minds everywhere.

Experience proves this. I am not the only one who can state facts to verify it. Many a priest has gathered the general public of town and village into secular halls to listen to Catholic claims—has gathered these non-Catholics by simply advertising his purpose. Religion in any aspect has the first call to attention from our American sober minded men and women. We are not claiming the immediate conversion of this people: we are not in dreamland. Yet we are ready for sudden impulses of grace sweeping in many millions. What we look for with absolute certainty, however, is the starting of countless little streams of converts all over the country, and especially in parishes in which Catholicity is most worthily represented.—*Catholic Citizen.*

THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARD.

AN IMPORTANT MEETING AND SOME IMPORTANT POINTS DISCUSSED.

The Catholic School Commissioners held their regular fortnightly meeting last evening. The members found on their table copies of the annual report for the year ending on the 30th of June, 1894.

The receipts of the year were \$582,423, including the proceeds of the last loan, which gave \$88,625. The cash on hand on the 30th June, amounted to \$5,206. There are 12,963 pupils attending the schools assisted by the board and the number of teachers is 164 men and 190 women. The assets are estimated at \$697,942, and the liabilities at \$533,601, showing an excess of the former of \$164,339.

Mr. U. E. Archambault, the treasurer, further explained that the City Council owes to the Board the full amount of the school tax for 1894.

Nevertheless, the members of the Board feel that they have not all the money they need. Several of the religious orders who are teaching school are asking for assistance to repair the buildings they occupy, and for other very urgent purposes. A proposition was made to appoint a special committee to decide whether these claims are well founded in equity.

Mr. Monk and Ald. Beausoleil did not want to enter into the discussion of these claims for financial reasons. "It would mean," said the latter, "that we would soon have to go to the Legislature for power to increase the school tax, and it would not be wise to do that at present."

Rev. Abbe Leclerc—"But it is a case of necessity. Our schools have certainly been neglected. I might say that some have been practically abandoned for fourteen years. I know of one where a thousand dollars is due to the teachers for salary."

Rev. Father Quinlivan concurred in these views. There were schools which have been doing the work of the Board for twenty years, which have been educating the children of those who pay taxes to the Board, and yet they have been en-

tirely neglected. The ideas of justice were nowhere.

Mr. Monk—"But if we are to undertake to keep all the schools in repair, it is a matter of \$100,000 to be spent within a couple of years. Where are we going to get that money? We have exhausted our borrowing power and our present revenue is barely sufficient to meet existing obligations. It means an increase of the school tax."

Action on this matter was deferred until next meeting.

Dr. Desjardins reported having seen at the St. Gabriel school no less than 65 children crowded in a class-room which should not have contained over 40. It was against all the laws of hygiene, and he had no idea that such a condition of affairs could be allowed to exist. If other schools were as crowded it was high time that something should be done.

It was resolved to vote \$300 to the St. Gabriel school to pay for the rental of a neighboring building where a number of the pupils will find room.

It was also decided that the Board would visit the schools in a body to ascertain their condition.

P. J. Ryan appeared before the Board to suggest that a larger attendance could be secured for the night schools by modifying the programme of studies. He quoted the example of Boston, where no less than 5,500 pupils frequent the night schools. Better teachers, a more varied course of studies and a better graduation of classes were among the changes he suggested.

Rev. Canon Bruchesi requested him to put his suggestions in writing.

The vexed matter of the Jews' taxes came up, and it was resolved to write to the superintendent general of public instruction to know whether the administration of the taxes collected from these people could legally be entrusted to a joint committee of the Protestant and Catholic Boards.

ST. MARY'S FANCY FAIR.

The ladies working for the Fancy Fair which takes place on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 23rd and 24th of October, are resolved that the Fair shall be one of the most attractive that has ever been held in Montreal, and are putting forth every effort to bring about that good result. This Fancy Fair will be in every respect that which its name implies—a simple Fair where goods are sold at ordinary profits; those who visit the fair may buy exactly what they wish, not as is often the case at ordinary bazaars, that which others wish them to buy. There will be no selling of chances or other features which make a bazaar such an impoverishing ordeal to the ordinary person. The energetic ladies of St. Mary's who are collecting for the Church are meeting with the splendid success they deserve.

ST. ANN'S YOUNG MEN.

A council meeting of St. Ann's Young Men will be held in a few weeks to make arrangements for the coming winter evening's amusement; a special item will be the Monday evening programme; every Monday evening except the second of the month, which is the reading circle night, a progressive euchre party, a smoking concert or a billiard tournament will be held.

The members of the Reading Circle will elect their officers at the next meeting, and as soon as the weather gets a little colder will begin vigorously the work of self-improvement.

The members of St. Ann's Young Men's Society will make their general Communion on Sunday, the 18th of November for the repose of the souls of deceased members.

ST. MARY'S YOUNG MEN.

A meeting of St. Mary's Young Men will take place in their hall on Friday evening. As many young men as can do so are requested to attend, as the important business that would have been transacted at the last meeting will be attended to, i.e., the business of providing enjoyable as well as instructive evening entertainments during the winter months.

The Chinese transport Cheau, with 1,400 troops on board, was wrecked while proceeding to Formosa, but all on board were saved. There is said to be much suffering among the troops of both contending armies in Corea.

LACROSSE.

The Waning Season's Last Gladiatorial Contest.

The final match between the great lacrosse gladiators, the Shamrocks and the Capitals, to take place on Saturday next, will be attended by the greatest crowd of strong-lunged lacrosse enthusiasts that ever made the seats of the Shamrock grand stand bulge downwards. Both teams are in excellent trim, and the handsome engraved trophy now reposing calmly in the Star window under the quizzical eye of the small boy will be fought for with more vigor perhaps than was displayed in any of the matches before. The Shamrocks figuratively nailed the green flag of victory to the flag pole over the Shamrock grand stand. The Shamrock executive have wisely taken measures to prevent the wily speculator from buying about 47 tickets at 50 cents each and then going out among the wild-eyed surging crowd round the grounds on the day of the match and selling them at two dollars.

FATHER HOGAN'S LECTURE.

The Rev. Father Hogan's (S.J.) lecture in the Academic hall of St. Mary's College on Wednesday evening last was one of the successes of the season. There was a large attendance, and the great knowledge of the West Indies that the lecturer possesses and his brilliant intellectual powers combined to make one of the most instructive and useful of lectures. During the interval of the evening's entertainment an interesting programme of music was discussed. The proceeds will be devoted to the aid of the Jesuit mission of British Guiana.

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