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INFAMOUS TACTICS OF FRENCH MASONS

The following information published in the Catholic and non-Catholic Opposition papers in France, under date of March 23, is of a character which Englishmen would deem absolutely incredible, but unfortunately it is entirely true, says the London "Catholic Times." In order to cast obloquy on the priesthood the Masonic lodges are endeavoring to get the French government to abrogate the law (Clause 259 of the Penal Code) forbidding the wearing of clerical clothes by laymen. The Masonic Review ("Revue Maconnique") for January, 1906, contains this remarkable proposal.

The most efficacious manner of solving the question of the priesthood in accordance with the spirit of freedom and justice which should animate all honest Frenchmen would be to prohibit magistrates from enforcing the law which renders it a punishable offence for laymen to wear in the public streets the costumes of ecclesiastics or those of nuns or monks. When all persons have the right to dress themselves up as priests according to their own caprices, the prestige of the frock will soon fail. It will be seen that though times organs of the Masonic body would have people believe that the morality of the clergy in inferior to that of the members of the lodges, the Masonic Review here admits that the priests enjoy a high reputation for morality, which is partly the secret of the influence they exercise.

The Masonic Review does not stop at the proposal that people of all classes should don the clerical garb so that the respect for the clergy may be lessened. It proceeds to make the following suggestion, which is simply diabolically perverse:

"In fact it would be a good thing if people even now were paid to go about the streets disguised as priests, monks and nuns, and commit acts which might create scandal—such as going about with women of low character in cafes and beer saloons. Even if arrested they could be easily ransomed and rewarded for the great services they had thus rendered in the cause of the propaganda of free-thought.

It seems that within the last few weeks a number of persons disguised as priests and nuns have been arrested for scandalous conduct in the streets of Paris and other large cities; and on Mardi Gras several noted anarchists, wearing ecclesiastical costumes, were arrested for singing obscene songs along the route of the Mi-Careme procession. Amongst them was the celebrated Libertad, who pretended to be dead drunk. These rascals have been ordered to pay small fines. Such facts as these generally remain unnoticed by the British press, although they fill the columns of the Parisian papers and must at last lead to some terrible catastrophe.

CATHOLIC PARTY VICTORIOUS IN BELGIUM

A new victory of the Catholic party over the Socialistic opposition was recorded last week at an election for the labour Council of Ghent, one of the strongholds of Belgian socialists. The old Socialist majority was reversed in favor of the Catholics, and this although the universal suffrage was in use at the election. This significant victory is due entirely to the zeal of workmen propagandists, an altogether new feature in Catholic social activity in the country. May this partial success be a good omen for the general elections which will take place in a few weeks.

The Bishop of Limerick has the following interesting reference to Belgium in his Lenten pastoral: "It is a pre-eminently Catholic country, with a Catholic government at its head, and in spite of the influence of France, which has always, since the great revolution, been on the side of irreligion, it has maintained its Catholic character. But not without a struggle and great sacrifices. The great Catholic university of Louvain, which stands amongst the very greatest of the world, is under the full control of the Catholic bishops, and is maintained by the voluntary

contributions of the Belgian Catholics. It has been the very citadel of the Catholic defence. Its students are the leaders of their fellow-Catholics in every province of the kingdom, and their brilliant representatives in Parliament, and out of them time after time have been chosen the eminent statesmen who have so wisely guided the destinies of their country for the last thirty years. And here again the working men, the laborer and the mechanic are the bone and sinew of the Catholic forces. When, some thirty years ago, a liberal Government with the instinct of the unbelievers, put the schools under the local authorities and attempted to secularize them, the Bishops and priests and Catholic people built their own schools beside them and quickly emptied them, as you might transfer bees out of a hive. Now, in three-fourths of the schools of Belgium religion—the Catholic religion—is in authority, and the result is that our Church in that fine country can make head against unbelief and preserve the working people from the sophisms and deceptions of the Socialist propaganda." —Catholic Weekly, London.

Nervousness, A Calamity.

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Current Comment

(Continued from page 1)

Unseen and inevitable explosions of nature. Earthquakes shake up the consciences as well as the bodies of the victims who escape with their lives. In countries where earthquakes are frequent and fatal the ever present danger of their recurrence is a common argument with the preacher or confessor who wishes to strike salutary terror into the hearts of careless or obdurate sinners.

Another virtue which these fierce convulsions of mother earth evoke is charity. How forcibly this has been shown in the city of the Golden Gate and in sympathizers all over the United States and Canada. All that is best in human fellowship and brotherly pity comes to the surface. The best proof of love is deeds, and so treasures are being poured into the lap of the desolate and homeless.

Last, but not least, "hope springs eternal in the human breast." Many persons who but yesterday wondered why the Neapolitans persisted in living so near an active volcano, why, for instance, the inhabitants of Torre del Greco have in the course of centuries rebuilt their town seventeen times, are now beginning to realize, from the fearless example of the San Franciscans already at work to rebuild their ruined city, how family and local associations coupled with quenchless hope of future immunity, make people cling to their home land and look forward to better days.

Didn't Think Her Equal to It

An old lady, who, with her husband, had spent the winter in Japan, was asked by one of her friends if she had heard an earthquake while there. "Yes, I heard one," she answered, "and rather enjoyed it, for it was the first thing that happened since John and I were married that he did not think I was to blame for."

"The sacrament of penance is not the way to the penitentiary," says Archbishop Glennon. There is a whole sermon in that pointed aphorism.—Ex.

WONDERFUL EFFECT OF FRUIT.

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Persons and Facts

(Continued from page 1.)

The Board of Church Claims in the Phillipine Islands, consisting of Lieutenant-Colonel John A. Hull, judge Advocate, and Alexander O. Brodie, military secretary, and First Lieutenant John W. Moore, Second cavalry, has made its report to the War department, with the possible view of its submission to Congress. The board has considered 1,266 cases in which the Catholic Church in the Phillipine Islands claims that its churches and convents had suffered damages through their occupation by the troops of the United States for military purposes, and for which they asked damages to an extent of about \$2,200,000. The amount awarded, however, is considerably less.

While celebrating Mass on April 4, at the funeral of a parishioner, Rev. John Dempsey, pastor of St. Bernard's Church, Crawfordsville, Ind., was stricken by heart disease, fell to the floor of the sanctuary and died with his head resting on the altar steps. Father Dempsey was deeply beloved, and the grief of his parishioners when they realized their sudden loss was pitiable. Father Dempsey, who was a native of Ireland, was 61 years old. He was ordained in Fort Wayne in 1873, and had held pastorates in Lafayette, Lebanon, Fowler and Valparaiso.

Father Tyrrell, late S.J., has been accepted as a diocesan priest by the Archbishop of San Francisco.

According to the latest information the meeting of the French bishops has been indefinitely postponed.

Pastors and organists may be pleased to know that Professor A. Bansbach advocates the use of the gramophone in the teaching of plain song. Many priests have found it almost impossible to learn the correct rendering of the "Ite, missa est" for the various Sundays and feasts. They will be aided by the easy and agreeable use of the phonograph. It would be useful in the same way for choir rehearsals and parish schools. We are sure that in many parishes the phonograph could be made a true "magister choralis." Among other articles we notice one in Gregorian Rhythm by the Very Rev. Prior of Solesmes and another, "The Official Kyriale" by the Editor, the Rev. Dr. Henry. "Church Music" is in the sphere of liturgical music one of the best in the language, and to organist and pastor can be recommended as a guide and an ally in their struggles to give us the chant of the church.

Very Rev. Father Ambrose Bruder, O.C.C., has been re-elected by the chapter of the Order in session at the Monastery of Our Lady of Peace, Falls View, Canada, Prior Provincial of the American Province of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Very Rev. Father Bruder has his headquarters in the monastery at Pittsburgh.

The corner stone of the new college of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, in San Juan, Porto Rico, was laid with appropriate and imposing ceremonies on March 19, the feast of St. Joseph.

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Dr. W.M. ROGERS, M.D.

Consulting Staff Surgeons:
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Dr. J. H. McARTHUR, M.D.
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Dr. J. W. GOOD, M.D.

Children's Ward Physicians:
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Dr. G. A. DUBUC, M.D.
Dr. A. J. SLATER, M.D.

Isolated Ward Physicians:
Dr. J. H. DEVINE, M.D., Dr. J. F. HOWDEN, M.D., Dr. J. HALPENNY, M.D., Dr. W. A. GARDNER, M.D.

Pathologist:
Dr. G. BELL, M.D.
Dr. F. J. MACLEAN, M.D.
Dr. W.M. TURNBULL, M.D. Assistant

There is in St. Boniface Hospital a Ward for C. N. E. patients, who are attended by physicians appointed by the C. N. E. Co. They are: Dr. C. A. Mackenzie, Dr. E. MacKenzie, and Dr. Wm. Rogers. And a second Ward for C. F. E. patients, attended by Dr. Moorehead, who is appointed by the C. F. E. Co.

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