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May 27, '77 37-42

CATHOLIC NEWS.

CARDINAL McCLOSKEY.—The magnificent bequest of nearly three hundred thousand dollars has been left to Cardinal McCloskey by the late Mrs. Catherine Merrill, of New York.

APPOINTMENT.—His Eminence Cardinal Cullen has appointed the Very Rev. P. O'Donnell, P.P. Anamos, Archdeacon of Glendalough. The duties of this office have been for many years past gracefully and efficiently discharged by the late lamented and venerable Archdeacon R.mond.

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF ANGERS.—We read in the Univers that the Catholic University of Angers has just established a Professorship of Agricultural Chemistry and Rural Economy. It is stated that this excellent institution is due to the seconde initiative of his Lordship the Bishop of Angers.

THE CARDINAL-ARCHBISHOP OF WESTMINSTER.—The Cardinal-Archbishop of Westminster is still in Paris, where he has been detained by an attack of bronchitis. But we rejoice to be able to announce that the illness has for some days been passing off; and although the attack has been severe it has not at any time been of an alarming character.

SCOTLAND.—The free Church of Scotland is in a ferment about the establishment of a Catholic Hierarchy. A resolution has been passed calling the attention of ministers of the Church to "the importance of instructing the people in the true nature and bearing of the Romish system, as well as the present movement by the Vatican."

BAVARIA AND THE HOLY SEE.—The Voc della Verita gives an authorized denial to the statement made by some Liberal journals in Rome, to the effect that the King of Bavaria left Munich without receiving the new Nuncio. His Majesty on the evening of the 12th November gave audience to Monsignor Gaetano Aloisi Mosella, the Apostolic Nuncio accredited to Munich.

THE FIRST NEW.—The first Christian virgin whose name is recorded as having vowed herself to God, made a profession of virginity, and received the veil, is St. Marcellina, who received the veil from Pope Liberius in the Church of St. Peter, Rome on Christmas day, 352. We hear of "Houses of Virgins" in the third century, and from the days of the apostles there have always been women who devoted themselves to chastity, poverty, and the service of their neighbor.

MR. GLADSTONE.—An interesting note from Mr. Gladstone to the Very Rev. Father Burke, of St. Jarlath's College, Tuam, appears in the Irish papers in acknowledgment of the gift of Father Burke's learned volume on the Eastern origin of many matters connected with Ireland. The exponent pays a graceful tribute to the learning of the gifted ecclesiastic, and to the antiquity of many things that are dear to the heart of every son of Erin.

INAUGURATION.—The inauguration of the monument to the "Patriots" killed at Mentana in 1867 was celebrated on Sunday by a great multitude from Rome and all parts of Italy. If we read history aright, the "patriots" crossed the frontier in defiance of their own laws and ordinances, and in violation of a treaty entered into by their Government with France. If they fell at Mentana or elsewhere, it was because they were marauders who had to be dispersed by chassepots and bayonets.

CARDINAL MANNING.—The Roman correspondent of La Defense says Cardinal Manning's last work on the independence of the Holy See has been much talked of, both in the religious and political world. A short time after the book appeared in England, Signor Bonghi, former Minister of Public Instruction and author of several remarkable articles in the Nuova Antologia and the Revue des Deux Mondes, collected those articles in a volume which he published under the title of "Pius IX. and the Future Conclave."

CATHOLICISM IN BELGIUM.—The Liberal and anti-Catholic party in Belgium are seriously disturbed by the extraordinary increase in the number of converts to Christianity in that country. In 1848 there were 137 religious houses for men, and 642 for women, containing in all 11,963 occupants. In 1856 the number of religious houses had risen to 1,323, and they have continued to increase. Immense real estate is now held by these institutions. The Carmelite women have built a house on their estate at Chevremont at a cost of 200,000 dol.

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF TOULOUSE.—The inauguration of the Catholic University of Toulouse has been celebrated with great solemnity. There were present the Archbishops of Toulouse, Albi, Avignon, and Aix, the Bishops of Bodez, Montauban, and Versailles, and Mgr. Caraguel, Bishop elect of Perpignan, together with a number of persons of official rank. The sermon was preached by the Archbishop of Toulouse, and the inaugural address was delivered by the Rev. Abbe Causette, Delegate General of the Prelates of the South-west region of France.

PRIESTS EMPLOYED IN ROAD-MAKING.—By the laws of Italy all persons between the ages of 18 and 60 years, who are fit for labour are liable to be called on to give four days' labour each year, or the equivalent in money, for the purpose of making new roads in districts where such roads are required. Under this law some of the local authorities in Italy insist on forcing priests and friars to work at the roads or pay a certain sum for exemption. Many of the plundered priests and members of religious orders are so poor as to be unable to pay for exemption, and are therefore compelled to work as labourers, although their education and habits are manifestly such as to render them utterly unfit for such employment.

CATHOLICIZING OF SCOTLAND.—A non-Catholic organ has pointed out that within the last few years there have been contributed by Scotland to the Catholic and Roman Church, among others the Marquis of Bute and the younger brothers of the Marquis of Lethin, the Duchess of Buccleuch, a Dowager Duchess of Argyll, and the Dowager Marchioness of Queensberry and Lothian. And that in June, 1876, there were two hundred and twenty-eight Roman Catholic chapels, with two hundred and forty-eight officiating clergy, who had under their spiritual care three hundred and twenty thousand souls, composed chiefly of Irish, dwelling for the most part in the larger towns, such as Glasgow and Dundee. The Episcopal Church, in contrast to this, only numbers seventy-three thousand two hundred worshippers, the great majority of the population belonging to the various Presbyterian Kirks.

SCOTLAND.—A solemn Requiem Mass, for the repose of the souls of those who were killed by the pit explosion at Blantyre, was celebrated on Monday in presence of Archbishop Eyr, in St. Mary's, Hamilton. The church was crowded to overflowing and amongst those present were the Provost and some of the leading inhabitants. The Catholic widows and relatives of the deceased, dressed in mourning supplied by the clothing society organized by the Rev. Stewart Wright, sat in front of the pulpit. A catafalque was draped in black, which, with the wall behind, was draped in black. The Rev. F. Kerr, S.J., sang the Mass, the Rev. F. Ewerts acted as deacon, and Rev. J. Danaher, priest of the mission, took part in the service, and the Sisters of Charity from Lanark sang the dies irae and other music of the Mass. The sermon on the occasion was preached by the Very Rev. William J. Amhorst, S.J., Rector. The service was brought to a close by the Archbishop giving the absolution at the catafalque.

IRISH NEWS.

MR. BRYAN, M. P., It seems, does "not think the Parliamentary game worth the candle it consumes."

SUNDAY CLOSING.—Almost the first public act of the new Bishop of Ross has been to write an excellent letter in support of the Sunday Closing movement.

RELIEF FOR THE FAMINE-STRIKEN.—From a pastoral issued in the archdiocese of Dublin it appears that the £2,000 forwarded by the Cardinal, as the contribution of the faithful to the Vicar Apostolic of Madras, has elicited a letter of hearty thanks from that prelate. The money was for the relief of the famine-stricken.

A WOMAN 105 YEARS OLD.—At the meeting of this Board on Tuesday, it was announced that an old woman named Alice Hewston, who has arrived at the patriarchal age of 105 years, had been sent from the Barrow-in-Furness Union, by order of the magistrates there, to the Armagh Union, within which district it is said she was born.

VALUE OF PROPERTY IN THE COUNTY DOWN.—On Monday a farm in the occupation of Mr. John Morrison, Ballycock, near New Londonderry, measuring 62 acres, and held under Lord Londonderry at £65 annually, was sold by auction to Mr. Thomas Finlay, of Ballywattcock, for £1,522, or about £3 per acre. The farm is held without lease from year to year.

SUNDAY CLOSING.—The Sunday Closing agitation continues to be prosecuted with great vigour. Arrangements have been made for holding, during the next two months, public meetings in support of Professor Smyth's bill in the principal towns, North, South, East, and West. Two of those demonstrations have already taken place—one in Carlow and one in Londonderry—and both have been as successful as had been expected.

DR. GREENE.—Dr. Greene of Uringford, county Kilkenny, has died after a short illness, at the patriarchal age of ninety. The deceased gentleman has for the last sixty years been a well known and popular figure throughout Tipperary, Kilkenny, and Queen's Counties, over which his practice extended. His social qualities, rare ability as a medical man, and kindness to the poor endeared him to the community among whom he lived and died.

GRAND JURY.—The grand jury of the county Dublin met on Monday in the grand jury room, Four Courts, and gave their formal sanction to the proposed central tramway scheme, under which tramway lines would be laid through South Great George's street and Harrington street to Harold's Cross and Rathbarham, and through Charlemont street to Rathlagh and Clonskeagh. The grand jury also approved of the bill to construct a tramway line to Blackrock.

VALUE OF LAND IN THE COUNTY LOUTH.—On Thursday last Mr. George Buttery, auctioneer, Drogheda, put up for public competition a farm of land, belonging to Mr. Henry Kieran, at Ternonfeckin, county Louth, containing about 27 acres, at the yearly rent of £61, held under the Rev. William Brabazon, the wife of Wallop Brabazon, Esq. The bidding reached the sum of £355, at which sum Mr. Edward Norris, of Ballymakenny, became the purchaser of the farm.

A PROTESTANT ARCHBISHOP.—The Protestant Episcopalian in Scotland, says a London correspondent, are going to meet the threatened "Papal aggression" on that country with a very mild measure. As Lord Benconfield thought he would overawe the Russians by making Queen Victoria an empress, so the Scotch bishops propose to overawe the Pope by making one of their number an archbishop! The correspondent, rather irreverently adds that the one step, is likely to be as effectual as the other.

CENTRAL TENANTS' DEFENCE COMMITTEE.—A meeting of this body was held yesterday at 19 Upper Sackville street, Patrick Cummings, Esq., P.L.G., in the chair. Communications were received from several parts of the country with reference to convening a meeting of the representatives of the farmers' clubs during the recess. On the motion of Mr. William Kelly, seconded by Mr. Maurice Buttery it was unanimously resolved to convene a meeting of representatives from all the tenant bodies in Ireland at Dublin on the 18th December, to decide upon the best way to advance the cause of land reform during the next session of Parliament.

CONFERENCE.—The Belfast Conference met on the 23rd ult., and has fulfilled the expectations which the announcement of it some time since excited. It was attended by a large number of representatives from various parts of Ulster, its proceedings were marked throughout by the utmost harmony, and its decisions cannot fail to have an excellent effect upon the future of the Home Rule movement in the Northern province. Thus an "Ulster Home Government association" has been established, a standing committee has been appointed to superintend the working of the branch associations; it is provided that this committee shall hold an annual conference in some town in Ulster; and, finally, steps have been taken to secure justice being done in the registration courts. At the public meeting by which the Conference was followed, speeches well worthy of attention were delivered, amidst enthusiastic applause, by Mr. Biggar, M. P.; Mr. John Ferguson, Dr. McCloskey, the Rev. M. H. Cahill and other gentlemen.

CAPTAIN O'BRIEN, M.P., and THE HOME GUARDS.—The World says:—"The Home Guards have, no doubt, made a very great mistake in passing over Captain O'Beirne, of the 2nd Dragoon Guards (Queen's Bays), for promotion. That officer entered the service in 1837, went through the Indian Mutiny campaign with his corps, and behaved exceedingly well during the most trying time. There is nothing in the world against him except that he is an M. P. and a Home Ruler. But if officers on full-pay are allowed to go into Parliament, surely they ought to be allowed to have the courage of their opinions. I am not an admirer of Home Rule principles, but the surest way of adding strength to that party is by behaving to its members as the military authorities have behaved towards Captain O'Beirne. Give Irishmen a grievance and see whether they do not make the most of it. A more idiotic blunder than that of stopping the promotion of 'The Bays' because the senior captain is a Home Ruler has never yet been committed."

HOME RULE IN BELFAST.—On last Friday evening, the Home Rulers held a conference in St. Mary's Catholic Hall. A great push was made to have the meeting of monster dimensions; the province was largely placarded, advertising to any extent was carried on, and some for the principal Home Rule talent was engaged for the occasion. Yet the conference was but sparsely attended. There was not more than six hundred in the body of the large hall. I cannot well understand this great falling off in the Home Rule crowd. Formerly, there could hardly be found sufficient room for the throng rushing to such meetings. I fear, the visit of Mr. Gladstone to Ireland has turned the tide of Irish politics to the side of the advanced Whigs. The chair was occupied by the Rev. Isaac Nelson, Presbyterian clergyman. Mr. O'Donnell, M. P., Mr. Biggar, M. P., Mr. Ferguson (Glasgow), Dr. McCloskey (Derry), and Rev. M. H. Cahill, C. O. addressed the meeting. The speeches were listened to with marked attention, but visibly without that warmth which it takes large numbers to communicate.—Correspondent.

SCIENCE.

COMING COMETS.—Encke's well-known periodical comet will be in perihelion again about the end of July, 1878, and a small comet, discovered by Herr Tempel in 1873, and which appeared to move in an elliptic orbit with a period of about five years, will be due to pass its perihelion about the same time.

SUN SPOT OBSERVATIONS.—The increased attention which has recently been given to the investigation of solar phenomena and their possible connection with the changes and periodical deficiencies of rainfall, has induced the Secretary of State for India to sanction arrangements for the photographing of daily views of the sun's disc at some station to be hereafter determined upon in India. These arrangements are provisional for the period of two years, during which time the negatives secured by two daily photographs (where possible) will be sent to England for examination. There is no probability as yet of the establishment in India of a solar observatory, as has been reported.

AN UNKNOWN NARCOTIC.—Major R. Stuart, Port-au-Prince, says:—"I am tempted to notice a plant that grows here of such strong narcotic powers that in the hands of a skilful practitioner, it will produce coma of any intensity or duration, or even death itself when so intended. The knowledge of this plant is confined to a few families, who transmit the secret as an heirloom from generation to generation, and the heritage is highly prized, confirming, it is thought, the power of miracle workers and priests. For the plant is in many ways used in aid of solemn imposture, superstition, and even crime. The power thus exercised is called 'wanga,' a word that inspires the African with awe and dread. The wanga-priest can throw into a death-like coma, and knowing the moment of returning consciousness he will make a show of recalling to life. If a burglar is to be committed he can, by means of his art, cast a deep sleep on all indoors; and one may understand how he can attain other forbidden ends in the same way. An experienced botanist could not fail to discover this plant, which as an anæsthetic, would no doubt prove a valuable acquisition to medical science."

GERMAN COAL.—Hamburg has been the scene of a rather novel exhibition, that of German coal, which we are told, has excited much interest among German patriots and commercial men. The idea that Germany should endeavour to emancipate herself from the English market and produce her own coal has, it appears, acquired a powerful hold upon the national imagination, and hence the promotion and development of the German coal trade has come to be looked upon as a matter of patriotism. It is also alleged that Westphalian coal is superior in heating power to English, and Senator Godeffroy, in his address on the occasion of the opening of the exhibition, even made it appear that Germany is in possession of coal fields incomparably larger than any that England can show. The Westphalian coal basin alone, said M. Godeffroy, is capable of producing for seven centuries to come the same quantity of best coal annually that all England now yields, and beyond this the basin is not yet fully explored, and is probably capable of material extension. With all these supposed advantages Germany has not yet been able to beat England out of the field on her own ground. The City of Hamburg imported in 1876 about 1,500,000 tons of coal, of which about six-sevenths were the produce of England, and only one-seventh of home production.

VEGETABLE REMAINS IN EGYPTIAN MUSEUM.—There are published in the Zeitschrift für Ethnologie, under the editorship of Prof. Magnus and Ascherson, the notes of a lecture delivered some years ago on the above by the late Prof. Braun, of Berlin. The Inducements to take up this subject was supplied by the discoveries made by Herr that the flax found in the Swiss lake-dwellings does not belong to the now generally cultivated species Linum usitatissimum, L., but to L. angustifolium, Huds., a species which is not cultivated now, but may be found growing wild in this country, France, and the Mediterranean region. As Herr is inclined from several reasons to believe in the African origin of the cultivation of this inhabitant of the lake-dwellings, it was an interesting question to solve whether the flax cultivated in ancient Egypt was the same as that of the lake-dwellings. The material for this investigation in the Berlin Museum was anything but extensive, on by three seeds of Linum being found, and it was not even certain that these were genuine remains. One, however, belonged to L. angustifolium, and the other two to L. humile, Mill. (L. unguiculatum, var. crepitans, Schubl. and Martens). As they were found mixed in so small a quantity with the seeds of two cultivated plants, Lactuca sativa Nagella sativa, it was supposed that they might have belonged to weeds growing among these cultivated plants. This did not look promising. The occurrence of Linum humile was, however, interesting, as this species is the only one of that genus cultivated in Abyssinia, where, Schimper tells us, the fruits are used as food by the poor classes, and also as a Lenten food. Prof. Braun, thought it not improbable, all things considered, that this was the form cultivated in ancient Egypt. The doubt on this point may be soon solved, since old Egyptian seeds of Linum are known to exist in the Museum of Bul-g. This is only one of the many interesting cases dealt with in the course of the memoir.

NERVOUS FIBRES AND STIMULATION.—The phenomena of exhaustion and recovery have been thoroughly studied in tetanized muscles; Prof. J. Bernstein has recently investigated the corresponding phenomena in motor and sensory nerves (Pflüger's Archiv, xv. 6 and 7). If an interrupted current from a Dubois Reymond's induction apparatus be sent through a short section of the exposed sciatic nerve in a frog, the tendo Achillis having been previously connected with a lever of a myograph, it will be found, after a time, that stimulation of the stimulated tract of the nerve is abolished. With time and rest it may be regained; but its recovery does not take place at a uniform rate. At first it is very slow and gradual; it then goes on very rapidly for a relatively brief period; lastly, it enters on a third phase, during which its progress is once more slow, proceeding at a constantly diminishing rate as the nerve approaches its normal condition. The impairment of conductivity which results from the flow of a continued galvanic current through a given section of motor nerve has been ascribed to a variety of causes. It is really a kind of fatigue resembling that produced by interrupted currents. The process of recovery is governed by the same law in both cases; hence it may fairly be inferred that the fundamental changes in the nerve fibre are similar in both. Bernstein next proceeded to investigate the phenomena of recovery in motor nerves after their conducting power had been exhausted by mechanical, chemical (dilute lactic acid), and thermal stimuli. The rate of recovery was found to obey the same law as before. On extending the enquiry to sensory nerves the same law was again found to hold good. The author then proceeds to discuss the facts in their theoretical aspect, and points out that the law deduced from them is fundamentally similar to that which regulates the recovery of organisms as a whole from the exhaustion caused by fatigue or disease; it may thus be brought into connection with the general principles of organic nutrition.

FARMERS' COLUMN.

STOCKS.—Stocks should be well protected, and the covering repaired, if necessary. Store a sufficient supply of fodder and litter in the barn, and over the stables and sheds for present use.

HINTS FOR WORK.—In fall plowing don't let the plow rust in the furrows. So long as there is any plowing to be done, let it be done at once, and as soon as finished, clean off the plow, grass, or limewash, the moldboard and share, and put it away in the tool shed.

TOOLS.—Gather up all the tools, clean them, coat the wood work with crude petroleum, or some common lead and oil paint, and store them in their proper places. Tools will last twice as long if thus kept. Whatever preparation is needed for winter, should be begun now, or before snow falls. A little foresight saves much trouble.

THRASING.—A two horse tread-power and thrashing machine will be found very useful. These machines are made very portable, and are easy to be moved from place to place. As one set can do the work of several farms, money may be earned by thrashing for the neighbors after the work at home has been done. With these machines thrashing is done quietly and easily, without any of the "hurly-burly" of a hired set, and without waste of grain or straw, or overworking the horses.

SALT SHOULD BE GIVEN REGULARLY.—It is a very effective preventive of disease; but it should be given moderately. One ounce for a horse, ox, or cow, one dram for a sheep or pig, is a good daily allowance. It is only safe to trust to an animal's instinct to choose its own supply, when salt is kept constantly before it; otherwise, in its greediness, it will be apt to take too much. Taken in excessive quantities salt is an acrid poison.

ROOTS.—Roots that have not been harvested may be suffered to grow so long as the weather is mild. Late turnips will make considerable growth now, during the cool weather. As soon as one or two sharp frosts have occurred these late crops may be taken up; but this is not likely to happen, unless in far northern localities, until the end of the month. Frozen leaves are injurious to cattle and should not be given to them, but carted to the compost heap.

HORSES.—Horses should be provided with blankets for use when exposed to storms. These may be procured very cheaply, and their cost will be saved more than once or twice during the winter. We do not approve of using blankets in the stable, however cold the weather may be. This practice makes the horse more sensitive to cold when brought out. Blankets are for use only to protect against unusual exposure, and when the horse is warm.

ROOTS.—Roots that have been gathered should be made secure in the pits before the cold weather comes on. Look out that there is ample ventilation from the bottom to the top of the heap. Three cornered spouts, with a number of holes bored in each, to admit air, may be put every 8 or 10 feet apart in a long pit, or one for each small pit. These will carry off the heated air which arises in all newly made pits of any sort of roots, which would cause rotting were its escape not thus provided for.

CORN-HUSKING.—With the use of machines, and the need for economy in every form of labor, all the so-called "poetry of farm work" has disappeared. The old fashioned corn-husking in the barn will soon no more be held, and along with it the old-fashioned festive "harvest homes," will be soon only remembered in story. These homely frolics must give way to more sedate and less costly labor, and now the sorer the corn-husking is out of the way, the better. The fields should be cleared at once, and when everything is under cover, there will be time for more comfortable frolicking indoors.

RULES FOR HEALTH.—Rules for health for animals, are very simple and plain, and need strict observance at this season. Observe perfect cleanliness in stable, yard, barn-yard, and all their surroundings; keep the skin clean; use only clean water for drinking; keep the body and the lodging places dry, and not too warm; let them breathe only pure air; eat only nutritious and digestible food, and not too much of that; keep them quiet, and do not suffer them to be irritated; avoid exposure to cold, wet storms, and if this cannot be helped, dry the skin using considerable friction, with a coarse cloth, then cover with a blanket, but not before, and give a warm drink as soon as possible after it. When the system is feverish from cold, give a saline, cooling laxative.

WINTER RATIONS FOR A WORK HORSE.—Winter rations for a horse may now be given safely. Our practice is to mix half a bushel of cut hay or fodder with three pounds of feed of oats, corn and bran ground together, for one feed for each horse. The cut hay is thoroughly wetted in a box, the meal is scattered over it, a handful of salt for each horse is added, and the whole is well mixed with the shovel. It is then divided equally. A similar custom prevails in large stables, where hundreds of animals are kept; for economy and good results in every way, it can hardly be surpassed. If it is remembered that an animal which begins the winter in good condition is kept so more easily and cheaply, and will come out better in the spring, than one which begins it in poor order, and if this rule is acted upon few mistakes will occur.

ROSE FERTILIZERS.—The article entitled "Action of Fertilizers," in our issue of February 17th, gives the results of a very valuable series of experiments and deserves careful study. The eighth experiment is the one where the greatest gain is shown, amounting, as it figures it, to \$32.45, which is equivalent to a profit of very nearly \$60 per year per acre. This result is attained by the use of about 500 pounds per acre of ground bone drilled in with the seed. When sowed broadcast the gain was only \$26.00, giving us one more point in favor of drilling in fertilizers. We have often been told that the phosphoric acid must be made soluble before it is applied to the soil, but here we see better results from the use of raw bone than from superphosphate. The reason for this may be, there are 102 pounds of phosphoric acid and 16 pounds of nitrogen in \$10 worth of bone, to 85 pounds of phosphoric acid and no nitrogen in a similar amount of superphosphate. The practical deduction to be made from this is that ground bone is the cheapest form in which phosphoric acid can be applied to the soil. I have recently made some examinations of ground bone, and give my figures on three samples from the same manufactory, which were labelled as below:—

Table with 3 columns: Sample Name, Phosphoric Acid, Nitrogen.
Sample 1: Pure bone flour... 18.86 per cent. 2.89 per cent
Sample 2: Pure ground bone... 22.03 do 4.40 do
Sample 3: Ground horn pits... 18.76 do 4.42 do
Estimating the nitrogen as worth six times as much per pound as the phosphoric acid, these samples would be properly valued in the proportion, 36, 48 and 45. The bone flour is worth then only three fourths as much as the ground bone, while it is generally sold at the higher price, on the plea that it costs more to grind it finer. It is often largely composed of the dust swept up in the mill, and so contains many impurities. I am specially interested in this subject, from the fact that I am about commencing a series of experiments on a field recently set apart for the purpose by the college authorities, the results of which I hope to give you due time.—Country Gentleman.