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A REPORT

ON THE PROGRESS OF THE MOVEMENT FOR CATHOLIC SETTLEMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES, FROM THE CONVENTION AT BUFFALO, UNTIL THE MEETING OF THE 20TH OF AUGUST, 1856.

Fellow-Countrymen and Co-Religionists—That time of the year having arrived, when agricultural settlers usually cease going West, we avail ourselves of it as a fitting opportunity to communicate with you, on the progress of our undertaking, its operations during the past, and its prospects for the coming season.

Your Delegates came together at Buffalo in February last to give authority and impetus to the general principle of the agricultural settlement of Catholic immigrants: their time was short, their deliberations necessarily of the most general character; but the very fact of nearly a hundred gentlemen of the highest character, so assembling from such distances, and so unanimously concurring in mature recommendations, lifted the whole subject into national importance, and attracted to it the earnest attention of the best friends of the emigrant abroad. As our preliminary task at Buffalo was to collect and digest information, it is gratifying to record that the documents which emanated from the Convention received an unusually large share of publicity. In the United States, the principal reports and addresses, must have reached, through the leading daily journals, and the Catholic press, not less than half a million readers; in the adjoining Province they attracted equal attention, and excited, if possible, a still more lively interest. In Ireland—the mother country of these chiefly to be benefited—they were reproduced by almost the whole press of the country. In France, the most widely circulated Catholic journal, the *Univers*, dedicated its space to an editorial exposition of our views and suggestions. In Rome the *Civiltà Cattolica*, the organ of the Holy Father, gave like currency and approval to the general design of the movers. Not one adverse opinion reached us from the parent countries of those for whom we took counsel together; while at home, no considerable opposition was manifested. Considering that an unavoidable consequence of our advice was to diminish somewhat the present numbers of congregations at the east, and further, that the fact of such diminution was almost immediately felt, we cannot mention with too much praise those disinterested and devoted clergymen, who not only never murmured at this decrease of their flocks, but encouraged on befitting occasions, the timid, instructed the ignorant, and exhorted the apathetic, on their duties and opportunities in relation to this great enterprise. They took a large, a truly Catholic view of the whole field and plan of action. And as well in justice to them, as to ourselves, it devolves on us to exhibit, before coming to nearer particulars, that the actual loss of numbers sustained during last season, by the older congregations, or likely to be sustained in any one year, by systematic Catholic Colonization, will be more than compensated by the natural increase, by the new arrivals, two-thirds of whom fall into work and make at least their temporary homes in the Atlantic States; and by the greater demand for labor and more generally comfortable condition of the immigrant workmen of longer standing, who will not go West.

We will take as a basis of calculation the six northeastern or New England States. According to the much-understated figures of the Census of 1850, Maine had over 13,000 natives of Ireland, New Hampshire over 8,000, Massachusetts over 115,000, Rhode Island over 15,000, Vermont over 15,000, and Connecticut over 26,000. Though we do not admit the fulness of these figures, we give them for illustration sake: in all they amount to nearly 200,000 natives of Ireland for the New England States in 1850.—The arrivals of the last six years—averaging over 100,000 a year, until last year, when they suddenly fell off to one-half, probably raised the Irish numbers in those States to nearly half a million, or about one-fifth of the whole population. The proportion of adults even to a quarter million is at least three-fifths, and the natural increase of 150,000 such adults, will be not less than an average of three children to each pair of parents, or 225,000 children between 1850 and 1880. Let us suppose, then, that 10,000 adults annually leave New England for these thirty years, half the native increase of itself would almost supply their places. We do not enter into questions whether and how it is possible to preserve to the Church all, or the major part of these children of foreign Catholics: it is sufficient for us to indicate that nature gives as many as necessity removes; the other considerations are foreign to our deliberations as an organization for promoting agricultural settlements.

Moreover, it is well known, that above half the newly-arrived seek employment as near the docks as possible. On this head we have exact statistics of the immediate distribution of those who arrived at New York between the 1st of September, 1855, and the 30th of July, 1856. The figures prepared at Castle Garden for a Congressional Committee, are these: (the acknowledged funds in their possession are also given.)

| Destination. | Emigrants. | Cash. |
|--------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| Fifteen slave States and D. C. | 3,256 | \$194,888 01 |
| Six New England States | 8,134 | 121,623 73 |
| New York | 39,943 | 1,291,628 09 |
| New Jersey | 2,272 | 214,955 79 |
| Pennsylvania | 9,421 | 546,033 78 |
| Ohio | 6,117 | 479,633 99 |
| Indiana | 1,369 | 101,862 63 |
| Illinois | 7,713 | 698,456 31 |
| Michigan | 2,889 | 119,300 86 |
| Wisconsin | 10,457 | 1,045,661 38 |
| Iowa | 1,855 | 248,335 40 |
| California | 806 | 165,125 13 |
| Kansas | 3 | 128 00 |
| Minnesota | 305 | 35,156 00 |
| Utah | 1,329 | 56,670 93 |
| Oregon | 1 | 10 00 |
| Totals | 105,707 | \$5,398,369 54 |
| To slave States | 3,256 | 194,888 01 |
| To free States | 102,451 | \$5,203,481 53 |

Here out of 100,000 arriving at this port, we find that New York gets one in three; New England, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, one in five; the slave States one in thirty; and the entire West less than one-third—less than the single State and city of New York. From this source alone—apart from the national increase—the Catholic ranks could be recruited to their full strength—notwithstanding the largest western migration.

Lastly, we claim that our efforts to direct and distribute the laboring foreign population, have all worked for the greatest good of the greatest number. Before the Buffalo Convention, many of that class had a groundless fear of the western country. They had a theory that all the water bred fever, and that all the woods swarmed with Indians. No instructor arose to dispel the delusion. It served the purposes of eastern employers and eastern speculators to confirm or connive at it. Individual testimony to the contrary availed little or nothing. What was the consequence? This selfish plot often defeated itself. The strikes at Fall River and in other manufacturing towns, the threatening demonstrations of the unemployed in this city in the winters of '52, '53, and '54, will not be forgotten. This year, how stands the market? Laborers' wages at New York have been \$1 25 per day, and men enough could not be got even at that? Why? Because, as an illustration, wages for the same class at Chicago were up to \$2 25 per day.—Again why? Because a portion of the then laborers had been cured of their unfounded apprehensions of the West, and had trooped off there in thousands to employ and be employed. And this great change wrought within the present year, as we can prove from the amplest information, is largely due to the Convention which met last February.

The Executive arrangements established by that Convention were necessarily normal and imperfect. The members present, after electing a Supreme Directory of five members for the United States, pledged themselves explicitly to found on their return to their homes local societies to co-operate with the Directory so appointed, each local Society "to contribute at least \$25 to the expenses of the Directory. We have been notified of the existence of such Societies at Salem, (Mass.), Boston, Oswego, (N. Y.), Cleveland, and Columbus, (Ohio), Detroit, Chicago, and Saint Louis. From the Columbus Society we received a contribution of \$50, from the Cleveland \$25; from the Very Rev. Mr. Dunne of Chicago \$10, his personal subscription. From the other Societies we have not as yet received even the minimum contribution agreed upon. This we attribute rather to want of thought, or system, than to any want of spirit on behalf of our friends in these places. When they learn, however, that the expenses of the Directory have been, with the closest economy, some \$5,62, they will not, we are quite satisfied, allow the expenses of this public cause to be unjustly imposed hereafter on particular individuals.

We had proposed offering in this report brief extracts from the more important letters of our correspondents at the West, but we find they would extend to a great length and require a pamphlet to themselves. From the Rt. Rev. Bishops of St. Paul and Dubuque, we have received every encouragement; the latter Rt. Rev. Prelate is President of the local Society at Dubuque. From the Right Rev. Bishop of Pittsburgh we received a very cheering letter, with a subscription of \$500, which has been already made public. The Right Rev. Bishop of Cleveland, having declined the presidency of the local Society there, recommended one of his clergy to the committee, and otherwise encouraged them in their laudable work. Other Prelates have given us equally kind personal assurances of the interest they have long felt in what we are now endeavoring to accomplish. A great body of the clergy, and a large number of laymen, of well known respectability and influence, have

been equally earnest in their expressions of approbation. Their letters, now on our files, speak for them; and when the report of our first settlement having been established, comes to be published, we purpose to reproduce those words of encouragement so favorable to such an attempt, especially in its infancy.

The amount of stock necessary to the purchase of one Township is calculated at \$25,000. The Directory by their circular of April last, explained to the friends of the movement their intention to confine their superintendence to the settlement of a single Township at a time; to obtain the capital stock in 500 shares of \$50 a share; to take 10 per cent. or upwards on each share subscribed; to have power to hold the stock for a period "not exceeding five years;" to pay seven per cent. interest to those who invested simply to aid on the settlement and to give lands to those who subscribed with the intention of becoming themselves settlers. This and the other details of the plan for the settlement of the proposed Township of Saint Patrick's met with a considerable degree of public favor, and up to the present date there have been taken of this 347 shares, (\$17,250), on which \$1,950 have been paid in, and are at present lodged in the "Emigrant Savings Bank" of this city, to the credit of the subscribers and the Directory.—This sum does not exactly represent the ten per cent. required by the April circular: it exceeds that amount; but some of the small subscribers paid in the full amount of their shares on taking them, while others have paid one-half, one-third, or one-fourth down. Others again have not as yet paid any per centage on their shares, but are quite prepared to pay in the whole amount when called upon to do so.

We have not thought it prudent nor necessary to publish the list of individual subscribers. An analysis of it, however, will afford both encouragement and information to our friends. Of the whole number of shares, 194 have been taken by clergymen, who have paid upon them \$300; of the remainder, 158 have been taken in ones and twos by parties anxiously awaiting to enter on the settlement, who have paid \$1,000. The remainder is held by a few Catholic merchants and professional gentlemen, chiefly of this city, who have thus employed a portion of their surplus means "to encourage," as they say, "so laudable an undertaking." It will be seen from the figures just given, that a hundred and fifty-five shares remained untaken up to date; but the necessity of further canvass for these is now obviated by the fact of the Salem Society, which possesses a stock of \$10,000, of which 25 per cent. has been paid into Bank in that place, having expressed their readiness to take one-third, or even one-half, of the proposed township, in connexion with us. This arrangement, mutually advantageous to both parties, will enable us on the re-opening of the land offices in the new States, to make a prompt purchase, to be followed by a speedy settlement.

It is necessary to explain here that the principal Land offices of Iowa, northern Missouri, Minnesota, anti Wisconsin have been closed almost since the date of the Buffalo Convention, and still continue closed. This course was decided on by the Government at Washington, partly to defeat speculators who were overrunning the West, and partly to enable the Railroad Companies of the several States to "locate" the large grants of lands made them by the present Congress. In Iowa alone these grants exceed four million acres, an immense grant, by which not only the plans of private speculators but the prospects of all future settlers must be permanently effected. Even if your Directory had the whole sum necessary for the purchase of the proposed Township the last session, there was not one to be bought, at government price, as we took every opportunity of learning. Thus, in the month of May, a clergyman and layman, in the interests of this movement, spent three weeks traversing western States; visiting Detroit, Chicago, Milwaukee, Madison, Fond du lac and Dubuque. They reported the Land offices as closed, and great inaction even among the friends of their mission in those States. Of general views and statements they could get enough; but our western friends had no particular practical direction to give, except to recommend for the present, the squatter system of settlement.

In the month of July, the Vicar-General of Pittsburgh and another clergyman of that place made a journey over part of the same field, and the general result of their tour, as expressed in the following note of the Very Rev. Mr. McMahon, we here present:—

Pittsburgh, Aug. 4th, 1856.
Rev. Dear Sir—As I have lately visited Iowa and Minnesota, I think I owe it to you as the President of the Directory appointed by the Buffalo Convention, to communicate to you some impressions made upon my mind during my tour.
In the first place, the land is rich and the climate quite healthy; and, in the second place, there is a vast amount of Government land as yet unoccupied. Indeed it is not even offered for sale, and it may continue in that situation for one, two, or more years.—

Of course, I sought information from those who were best acquainted with the subject, as to the best mode of locating our people on this land. And the result has been a thorough conviction that the most practical as well as the most effectual way of carrying out the benevolent object of our Convention, would be to encourage and even to advise our people to go and take possession of some of this land. By this means they will acquire a pre-emption title which no one will dispute with them, and in which the Government will protect them when the land comes into market.

To accomplish this object you will permit me to say that you and the other members of the Directory should turn your attention and direct all your efforts. It is, I am intimately persuaded, the only thing that can be done, under existing circumstances, much better than any further effort that may be made to purchase a township. By this way the settlers will be equally secure in the possession of their land, and you will save yourselves from the annoyance of making application to your friends, to take sufficient to purchase a township. Moreover, in consequence of many of the land offices being closed, it is very doubtful whether a sufficient body of land to form a township can be purchased.

Therefore, in every view that can be taken of the subject, I think that the plan which I propose is the only one that can, or ought to be, adopted. Scarcely any difficulty presents itself in the way of its accomplishment. There are several gentlemen in the West—some of whom are already known to you—who are most anxious for it, and are ready and willing to aid in carrying it out. All that you have to do is to call the attention of our people to it, and to counsel the unsettled portion of them to emigrate to the West immediately. It would be well to inform them that each person or head of a family will require \$200, or at least \$100, and that he must be prepared to undergo many privations for one or two years.

I have used the words "unsettled portion," &c., because I wish to caution those who are already settled, and who have comfortable homes, against the movement. They should remain as they are, for it is more than doubtful whether their condition would be improved or not by moving to the West. I would suggest, therefore, that you should use your influence in dissuading them from doing so.

There is only one other suggestion which I think necessary to make at present. It is the formation of Societies, at various points, who may direct our people, and give efficiency to the movement. You know that they stand in need of counsel and advice, and now is the time to give it, if we wish to avail ourselves of the favorable opportunity that presents itself for improving their condition. Any information, aid or assistance that I can render, will be always at the service of the Directory, whilst I remain yours very respectfully,
E. McMahon.

This statement, accompanied with details not necessary to be made public, was the chief business of our present meeting. It commanded, as everything coming from such an influential quarter deserved to command, the best attention of all present, whether Directors or subscribers to the Township stock. It was decided, as the best means of calling attention to the present advantages of the squatter system, to insert Dr. McMahon's letter in the present Report, while at the same time the junction of our Salem friends, having now relieved us from the necessity of further appeals for subscribers, and our own subscribers having shown the fullest confidence and utmost interest to the proper establishment of the Township, it was decided not to abandon that project, but only to await the opening of the Land offices to carry it into immediate effect.

The present advantages of the squatter system to one class of Irish settlers cannot be questioned. They need wait for no Land office to open; they may go in, and, in western phrase, "make claims" this present "fall." As Dr. McMahon observes, they need only a couple of hundred dollars to start with; but they must have or pick up some knowledge of frontier life; they must for a time go alone and stand alone. If they can and will do this, success and independence certainly await them. But for the Directory to undertake to superintend an extensive experiment of this kind, would require more funds, and more agents, than they have any prospect of obtaining. All, therefore, that we can do, is to suggest to those eager for entering on a western life, the advantages of the squatter system properly understood; all we can do is to give freely such information as we possess, and to refer for particulars to those western friends who reside on, or near the spot, who are accurately informed, and whose local Societies can alone adequately direct successive arrivals of squatters.

In order to be prepared to avail ourselves of the earliest re-opening of the Western Land market for the purchase of the Township, and to inform our friends of our decision, the following resolutions, after the hearing of reports and reading of correspondence, were agreed to, unanimously:—

Moved by Henry Beirne, seconded by T. D. McGee, Esqrs.:

"Whereas—The Right Rev. Dr. O'Connor having been unavoidably obliged to decline acting as one of the Trustees of the funds subscribed for the purchase of a Catholic settlement—

"Resolved—That it appears from information received at this meeting, to be desirable that a Board of Five Trustees should be chosen for that purpose."
"Resolved—That Rev. J. Kelly, Jersey City; Rev. M. Hart, New Haven; and D. Sadlier, Esq., with two such Trustees as the Salem Society may elect, shall form such Board." Passed unanimously.

Moved by Rev. M. Hart, seconded by Henry Beirne, Esq.:

and Mr. McGee, be a Committee to report Progress! Passed unanimously.

In accordance with the above resolutions, the undersigned have to submit the foregoing report, the whole matter of which may be summed up in a very few words:—1. As to the past—the encouragement for our undertaking has been great, both from the clergy and laity; the chief organs of public opinion both in this country and in the mother country, of the majority of our Catholic emigrants, have been unanimous in their approval of the general design; any congregational decrease at the East will be more than supplied by the natural increase and the new arrivals; the extension of the field of immigrant labor has already sensibly benefited those who remain at the East, as well as those who have gone West; the impulse given to that salutary change by the Buffalo Convention has been widespread, continuous, and effective. 2. As to the present—the majority of the local Societies formed have been hitherto of no pecuniary assistance to the Directory; this has somewhat retarded united operations, and ought to be remedied by the Societies; a large share of public confidence has been and continues to be placed in the Directory by several Bishops and Clergymen, and by many of the intending settlers, as shown by our correspondence and the financial statement; it is demonstrated that the money and the men are forthcoming; but the closing of the principal Land offices during the season of 1856 rendered it impossible to effect the purchase of any large tract at Government prices; in view of the fact that they still are closed, and upon the further authority of the Very Rev. Dr. McMahon's and other western reports, we suggest to all who can possibly avail themselves of its advantages, to try the squatter system; the subscribers present, and the Directors, are moreover unanimously of opinion, that, conjointly with the Salem Association, we should have arrangements completed whereby, on the first opening of the Land offices, to secure the Township of St. Patrick's. The details of these arrangements, which for obvious reasons cannot be made public till perfected, are intrusted to the Board of Trustees.

J. KELLY,
D. SADLIER,
THOMAS DARCY MCGEE, } Committee.
164 William St., New York,
August 22nd, 1856.

RESULTS OF CALVINISM IN SCOTLAND.

(From the Glasgow Northern Times.)

Catholicism was planted in Scotland by voluntary conversion and moral influence—Calvinism was established by the sword. Scotland was great and glorious when Catholic, and lost her independence when she yielded to Calvinism.

There has lately been a meeting at Stirling, and a public breakfast at Bridge of Allan to-day, for a testimonial to Wallace, at which the faith of Wallace was ignored or reviled. Scotchmen should recollect that their greatest patriot was a Catholic, and it should not be forgotten here that his tutor and patron in patriotism was none other than a Bishop of Glasgow. In that age a Countess of Monteith was disinherited because she stooped to marry an obscure Englishman, named John Russell. His descendants had great share in the ruin of Scotland, and one of them lives to revile the religion of her ancient hero as "tending to enslave."

Wallace, who protected the monks, was faithful to the death in the cause of patriotism. Edward I., who defied the Holy See, murdered the Scottish hero. Tyranny, in every age, has hated the Papacy, because it always resisted oppression. Scotland began to decline when her loyalty to Rome declined.

Alexander III., was disobedient to Christ's vicar and his line, the male descendants of the sainted Margaret and the noble Malcolm, was extinguished. Then ensued the evils of disputed succession and civil strife.

The ill-fated House of Stuart, who afterwards succeeded to the throne of Scotland, followed the evil example of the English sovereigns, and were doomed to fall eventually victims to English intrigues. Their history illustrates in no ordinary way Divine retribution upon royal pride and self-will. From their accession to sovereignty in the thirteenth century to their extinction as a dynasty, their history is unhappy, and is marked by disaster. Their weakness led to the ruin of Scotland, through the selfish machinations of the nobles. Still, so long as the Stuarts were Catholic they retained the Crown. No sooner did Calvinism enter the land than all was confusion. The throne was shaken, and soon fell. The Scottish nobles became conspirators, and found tools in the Calvinistic clergy. Their aim was the subjugation of the Crown and the spoliation of the Church.

The Church had founded the universities, and covered the country with cathedrals, convents, hospitals, and schools. She was the bulwark of the independence of the nation; and Cardinal