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Current Comment

Catholic readers of the daily papers have been anxiously inquiring what are the losses of the Catholic body in San Francisco. No summary of these losses has yet appeared in our Canadian daily press, despite the wealth of details on other incidents of the great calamity. As our Catholic exchanges generally go to press a couple of days before the date of their issue on Saturday, they had no accurate information on this point till the week after the earthquake, and as, moreover, these exchanges reached us at a time when all our available space was devoted, last week, to the Knights of Columbus, it is only in this issue, more than three weeks after the disaster, that we are enabled to satisfy the legitimate curiosity of our readers.

But this satisfaction will be far from complete until further details are secured. Thus the "Irish World" of April 28, one of the best informed Catholic papers in the United States, says that eighty Catholic institutions—churches, colleges, convents and hospitals—have been razed to the ground. But it names only eleven churches, four convents and one hospital: Notre Dame des Victoires, St. Balianco (as there is no such name in the catalogue of Saints nor in the Catholic Directory for 1906, this is probably a mistake for St. Boniface Church, 115 Golden Gate), St. Brendan's, St. Francis, St. Ignatius, St. Joseph, St. Mary's (Paulist), St. Patrick's, St. Rose, SS. Peter and Paul, Our Lady of Guadeloupe, Holy Name Convent, Notre Dame Convent, Presentation Convent, St. Mary's Hospital, St. Vincent's Convent. To these must be added St. Ignatius College, next to the Church of St. Ignatius, which seems to have been utterly destroyed, the Academy of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary at 220 Tenth street, and their school in Brannan street, St. Rose's parish. On the other hand, the Convent and Academy of the Sacred Heart, directed by the Ladies of the Sacred Heart, at 925 Franklin street, was not injured by the earthquake, and though in the line of the conflagration, was not even scorched.

A private letter from a Jesuit at Santa Clara College says: "At about 5.10 a.m., while I was getting ready to shave in my dormitory office, my electric light went out and the noise began. The boys yelled and called me by name. I knelt down and we said the Our Father and Hail Mary together, and then we got out. The earth-shake was so strong that it was nearly impossible to stand up, just as it is on board ship when the steamer is tossed by a violent storm. No one was injured at Santa Clara College. The damage done was great. Statues fell to the ground, plasterings filled the floors, basins and pitchers were smashed, books were flung around and valuable articles ruined. That day there was no gas, no water, no electric lights, no telephones, no telegrams, no newspapers, and no trains nor street cars. The boys' beds were placed in the yard, where the frightened youths slept for the three following days under the open sky."

And what about 214 Hayes street? (the Jesuit Church and College in San Francisco)? "Saint Ignatius Church and College are no more. The priests and were transferred to the convent on the Hayes street hill. The scholastics were shipped to Santa Clara. The costly investments were saved; but the beautiful library was lost and the scientific department wrecked. The individual Jesuits lost all their manuscripts and clothes."

The Catholic boarding school at Hollister, a small town of San Benito Co., California, was ruined; but all the children were rescued. The parish church of the Assumption at Tomales, fifty miles from San Francisco, was levelled to the ground by the earthquake. Father Gleason, the pastor, is inconsolable because the Sacred Host lies buried in the ruins. St. Patrick's

Seminary, the great archdiocesan institution at Menlo Park, was badly wrecked, while the convent of the Ladies of the Sacred Heart near by escaped without any serious injury. Although St. Mary's Cathedral, in the heart of the city of San Francisco, was not seriously damaged by the earthquake and was saved from burning when flames began to appear in the steeple, by Fathers O'Ryan and Ramm, who ascended the steeple from the inside and grasped the hose from a fireman reaching up from below, yet Archbishop Montgomery, wisely appreciating the popular fear of another earthquake—there were no less than 27 shocks during the ten days that followed the great catastrophe—celebrated Mass on an altar placed in the portico in front of the main entrance, and would not let anybody enter the church. Thus it was that the first Sunday after the great earthquake all the parishioners of the Cathedral worshipped in the open air.

The preservation of the San Francisco convent of the Ladies of the Sacred Heart is so remarkable that we think the following details will interest our readers.

"The age of miracles has not yet passed," said a captain of the United States army on the Monday following the cataclysm, as he gazed upon the convent and academy of the Sacred Heart, San Francisco, which, although in the line of the recent earthquake and subsequent conflagration, escaped without even a scar or a scratch.

Standing like a tall sentinel amid the ruins of skyscrapers and palatial structures, the convent is the cynosure of the eyes of all whom the military authorities permitted to cross the burned and desolate zone. It is located at 925 Franklin street. Twenty-two Sisters of the Sacred Heart and Rev. Mother Gorman conduct a select day school for young ladies at the convent.

When the people were toppling over each other in their eagerness to escape from the neighborhood of the convent the sisters betook themselves to their private chapel and engaged in prayer. The sounds of the Litany of the Sacred Heart mingled with the wails of the frightened women and children on the outside. The flames shot over the convent and enveloped it on all sides and for hours not a trace of the nunnery could be seen.

When the surrounding buildings were in ruins, however, and the smoke had cleared away, the convent was seen standing and uninjured. Not even the windows were touched and the smoke, which blackened everything in the city left no trace upon its walls.

We regret to learn of the ruin brought upon our able Catholic contemporary, the "Monitor," of San Francisco. Mr. Thomas A. Connelly, its gifted editor, writes to a priest in Ohio: "We escaped the terrors of the earthquake, but I am afraid the catastrophe will put The Monitor and its editor out of commission. Our office and plant were among the first in the city to succumb to the convulsion and flames, and everything, including books, lists and accounts, was destroyed."

Anent all this wretchedness and woe Father Phelan, editor of the St. Louis "Western Watchman," makes the following happy remark: "When St. Pierre and its 35,000 people were destroyed by a volcanic eruption on the Island of Martinique, the preachers all over the Protestant world hurried to tell us that it was the judgment of God. When San Francisco was laid in ruins by the earthquake last week the same preachers lost no time in telling us that it was not a judgment of God, but a natural seismic disturbance. We are glad they told us, as we might otherwise be now lying under an erroneous impression. In such matters it is very important to have authentic information."

(Continued on page 4)

FATHER JAMES M. REARDON

We are glad to be able to present to our readers a very good portrait of Father Reardon, the zealous, learned and eloquent priest who thrilled the large audience in St. Mary's Church by his Knights of Columbus sermon a fortnight ago. As he implied he was born "under the ample folds of that Union Jack which was his boyhood's pride." The year of his birth was 1872; the place, Prince Edward Island, which has produced so many distinguished priests.



He first attended the public school, then graduated from Prince of Wales College, Charlottetown, and afterwards acquired invaluable experience as a school teacher. Subsequently he entered Laval University, Quebec, whence, after obtaining the degree of B.A., he entered the Grand Seminary, Quebec, to study for the priesthood. Having been induced to try the promising West, he was admitted to the St. Paul Seminary in 1895 and was there ordained priest in 1898. In the following September he was appointed Professor of Biology in that Seminary, and since then has had charge of the Science Department.

Religious Beliefs

Father Krose, S.J., a famous statistician who has been engaged for many years in compiling figures on the subject of the number of human beings who profess different forms of belief, estimates the total number of Christians in the world at 549,017,341.

Of this number, Europe contains 373,975,951; America (North, South and Central), 133,907,846; Asia, 23,636,493; Africa, 8,329,849; Australia and Oceania, 4,167,202.

The non-Christian religions show 202,048,204 Mohammedans; Brahmins, or Hindus, 210,100,000; Confucians and ancestor worshippers, 253,000,000; Buddhist worshippers, 253,000,000; Taoists, 120,250,000; ancient religions of India, 12,113 Shintoists, 17,000,000; Fetish worshippers and other pagans, 144,700,000; Jews, 11,037,000; other religions, 2,844,482.

The total number of people now living on earth is estimated by the learned Yuraschke at 1,539,000,000, of whom 762,102,000 are monotheists, while 776,000,000 are polytheists, or believers in more gods than one. The Christian religions are divided thus: Roman Catholics, 264,505,922; Protestants, 166,267,109; Greeks, 111,320,643; Oriental schisms, 6,554,913.

A Bad Habit

"Why is it that some of the bright boys who know everything the teacher asks do not turn out to be great business men?"

"Perhaps," answered Mr. Dustin Stax, "it's because they get into the habit of answering questions."—Washington Star.

"Where are you going?"

"South."

"What for?"

"Rheumatism."

"Gee! Can't you get enough of it here?"

Persons and Facts

We are glad to be able to print the following extract from a letter addressed by one of the recent visiting Knights of Columbus to a local officer of the new Winnipeg Council:

"I hope your members are as well pleased over their experiences as ours are with the time they had, and the treatment they received. There are nearly four hundred very regretful stay-at-homes in St. Paul. I would hesitate to burden you with the number that are sorry they did not go."

Nurses Brennan and Lawrence, graduates of St. Boniface Hospital, who had been tending patients at Fort William for the last eight or nine weeks, returned early this week.

The portrait of the Pope painted by Carolus Durand has arrived in Rome. M. Durand was commissioned to paint the portrait by ex-Empress Eugenie, who intends it for a wedding gift to Princess Ena of Battenberg, the coming Queen of Spain.

Alexander Juett, a student of the Christian Brothers' college at Perth West Australia, has been awarded the Rhodes scholarship for that state, worth \$1,500 a year for three years. The last similar success we recorded came from Newfoundland, a student of the Irish Christian Brothers' school capturing the prize.

Lord Justice Mathew of the Queens' Bench, London, who has retired after an honorable career, is a nephew of the great Father Mathew, the apostle of temperance. One of his daughters is a nun and the other is the wife of John Dillon, M.P., the Irish nationalist leader. Sir James Mathew occupied the bench for twenty-five years.

Two Catholic priests, Father Philip O'Ryan and Father Charles A. Ramm, stand high in the roll of honor of San Francisco heroes. As members of a volunteer fire brigade which they joined at an early stage of the fire, they climbed the cathedral tower and extinguished a blaze on the cross of the spire. Their brave and perilous deed not only saved the magnificent cathedral, which was occupied at the time with refugees, but persons acquainted with the topography of the city say that if the cathedral had burned the entire section surrounding it would have been lost as well. Father O'Ryan comes of a Tipperary family that has given many distinguished sons to the Church and to secular learning, and Father Ramm is a convert and one of the most celebrated preachers on the Pacific coast.

Cardinal Gibbons has promised Supreme Knight of Columbus Edward L. Hearn that His Eminence will attend the June celebration of that organization without fail. The Cardinal was invited to officiate at the dedication of the national headquarters several weeks ago, and the Knights who have been on the anxious seat meanwhile, are elated at the acceptance.

At the funeral of Brigadier General Francis M. Harrington, United States Marine Corps, which took place recently from St. Paul's church in Washington, his son, Rev. George Harrington, officiated at the solemn requiem. Large numbers of distinguished people were present at the obsequies, including delegations from the Spanish War Veterans, of which the General was one of its first officers. Carroll Council, Knights of Columbus, attended in a body.

Austria has been aroused by a strong protest recently filed by the Archbishop of Vienna against the proposal to "reform" marriage laws in Franz Joseph's empire. The reform would be opposed to the Catholic doctrine of the indissolubility of the marriage vow.

The Irish church lost a strong worker when Very Rev. Richard Marnier, D.D., P.P., Kilkeel, passed away a few weeks

ago. He found time from his active life as parish priest and professor to give vigorous advocacy to the Nationalist cause and to found the Belfast Irish News.

More than 14,000 priests have demanded pensions under the Act of Separation in France.

Orders for the introduction of the process of beatification of Pope Pius IX, have been issued by Pius X in response to numerous requests from the Catholic world, it is reported in "La Verite Francaise."

In celebration of the golden jubilee of their wedding, Mr. and Mrs. James Jung, of Baltimore attended a Solemn Nuptial Mass there recently. One son of the couple, Rev. Henry Jung, C.S.S.R., was celebrant of the Mass, and two other sons, Revs. Frederic and Lawrence Jung, C.S.S.R., were respectively deacon and subdeacon. More than a dozen other priests were present in the sanctuary. Mr. Jung is seventy-one years old, and his wife is seventy-two. Both were born in Germany.

On Wednesday Mother St. Lucy, Superior General of the Sisters of Mercy; arrived at the Maternity Hospital on Sherbrooke St., accompanied by six sisters, four of whom are destined for Edmonton.

The Sisters of Mercy are going to enlarge their hospital this summer.

Rt. Rev. Jose Barlin, D.D., heretofore administrator of the Diocese of Nueva Carceres, is the first native Filipino to be made Bishop.

A novitiate will be built at Hintonburg, near Ottawa, this spring by the Redemptorist Fathers. The building will accommodate 60 students.

A French Captain of the Vannes garrison, who refused to order the breaking of a church, has been acquitted by a court martial.

Abbeyfeale, Ireland, has the distinction of being the first parish in Ireland where complete peasant proprietary has been established, all the land having been purchased by the tenants under the Irish Land Act.

The official figures of the pilgrimages to the shrine of St. Anne de Beaupre, near Quebec, during the year 1905, show that 138,446 pilgrims went there by rail, 29,050 by boat, 1,000 in vehicles, giving a grand total of 168,502. In the previous year there were 156,263 pilgrims. The total number for ten years preceding 1905 was 922,346.

The latest donation of Mrs. Thos. F. Ryan, of New York, who during the last few years has given more than \$2,500,000 to the American Catholic Church, is an Easter offering of \$1,000,000 towards the new cathedral at Richmond, Va.

St. Cloud, Minn., is one of Winnipeg's neighbors which has lately added a Council of the Knights of Columbus unto itself. The council was organized in February, and an initiation held at the end of April brought in 53 new members, making a total of nearly 100.

Next Wednesday evening, at 8 o'clock, in St. Boniface College Hall, there will be an entertainment in honor of the Rector's Feast.

Invitations have already been sent out, and if any would wish to secure invitations, they are requested to telephone to 606.

As a man I call him pretty small potatoes, remarked a man on the market on Saturday. I don't agree with you said a friend—he's a beat.