

## GERMAN CATHOLICS SPEAK.

Strong Protest of the Common Council of the Catholic Federation of Buffalo Against Our Unjust Treatment of the Catholic Filipinos.

At the recent meeting of the Common Council of the Catholic Federation of Buffalo, N.Y., the following protest against the unjust treatment of the Filipinos was unanimously adopted:—

"We, the members of the Common Council ('Centraikoeper') of the Catholic Federation of Buffalo, are vexed and offended by the policy which the government and its representatives have adopted and still pursue in the Philippines. The fact becomes clearer day by day, and is corroborated by the official reports of those in charge, that the conduct of our officials in these islands is developing into a source of serious danger and persecution for the Catholic Church. As citizens of the United States we protest most emphatically against the policy of violence and injustice which the present administration follows, contrary to the rights and interests of our fellow-Catholics in the Philippine Islands. We expect and demand that before our government meddles in the acts of violence perpetrated by European nations it will first put an end to the acts of tyrannous injustice in our own possessions. We protest against the way our government has treated (1) the schools, (2) the monks, (3) the inhabitants.

"1. The purpose of the Government to undermine and destroy the Catholic schools and thus to inflict a most damaging blow on the Catholic Church, cannot be denied. Of the 1,500 school teachers sent by the government to the Philippines only fifty or sixty were Catholics, in spite of the fact that the natives, barring such as are still heathen, belong almost exclusively to the Catholic Church. It is exasperating in the extreme to see United States soldiers whose one duty it ought to be to defend their country, employed, together with the police, in violently driving children to the public schools against the will of parents.

"We deny the government any and every right to determine which school a child shall frequent, and regard the attempt of the government to destroy the Catholic faith in the hearts of the Philippine children as a flagrant injustice. According to the constitution, every official is forbidden to proselytize for the benefit of any religious sect.

"2. From the instructions of Secretary Root to Governor Taft it is evident that the Holy Father was to be forced to acquiesce in a plan whereby the monks would be obliged to sell their real estate. A forced sale of this kind is in open violation of the Treaty of Paris and of the constitution of the United States. It is the first duty of the government to protect individual citizens, even if these be monks, in the enjoyment and exercise of their natural rights. It is no question of the government's at all to determine whether the religious should leave the islands, especially since the statement that the monks were too numerous has turned out to be altogether exaggerated and absurd. This will appear from a consideration of the following plain facts: In the year 1898, there were 1,642 priests in charge of 6,559,998 souls, i.e., one priest for every 3,995 natives. In the United States we have one minister for every 155 Methodists, one for every 130 Baptists and one for every 133 Presbyterians. Under the present circumstances, the retention of the monks is a question of vital importance for the Church in the Philippines. Many parishes are altogether deprived of spiritual aid. At present there is only one priest for every 10,000 souls, and in the neighborhood of Manila, some priests have each 20,000 Catholics to care for.

"We must not forget to mention that Governor Taft had not deemed it below his dignity to slander the monks in his official reports, and to adduce such witnesses as Buencamino against them. This is tantamount to disgracing the representatives of the people by sending them a falsified report of the situation.

"3. We protest, likewise, against

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the inhuman and arbitrary tortures inflicted on the inhabitants of the islands. This cruel treatment has been stigmatized by Gen. Miles himself in an official report and a denial of the many cases of brutal behavior is entirely out of question.

"Hence the resolution:

"Whereas, the administration seriously damages the Catholic schools in the Philippine Islands by supplanting Catholic teachers and by applying force to make Catholic children leave their own and frequent public schools;

"Whereas, said administration would force the monks to sell their real estate, intending to deprive the Catholic Filipinos of their pastors by banishing the religious orders;

"Whereas, the same administration has failed to suppress numberless acts of cruelty, perpetrated by our soldiers on the innocent inhabitants; be it

"Resolved, that we instruct our delegates to the State convention ('Staatsverband') to work for the energetic and efficient treatment, especially of the religious side of the Philippine question, at the next meeting of the State convention at Albany. Our delegates shall use their influence with the State convention ('Staatsverband') to have the latter urge a determined policy against the administration at the meeting of the National Federation of Catholic Societies, soon to convene in Atlantic City, as the pro-

test of last year's convention in Chicago has proved to be ineffective."

### LEGEND OF THE BELLS.

St. Patrick had a celebrated bell, which plays an important part in many of the narratives, legendary and authentic; it was called "Finn-faidheeh," or the fair-sounding and other saints called their bells by the same name. Many of these bells are preserved in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin, as well as in other collections; and among them one in particular, is believed, with good reasons, to be the very bell—the melodious Finn-faidheeh of St. Patrick.

In the neighborhood of many of our ecclesiastical ruins the people have beautiful legends about the church-bells; that in some far distant time, when despoilers—Danes or natives—came to plunder the monastery, the bells, which some of the legends say were of silver, were hastily taken down and thrown for safety into the nearest river or lake, where they remain to this day. But at intervals—some say every seven years—they are heard to ring with a faint, muffled, melancholy sound. The bell that

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hung in the Church of Rattoo, in Kerry, is now at the bottom of the River Brik; its voice has often been heard, but the people have never been able to find it, though they have often searched. The bells of the ancient Church of Drumcliff, near Ennis, in Clare, lie beneath the waters of a lakelet in the townland, which is called Poulmagh, the pool of the bells; and the thieves who stole the silver bell of Killodonnell Abbey, near Rathmelton, in Donegal, were drowned in crossing Lough Swilly in a boat with their prize, but the bell lies at the bottom of the loch and is heard to ring—so it is said—every seven years.

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