

PREJUDICE AGAINST CATHOLICS IN MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

The following spirited and manly speech delivered by Ald. Mullen of Manchester, N. H., at a recent meeting of the council, is but another striking evidence of the prejudice which Catholics, especially those of them who are of Irish birth or descent have to contend against.

Your honor: While I am very willing and deem it a pleasure to vote for Chief Lane because of the honorable past career as chief of the fire department, I must in justice to myself and my constituents protest against the system which has prevailed here for many years.

Your honor, as an intelligent American you will admit that the rights of all are identical, no distinction, no discrimination.

We are a cosmopolitan people, a mixture of races, each in his way contributing to the wealth and prosperity of this municipality.

But, your honor, I see no reason why the boys of Manchester cannot be recognized in this matter of fire as on other departments.

In conclusion, your honor and gentlemen of the board of aldermen, I hope you will consider these remarks of mine in their true light.

"The Herald" in publishing the speech of Ald. Mullen makes the following observations upon the matter.

Hall in this city, as they are in Manchester with the exception of the office of Mayor.

It has been a well-known fact for years, says this newspaper, that there never was much of a chance for any Irishman or in fact any Catholic to get into the fire department on this side of the river at least.

But this has happened by the election of Mr. Monplaisir to fill such a position and now we hear expressions of dissatisfaction that it has happened and much sympathy is being expressed for Mr. Bean who was defeated.

Let us look into facts and what do we see. First, that this city has a Catholic population of between 30,000 to 35,000 and secondly we find that not one of our creed fills any important appointive office under the city government.

Let us look into the results of the recent meeting of the city government. What do we find: that three Catholics have been chosen to fill positions, namely, park inspector, city weigher and fourth assistant fire engineer.

In regard to the fire department the clique that controls it should be taught a lesson. Its members have held sway too long, and it would be for the best interests of the department to have a mental and physical examination of all candidates for membership before a competent and impartial board of examiners.

There are citizens in our city who worship in the Catholic church fully as capable to fill positions of trust under the city government as of any other denomination and in all fairness and justice should be recognized.

ST. LAWRENCE SKATING RINK, POINT ST. CHARLES.

Elsewhere in these columns will be found the advertisement of the St. Lawrence Skating Rink. It is one of the best equipped of the covered rinks

in Montreal. Although it only opened its doors a little over a month ago, for the first time, it has already a large and very select number of patrons.

OUR PENNY-WISE PAROCHIAL POLICY.

(From the Western Watchman, St. Louis, Mo.)

The substitution of a fixed tax for the precarious voluntary collections heretofore relied on in our plan of seminary sustentation and the general favor with which the change has been received warrants us in venturing on a similar reform in our methods of parish support.

A fact comes to light in the annual report of the churches that in St. Bridget's parish the pew rent is less than one thousand dollars, and in St. Malachy's parish it is less than eight hundred dollars.

We single out these two parishes simply for the reason that the ruinous system of selling seats on Sunday has in those parishes borne its mature fruit.

Some time ago we wrote an article on the causes of Mass missing, and giving as one the habit of our young men staying in saloons too late Saturday night.

To remedy the system will require concert of action among the rectors. His Grace has succeeded so well in remedying the evils of our precarious seminary sustentation that we will find it comparatively easy to carry through another and a greater reform.

The beautiful cannot be obtained without virtue, if virtue consists, as I believe, in the sentiment of repose, and the avoidance of all things in excess.—Benjamin Disraeli.

CHRISTMAS ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS LEO XIII.

The Roman correspondent of the "Boston Pilot" in commenting upon the Christmas address of His Holiness Leo XIII. which we give below, says:

The words of the Pope on this occasion are sad and solemn in an unusual degree. There are few men of Christian feeling and Christian honesty who look abroad upon the state of the world to-day who can in the depths of their conscience take a view different from that of the Pope.

The following is the translation given by the correspondent of the "Pilot" of the address of His Holiness:

"It is a customary homage, none the less dear on that account, that is rendered to us to-day by the sacred college, the affectionate sense of which you, Signor Cardinal, have interpreted so well.

"As to us personally, we adore in humility of spirit, gratefully and devotedly, the benign Providence of the Lord Who has deigned to preserve to us up to now the precious gift of life.

"Too many, indeed, have been the sadnesses of the year '98, and some are so terrible that the mind recoils from remembering them.

"Other events of sad memory accompany the year which is departing specially deplorable in Our Letter to the Bishops and People of Italy.

The clergy by its very character and by the duty of its office, is the class most alien from all seditious projects, and irrefutable proofs of this fact were furnished even on recent occasions.

firmness of the clergy, by Divine favor, that of the laity responds very well. Because love to the Roman Pontificate has widespread and solid roots in the Peninsula, no less than faith in Catholic dogma, which is there jealously guarded as a sacred treasure at all times.

COST OF ORPHAN ASYLUMS IN THE UNITED STATES.

The recent circular letter issued by Archbishop Katzer with reference to St. Rose's and St. Aemilianus' Orphan Asylums has attracted attention to these institutions and the general subject of the care of orphans, says the Catholic Citizen of Milwaukee.

The Archbishop refers to the urgent necessity of doing something for the support of the asylums, especially since the county has cut off payments for dependent children.

In view of the attention thus called to the local orphan asylums and the financial problems connected therewith, The Citizen has made enquiries regarding the asylums in the other Wisconsin dioceses.

Letters were addressed to the asylums of La Crosse and Green Bay dioceses, both of which have an excellent standing and were said to be free from debt.

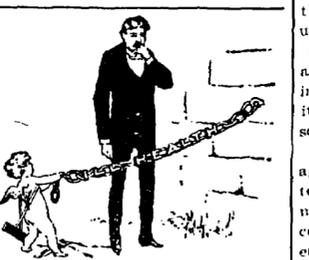
From the reply of Rev. K. G. Beyrer, the efficient secretary of the La Crosse diocese orphan asylums, we call the following information:

In La Crosse diocese there are two orphan asylums, one for boys, St. Michael's and one for girls, St. Ann's. Both are located in the city of La Crosse.

Mgr. Fox of Green Bay furnishes a complete report of the condition of the Green Bay asylum. It shows at a glance how well the asylum is conducted and speaks for itself.

St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum, Green Bay, a diocesan institution is supported by—

- (a) An annual collection in the churches of the diocese averaging about \$1,800. (b) By payment of small amounts for board of half orphans by parent or guardian where possible. (c) By the farm connected with



A New Obstacle. The old obstacles that used to prevent the marriage of loving couples are out of date. The blood-and-thunder villain is only a myth nowadays.

Men nowadays hesitate to marry a woman, no matter how beautiful, no matter how attractive, or interesting, or witty, if she is a sufferer from ill-health.

the orphan asylum. There is no orphan society.

2—The number of orphans in the house during the year 1898 was 224. At present there are 176, 102 boys and 74 girls.

3—The yearly income of the asylum and expenses are about \$6,000.

4—The per capita cost of maintaining our orphans is \$40 per annum.

5—Is any aid received from the county or city? Not one cent from city of Green Bay or Brown county. From other counties and cities we received during the past year \$486 for dependent children.

There is very little sickness among our orphans; during the year 1898, the doctor was not called once. We have about seventy-five acres of land belonging to the orphan asylum, on which we raise grain and vegetables and this helps us along a great deal.

Enclosed with the above is a report for the year 1898 from Sister Melania giving receipts and expenditures to the smallest details.

Table with columns for INCOME, 1898 and EXPENDITURES. Includes items like Balance on hand from 1897, Donations, Board from parents, etc.

Insurance, taxes, and interests are not figured in the above amount to about \$1,000 and are paid from other sources.

There is a school in the asylum with 158 scholars. The nursery has seventeen children, the youngest seven months. Mgr. Fox also encloses a report of the farm, showing the amount of grain, vegetables, fruit, etc., raised.

SUND ADVISE FROM BISHOP SPALDING.

In the matter of education the Rt. Rev. Bishop Spalding of Peoria, is an authority that always commands the respect of thinking men.

Bishop Spalding declared himself against the proposition to give free text books to children. "Socialism may come," he said, "but let it not come through the schools.

A despatch from Springfield, Mass., says that Mary Weiber, eight months old, was burned to death here to-day by her little brother Carl, who was left to tend her.