

# The Saint John Monitor.

Vol. XIII.

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No. 24

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## In Ever Lengthening Procession To Rome

Ministerial Recruits Made in Several Quarters—Society Among the Number.

(Catholic Transcript.)

In a single parish of St. John the Baptist, Syracuse, N. Y., Rev. John F. Mullany, LL. D., rector, following a mission recently, thirty-five converts were received into the Church. Another class, equally large, is under instruction and its members will be received.

The visit of the Duchess of Connaught to this country recalls that her mother, the Princess Frederick Charles of Prussia, is a convert of several years' standing.

"We are pleased to report" says the True Voice, of Omaha, "that the number of converts baptized in the Catholic faith by our diocesan priests in the diocese of Omaha, from October 15, 1910, to October 15, 1911, was 402. During the preceding year the number of converts was 343. Up to that time no separate record of converts received was published but we have little doubt that the number received into the Church in the diocese of Omaha during the past ten years has been at least three thousand."

The editor of the Christian Family, in his "Chats About Catholic Priests," includes Miss Caroline D. Swan, Miss Swan is however a devout Anglican.

Rev. W. J. Kane, M. A., curate of All Saints' Anglican Church, Woolahra, Australia, has been received into the Church. He is a son of the late Very Rev. W. H. Gear, vicar of Mildara, and is a graduate of Melbourne, Australia.

Mr. Frederic L. Griggs, the well-known English artist, has been received into the Church, at St. Catherine's, Chipping Campden. Mr. Griggs' work with pen and pencil, always sympathetically adequate to the presentation of the ecclesiastical masterpieces in architecture, as well as to the humbler shrines of Catholic England, is well known by his many and admirable rankings in the "Highways and Byways" series. Indeed, his work lends distinction to many a drawing in the architectural room of the Royal Academy, and his water-colors are likely soon to widen the circle of his admirers.

Mrs. David King, who was Ella Rives, a prominent member of the society colony at Newport, is among recent converts. She entered St. Mary's Church, of which Rev. William B. Mackay is the rector.

"In Waterbury alone," says a leading English magazine, "something like one hundred and two hundred converts (not including Catholics) are received every year."

Rev. J. J. Murphy, acting rector of St. Bernard's Anglican Church, Baltimore, Md., has been received into the Catholic Church. It may be remembered that he created a stir in Anglican circles some months ago by defending the Ne Temere Decree against attacks made upon it by the Anglican bishops and others.

On March 25th, the feast of the Annunciation, His Eminence Cardinal Merry del Val ordained to the priesthood in the Pauline chapel of the Vatican six former Anglican clergymen, viz., Messrs. Cocks, Hinde, Henly, Prince, Shebbeare and Steele. The mentioned, the Rev. I. H. Steele, M. A., is an Irishman who for nearly twenty years acted as chaplain to Lord Erne, leader of the Orange forces in Ulster. Though one may say a mountain of God's grace was needed to storm the Orange stronghold, the conversion of Father Steele took place almost instantaneously. A few years ago, while yet shepherding

Lord Erne's gentle soul, the Protestant clergyman took a trip to Rome, and happened one day to enter a church in which high Mass was going on. The grandeur of the ceremonial, with other adjuncts converted the stranger to the fold, and, much to the displeasure of the gentle Orange leader, as subsequently turned out, he left the church a Catholic at heart. The other five were occupied in the Anglican ministry at Brighton when received into the Catholic Church in 1910 by the Bishop of Southwark, the Rev. A. Carew Cocks, M. A. (Oxford), being vicar of St. Bartholomew's and the Rev. H. Fitzchald Hinde, M. A. (Cambridge), being vicar of the Annunciation, with Messrs. Henly, Prince and Shebbeare as their respective assistants. The Holy Father takes the most lively interest in the converts, and received them in special audience on the day of their ordination. It was the desire of His Holiness that the newly converted clergymen should prepare in Rome for the priesthood, on hearing they had decided to devote the rest of their lives (they are all men in the prime of life) to the special service of God. His Holiness, through Cardinal Merry del Val, appointed as their place of residence in Rome the Academy of Noble Ecclesiastics, and provided them with special lecturers. Very Rev. Gregory Clery, of the Irish Franciscans (St. Isidore's), doctor in canon and civil law, doctor in Latin literature and lector in theology, and Rev. G. Petrocchi, D. D., professor of S. Apollinare, were selected as their professors, while Rev. Father Howell, an English Redemptorist, was appointed confessor and spiritual director to the group. The Bishop, Mr. Prior, judge of the Roman, the general supervision of everything connected with the body was entrusted. After ordination the priests resumed their studies until June, when they will return to England to take up the work to be assigned to them in the ministry.

## CARDINAL BOURNE ON THE DISASTER

Cardinal Bourne, in his address at the Church of the Assumption, Warwick street, London, W., on Sunday evening, said the catastrophe had thrilled the whole world. Those who lost their lives in it had no anticipation of this humanly speaking, terrible end that was to come upon them. From the human point of view, such a disaster was appalling and they dwelt with horror upon the sudden realization by those on board of their quickly approaching death.

Men, continued his Eminence, were apt to forget how small and insignificant was the part that they had to play in comparison with the great whole of the work of Almighty God. These were moments in which suddenly, swiftly, and irresistibly Almighty God forced such thoughts upon their attention. When they considered the eternal years of God, when they understood that it was for Him alone to determine when the course of each one of them was run, and how nothing could happen to them save by His Divine commission, that He was ever to each one of them a loving Father, that not a hair could fall from their heads without His Divine ordinance, then they came to understand that perhaps in a terrible, as it seemed to them, doom like that there might be many mercies.

Referring to the two priests, Father Thomas Byles, of Ongar, and Father Joseph Mantville, the Lithuanian priest, his Eminence said the former had laboured for several years in one of the country districts of England, and the latter, having been in this country some time engaged in acquiring a knowledge of the English language, was proceeding to the United States to take up missionary work amongst his own people.

The Hon. W. S. Fielding returned from England by the Empress of Ireland this week, accompanied by his widow and daughter, Mrs. E. N. Macfee.

## NEW FEATURES AT THE GEM.

The patrons of the Gem Theatre are fully awake to the fact that that is a house of clean amusement, bright, snappy entertainment, a theatre in which only the best and most up-to-date features are presented. This has been the policy of the management since the starting of the house, and it is this which has made for much of the success which has greeted their efforts. For the week-end there are some interesting new pictorial features while Anita Burnett has a late illustrated song, and the orchestra an unusually pleasing programme.

The children are to have their day on Saturday, the afternoon being reserved for their particular benefit, and souvenirs are to be presented to all of them attending. These souvenir matinees are a source of delight to the youngsters, and they should be sent to the Gem by their parents or guardians.

## A POWERFUL SOCIETY DRAMA.

What promises to be one of the best amateur productions ever offered in this city—Men and Women—will be presented in the St. John Opera House May 27 and 28. The play, which is to be given under the auspices of the Irish Literary and Benevolent Society, is a powerful society drama, replete with situations which call for acting of the strongest order as well as elaborate stage settings and costumes.

The presentation of the production has been placed in the hands of an exceptionally strong cast, fifteen in number, who have had the play under rehearsal for the last few weeks. As this is one of the best efforts ever undertaken by local amateurs its presentation is naturally being looked forward to with the keenest of interest. Those who have in mind the success attained by the I. L. & B. Society in Lost Paradise feel confident that an even greater success awaits them and in fact a new era will be marked in amateur theatricals here.

## ANNUAL BANQUET.

The Young Men's Society of Saint Joseph will hold their annual banquet at Wanamaker's, Charlotte street, on Thursday evening. An active and energetic committee has charge of the arrangements, and a pleasant time is anticipated. The occasion will mark the close of the winter season and the beginning of the spring activities.

It is understood that arrangements are practically completed for a mid-summer excursion to Memramcook, at a very low fare.

## FORTY HOURS' DEVOTION.

On Friday morning the Forty Hours Devotion commenced in the Church of the Assumption, Carleton. Rev. J. J. O'Donovan, pastor of the church, will be assisted by Revs. Charles Collins, of Fairville, and A. J. O'Neill, of Silver Falls. The services will be brought to a close on Sunday evening.

The Forty Hours' Devotion was held in St. Francis Xavier's Church, Sussex, commencing Sunday morning and closing Tuesday evening. Large congregations attended all the services. The pastor, Rev. J. McDermott, was assisted by Rev. Wm. Duke, Moncton; Rev. F. M. Lockary, Riverview, and Rev. A. Poirier, Quaco.

The Devotion of the Forty Hours will commence in St. Dunstan's Church, Fredericton, on Sunday morning.

## BOOK PRINTED IN 1645.

The first religious book published on the American continent was printed in the city of Mexico by order of the Catholic bishop there.

This was the first work of any kind from movable type issued in the new world, and bears date 1645.