

The Catholic

ESTI IN CÆLO FIDELIS

Witness

CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

VOL. XL., NO. 15.

MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1889.

PRICE, 5 CENTS.

THE CATHOLIC CONGRESS.

Imposing Ceremonies at the Centenary Celebration.

BALTIMORE ALIVE WITH CLERGY.

Cardinals, Archbishops, Bishops and Distinguished Laymen Participate in the Celebration—The Oration by Bishop Ireland—Papers Read at the Congress.

BALTIMORE, November 10.—With fitting grandeur the most important group of events in the history of the Catholic Church in America began here this morning. It was the commencement of a triple celebration, the hundredth anniversary of the appointment of the first American Catholic bishop, the inauguration of the first American Catholic layman, and the dedication of the new National University for Catholics. Fully 100,000 strangers were in Baltimore to witness the promised spectacles. Four times as many people, not counting local Catholics, as could possibly be accommodated, tried to get into the Cathedral, where the initial scenes were to be witnessed. So great was the pressure for seats that persons who travelled from California expressly to be present were among those unable to secure admission.

Promptly at the appointed time the priests, seminarians and theological students were marshalled in Calvert hall. Curious throngs were already in the neighboring streets taking note of the decorations. The hall in which the priests assembled was elaborately decorated. Above the doors were the Papal colors, yellow and white, and stretching upward to the eaves were great streamers of red, white and blue. When all was ready a hundred red-cloaked, walking two and two, emerged clad in white surplices and black cassocks and berettes. Their fine looking strong marked faces and unaffected bearing attracted general attention as they marched down the street a few squares to the residence of Cardinal Gibbons, unaccompanied by music. One of the features of the whole day's proceedings was the absence of any band playing on the streets.

BISHOPS, ARCHBISHOPS AND CARDINALS.

At the doorway of the Cardinal's house and leading up the broad steps, with auras and polished helmets glittering in the bright morning sunlight, were two double lines of guards. Here again the Papal colors and the Stars and Stripes were intermingled. In all directions the street seemed filled with people, and the open windows of surrounding dwellings each had their quota. Presently, while the white-surpliced priests were opening ranks, a mass of purple enveloped figures were seen on the Cardinal's doorway. It was the gathering of nearly all the Catholic bishops and archbishops of the United States with representatives from Mexico, Canada, England and Rome itself. The prelates came forth from the big portico in pairs, and as each two stepped into the street their costly robes were caught up by diminutive altar boys in waiting, who then walked behind, taking care that the brilliant fabrics were kept stainless for the ceremonies to come. Here and there among the alkalic purple vestments of the bishops could be seen the coarse brown or white garb of a bearded abbot.

Through the long lines of priests the prelates threaded their way around the square to the main entrance of the cathedral, the rear of the procession being brought up by the tall ascetic figure of Archbishop Feshan, of Chicago, who immediately preceded a golden vested cross bearer, followed by two spare, slight looking men, almost hidden in dazzling scarlet. The two men were Cardinals Gibbons, of Baltimore, and Taschereau, of Quebec. Eight delegates upheld their long vestments and surrounding them were their monsignors with the Papal delegates, O'Connell and Sattoli, of Rome. Within the cathedral ten minutes later the scene was simply magnificent. The pews throughout the church were crowded to the utmost with the laity. In striking contrast with the dark clothed aggregation thus formed were aisles, centre and front and sides, packed with the snowy surpliced prelates. Against both laity and prelates shone the serried purple ranks of the priests inside the sanctuary. On each side was a dais for a cardinal. At the high altar stood the mitred celebrant of the mass, Archbishop Williams, of Boston, and over all was the great white and gold dome of the cathedral.

BEGINNING OF THE MASS.

A dreamy lull lulled the ear, while the eye was delighted with the myriad candles shining out on the altar from among the rustling green leaves and white blossoms of lilies. Now was heard a Gregorian "Agnus regis," sung by perfectly attuned male voices, and the mass proper began with the chanting of the "Kyrie." Subdued reverential feeling was manifest throughout the church as the wave-like genuflections in the pews, and at each pronouncement by the choir of the name of Jesus, berettes were doffed in unison from the Cardinals and Archbishops in the sanctuary to the students in the farthest vestibule. At the consecration of the Host the Cardinals advanced from the sides with the monsignors, and, bowing low, knelt at the prie-dieu facing the altar. Back of them was a row of richly arrayed acolytes bearing lighted bronze torches. The effect at this moment was noble. As the Sacred Host was held high aloft by the celebrant, amid the deepest silence reigned all through the cathedral while every hand

was bent low in prayer, the tinkle of a tiny bell at the altar broke the spell. With each movement or two a little bell sounded, and each time at the instant was heard outside the church the heavy intonation of the Cathedral chimas. As Cardinal Gibbons retired to his dais, the reporters in the improvised press gallery noticed, for the first time, not six feet away from him in the sanctuary among the abbots and other special dignitaries, the black face of Father Tolton, of Chicago, the first colored Catholic priest ordained in America.

THE PAPAL BLESSING.

Probably the most impressive part of the mass next to the consecration was the offering of the Papal blessing. The venerable Archbishop at the altar seemed to feel it a doubly solemn moment when, turning to the congregation, he paused for an instant, while the people in the church knelt, he raised his hand and slowly made the sign of the cross. The mass ended with a special intercession for the Pope chanted by the clergy.

The first oration of the centenary followed. It was delivered by Archbishop Ryan, of Philadelphia, whose fine presence and magnetic eloquence, in spite of the long oratorical preceding, held his hearers for another hour and a half. The patriotic spirit of the Archbishop's address and his tribute to Miss Drexel, who is to devote her life to the welfare of the colored people and Indians, seemed to awaken general enthusiasm, but the most telling effect was aroused when he vindicated the rights of Catholic editors, if need be, to freely comment on the failings of the clergy.

A ringing Te Deum by the choir and orchestra brought the memorable services to a close.

BISHOP IRELAND'S SERMON.

To-night the cathedral was resplendent from basement to dome, inside and out, with electric lights. The crush of people surpassed even that of the morning. Many of the fifty bishops in the city were present, as were a large proportion of the thousand priests who have gathered here. Papal vestments were sung by Archbishop Heils, of Milwaukee. The orator of the evening was Archbishop Ireland, of St. Paul. His boldness and intense earnestness captured the listeners from the outset. He said that the church needed was salvation armies. Pews and pews centers were only to be regarded as necessary evils. There was great work to do, and fierce injustice existed. Socialism was not without its excesses for being.

He declared "our work is to make America Catholic. The Catholic Church will confirm and preserve as no human power or human Church on the liberties of the Republic. The importance of the possession of America to the cause of religion cannot be overestimated. The Church triumphant in America, Catholic truth will travel on the wings of American influence and with it enfold the universe. The present time is one of history's epochs; we are assisting at the birth of a new age. There is a revolution in the ideas and feelings of man. The burden of the strife falls to the lot of Catholics in America. The movements of the modern world have their highest tension in the United States. Here, unhampered by dictata of government or by despotic custom, the Church can bring the contest to a speedier close."

The conferring of the Papal benediction closed the celebration as far as the centenary of the hierarchy is concerned. Tomorrow the deliberations of the Congress of Catholics begin.

The most distinguished body of Catholic prelates and clergy that ever dined together in this country were banquetted at St. Mary's Seminary this afternoon in honor of the hundredth anniversary of the establishment of their hierarchy in America. Over four hundred clergymen were present. Toasts were responded to by Archbishop Sattoli, the Papal delegate; Cardinals Gibbons and Taschereau, Bishop Montes de Oca, of St. Louis Potosi; Bishop Virtue, of Portsmouth, Eng., and Archbishop Ireland, of St. Paul.

PAPERS TO BE READ.

A joint session of the advisory committee, the committee on papers and the committee on organization was held yesterday. Archbishop Ireland, of St. Paul, presided and among the prominent laymen present were Mayor Henry F. Brownson, of Detroit, and City Comptroller W. J. Osahan, of Chicago. It was decided that the permanent organization of the congress would be placed in the hands of a committee appointed by the temporary chairman, ex-Governor Lee Carroll, of Baltimore. The committee will consist of one member from each ecclesiastical province in the United States. Each paper read at the congress will be heard between twenty minutes and twenty minutes. The revised list of papers that will be presented in the congress are as follows:—"Catholic Congress," by John Gilmary Shea, of New York; "Lay Action in the Church," by Henry F. Brownson, Detroit; "Papal Independence," Charles J. Bonaparte, Baltimore; "The New Society Order," Peter L. Foy, St. Louis; "The right of the State in Education," Edmund J. Danne, Florida; "Religion in Education," W. L. Kelly, St. Paul; "Catholic Journalism," George D. Wolf, Philadelphia; "Societies," H. J. Sponhorst, St. Louis; "Catholic American Literature," C. B. Pattis, St. Louis; "Sunday Observance," Manly B. Tello, Cleveland; "Temperance," John H. Campbell; "Catholic Achievements in the Century," Richard H. Clark; "Labor and Capital," William Richards; "Church Music," Herman Allen, Chicago. The notes worthy feature this afternoon were the arrival of Cardinal Taschereau, and the active work being done by the St. Louis delegates to secure the selection of their city as the place for holding the next congress.

DISTINGUISHED CANADIAN VISITORS.

Among the distinguished arrivals were: Hon. Honore Mercier, prime minister of the province of Quebec, Monsignor Labelle and Hon. James McShane. Another notable from the British possession was M. J. Power, speaker of the Nova Scotia assembly. Cardinal Gibbons went in a carriage to the depot

to meet Cardinal Taschereau, and after informal greetings the Cardinals drove together to the clergy house adjoining the cathedral. Last evening in the hotel a novel expedient was resorted to for the accommodation of the clergy on account of the press of temporary obnoxious. It was the providing of temporary chapels and the erection of improvised altars where mass was celebrated to-day and will be celebrated on the succeeding days of the congress. Last night, in honor of the great throng of visitors, the bells of all the thirty-four Catholic places of worship in Baltimore were rung in unison for half an hour.

THE BUSINESS OF THE CONGRESS.

BALTIMORE, November 11.—The Catholic congress was called to order at noon to-day. Every seat in the galleries was crowded with delegates from Archbishop Ireland, of St. Paul, briefly invoked divine blessings. In a few remarks introducing ex-Governor Carroll as temporary chairman, Mr. Osahan mentioned the name of Pope Leo. Instantly there was hand clapping and cheers all over the hall, soon growing into a tumult of enthusiasm. Mr. Osahan's suggestion, that he would not far distant to see an international congress of lay Catholics, also met with hearty approbation. Ex-Governor Carroll said that this congress, so auspiciously begun, will be but the forerunner of others yet to come, and that the Catholic of the United States will look to these congresses with pride and satisfaction. The congress has not two great purposes at heart, the glory and progress of the Catholic Church and the continued prosperity of the American people. (Applause, long continued.)

The following cablegram from Rome was read:—

His Eminence Cardinal Gibbons, Baltimore:— Having made known to the Holy Father the expression of devotion conveyed to him on the part of the Catholic congress to be held in Baltimore, His Holiness graciously bids me say that he most affectionately imparts his blessing to the members.

(Signed) M. CARD. RAMOLLA.

Daniel Dougherty, of New York, then addressed the Congress. All through Mr. Dougherty's address there were outbursts of cheers. At the conclusion the cheering was renewed again with the dignitary of the church and people and shook him warmly by the hand. "Catholics," he said, "have silently submitted to wrongs and injustices in manifold shapes from time immemorial. Away back in colonial years, Catholics suffered the direst cruelties. The only religious martyrs who ever stained our fair land with life blood were Roman Catholics."

THE PERSECUTION OF CATHOLICS.

"Spurred with suspicion, disfranchised, persecuted for opinions sake, hunted as criminals, and punished with death by infamous laws, we were driven to the wilderness and banished from the Congress of the United States. We have been proscribed at the ballot box. Though the rank and file of the army and navy are largely of our creed, the chaplains are fewer than the fingers of one hand. It is said that Catholic Indians have Protestant teachers; churches have been burned, convents have been pillaged and libraries destroyed; yes, political parties, the past has been a scene of cruel political rights, and we are branded as tools of foreign potentates, and unworthy to enjoy the name of Americans. The time has come when we, the Roman Catholic laity of the United States, can vindicate ourselves, not by harsh words, heated recriminations, nor by defiant threats, but calmly, yet firmly."

"We are pre-eminently Americans. There would be no America, the continent would be so-day unknown had it not been for Roman Catholics and the Roman Catholic Church, and this liberty, which is the essence of all liberty, freedom to worship God, was first established in America by Roman Catholics alone. It was priests, nuns, Jesuit missionaries, who first sought and explored our land, penetrated into the wilderness, tracked the streams and gave sainted names to localities, bays, lakes and rivers. The first worship here of the true God was the holy sacrifice of the Mass. Catholic nations were first to come to the rescue of our revolutionary fathers in their war against the greatest Protestant powers. We were the first to aid and explore our land, penetrated into the wilderness, tracked the streams and gave sainted names to localities, bays, lakes and rivers. The first worship here of the true God was the holy sacrifice of the Mass. 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