

# The Catholic Witness



Vol. L, No. 28

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1900.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

## HAPPENINGS IN IRELAND.

**THE STAGE.**—Speaking at the dedication of a new church at St. Margaret's, near Dublin, recently, the Most Rev. Dr. Walsh, Archbishop of Dublin, referred to what he described as the present scandalous condition of the Dublin stage. His Grace said:—"It is not easy to speak with real effectiveness about a matter upon which I can have no direct personal knowledge, but I have personal knowledge of this, that within the last year or two Dublin gentlemen, fellow-citizens of mine, Protestants as well as Catholics who go to the theatre from time to time, have told me that there were occasions when they have had to stand up and leave the place not merely as a protest in the public interest, and in the interests of decency and of morality, against what was being enacted on the stage, but because they felt they could not remain as spectators of such things without being themselves contaminated and degraded. Encouragement and patronage are openly given at times to some of the very worst of these stage representations, openly and ostentatiously given to them, by some of those who are under a more than common obligation to keep up the tone of public and social life in Dublin. Now almost everything needed for the representation of the plays that are produced is brought over, like the plays themselves, ready-made from England, scenery, dresses, and, of course, those hideous posters that so frequently disgrace—to say no more of it—the walls in the public thoroughfares of our city. The remedy is to be looked for in the success of the movement for the establishment of a genuinely Irish national theatre in Dublin. No theatre can fulfil the purpose of that name, unless it is one that is self-respecting Irishman, no self-respecting Irishman, who goes to the theatre at all need be ashamed or afraid to go. An effective "boycott" of theatres that persist in those evil courses could be instituted that would be the best temporary remedy of all, but it is not a practical remedy. But cannot see why something effective could not be done by the newspapers, our daily newspapers in which the advertisements of those places are now published. I cannot see why the conductors of those papers, Catholics and Protestants as they are, should not combine in the interests of public morals and send a communication to the proprietors of those theatres refusing point blank to insert the advertisements of such plays, or even to insert any advertisements at all from the theatres in which such plays are represented.

**MINING IN CORK.**—It is welcome news for the people of West Cork that a great mining revival in their district seems to be a possibility of the near future, says the "Independent and Nation." Old men who can recall the industrial Ireland of half a century ago are aware that at that period the copper, iron, amber, and barytes mines of West Cork were well-known throughout the three countries, and that they gave employment to thousands of people. Owing to a number of causes, however, particularly the discovery of richer veins of copper ore in Chili, and the gradual emigration of the capital engaged in the working of the Irish mines, the once prosperous industry of West Cork decayed, and the miners had to seek employment elsewhere. But during recent years, the indomitable spirit of enterprise actuating Mr. Arthur Cave, of Schull, had been directed to the purpose of reviving the eyes of English capitalists to the wealth of the undeveloped resources of the old mines of West Cork, and with so much success that the Horse Island copper mines have been working during the last twelve months with results which are regarded as eminently satisfactory by the persons engaged in the enterprise. This, however, is not all. Mr. Cave, who returned from London to Schull last week, brought the good

## MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT IN AMERICAN CITIES.

**FROM THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSE, CLEVELAND, O.**

Within the past week public attention has been directed to at least three or four cases in which the interests of the people have been jeopardized by appropriating the people's money. Members of the City Council of Indianapolis and of Scranton have been convicted and sentenced. Members of the Covington City Council have been openly charged with selling out the city's franchises for personal gain. Five members of the Cleveland City Council have been named by a committee of their associates as accepting bribes. There are a few instances in which men have been brought to justice and made to answer for their responsibility. It is common belief that the law-making bodies of our municipalities are often the most corrupt of all the agencies of our government.

fore they have been in their seats long enough to warm them, we find them hurrying to the savings' bank with their pockets filled with money, and more placed to their credit in a few weeks than they were able to accumulate as the fruits of honest industry in a life time before. No one believes that they are honest. It may be impossible—backed up as their dishonesty is by the perjury of themselves and their accomplices—to convict them in the courts of justice, but they cannot escape the condemnation of honest men. From a human point of view, even though there is no power to drag from them their dishonest gains, they lose more than they make. No man who prizes respectability and honor can afford to sell it at any price. Even the secret wish to hide his infamy. Official opportunities are not the moral turpitude of men who might have lived and died as upright citizens if the will of the people had been strong enough to keep them out of office. But it needed some power outside of themselves to keep them out, because dishonest temptations invariably work earth and hell to get in. When bungling, greedy thieving exposes their rascality, they learn too late the value of a good name and the respect and esteem of others. They may desire for themselves the contempt and ill-will of men, but it is exquisite cruelty to fasten shame upon their wives and children.

**CHURCH FOR LISNASKEA.**—The long-felt want of a more accessible and commodious church for the Catholics of Lisnaskea is about to be met, and already practical steps have been taken towards that end by the Very Rev. Monsignor Meegan, the respected P.P., and his parishioners. At a meeting recently held, over which the Most Rev. Dr. Owens, Lord Bishop of the diocese, presided, it was decided to proceed with the erection of a new church immediately, owing to the existing edifice being too old to warrant any considerable outlay in its renovation. A large and influential committee, of which Mr. John Maguire, draper, Lisnaskea, is chairman, was appointed to carry the project into effect, and it is alike satisfactory and creditable to the enthusiasm of the parishioners to be able to state that \$15,000 was promised on the spot towards the erection of the new church. In addition to this the committee hope to benefit to the extent of another \$1,000 under the will of the late Miss Cruden, who resided near Newtownbutler, the deceased lady having bequeathed a considerable sum towards the erection of new churches in the diocese. The church, it is said, will be built in the Gothic style of architecture, and will be sufficiently ornate as to compare favorably with any other in the county. The total cost is estimated at \$35,000.

**TO HELP FARMERS.**—One of the great features of the co-operative movement which is doing so much to promote the welfare of the Irish people is to be found in the agricultural banks, or credit associations, conducted on the system first introduced in Germany by Herr Raifferssen in 1841; here money is scarce, a number of people form themselves into a society, and on their joint, unlimited engagement to be responsible for its liabilities, are able to obtain money enough for their needs. They borrow at 4 or 5 per cent, and lend at 6 per cent., the difference going towards expenses and reserve. On deposits from its members the bank allows 3 per cent.,—considerably more than the Post Office Savings Bank. Incalculable is the value of this cheap credit system to the small farmer, who would otherwise have nothing to fall back on but the 10 per cent. of the joint stock banks, or the extortionate interest of the money-lender. There are now fifty-two of these banks at work in Ireland, with a membership of over 4,000.

**BISHOP OF DROMORE DEAD.**—At the age of 72, the Most Rev. Dr. McGovern, Bishop of Dromore, passed peacefully away on Nov. 23, at his residence, Violet Hill, Newry, after a long and tedious illness. Amongst those present at his death-bed were: Rev. Edward McGovern, C.C., Newry; Rev. John McGovern, Maynooth College (nephew); Sister Mary Claver (niece); Miss Sarah McGovern (sister); Miss Sarah McLeary (niece); and the priests of the seminary. The deceased prelate was educated first at the Diocesan College, Newry, and afterwards at the Irish College, Rome. In 1854 he was ordained in the Church of St. John Lateran by Cardinal Patrizi. After years of missionary labor in his native diocese he was in 1886 appointed coadjutor-bishop to the Most Rev. Dr. Leahy.

In March, 1887, he was consecrated. During his episcopate many churches and new schools sprung up all over the diocese. His entire life was devoted to the furthering of religion and education. He earned and won the esteem and affection of both priests and people, to whom his death has brought the deepest sorrow. The interment took place in the old chapel burial ground in the presence of an immense gathering of his sorrowing people.

## THE PAPAL DELEGATE VISITS REGINA.

His Excellency Mgr. Falcomio, Apostolic Delegate to Canada, and his secretary, Rev. Father Fisher, O.F.M., arrived in Regina recently. His Excellency was accorded a very cordial reception. He was met at the station by Father Van Heertum, Inspector Fitz Horiggan, Fred Bourget, secretary to the Lieutenant-Governor, and a very large concourse of people. His Excellency was driven to the Government House, where he was entertained by the Lieut.-Governor and Madame Forget during his stay. Sunday morning His Excellency celebrated Mass at 8 o'clock, and assisted at High Mass at 10.30. Father Fisher preached an able sermon after which His Excellency bestowed the Papal Benediction.

During the evening service Mr. F. Bourget read an address to His Excellency on behalf of the congregation, in which His Excellency replied in a very eloquent manner. On Monday morning His Excellency celebrated private Mass at the Government House.

Monday afternoon, His Excellency opened the new school in the presence of a number of priests and nearly a hundred children and a large crowd of grown people. Miss Madge McCarthy on behalf of the scholars read the following address: To His Excellency Monsignor Falcomio, Delegate to Canada. May I please Your Excellency—The teachers and pupils of this school beg to present to Your Excellency the homage of their deep respect and affection. As a result of the Christian education imparted to us, our young minds are capable of realizing and appreciating the high honor conferred on us by a visit from the representative of our Holy Father Leo XIII., for whom we cherish the most profound reverence and love. Knowing Your Excellency's zeal for Christian education you will be pleased to see that to-day we occupy for the first time this new

school building, a very humble one compared with some you have seen in our great country, but for our poor struggling Catholics of Regina it is the fruit of many sacrifices, and the poor we know have Your Excellency's special regard and sympathy. The majority of our parents have come from foreign countries and in this school five different languages are spoken, but what a comfort it is to gather here in harmony to be instructed in the Word of God, according to the teaching of our Holy Church as well as in the curriculum of studies prescribed by the Government of our free territories.

Our young hearts have anxiously awaited the opening of our school, but little did we anticipate the honor and additional pleasure of a visit from Your Excellency. We greatly regret that we have had so little time to prepare a reception suitable to the dignity of the occasion but we are assured that our Holy Father and Your Excellency have our faithful love and veneration. We humbly trust that the success of our school, for our beloved pastor, our dear parents and teachers, and lastly, for your grateful and faithful children of the Regina Separate School. Signed on behalf of the school.

**MADGE MCCARTHY, WADGE MCKUSKER, SAM MAYERS, PETER COONS.**

His Excellency replied in a very happy manner warning the children to be attentive to their studies so that when they grew up, they would be able to assume responsible positions in life. His Excellency was accompanied from the Government House by Dr. Barrett of Winnipeg, Father Fisher, P. Bourget and Inspector Fitz Horiggan. The church and sanctuary were very tastefully decorated. The shrine which His Excellency occupied was elaborately arranged with the papal coat of arms, altogether presenting a very imposing appearance. Flags and bunting decorated the new school and many fine inscriptions having on mementos of the Holy See were displayed.

After blessing the school His Excellency and party drove to the N. W. M. P. Barracks during which he visited paid his respects to Commissioner Perry and officers of the force. Monday evening His Excellency and Secretary left for Ottawa, before leaving he expressed himself greatly delighted with the magnificent reception accorded him by the people of Regina.

The following dinner with His Excellency at the Government House on Sunday: His Honor Judge McGuire, Prince Albert; Dr. Barrett, Winnipeg; Father Van Heertum; Father Gerard Wolsley; and Inspector Fitz Horiggan.

Father Fisher's sermon on Sunday was considered one of the most eloquent sermons ever delivered in Regina. The "West," Regina, Assiniboia.

## OUR BOOK REVIEWER.

**FOR CATHOLIC STUDENTS.**—No more useful or profitable book could be placed in the hands of Catholic students than "The Catholic Students' Manual of Instructions and Prayers for all Seasons of the Ecclesiastical Year." It is of the size of an ordinary prayer book, which is a good recommendation in itself, as it can be conveniently carried in the pocket, and thus become a daily Catholic scholar. It is handsomely bound, and very well printed, the publishers being the popular firm of D. and J. Sadler and Co., 1669 Notre Dame street, Montreal. The work has been compiled by a religious, under the immediate supervision of the Rev. H. Rouxel, P.S.S., of the Grand Seminary, of this city. It bears the imprimatur of Archbishop Bruchesi, and is appropriately dedicated to St. Thomas Aquinas, the patron of Catholic schools, and to St. Aloysius Gonzaga, the model and protector of Catholic youth.

That the compilation of this admirable work has been a labor of love, undertaken through a tender and persevering zeal for the spiritual welfare of Catholic youth, is evident from the fact that she who is content to sign herself simply "A Religious" has been able to find time, notwithstanding the arduous and multifarious duties of her state of life, to select and arrange its contents, and to write such clear, concise, and logical chapters as those entitled "Why am I a Roman Catholic?" and "A Short Way to Truth." From the former an extract may here be given: "Christ entered this world to select and arrange its contents, and to write such clear, concise, and logical chapters as those entitled 'Why am I a Roman Catholic?' and 'A Short Way to Truth.'"

Very truly yours,  
CHAS. A. LEE.

## AMERICAN POLITICS.

It is the observation of men competent to judge that not for years has the public life of this country been at such a low level as at present. This does not mean that the men holding office are corrupt, but that intellectually their average is not what it should be. From the campaign just closed many of the ablest men of both parties held aloof.

In the reason of their refusal we find probably the best explanation of the present condition of things. Political mediocrity, though guilty of no financial dishonesty or any of the coarser crimes, has muddled up the government until the big men do not want to touch them. There is no high note in speech or paper. It is hanging right along, and if a clear-minded man rises above party and says what he thinks, he is immediately accused of being unfaithful to his organization.

It is not likely that the present congress, which ends its career next March, will do anything to retrieve itself, for it is simply divided into two camps, each of which has made a very unimpressive record. But in the new congress there must be great opportunities. Something must be done to lift our politics from their present depths. Some one must arise and sound the cry that will cause people to think more, and brave men to show their courage! Something must happen to end all this intolerable stupidity.

There are many things to be done. For the young man who has been elected to Congress or for the new man in public life there never was such a chance. If he has the ability and the foresight, the mentality and the courage, and will think more of country than of party, and labor incessantly for the people, he will gain not only their gratitude but their tributes and a place in their history.

—Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post.

## THE WILL WAS SET ASIDE.

New Chancellor Reed, sitting in the New Jersey Prerogative Court, has decided that a will drawn by Phineas V. Clark, a wealthy Newark lumber merchant, can not be admitted to probate.

"I have no doubt that he signed the will and intended that his son should not receive any share of the estate," says the Vice Chancellor; "but he neither acknowledged, published nor declared it to be his last will and testament, nor did he tell the witnesses of his intention, and that he desired them to witness it, which is not only customary but provided for by statute in New Jersey."

Vice Chancellor Reed thus upholds the contention of Wylie E. Clark, son of the lumber merchant, as against the claim of his mother, Mrs. Elena K. Clark.

Clark managed for several years prior to his father's death the Essex Lumber Co., one of the largest and most prosperous concerns of its kind in New Jersey, and Phineas V. Clark was its head and principal owner.

One of the old man's peculiarities was his pronounced hatred of Roman Catholics, and he and his son quarrelled bitterly because the latter married a Catholic. They lived happily together until her death, but the father never forgave his son and demanded that the grandchildren be reared in the Protestant faith.

On that point Wylie E. Clark would give him no satisfactory assurance, and though the young man continued to manage the lumber business, he and his father were not reconciled.

Mr. Clark one day read to his son a will in which the latter was cut off with \$1,000. In this document the last paragraph reads: "As regards Romanism, my solemn protest is that not one cent shall be given, devised or bequeathed or loaned in aid of or used in any way whatsoever for any person who is a Roman Catholic, whether or not the claimant shall be heir of posterity or otherwise."

"If you will bring your children up as Protestants," said Mr. Clark to his son, after reading the will. "I will destroy this and make you the legatee."

"You may do as you please," was the answer.

Mr. Clark angrily signed the paper and had two of his employees sign it, though he did not tell them what the document was. After Mr. Clark's death a dispute arose between his mother and son, and the former began legal proceedings to prove the will, with the result that the courts have now set it aside.

The next Consistory will, it is stated, be held on the 17th December.

At the recent examination for accession to the division clerical twenty-six Irish candidates were successful. Of these five were ex-pupils of the Irishian Brothers, and doubtless more of the victors owed their success to the same splendid teaching.

The first place in all Ireland was won by Mr. C. Sexton, who was educated in the Brothers' School. He is only 18 years of age.