

The Catholic Witness

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OUR PHILADELPHIA LETTER.

The Sway of Bazaar and Charitable Fairs

The Lessons They Inculcate—Some Measures of Reform Pointed Out—The Season of Calendars and Diaries—Dangerous Prayer Books for Children.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 6, 1897.—Whatever the state of the money market, there is never a dark day for the winter gaieties of church fairs, bazaars, eueches and tea parties. All of these are now in full glory in and around Philadelphia, and each and all gather in the pennies, spite of fears and doubts. It is literally gathering in the pennies, for the two cent and five cent 'chances' and 'votes' amount and mount to such totals in the end as thousands of dollars. The Cuban sufferers call for some of our wandering charity, and, as it was in the time of our own war, there is a great deal of 'fun' very easily wrung from the bitter need and cruel woes (if what we read and hear has a shadow of truth to build upon) of the Cubans. It is an odd way, after all, to make money for any good cause. Still it may be so managed and conducted as to show there is a blessing on it, for a kindly spirit and hearty co-operation among those who arrange the booths and deal out cake and coffee will go far to convince the scoffers.

THAT WOMEN CAN WORK TOGETHER IN A LOVELY HARMONY.

Most assuredly they do—sometimes. The only feature of a Catholic fair that strikes me as altogether un-Catholic is the prominence and audacity of the children who act as solicitors for votes and chances. Why do we teach the little ones so constantly and so seriously of modesty, courtesy, proper self-obliteration, and all the other good and holy traits that so strongly distinguish our Blessed Lady and the youthful Saints who are the models for our children, if we encourage them or leniently smile upon the noisy and excited insistence that urges everyone, stranger or friend, to relieve the little merchants of tickets, chances, votes, paddles—no end of new and strange commissions that enter into the scheme of a successful fair. True, they sell what they have to sell, but it must be at the cost of far more than the thing itself is worth. It costs them something of the modesty and simplicity of childhood, and endures them to a sort of hard persistence in spite of rebuffs, whether kindly or abrupt, that cannot be of advantage to them in their intercourse with others, and certainly is far enough from the spirit of the saints. Of course

THERE ARE SOME SENSIBLE AND WELL-TRAINED

little folks who bring in their quota of pennies, having simply saved their friends the trouble of looking about them for places to spend the sum they have in hand for that particular charity. But these are not the successful children, and I must candidly own that the brazenness of the majority of the boys and girls who scurry through the crowds, and are heard in every possible key at the great public fairs, is anything but edifying and very annoying. It is something to think over and amend. Every Catholic mother who values her child's best future will see to it that her little daughter, at least, is carefully kept from either soliciting or selling. The time for

CALENDARS, ALMANACS AND DIARIES

has come round again, and again one is puzzled to choose from a bewildering array of beautiful and useful complications. Singularly enough, there does not seem to be a good Catholic calendar among them all. I have tried for years to get one, and have had English, French and German in turn, but not one was equal to the non-Catholic issues. A good calendar is a friend in need. Every one who has passed into the noontide years knows the depression and weariness of the early morning when the shrink is not yet lifted, and the shoulders burden from undertaking the labor that a few hours later shall have become endeared by the struggle to perform it well. I once had a "Sunshine" calendar—Kate Sanborn's—and throughout a whole year of trial and care, there never was one morning that it did not cheer and coax us along by a word or two that meant a noble thought. It first taught me

THE WORTH OF A GOOD CALENDAR,

and started me on the search of a Catholic one. For the wealth of courage and hope and patience and faith that lies behind our teachings can never be equalled outside the Church, and I suppose such of it had been already bound up in these tiny leaflets that are torn off day by day, and too often cast aside because they are inane and meaningless. Every day should have a thought set up for us. The leaflet torn off could be carried during the passing hours. It was beyond all things strange, how often our "Sunshine" message seemed to have been written purposely for that day's need. I hope this year I may find the Catholic calendar. It will be of far more use than any little book of "Sayings" or "Thoughts" too fine and too dimly in one's pocket, and quite too valuable to

OUR NEW YORK LETTER.

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Parochial Schools Statistics—A Demand for Special Classification in the Census—Celebration in Connection With the Establishment of the Greater Municipality—The Reorganization of the A. O. H. as Outlined by Bishop McFaul—Christmas Presents to Distant Relatives and Friends in the Millions.

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NEW YORK, December 16.—The evil of ill considered marriages, marriages entered upon without the consent of parents is being fully demonstrated in New York city, where a Mrs. Edward J. Ratcliffe has her husband on trial for assaulting her. In her statement she says: "I first met Mr. Ratcliffe in the summer of 1894. Charles Dickson introduced me to him. Previous to my meeting Mr. Ratcliffe I was well contented at home. He visited me at my father's house, and it was some time before my father knew who he was. When my father found out it was Mr. Ratcliffe he got angry and forbade him to enter the house. He warned me against him, but I was headstrong, and laughed at my father's warning. As my father would not let him come to the house, I met him clandestinely, and finally on Aug. 23, 1894, at his suggestion, we went to Hoboken and were married. He was then with Charles Frohman's company. A Police Magistrate married us."

SARA TRAINER SMITH.

OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

The London Schools and the Victory Achieved by Catholics.

LONDON, December 4th, 1897.—Canadian action in reducing the postage to this country is regarded here with much favor and is referred to by the Liberal press as "a new link of Empire." It is thought it will do much toward the establishment of the long talked of "Penny Post" for the Empire, but the belief obtains that, under any circumstance, Canada's move will be reciprocated in the immediate future.

The apparent indifference of the voters in the late School Board election is much commented on, over half a million less voters having availed themselves of the suffrage than on the occasion of the previous election three years ago. The votes cast in '97 were 1,098,514 as against 1,606,788 in 1894. The rebuke to Mr. Diggle in Marylebone was very decided, considering the prominence he held on the Board, and that he was at the head of what is called the "Diggleite" party. In 1894 this gentleman polled 81,185 votes, and in 1897 10,404. He had the reputation of being two-faced and, as a result was relegated to obscurity, so far as school matters are concerned. The successful candidates of Father Brown and Mr. Costello, both of whom were the undisputed champions of the Catholic minority interest, has given great satisfaction to their co-religionists. Both gentlemen declared in favour of the Progressive programme, and are regarded as Catholic Progressives; both approve the Bard's selection of Lord Reay for its chairman and Mr. Lyulph Stanley as its vice-chairman.

Last week's gales were of terrific violence and caused great damage to shipping and other property at various points on the coast and throughout the country, in fact the entire Kingdom may be said to have been included in the storm area. In Folkestone and Boulogne as also the Dover and Calais services, were suspended, the Calais piers were submerged and the whole French coast suffered severely. Deal was flooded, while the booming of guns from ships in distress on the treacherous Goodwin was heard all through the day and night of Sunday and during the continuance of the gale on Monday. Reports of its violence came from far off Scarborough and Blackport, from Hull, from all points along the Thames, and from Woolwich arsenal, where the flood threatened to inundate the powder magazines, and 7000 soldiers had to be sent from Woolwich to remove their contents. The fury of the storm did not confine itself to the places here named; it was general throughout the land, and the full story of its ravages will probably never be told. One of the saddest incidents in the history of life-boat experiences occurred on the second outburst of the storm on Thursday, when the life-boat, "The Friend of all Nations," going to the rescue of a ship, was struck by a tremendous sea and overturned, committing ten of its crew to graves in the surging sea.

Advices come to us from Rome, that M. Ferdinand Brunetiere is in that city for the purpose of gathering material for a work he is preparing, to confute Zola's "Rome." He was handsomely entertained by Mgr. O'Connell some days ago. Monsignor O'Connell was formerly rector of the American college and is regarded as the representative of American hospitality in the Eternal city, and he acts the generous host to all American and foreign prelates who visit the Holy Father.

The rumors industriously and widely circulated as to the Holy Father's health was, as such reports so often are, and hence the mischievous and misleading telegrams which were no doubt circulated as freely in Canada as on this side of the water. The Pope is nearly a nonagenarian, but notwithstanding that fact the Catholic world believes, as it hopes and prays, that he will yet be spared *ad multos annos*.

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fore unanimous on the part of the two committees which were appointed at a national convention of the two organizations, held at Atlantic City last August. The plan of reorganization provides, that all the divisions now composing the minor organizations of the American branch and of the Board of Erin shall remain undisturbed as now organized and shall comprise the units of the re-united organization of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Where there are two subordinate lodges claiming the same number, provision is made for renumbering. In counties where there are two county boards they are to be superseded by a single county organization to be composed of an equal number of delegates chosen from each of the rival divisions in that county. Where there are two State organizations in existence they are to be superseded by a single one to be organized by delegates from the new county boards. After the State boards are organized a national convention is to be called by Bishop McFaul and a single national organization formed to succeed the two present organizations. The convention will be held in June or July of next year and it is probable that Trenton will be fixed upon for the place of meeting.

CHRISTMAS REMITTANCES TO THE LAND ACROSS THE SEA.

The New York Sun, in referring to this subject, says that during the month of December in each year there is transmitted by persons resident in New York, or in the neighborhood of the city, a sum roughly estimated at \$5,000,000. The money goes by postal order, draft, purser-proxy, or otherwise, from the senders to friends or relatives living abroad. The remittances are, for the most part, holiday presents, intended as pleasant and graceful reminders of the Christmas season of gift making and good cheer from those on this side of the Atlantic to those whose circumstances prevent them from coming to the New World.

MEETING OF PASTORS WHO HAVE PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS.

An important meeting of priests who have charge of Church schools was held in St. Joseph's Rectory last week. The object was to consider various matters connected with their schools, and in particular to take action with regard to the school census now being taken in this city by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Very Rev. Dean O'Flynn delivered an address in which he said: "The work done by the Roman Catholics in supporting church schools has so far received scant public recognition. They have built up a vast system of schools in which multitudes of citizens have received their elementary education. Mayor Strong was the first Mayor of the city to speak in its favor. He stated publicly that the Catholics and the Jews were doing more for education than any other class of the population. As an example of official indifference to the church schools the action of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction two years ago is instructive. He was requested by the Mayor of this city and others to give the church schools a definite place in his census of all the schools. He declined, and lumped our figures, with various others, under the obscure title, 'Other Schools.' Here are the figures for the present city of New York:

Boys attending church schools	17,337
Girls attending church schools	20,484
Total	37,821
Cost of maintaining schools yearly	\$293,968
Interest on property	228,700
Total	\$522,668
Value of school properties	\$4,574,000
Boys and girls in church academies and colleges	4,422
Boys and girls in church schools in Brooklyn, about	50,000
In the State of New York	129,945
In academies and colleges, over	10,000

TO MARK THE BIRTH OF GREATER NEW YORK.

About fifty distinguished men, including bank presidents, wholesale merchants, presidents of the city board, divines of fashionable churches, former Mayors and Railroad presidents, met at Delmonico's Thursday evening by invitation of Mayor Strong, to discuss plans for celebrating the passing of the old New York into the greater metropolis of the country. It was finally resolved to adopt Mayor Strong's suggestion that one of the largest halls in the city be hired, and that three speeches be made, the two first to treat of the history of the city from the first settlement to the present time, and the third deal with its wonderful growth of commerce.

THE A. O. H. REORGANIZATION.

Bishop McFaul, of Trenton, N. J., who has been appointed arbitrator between the two sections of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, has announced his plan of reorganization at a conference held at the Palace. The committee present at the conference were P. J. O'Connor, National President; Maurice Wilbers and John P. Murphy, National Directors; James O'Sullivan, National Secretary; and the Rev. William F. McLaughlin, representing the "Ancient Order of Hibernians of America" and the Rev. E. S. Phillips, National Delegate; E. R. Hayes, National Secretary; John P. Quinnan, Joseph McLaughlin, Miles McPartland, and James H. Murphy, representing the "Ancient Order of Hibernians of the United States of America in Affiliation with the Board of Erin." National Vice-President John C. Weadock of the organization first named was absent, but had sent a power of attorney, and the acceptance is there

"THEY FOUGHT LIKE TURKS."

Rev. Thomas F. Mooney, of New York, went out as chaplain of the Sixty-ninth, but was obliged, in a short time, to return home to attend to very important duties assigned him by his ordinary, Most Rev. Archbishop Hughes. The soldiers, at the President's call, had enlisted for ninety days only; and before the first memorable battle of Bull Run, which took place July 21, 1861, "the term having expired in the case of several regiments on the 20th, many militia regiments from Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and one from New York, returned home. The Sixty-ninth agreed to continue. They did so and "fought like Turks." After the battle was over, the Sixty-ninth was disbanded in New York, the time

having expired some time before. Here we start. We leave Col. Corcoran a prisoner in Richmond and the Sixty-ninth, with Meagher's brave, mustered out of the service, with honor to both officers and men.

Thomas Francis Meagher, who distinguished himself at Bull Run, set about recruiting not a single regiment, but a brigade. In a short time, with the help of the other efficient persons, he organized three Irish regiments. The old Sixty-ninth re-enlisted, and was joined by the Eighty-eighth and Sixty-third New York regiments. Each of these enlisted "for three years, or during the war." To this brigade of three New York regiments were subsequently added the Twenty-eighth Massachusetts infantry, the Sixty-ninth and One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Pennsylvania infantry, and Hogan's and McMahon's batteries. The brigade in question was ever known as the Irish Brigade, and was commanded by Gen. Thomas Francis Meagher.

WHAT IT DID IN THE SEVEN DAYS FIGHT.

At the battle of Savage Station in the course of the "Seven Days' Fight," the Union troops were hard pressed and thrown into confusion, and at this point McClellan ordered up Meagher's Brigade, with that of Gen. French, to repulse Jackson, who moved on our right in massed columns, determined to wedge in between us and the river. Had he accomplished this he would probably have captured a large portion of the Army of the Potomac; and he was in a fair way to do so, when the green flag was unfurled to the breeze. A desperate charge was made, and the hitherto victorious Confederates retired before the Irish Brigade, gallantly assisted by the brigade of General French. Both brigades charged with most extraordinary courage and gained a very important point. McClellan, speaking of this afterwards, said: "This gave an opportunity to rally our men behind the brigades of French and Meagher, and they again marched up the hill ready to repulse another attack." Moore, in his "Complete History of the Rebellion," speaking of the same battle, says: "The Irish regiments fought bravely, charging at times up to the cannon's mouth and once dragging off a battery and spiking the guns. At this very critical point it may be said with no great degree of boasting that, owing to the well known bravery of the Irish Brigade and the confidence which their reputation inspired in others, the army of the Potomac was saved. Had not the Confederates received that timely repulse, they would have succeeded in pressing between the Union Army and the river and passing round in the rear of McClellan. Thus they could have prevented his reaching his new base of supplies, which was in a place of safety, protected by soldiers on the gunboats, who had been instructed as to the part they were expected to perform.

IT COULD DO ANYTHING BUT FLY.

I cannot pass over at this point the well-known humorous and somewhat witty reply of Capt. O'Shea, of the Tammany regiment, under peculiar circumstances. The captain had received orders with his command to repair a broken bridge over the Chickahominy. One of McClellan's aides rode up and asked: "Who commands here?" The captain, who stuttered considerably at times, replied: "I do do."

"I WANT TO KNOW, SIR, CAN ARTILLERY PASS OVER?"

"Yes, yes, sir, if they are flying artillery!" casting a glance over the broken bridge as he made the answer.

"THANK GOD WE ARE SAVED."

It much astonished many brave soldiers in the Army of the Potomac to know how it was possible that the men and officers of the Irish Brigade could be so light hearted under grave and trying circumstances; but it is a characteristic of a great people, of sound morality, and many achievements, thus in peril and in the face of death to give these tokens of cheerful heart and vigor of mind. While the Irish Brigade was making its desperate charge, an occurrence took place worthy of notice. The first regiment ordered up to check Jackson was the Ninth Massachusetts, then under command of Col. Cass. This was a well known Irish regiment, and had for its chaplains, first Father Scully, and later Father Egan. It fought against fearful odds, Jackson having about 26,000 men, Col. Cass was almost in despair when suddenly he saw the rush of the Irish Brigade to assist, and he cried out to Gen. Meagher: "Is this the Irish Brigade, general?" "Yes, colonel, we are here!" "Thank God," said the colonel, "we are saved!"

The colonel so encouraged, made another dash with what men he had left; but he soon fell to fight no more—fell at the post of honor. Many of our men dropped in death during the battle on the ground occupied by the Confederates, and as night came on fighting ceased.

For reasons of a domestic and commercial nature it has been decided to postpone the many pilgrimages organized to visit Rome in connection with the sixtieth anniversary of the Pope's first Mass, and this celebration will not take place till the end of January. For similar considerations other proposed gatherings and festivities have been put off to a later date.

The Catholic School Book Co., of New York, have just issued the Catholic Family Annual for 1898. It is a valuable publication, and the present issue marks the 30th year.

OUR IRISH LETTER.

The Proposed Celebration at Limerick.

In Commemoration of the Seventh Century of Its Incorporation—The Offer of the Electric Light Co.—A Sad Occurrence Near Skibberreen, Etc.

DUBLIN, Dec. 5.—Dublin municipal circles are being agitated over a question of electric lighting of the whole city. There was a meeting on Monday last of the committee of the entire corporation to consider the following offer submitted by the Dublin United Tramways Company. The propositions were:—

- 1st. That the Corporation should transfer their lighting order to the company.
- 2nd. That the Corporation should assign the company all the buildings, plant, stores, etc., used in the lighting of the city.
- 3rd. The company will accept the transfer with all its rights and obligations, and will take over the obligation for the balance of the debt incurred by the Corporation for the lighting installation, and will undertake to pay the annual instalments of interest and sinking fund, or to pay off the debt at the company's option.
- 4th. The company will undertake to provide necessary cables and plant with all possible speed to supply the existing demands for private or public lighting.
- 5th. The company will undertake to reduce the price from the present price of sevenpence per Board of Trade unit to sixpence and fourpence respectively for private and public lighting six months after the transfer of the order; and when their new power station is in working order, or say within two years, to further reduce the price to fivepence and threepence respectively.
- 6th. The company is further prepared to largely extend the lighting area beyond the compulsory area mentioned in the order.
- 7th. The company would take over any of the staff or employees in the Corporation lighting station who desired to enter the company's employment.

The committee although favorably impressed with the proposal determined that it had no power to act. It was determined to send it in to the Council for it to pass upon.

A CELEBRATION OF THE TWENTY CITY.

The citizens of Limerick—the world famous city of the broken treaty—are taking steps to commemorate the seventh centenary of the city charter. The Mayor, at a meeting called this week to discuss the matter, said that there was only one city in the British Isles which can boast of being older than Limerick, and that is the ancient city of York. The following resolution was unanimously adopted: That this public meeting of the citizens and others interested in Limerick think it desirable that such an important event as the seventh centenary of the incorporation of our city should be commemorated by a fitting and proper celebration, and that so present do form themselves into a committee, with power to add to their number, to decide and arrange the form of such celebration, and as it is not of a political character we hope all classes and creeds of the city and county will heartily join to make it a thorough success. It was also determined to mark the occasion by the establishment of sound industry such as a woollen mill or other industrial enterprise to render substantial benefit to the people.

MR. CHILLY, M. P., IN MAYO.

The winter outlook, owing to the failure of the potato crop, is the great question in County Mayo. At Galesa, where Mr. Chilly, M. P., this week addressed his constituents, the distress is peculiarly manifest. Nowhere is there even a vestige of crop. Here the potato is not a partial failure, it is an absolute and total failure, and for months past the people are subsisting on Indian meal alone. The district is over populated and uncultivated. The little patches of cultivated land which exist give but very indifferent crops even under the most careful treatment and most favorable climatic conditions. The so-called 'farms' are naturally in such a precarious state and of such limited areas, that they soon deteriorate under the injudicious system of cropping pursued, and once exhaustion sets in there is, under present circumstances, no way of restoring the fertility, and when an exceptionally severe season recurs, as was the case last spring and harvest, the farmers' hopes are doomed. At the meeting, Mr. Caldwell, ex teacher, and for over fifty years in the district, said that never was there such a dismal prospect. The meeting asked for the construction of a railroad from Mulranny to Belmullet as a means of alleviating the prevailing distress. A resolution to this effect will be sent to the Lieut. Governor and Right Hon. G. Balfour, Chief Secretary for Ireland.

SAD OCCURRENCE NEAR SKIBBERREEN.

This week there was a very sad accident in the mines near Skibberreen & Ballydenon, in the Doreelomane Baryes drifts, in which two men, Timothy Connolly, Cursons, and Michael Hayes, Sabern, lost their lives. Connolly leaves a widow and nine children, while Hayes was the sole support of his mother. (Concluded on Eighth Page.)