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#### Catholic Society Notes.

Altice Branch, C. M. B. A., has elected the following officers for the ensuing year: President, Michael Torpy; vice-president, M. J. Reynolds; sec. vice-pres., Daniel McMahon; rec. sec'y, Jas. T. Hickey; assistant, Timothy O'Neil; fin. sec'y, J. D. Higgins; treasurer, Valentine DeCot; marshal, Geo. Birmingham; guard, John Scott; chancellor, Patrick Hannifan; spiritual adviser, Rev. Father Wilbur, representative to Grand Lodge, Valentine DeCot; alternate, Patrick Hannifan; trustees, M. J. Reynolds, J. D. Higgins, J. T. Hickey. They will be installed January 13th.

At a regular meeting of Branch St. C. M. B. A., the following officers were elected: Spiritual Adviser, Rev. J. P. Stewart; President, J. G. McGreal; first vice-pres., J. W. Butler; second vice-pres., C. J. Chism; treas., Thos. Moore; rec. sec., T. P. Boughney; assistant sec., P. Gaffney; fin. sec'y, M. C. Butler; marshal, E. Poinan; guard, J. Gilfoil; trustees, J. W. Butler, P. Cooper, J. J. Willis, J. H. Hyde, W. H. Daly.

The following officers have been elected by Branch 80, C. M. B. A.: President, Wan Halatink; first vice-pres., C. F. Maid; sec. vice-pres., Geo. W. Blosser; rec. sec., C. Gaenzler; financial secretary, L. Oberlies; treasurer, Chas. Biel; marshal, J. Fluogler; guard, James Miller; trustees, Wan Huegler, A. Schuler, A. A. Halatink, representative to Grand Council, J. H. Cusack; alternate, Leo Schert.

On December 8th, Branch 144, C. M. B. A., was instituted in St. Joseph's parish, Buffalo Plains.

A circular from Rev. M. J. Lavalle, president of the Catholic Young Men's Union, stated that the general convention of that organization fell Dec. 15th. The circular closed as follows:

National Union will be delighted to have you as a delegate to the annual convention of the Catholic Young Men's Societies in New York City, whether they are upon its list or not. We are all united in our prayers for the success of your mission. All our

energies are but to a single purpose—the welfare, intellectual, social and moral, of the Catholic youth of America.

The sons of St. Mauritius have elected the following officers: Pres., Geo. C. Vought; vice-pres., Frederick J. Hanss; sec., Geo. J. Blauw; treas., Edward J. Fisher; captain Chas. L. Gerstner; first lieutenant, Geo. J. Baner; second lieutenant, Edward J. Fisher; orderly, Joseph T. Otto; executive com., Chas. L. Gerstner, Geo. F. Biesenback, Joseph T. Otto and the first four officers named.

St. Peter and Paul's society on Monday evening elected the following named officers: Captain, Barney Schriener; first lieutenant, Peter A. Vay; second lieutenant, Frank Weis; first sergeant, John Flaus; second sergeant, Roman Fell; color sergeant, John B. Bringmann; sergeant at arms, Joseph Ruppert; president, Rudolph Fell; vice president, Roman Fell; corresponding secretary, Joseph Werner; financial secretary, Henry Weber; treasurer, Richard Vay; finance committee, Henry Hauser, Herman Springer, George Haselmander; staff officer, John P. Smith.

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#### A HAPPY FIRESIDE.

I.  
Round the blazing hearth together,  
In that lowly little hall,  
See how lovingly they gather—  
Sire and dame, and children all.

II.  
Now, without the angry tempest  
Sweeps across the wintry sky;  
Peace and love, and joy, within the  
Never, for a moment, die.

III.  
True, indeed, no earthly treasure  
There supplies its ample store,  
Sweet content and smiling pleasure  
Are the riches they improve.

IV.  
See, there sits the happy father  
Serenely, on his little throne,  
Reigning 'er his little kingdom,  
Guided by sweet love alone.

V.  
And beside him is his consort,  
Sharing in his little sway;  
While around, their loving subjects  
Fondest duty is to obey.

VI.  
Surely, there's no bliss existing:  
And God's choice dwelling there must be,  
For, in truth, true virtue's living  
Might that happy family.

#### GOLDEN RULES FOR THE YOUNG.

The person who first sent these rules to be printed says, truly, if any boy or girl thinks it would be hard to keep so many of them in mind all the time, just think, also, what a happy place it would be at home if you only would:

1. Shut every door after you, and without slapping it.
2. Never shout, run or jump in the house.
3. Never call to persons up stairs or in the next room; if you wish to speak to them, go quietly where they are.
4. Always speak kindly and politely to the servants, if you would have them do the same to you.
5. Whenever you are told to do or not to do a thing, by either parent, never ask why you should or should not do it.
6. Tell of your own faults and misdoings; not of those of your brothers and sisters.
7. Carefully clean the mud or snow off your boots before entering the house.
8. Be prompt at every meal hour.
9. Never sit down at the table or in the parlor with dirty hands or tumbled hair.
10. Never interrupt any conversation, but wait patiently your turn to speak.
11. Never reserve your good manners for company, but be equally polite at home and abroad.
12. Let your first, last and best friend be your mother.

A Profile subject.  
Bishop Keane, Rector of the American Catholic University, will lecture in Mechanics Hall, Worcester, Mass., on the evening of January 15, on "The American Child and the Christian School."

#### WASHINGTON'S CHRISTMAS.

How the "Father of His Country" spent the Feast in 1776.

In December, 1776, the American people and the officers and the soldiers of the army were sadly depressed and almost hopeless of success, owing to the defeats and disasters that they suffered. On the 18th of December, 1776, Washington wrote to his brother: "If every nerve is not strained to recruit the army with all possible expedition, I think the game is pretty near up. \* \* \* You can form no idea of the perplexity of my situation. No man, I believe, ever had a greater choice of evils, and less means to extricate himself from them."

He was not ready, however, to give up "the game" yet. On Christmas night he crossed the Delaware to attack the Hessians at Trenton. The river was so full of ice that the Marblehead regiment, made up of Marblehead fishermen, found it very hard to manage the boats.

After crossing the men marched nine miles through a driving storm of sleet, their snowy pathway being marked with blood from their wounded and shoeless feet.

As they drew near Trenton, Washington, who rode in front, asked a man chopping wood by the roadside: "Which way is the Hessian picket?" "I do not know," was the surly answer. "You may tell," said the officer at Washington's side, "for this is General Washington." "God bless and prosper you," said the man instantly. "The pickets is in that house and the sentry stands near the tree."

Washington and his brave men surprised and defeated the Hessians, and captured over one thousand of them. Then, to avoid a superior force of the enemy close at hand, he immediately recrossed the Delaware.

This brilliant success at Trenton inspired the army and the people with hope in their cause, and gave them greater faith in Washington, who, they now saw, knew how to be bold as well as prudent.

#### A Venerable Cathedral.

The Cathedral of Mexico is the largest in America, and cost \$2,000,000. It was commenced by the Spaniards in 1573, on the site of the old Aztec temple, or pyramid, and finished in 1877. Its facade is beautifully hung. Against its western walls leans the celebrated Calendar Stone, covered with hieroglyphics and weighing twenty-five tons. It was exhibited at the New Orleans Exposition. Within the Cathedral are a number of paintings, some of them said to be the work of Murillo.

A timid person is frightened before a danger, a coward during the time, and a courageous person afterward. — Richter.

#### HOME FROM IRELAND.

Col. Atkinson Deeply Impressed with the Wise Words and Sincerity of the "Grand Old Man."

Col. John Atkinson, of Detroit, Mich., just home from Ireland—whither he accompanied his friend and fellow-citizen the Rev. Dr. Charles O'Reilly, has been interviewed by the Detroit News. He said, among other things: "At the National Liberal Club on Victoria embankment, near the House of Parliament, one of the most elaborately furnished houses in London and occupied by Liberal members, I met a great many of the English statesmen who favor a just and liberal policy toward Ireland. The talk with the utmost freedom on the question, and from the results of my own observation I will say that the speeches for Ireland, made by Irishmen represent calmness itself, as compared with speeches on the same subject made by English members of Parliament who espouse our cause. I had the extreme honor of a personal invitation to spend a day with Gladstone at his country place, for the grand old man leads a life as retired as his duties will permit. He said much to me regarding the condition of affairs under the English Government, especially as bearing upon the future of Ireland, and said it as only a man of his profound knowledge and foresight can. His are words of wisdom that should not be lost to the world, but I want first to prepare them carefully from the notes which I have preserved. The amount turned over to the Irish National League by Dr. O'Reilly, a treasurer of the American League, was \$10,000, not \$20,000, as some one incorrectly reported."

#### Death of Mother Bernard.

On Sunday, feast of the Immaculate Conception, at the Ursuline convent, Euclid avenue, Cleveland, Mother Mary Bernard yielded her soul to her Creator after a long and most painful illness from internal cancer. For upward of twenty-four years she was a devoted religious and zealous laborer in the parochial schools of Cleveland, having taught with marked success, the high classes at the Cathedral and St. Bridget's. When a few years ago, a request was made for nuns to go to the far West, to help in the education of the Indian girls, Mother Bernard was among the first volunteers. She spent two years in Montana, returning only when health failed her. Requiem High Mass was celebrated over her remains at the convent chapel on Tuesday morning. Rev. Father Thorpe, of the Cathedral, officiated. Rev. Rev. Monsignor Hill, V. G., and several priests were in attendance. Mother Bernard was known in the world as Mrs. Sarah Cotter. She was a convert to the holy religion. A sister of hers, Mother Mary Veronica, also a convert, was a daughter of St. Francis, preceded her to the grave about a year ago.