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BISHOP WIGGER'S PASTORAL.

A drastic measure, in the conflict between the demands of the hierarchy and the integrity of the public schools, is proposed in New Jersey. It is nothing less than an amendment to the constitution of the state to the effect that it shall be "unlawful for any power, foreign or local, to use dictation or coercion in order to compel the attendance of children upon any particular school or to compel their absence from any particular school."

We do not suppose that the amendment will prevail. The issue is not yet drawn sharply enough, although the local provocation to the measure, in the arbitrary announcements of the Prothonary Apostolic to the congregation of St. Patrick's Cathedral in Newark, is a persuasive provocation to the most stringent constitutional inhibition. The proposition, however, should be received by the Catholic priesthood as a very serious warning for them to desist from their assaults upon the public schools. Their anathemas, taken in connection with the recent encyclical of the Pope, in which he enunciates the medieval dogma of fealty to the Church as superior, in all classes, to that due to the state, has alarmed the friends of the free school system, and shows that the tireless hierarchy is still intent upon destroying it. It will not be surprising if retaliatory legislation shall find place upon our statute books, or organic law place its safeguards about the common school.

Let the issue be fully understood. Liberal-minded Americans do not object to the institution of the parochial school. If the church desires to maintain them from their own resources and makes no war upon the public school, it has an unquestionable right to do so, but the moment she attempts to coerce attendance upon them, by her spiritual thunders, or seeks to restrain attendance upon the schools which the state provides for her youth, there will be trouble, and very serious trouble, for the church. Of course we know that there have been some indications of such a spirit of tyranny, in various places, already; but it has not appeared to take the form of an open movement against the public schools. If the church is wise, she will desist from any further molestation of the system which America cherishes. If she does not, she must abide the consequences.—Rochester Democrat.

It appears an amendment to the State of New Jersey has been proposed, the substance of which will be found in the article quoted at the head of this column. The paper from which we quote does not suppose the amendment will prevail, but says it should prove a warning to priests to refrain from assaults upon the public schools. Thanks! But in what way did Bishop Wigger assault the public schools? Did he advise his spiritual flock to desist from paying their pro rata share of the school tax? We are sure he did not. If this is the case he was really saving expense to the State, because Catholics who send their children to the parochial schools help to keep up the state schools, consequently the state is not called upon to bear the additional expense which would be entailed for extra teachers, additional school buildings, etc. Bishop McQuaid pointed this out in his *Formam* article and no paper has had courage enough to even attempt an answer.

If the Democrat is to be taken as an exponent of Republican principles, that party proposes to begin a crusade against parochial schools. "Retaliatory legislation," "serious trouble," "must abide the consequences," all go to substantiate this view. Political parties and individuals can rest assured the parochial schools have come to stay. And if the Church chooses to deny the Sacraments to Catholics who do not send their children to such schools, she does not exceed her province. No one is obliged to be a Catholic, but if he wishes to remain one he, of his own free will, promises obedience to her laws. There is no compulsion in the matter, nothing contrary to the law of the land; if he wishes to abide by the laws of the state he is at perfect liberty to do so in her communion. No one is an idiot or a narrow-minded bigot who attempts to argue that the Democrat has a depth of view or

LETTER FROM BISHOP McQUAID.

The following letter, accompanied by an authorized translation of the Pope's recent Encyclical, has been addressed to the priests of the diocese by our Rt. Rev. Bishop.

We place in your hands a translation of the "Encyclical Letter of Our Holy Father, by Divine Providence Pope Leo XIII, on the chief duties of Christian citizens, addressed on the tenth of January, 1890, to the Patriarchs, Primates, Archbishops, Bishops, and other Ordinaries, in peace and communion with the Holy See."

In compliance with the obligation imposed on bishops "to diffuse everywhere Our words, and make all understand how important it is to put in practice the teachings contained in this letter," we direct you to read this translation of said Encyclical Letter, on the first Sunday after you shall have received it. On other Sundays, at your discretion and convenience, you will enforce its teachings by such explanations as may seem best adapted to the needs of your people.

It is important that Catholics should hear and understand this Letter in its entirety, because already portions of it imperfectly rendering its sense have been spread before the people, and adverse criticisms based on garbled extracts have been made. Yet more important is it that the whole Letter should be heard by Catholics because of the useful lessons it inculcates and which it behoves them to keep always in mind.

You will in your explanations make clear the great truths herein laid down with regard to the source of all authority. After listening to the strong and explicit teachings of Our Holy Father on the duties of parents toward their children, no Catholic will be found calling in question the necessity of Catholic education in Catholic schools for Catholic children. They who have made sacrifices in the past to secure such education will be encouraged to renewed exertion in the future.

You will also revert to the uncatholic spirit, and the lack of wisdom on the part of those who, professing to be Catholics, prefer the guidance of newspapers to the direction of the bishop in matters appertaining to the government of the Church. The folly of such forgetful and unworthy members of the Church often leaves in congregations bitter remembrances and much irremediable evil.

You will also read this letter to your congregation before the reading of the Holy Father's Encyclical.

Very Sincerely, Dear Rev. Sir,

Yours in Christ,

ROCHESTER, Feb. 26, 1890.

†BERNARD, Bishop of Rochester.

SHOULD INFORM ITSELF.

It will be noticed a contemporary says the Holy Father in his recent encyclical "enunciates the medieval dogma of fealty to the church as superior, in all classes, to that due the state." This statement, though untrue, is not surprising, even though the Democrat be notoriously unfair to Catholics, in view of the garbled summary of the Pope's letter sent out by Associated and United Press Associations. What the Holy Father does say is that Catholics should be true and loyal citizens and obey the laws of the country in which they live, so long as these laws do not interfere in spiritual matters; when they do, Catholics are not bound to obey them, but rather the Church, because the law of God is paramount to that of man. There is nothing reprehensible in this. The state has no right to interfere in spiritual matters, and when it does it oversteps its province and its laws are no longer entitled to respect. In fact, the Holy Father is really upholding liberty of conscience, one of the cardinal principles of the American constitution.

Sunday week, Bishop Wigger, of Newark, N. J., exercising the rights conferred upon him as head of his diocese, and fulfilling the duty imposed upon him by the Baltimore Council, which is upheld by the recent encyclical of Pope Leo XIII, issued a pastoral, calling upon his Catholics to send their children to the parochial schools, warning them if they did not they would be refused the Sacraments of the Church. The New York dailies commented in various ways upon the pastoral. The Times and Evening Post, naturally, with their narrow-minded bigotry, speak uncomplimentarily of it. The Sun, with its characteristic fairness, says the Catholic Church has a perfect right to institute its own schools and to compel attendance thereon, even if its prelates and priests resort to arbitrary measures. The various comments will be found on the first page of this issue of the JOURNAL, and we advise all to read them.

Everyone should read the Pope's Encyclical Letter. For sale in pamphlet form at this office.

A SOLEMN DUTY.

There is, in Letn, one duty which is binding upon all Catholics of mature age; one which no one should neglect or put off; one which is of the most vital importance to the salvation of their souls; it is that of receiving Holy Communion during the season of Lent. This is solemnly enjoined by our Holy Church, and we should obey her commands. No other time will do as well; no other season will suffice; therefore don't put it off. It is really a privilege and a boon to be allowed to receive the Blessed Eucharist, the Body of our Lord and Savior, and none should pass it lightly, but avail themselves of the means provided by God's mercy to give us spiritual nourishment, and to strengthen and sustain us along life's journey.

Is the appointment of the Democrat's editor, Charles E. Fitch, to a responsible position under the Harrison administration a reward for that paper's narrow-minded, bigoted treatment of Catholics and Catholic matters, especially parochial schools? The latter have no bitterer opponent than the Rochester Democrat. Whether Mr. Fitch was the writer of these articles is of little account. He is the editor-in-chief, and responsible for the utterances of his paper.

Tuesday next the charter election will take place. It is of vital importance in these days that voters lay aside party ties in local elections and vote for the best men nominated. Both the parties have nominated men in various wards notoriously unfit to hold public office. It is the bounden duty of all, as Christians and honest American citizens, to vote against such as these. Vote as your conscience dictates and you will have no cause for regret.

Weekly Church Calendar.

SUNDAY, Mch. 2—Second Sunday of Lent. Gospel, St. Matt. xvii, 1-19. St. Simplicius, Pope and Confessor. MONDAY, 3—St. Cunegundes, Empress. TUESDAY, 4—St. Casimir, Confessor. WEDNESDAY, 5—St. John Joseph of the Cross, Confessor. THURSDAY, 6—St. Colette, Virgin. FRIDAY, 7—St. Thomas Aquinas, Doctor and Confessor. SATURDAY, 8—St. John of God, Confessor.

LENTEN SERMONS.

Instructions to the Faithful by Divinely Appointed Ministers.

ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL.

Rev. Father Van Ness preached at the Cathedral, which was crowded to its fullest extent, Wednesday evening. In the course of his sermon he said: Now is the time to serve God, there is no time like the present, for we know not whether a chance will be given us in the future. The Holy Spirit places such inducements before us none should refuse to accept them. Every good and perfect gift comes from above, but how many of us are prone to ascribe our success to chance or luck. Our pride prevents us giving praise to God, the Author of all good. How often have we been delivered like the Israelites from their Egyptian taskmasters, how often benefited with the bread of life, yet too often have we complained of our lot and turned our praise into murmurings of discontent? How often have we traced the Savior's footsteps? Not often.

We grumble at a little self-denial now, but, my friends, it will be a vast deal harder to hear that awful sentence, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire." We murmur too much against God and think too little of what was endured for us. When did we ever shed ears of blood, or lay awake a whole night thinking of our sins? Yet Christ, the night before His crucifixion, endured the awful Passion in the Garden, was scourged until there was not a sound spot in his sacred body. He had no soft bed in which to lay His bruised body or pillow on which to rest his aching head. Now matter how we are afflicted there is always One to console and comfort us; but Jesus had no one. Jesus is now always ready to help us, in fact, asks permission to help and console us. There are times when conscience arouses us from lethargy and we promise faithfully to serve God better, but no sooner has the smart died away than the door of the heart closes more tightly to Christ and the devil is enthroned therein. Death deprives us of a loved one; then we turn to Jesus, realizing we too must die, and resolve to lead better lives. Poor frail man! No sooner has the ghastly form been laid in the cold earth, no sooner has the vivid remembrance died out, than all our good intentions fade away. Once more Jesus knocks at our door. When the prospects of a speedy entrance into eternity is before our eyes, vice loses its attraction, our love for the gay and giddy companions departs, we shed tears of sincere regret, and earnestly endeavor to prepare to meet our God with joy. We make all sorts of good resolutions. Jesus is glad, for he came to save sinners, even though they put off until the eleventh hour. He removes the fear of death. How long are the good resolutions kept? Man soon forgets he was so near the brink of eternity, the good resolutions are scattered to the winds, and he returns to his evil ways. Must Christ beg of us to be saved, and we laugh at Him and turn a deaf ear to His entreaties? If we shrink from His cross, we have only to look at His bruised and bleeding hands and feet. Let all so live that when they depart this life, they may be called upon to enter into everlasting life.

OUR LADY OF VICTORY.

At the French church Father Notabaert spoke of the "Necessities of Religion." During the sermon he said natural right claims the absolute necessity of religion. Religion consists in the relations or duties of man towards God. These relations result from the eternal order of things and cannot be changed. Religion is based on the nature of God and the nature of man: To be convinced of the existence of these relations between God and man and of the subsequent obligations, one need only consider: 1st. What God is in relation to man, and what He is in Himself, and what man is in relation to God, and what he is in himself. Conclusion: Religion is not a human invention, it is based on the nature of God and the nature of man, and existed before all human institutions. Therefore, man is not at leisure to take a form of religion suitable to his convenience. Neither is honesty to be considered as a form of religion that can result in the salvation of the soul.

CORPUS CHRISTI.

Wednesday evening Rev. J. J. Leary preached at Corpus Christi, taking as his subject the Devotion of the Stations of the Cross. Among other things he said: "We should meditate on the different

stations and particularly on the one where Judas, to whom so many favors were shown, afterwards basely betrayed our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We should also reflect on the conduct of Pilate who, through fear, condemned an innocent man to death. Fear causes us to neglect our duties toward God; we are afraid of the taunts and jeers of our associates. Beware of imitating the faithless Jews, and do not, like them, cry, "Crucify Him!" During Lent let us beseech Him to assist us to excite in our hearts a more ardent love for God. Beware of seeking only human respect, but follow the example of your divine Savior, Jesus Christ."

Rev. F. O'Hanlon celebrated high mass at St. Mary's church Sunday last. In the course of his remarks he said there was one thing from which all could abstain during Lent, and that was mortal sin. He urged them all to prepare themselves by approaching the sacred tribunal of Penance and receiving Holy Communion in order that they might rise spiritually with Christ on Easter morning.

DIOCESAN NEWS.

Canandaigua.

Last Tuesday afternoon Frank Caseman and Miss Annie Berris were united in marriage at St. Mary's church by Rev. Father English. John Frayer officiated as best man and Miss Minnie Berry, sister of the bride, very gracefully filled the position of bridesmaid. The groom is a well-known young mechanic, formerly of this village, and is employed in a well established clothing store at Lyons, N. Y. Miss Berry, the bride, is a niece of Michael Berry, of this village, and a very prepossessing young lady. After the ceremony a reception was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Moran on Lower Main street, which was attended by a large number of invited guests, including Rev. Father English, of St. Mary's church, and Rev. Father Butler, of Stanley. The presents were well selected, and not only included a great variety, but elegance and usefulness combined. Mr. and Mrs. Caseman took the 11.02 train for New York and other eastern points of interest.

Miss Angela Burns is visiting friends in Rochester.

Mrs. Catherine Robinson is visiting her niece, Mrs. D. Nolan, of Elmira.

Mrs. K. B. Seymour, of Detroit, Mich., is visiting friends in this village.

Miss Mary Larkin, of Rochester, spent Sunday with her parents in this village.

Auburn.

Our diocesan paper, the CATHOLIC JOURNAL received a warm recommendation from St. Mary's pulpit last Sunday. Fr. Dougherty preached an admirable sermon, treating with great delicacy the interesting subject of "Courtship."

It is evident from the long list of announcements of society meetings, that St. Mary's parish is well organized. The Knights of Temperance appreciate their debt to Fr. FitzSimons for renewed interest in the temperance question. His recent lecture is regarded as a masterpiece. He should be heard in many places.

Branch 59, C. M. B. A., held a well-attended meeting Tuesday evening. Bro. Geo. W. Terry, of 138, Lima, N. Y., made a few remarks, of course introducing his hobby of the Ladies' C. M. B. A. First Vice-President Gerin followed with some kind words of greeting to the visiting brother. The parent branch is reaching for a membership of three hundred.

Brother Jerry Morrissey, of Branch 59, C. M. B. A., has been appointed Steward for Willard Asylum.

Geneseo.

Miss Johanna Burns is in Philadelphia. John Connor, of Avon, spent Sunday with his daughter, Mrs. J. L. Kelley.

Miss Alice Duffy, of Mt. Morris, was the guest of Miss Maggie Shefflin over Sunday.

Willie Hughes, who has been in the employ of A. W. Wadsworth, Esq., left for Kentucky last Monday.

James Conroy received a telegram from St. Augustine, Florida, announcing that his son, Frank, died Monday and was buried Tuesday of this week. He was about 32 years old. Frank was well known in this village, and was for a long time employed by F. N. Burt, who formerly kept a grocery store in the Baker Block. He left Geneseo about ten years ago.

Greece.

Rev. M. Mussmaecher's health is slightly improved.

Miss Margaret McShea died Monday morning at her residence in Greece. On Sunday, Feb. 16th, she fell while alighting from her carriage and broke her thigh. The injured limb was fractured very badly both bones protruding through the flesh. Medical aid was at once summoned, but gangrene set in, and nothing but amputation could save her life. This she could not become reconciled to, and said: "that she had rather die than be maimed for life." She was about thirty-eight years of age. A large family and many friends mourn her untimely death. Her funeral took place from the church of Our Mother of Sorrows, in Greece Wednesday morning. Solemn requiem mass was celebrated. The music was rendered by a male quartette, including P. J. McCracken, P. J. McSweeney, Geo. T. Roche and J. F. Norton, and Mrs. J. F. Norton and Miss M. Predmore. Miss Emma Sullivan was organist.