

The Catholic Journal.

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A RINGING PROTEST.

The Bishops of Wisconsin State Their Objections to the Bennett Law.

The Bishops of Wisconsin have sent out a joint protest against the Bennett law recently enacted in that state, providing nominally that the English language should be taught in all the schools, but really conferring upon district school boards the power, if they see fit to exercise it, to force children to leave parochial schools and attend the state schools. The Bishops first consider the Bennett law an unnecessary law, because, to the best of their knowledge, English is taught in the 264 parochial schools, 14 colleges, academies and select schools, and 9 orphan asylums, comprised in their three dioceses, even a longer time each year than is required by the Bennett law.

The Bishops think the Bennett law offensive because there are 359,000 Catholics in Wisconsin, who have built their parochial schools without asking a dollar of assistance from the state. What right has the state to say what their children must be taught? Does the state think they are ignorant of, or unworthy to, care for their offspring, and that the said state must step in and act as guardian?

The Bishops think the Bennett law unjust because: (a) It interferes with the sacred, inalienable rights of parent. (b) It threatens penalties which are really beyond all equity. (c) It opens every avenue to partiality and injustice; to strife and disorder. (d) Parents have the duty to educate their children, enjoined upon them by God, the giver of these children. Neither the state nor any one else has any authority to take away this God-given right. We do deny to the state the right to educate the children of those parents who are able and willing to do so themselves. And if parents want to delegate those rights to the state and send their children to the state schools, the state merely acts as delegated power, as the agent or functionary, not above them, but for them. If the thousands of other parents want to educate their own children, they are perfectly free to retain it for themselves, provided they do not allow said children to grow up ignorant. The thousands of good Catholic citizens, educated in parochial schools, who have served their country in every capacity, bear testimony to the fact that parochial schools teach doctrines, not only dangerous not to the state, but conducive to its welfare. Every Catholic is obliged by the Church to give his child not only a secular, but also a religious education. How can parents fulfil this sacred duty? The state schools give only secular instruction; the parochial gives religious and secular; therefore the Church urges and obliges parents to send their children to parochial schools. It is urged that the Bennett law does not propose to interfere in any way with the rights of private or parochial schools, but in the next sentence it explains that parents, even though they send their children to parochial schools, may be summoned before the school board, and must show sufficient reason for non-attendance of their children upon the public school. This is in direct interference with the parochial and private schools, the schools of the parents, and consequently the rights of the parents. The Bishops further point out that Sec. 1 of the bill provides that children must attend school in the city, town or district in which the parent resides, thus shutting off the parent from sending his child to a parochial school, if it happens to be

to the discretion of the school board to say whether a school shall be regarded as a school at all under the law.

(b) We consider the Bennett law unjust because of the ruinous fines it threatens.

(c) We consider the Bennett law unjust because it opens every avenue to partiality and injustice, to strife and discord. It really gives the parents over to the discretionary powers of the school boards, who, no matter how fairly they may be disposed, should have no more discretionary power than is absolutely necessary.

As to the language question, the Bishops virtually say it should not be made a subject of legislation, and that left to itself, the question will solve itself and English will be spoken everywhere.

In closing, the Bishops reaffirm their devotion to America and her laws, and say they would never have raised their voice against any law, did they not deem it their duty before God to do so. The following significant sentence ends the protest: "Under God we have always relied on the zeal of our priests and the generosity of our people. We have never received one cent of state money for our schools—we want no state interference with them either."

†MICHAEL HEISS, Archbishop of Milwaukee.
†KILLIAN C. FLAHER, Bishop of LaCrosse.
†F. X. KATZER, Bishop of Green Bay.

Angels and Human Souls.

One of the curious errors of Protestantism, into which some Catholics occasionally fall, in expressions if not in fact, is the belief that the souls of human beings, especially of children, become angels. The angels are pure spirits, without bodies, while the human soul animates a body here on earth, and after the general resurrection will be connected with that body for eternity. It never can become an angel. Angels are a distinct class of created beings, and if the human soul becomes an angel, it is not easy to see what becomes of the resurrected body. Our Lord rose from the dead, His soul united with His body; the risen Christ was a man and not an angel, and His resurrection is the type of ours—we shall all rise again, not as angels, but as men.—Cath. News.

There will be a dress rehearsal of Oberammergau Passion Play, open to the public, on Sunday, May 18. The play will afterwards be performed on Whit-Monday, on each of the five Sundays in June, and twice on week-days in that month. There will be five performances in July, seven in August, and five in September.

The funeral of the late Archbishop Heiss took place at Milwaukee Tuesday morning. There was a large number of church dignitaries present. Cardinal Gibbons celebrated the pontifical requiem mass. Bishop Hennessy, of Dubuque, Iowa, preached a sermon in English and Bishop Katzer, of Green Bay, one in German. The funeral was one of the largest in the history of the state.

Rev. James Keitz, pastor of St. Mary's church, Buffalo, celebrated the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on Monday evening. A pleasant evening was enjoyed by the congregation and the pastor. The latter received as tokens of esteem \$100 in money, a handsome silver watch, from the church trustees, and a costly service of gold, from the Knights of St. George. Father Keitz is but 48 years old, albeit 25 years a priest, and is much beloved by his

AROUND THE GLOBE.

What the Church is Doing in this and Other Continents.

The Association of the Catholic Youth of Italy are arranging for a solemn celebration of the third centenary of the death of St. Aloysius Gonzaga, on June 21, 1891.

Moved thereto by the urgent requests of the Spanish Episcopate, priesthood and people, Pope Leo XIII has decreed that March 19, Feast of St. Joseph, patron of the Universal Church, shall be henceforward a holy day of obligation in Spain.

Rev. Charles Currier, C. S. S. R., will address the members of the Catholic Union of Boston shortly, on the subject of "The Carmelite Order of Nuns in America." This is the centennial year of the Carmelites—the pioneer nuns of America.

On March 19th, the Rev. Dr. Kennedy, O. P., sailed for Rome, having been called there by the Master-General, who has appointed him to one of the chairs in the new University of Fribourg, Switzerland, the philosophical and theological faculties of which have been confided to the Dominicans.

Miss Katharine E. Conway, of the Boston Pilot, read a paper on "The Ideals of Christian Womanhood," before the Newman reading circle, South Boston, Mass., March 20th. Among the visitors present were Rev. D. O'Callaghan, Fr. Mathew, of Cork, and Judge J. D. Fallon.

It is expected that one of the Catholic members will preside over the deliberations of the new German Reichstag. It is one of the unwritten laws of the German Parliament that the president is chosen from the most numerous party in the house, and the last elections have happily placed the Catholic Center in this position.

Rev. John J. McCoy, in Worcester, Mass., said: "I believe the history of the Irish people has more character making spirit, more elevating power and more heroism upon its pages than the history of any other people; save only the ancient Greeks and Hebrews. There are many things alike in the histories of these three peoples, and no man reads them but to become nobler himself."

On Mid-Lent, or Lastare Sunday, March 16, the medal awarded annually by Notre Dame University to some Catholic eminent in art, literature or public life, was bestowed on the Hon. William J. Onahan, of Chicago. The address is richly illuminated and bears a frontispiece painted by the celebrated artist, Gregori. The medal is of the purest gold, elaborately wrought and inscribed. Among those who have been honored with the medal are the poet artist, Eliza Allen Starr, the Catholic historian, John Gilmary Shea, and the noted engineer who blew up Hell Gate, General John B. Newton.

Sister Benedictine, the Superior at the City Hospital in Baltimore, saved the lives of all the patients in that institution on Sunday afternoon, March 16. While making her usual round of the wards she detected a smell of smoke, which she traced to a stairway in the center of the building. With great presence of mind she seized a hose with which the building is provided, and herself turned on the stream. The brave little woman pluckily held her ground until assistance arrived, when more streams were directed on the blazing stairway, and the flames were finally conquered. But for Sister Benedictine's presence of mind and courage, the building and its patients might have been consumed.

"LAILA."

Operetta to be Given by the Pupils of St. Mary's Parochial School.

Next Monday and Tuesday evenings the operetta "Laila," will be produced at St. Mary's hall on South street by the pupils of the parochial school. Those who are to take part have been rehearsing their parts for some time past, and those who attend will be amply repaid for their outlay of both time and money. The principal parts will be taken as follows: "Laila," Miss Tella Hicks; "Queen of the Fairies," Miss Mary Keyes; "Queen of the Beggars," Miss Maggie McMahon; pupils of the school will furnish the chorus.

The plot of the operetta is as follows: A band of mountain children are spending the day in the mountains; when they sit down to their meal, they are interrupted by a beggar woman and her children; the children are somewhat vexed at having their feast interrupted, but Laila rebukes her comrades and invites the wanderers to join them at the table; the others soon recover from their vexation and make things pleasant for the beggars. Laila wanders off in search of flowers, but loses her way; just as she is giving up hope of finding her friends, as night is approaching, a troop of fairies, headed by their queen, appear and comfort her, afterward leading her to her comrades, who are almost beside themselves with fear for her safety. The Queen of the Fairies informs the children that they are the same ones who, disguised as wretched beggars, came in the morning to test the generosity of their hearts, and tells them never to hesitate in the future to give to the needy, for virtue is sure to be rewarded. All unite in a joyous song, and Laila is crowned their queen.

"CECELIA."

The Operetta to be Given at St. Joseph's Hall Monday Evening.

As has been before announced, St. Joseph's hall on Franklin street will be blessed by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Monday afternoon next at 4 o'clock. In the evening the operetta "Cecelia" will be produced. Following is a synopsis:

CAST: Cecelia, a Roman lady, Miss Ida Koesterer; Valerian, her betrothed, Philip Fried The Angel, Miss Mary Lighthouse; Almachius, Roman prefect, Jos. Schueler; Urban, Roman bishop, Joseph Leinen; Chorus of men and women.

ACT I—The Vision.

No. 1—Prelude.

2—Coro. Glory to God in the Highest

3—(Cecelia) Hark! what a sound has there arisen.

4—Duo—(Angel and Cecelia) Hark! my daughter.

5—Coro. Praise of song. How wondrous sweet.

6—Betrothal.

No. 6—Aria (Valerian) Thine image purs. 7. Aria (Cecelia) To him alone. 8. Aria (The Angel) Let not this youth plead. 9. Duo (Valerian and Cecelia) O wondrous strange. 10. Bidal song) Hail ye, in heavenly bonds.

11—Martyrdom.

11-12—Solo Insieme Coro. (Almachius) O Creature deluded. (Chorus of men.) O, Cecelia, dost thou not see? (Chorus of women.) Oh, noble rose. (Almachius) Well, thou thou the incense. (Cecelia) To my Saviour, to my bridegroom. (Chorus of men.) Speed on! Right hearty to work. (Cecelia) Oh! happy my lot. (Alma.) Speed on, let justice. (Cho. of women.) Oh! noble rose. (Cho. of men.) Hearty to work.

13—Coro a capella. Veni Spousi Christi

14—Funeral march; chorus of the poor, Wee of Our Lady; chorus of virgins, Hail! soon on pinnons; chorus of the poor, Woe! now grim death comes; Cecelia, Father, receive thou these treasures; Urban, The blessing of the Triune God; chorus of Christians, Hail! see the myriads of heroes

15—Final Chorus. So speed the

DIOCESAN NEWS.

Catholic Notes Gathered by Our Special Correspondents.

The funeral of Morris Leary, who died of peritonitis at his home in Lima, on Sunday, aged 54 years, was held from St. Rose church on Tuesday.

Michael Gilmore, a highly respected resident of Seneca Falls, died Tuesday morning. He was born in County Lough, Ireland, September 29, 1812, and came to Seneca Falls in 1839. He took the pledge under Rev. Father Mathew in person in 1839, and has since been an active member of that order. He was recently elected tax collector. A widow and daughters, Mary, Ann and Mrs. John O'Brien, and one son, Hugh, survive him. The funeral was held Thursday at 9 a. m. from St. Patrick's church.

Phelps.

Miss Rose Fitzgerald is visiting friends in Seneca Falls and Waterloo.

Mrs. Tone Cavanaugh and family have returned from Jordan and are now the guests of his mother, Mrs. Jas. Cavanaugh. Miss Maggie Caldwell, of Chicago, is in town.

Mrs. Edward Schellenger returned from Chicago on Saturday. She was accompanied by Mrs. John Carden, who will visit with friends for a few months.

Invitations are out announcing the marriage of Miss Anna Doyle to Mr. Daniel Muldray, at St. Francis' Church on Wednesday afternoon, April 9, at 3 p. m.

Mr. Edward Schellenger, who returned from Chicago recently, in very poor health, is improving; we are pleased to say.

Mrs. James Heffron, of Newark, is visiting friends in town; the guest of her mother, Mrs. P. Johnson.

The famous Fisk Tennessee Jubilee Singers are to appear in Gibson hall Friday evening, under the auspices of the Redfield Hook and Ladder company.

Canandaigua.

Branch 142, C. M. B. A., will hold its first grand ball on Monday evening, April 7th at Armory hall.

Mrs. Thomas O'Brien, of Washington, D. C., is visiting at her home in this village.

Miss Kate Coughlin died on Friday last, of consumption, aged 22 years. She leaves a large circle of friends to mourn her untimely death.

Wm. Halligan, of Buffalo, was in town last week.

Genesee.

Miss Mary Hickey spent Sunday in Rochester with friends.

Miss Jennie Dyton is visiting with her aunt, Mrs. Holland, at Buffalo.

John Egan, who has been teaching school at Lima, spent Sunday last with friends in this village.

The following teachers are home spending the week with their parents: Miss Mary O'Meara, of Olean, Dan Dolan, of East Henrietta, and Ed. Delanty, of West Henrietta.

T. Costello spent Sunday with his sister, Mary, at Bradford, Pa.

Miss Mary Kelly, of Rochester, is here on a visit for a week.

John H. Coyne, of this village, was admitted to the bar at Rochester, last week. James Dunn, a brother of Mrs. J. Conroy, of this village, died in New York last week.

Jacob Schnitz, of Buffalo, is visiting with friends here this week.

Mrs. J. Kingston, of LeRoy, and Miss Kingston, of Canaseraga, visited with friends here Sunday last.

Mrs. R. Roach, of Rochester, was in town Tuesday.

A little visitor came to P. Dolan's home last Saturday. It's a girl.

Cards are out announcing the marriage of Michael Scully to Miss Sarah, at 10 o'clock a. m. next Tuesday at St. Mary's church. This will be the

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