

## The Catholic Journal

The Only Catholic Newspaper Published in the Diocese.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY AT

327 East Main Street, Rochester, N. Y.

BY THE

CATHOLIC JOURNAL PUBLISHING

COMPANY.

If paper is not received Saturday notify the office

Report without delay any change of address giving

both old and new.

Communications solicited from all Catholics,

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arrearages are paid up. The only legal method

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

Per Year, in Advance, \$1.00.

Entered as second class mail matter.

SATURDAY MAY 12, 1894.

City News Agents.

The CATHOLIC JOURNAL is sold by the

following newsdealers, and can be obtained

of them Saturday mornings:

L. Merk, 234 East Main street.

E. C. Weidman, 126 State street.

W. McCallion, 92 So. St. Paul street.

M. H. Hogan, 374 Plymouth avenue.

H. Harker, 406 Frank street.

J. Schner, 355 Hudson st.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL CON-

VENTION.

The constitutional convention has

met and chosen its officers. It will

soon be ready to begin its important

work. Our readers have probably

learned of the efforts of some fanatics

to have incorporated in the new con-

stitution an amendment which would

prevent municipalities from bearing

a share of the expense of maintain-

ing orphan, etc. in institutions under

sectarian control.

Our Rt. Rev. Bishop in an inter-

view, published in one of the daily

papers, pointed out some of the evil

effects which would be brought about

by the adoption of the proposed

amendment. He also showed how

foolish it would be for the Republi-

can party to embody such fanatical

ideas in the new constitution.

It is not likely that either party

will father the responsibility of pre-

senting before the convention the

resolution to prevent municipal bod-

ies from dealing with charitable in-

stitutions, when such dealing is car-

ried on in a proper business-like

manner. Neither party can afford

to champion bigotry and antagonize a

large and intelligent mass of voters.

In the state of New York there

are 80,000 Catholic Republican voters,

and the spirit of Republicanism is

growing very rapidly in Catholic

circles. Such a weighty vote, must

be considered, and I have faith that

the members of the constitutional

convention will consider it. It is

needless to assert that the Demo-

cratic votes are Catholic. But out-

side the political aspect of this ques-

tion I am sure that the delegates,

from a sense of common fairness,

would vote against any proposition

that would leave the indelible stain

of prejudice on their record.

The day of religious intolerance

has passed, and it would be a stig-

ma upon the intelligence of the peo-

ple to see a recrudescence of it pre-

vail in such an august body. The

people in this country are not bigot-

ted, and no subtle methods should

be used to make them appear as per-

secutors.

The American Protective League

and the A. P. A. are akin, only the

former is a rich New York society

that is using all its power and money

to force the proposed amendment

through the convention. They say

that they will stop all appropriations

to sectarian institutions. This is

eminently proper and no one objects

to it. We Catholics have not re-

ceived a penny in appropriation for

twenty years, hence we have no com-

plaint if this is the only object these

fanatics have in view. But is it all?

No, they wish to deprive state, town,

county or municipal bodies from pay-

ing to charitable institutions money

for the support of orphan children, or

sick poor of their locality who may

be sent to any hospital or asylum

under sectarian control. The A. P.

A. have but one meaning for sectar-

ian—the word and Catholic is synon-

ymous to it.

The state, or city, has for years

been paying a small sum per week

for the support of orphan children

and sick poor that may be sent to

any hospital or asylum. To illus-

trate the injustice and cruelty that

these bigots now wish to perpetrate

let me take St. Mary's hospital of

this city. There are now between

\$160. Thus for the year we get for

supporting orphan children in the

asylum \$6,084, while it costs us \$15,

000 to do it. The balance is made

up, of course, by Catholic contribu-

tions. Suppose our asylum was

closed and the children became

chargeable on the county, it would

cost them, at least \$20,000, so that

the present arrangement relieves a

burden from the taxpayer of \$14,000.

But, if the constitutional amendment

was carried, this absolutely fair bill

to the county or city would not be

allowed. The A. P. A. bigots sim-

ply want to rob the helpless orphan

children of bare sustenance. Such

cruelty has rarely been heard of, and

no such law should disgrace the con-

stitution.

"If this question is forced into the

constitutional convention, and if by

any chance it should be carried, there

could be no way to deprive Catholic

institutions, without similarly depriv-

ing other institutions, save those con-

ducted by the state. If two distinct

Protestant bodies should combine

and build an institution for charita-

ble purposes the idea is that it is

non-sectarian, but I believe that, if

the question is ever brought before

the higher courts, it will be settled

once and forever, and in such a way

that will open the eyes of a good

many people. Let the amendment

become a law, and then every hospi-

tal and charitable institution in the

state will be out of the appropria-

tion list.

"As to the political aspect of the

convention I have nothing to say.

"As to the taxation of churches, I

can say this, that I don't believe the

convention will allow it. However, if

it does, we can stand our fair propo-

sition of taxes. The combined Pro-

testant bodies of the state own \$80,

000,000 of property and Catholics

own but \$30,000,000, and I am sure

that if our non-Catholic friends desire

to burden themselves with such taxes,

we Catholics cannot find fault.

"Many of the questions to be set-

tled by the constitutional convention

are of great importance, and I do not

think that the delegates will hamper

and endanger their work by incorpo-

rating an irritating suggestion, which

will anger and annoy a large body

of voters."

A CONTRAST

It would be hard to find a more

striking contrast than that afforded

between the audience which ap-

plauded the irreverent remarks and

laughed at the brutal jests of the bla-

tant loggers and the crowds of

worshippers who gathered at one of

our large Catholic churches in the

early hours of Monday, Tuesday and

Wednesday mornings to receive their

Divine Lord and to adore Him. On

the one hand was unbelief, infidelity;

on the other faith and religion. The

latter spectacle was by far the more

beautiful.

By general approval of the Board

of Trustees the last week of the ap-

proaching session of the Catholic

Summer-School of America, will be

devoted to a special course for teach-

ers, under the direction of Principal

John H. Haaren. The course will

be opened on Monday, August 6th,

with a lecture outlining the work

projected, and showing the correla-

tion of the subjects comprised in the

course. Two lectures will be given

each morning and two each after-

noon. In the evening four lectures

on the Bible will be delivered by

Very Rev. William O'B. Pardow, S.J.,

Provincial of the Jesuits.

The lectures in the normal course

will be devoted to the discussion of

Abstract Science (Grammar, Logic,

and Psychology) Language and Lit-

erature, History, Mathematics, and

Geography.

It is a mistake to suppose that all

the members of Asbury church ap-

prove of the fanatical attacks of the

Rev. Mr. Merrill upon his Catholic

fellow citizens. A gentleman who

attends that church recently men-

tioned to the writer that he was so

thoroughly disgusted with Mr. Mer-

rill's course that he had decided to

sever his connections with Asbury

church entirely.

The conviction of Messrs. Coney

and Brown for "walking on the grass"

about the Capitol will afford an an-

xious people immediate relief. Think

of the audacity the two villains pos-

sessed in tramping ruthlessly on the

grass which grows so luxuriantly un-

der the feet of our national law-

makers. The citizens who were

afraid the senatorial sleep might be

disturbed will now rest easy.

Father Phelan, whose paper, the

Western Watchman, was recently

condemned, signed an apology and

retraction of the articles which caused

him to be censured. Next to being

in the right, the best course is to ac-

knowledge one's self in the wrong.

Father Phelan is to be commended

for his repentance.

We are glad to notice that at least

one Catholic paper is enjoying pros-

perity. The Catholic Columbian is the

fortunate journal. Its proprietor re-

cently moved in a new building of

his own. The Columbian deserves

its prosperity, as it is one of our best

Catholic papers.

In an article in these columns last

week the types made us say Henry

XIII. Of course every one under-

stands that Henry VIII was meant.

England has not had another Henry

since that monarch disgraced the

throne. It is to be hoped she never

will.

The principles of the Democratic

party are excellent, but, unfortunat-

ly, its representatives are too cowar-

dly to carry them out. That seems

to be the cause of the present trou-

ble at Washington.

Cain was the first Apatist. He at-

tacked his brother because the latter's

sacrifice was more acceptable to God

than his own.

Have you made your Easter duty?

Remember that the Easter time ex-

pines on Trinity Sunday, May 20th,

one week from to-morrow.

A dispatch from Rome says: The

pope's coming encyclical may be

taken, to some extent, as a politi-

cal testament. It will review the

chief events of his pontificate, includ-

ing the German Kulturkampf, the

Irish questions, the action of his

holiness in America, with reference

to the Knights of Labor and the Sa-

tolli mission, and his action in France.

A case full of pamphlets entitled

"The Eye Opener" and aimed against

the Roman Catholic church, has been

seized by the customs officers at

Montreal on the ground that it is

immoral literature.

A SUGGESTION.

There is a general complaint that

Catholics are not so sociable with

each other as they should be. Not

long ago we heard a lady