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FREEMASONRY CONDEMNED

One of the leading Masonic papers of the country is the *American Tyler*. Quite recently a copy came under our observation. It seems that the paper has changed editors; at least its policy has of late been that of a rabid anti-Catholic sheet. The copy we were shown contains a letter said to have been written by Monsignor Salotti which we have never seen published by our Catholic contemporaries—a fact which, considering the importance of the matter treated, seems rather strange. It is written in reply to the communication of an Episcopalian gentleman who wished the Apostolic Delegate to make a personal investigation of Freemasonry, as it exists in America, and then to use his influence with Pope Leo XIII. to have the ban of the Church removed from the organization in this country, at least. The reply to this communication is, we say of importance. It is important because it sets at rest, once and forever, any doubts that may have existed as to the stern opposition of the Church towards Freemasonry in all countries. It is important because of the publication, in a New York daily paper a few weeks ago, of a misleading article which tried to prove that, though the Catholic Church condemned French and Italian Freemasonry, its attitude toward the Lodges in Spain, England and the United States was "passive and even friendly." How far this assertion is from the truth, may be judged from Monsignor Salotti's letter, which, as given in the *Tyler*, is as follows:

Washington, D. C., Dec. 18, 1893.
Dear Sir—In answer to yours of the 13th November, I must say that Freemasonry is essentially anti-Christian in its principles and aims, without questioning the intention and behavior of the individuals who belong to it. Such a society has been clearly condemned by the Church, which has come to such a decision after a careful and serious examination. Believe me, dear sir,
Yours Respectfully,
SALOTTI, Deleg. Apost.

The above letter confirms the position taken by this paper, recently, in commenting on the New York Tribune's article.
The *Tyler* makes the publication of this letter the occasion for publishing a venomous tirade against the Catholic Church delivered in Portland, Oregon, by an anti-Catholic ranting named Grant. The ignorance of this gentleman concerning the real beliefs of Catholics may be judged from his interpretation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. He says:
The Church has in all times believed in the Immaculate Conception, that Mary, the mother of Christ, was a virgin.

Like the greater number of those who vilify the Church, Mr. Grant does not know what the real doctrines of the Church are. Another page of the *Tyler* furnishes evidence that even a Masonic journal will be misled by its constituents if it is not carefully edited.
The party which promises to let the tariff alone for the next twenty years is the one which will win at the coming election.

Tyler, some commending it for its anti-Catholic articles. Other readers are disgusted. One writes:
I do not wish to renew the subscription for many reasons, chief among them being the constant insults which your paper seems delighted to heap unjustly upon the Catholic Church, of which my wife and family are members.

Another:
You may discontinue the paper at once. I am not a Catholic or in sympathy with that belief, but I cannot approve the policy of making a Masonic warfare on the question.
And still another:
I do not agree with you as to the propriety of mixing Masonry, Republicanism and A. P. Aism together in a Masonic paper, and as the mixture is distasteful to me, and you will not discontinue it, I shall be under the necessity of discontinuing the paper.

So it seems that the Catholic Church has friends everywhere—even in the ranks of the organization which it steadfastly opposes.

A NEEDED REFORM

The *Cleveland Catholic Universe*, in its last issue, devotes part of its editorial space to a matter which more than one Catholic editor should take to heart. Our Cleveland contemporary says:
Without the slightest apprehension of incurring the displeasure of a single Bishop, we make free to say, that the Catholic press would do itself a good turn by eschewing, or at least amending, the habit of fulsome adulation of ecclesiastics, which too commonly distinguishes it at the present time.

We are glad to see the *Universe* take up this question. Its position is in line with that which this paper took nearly a year ago, in protesting against the wholesale flattery of ecclesiastics which some papers indulge in. In the *Journal* of September 16, 1893, we said:
There is, we fear, too much flattery in American Catholic life, and newspapers are the chief offenders. It does not show true respect to Catholic prelates to be constantly flattering them. There are times when deserved praise is appropriate, and should be generously given; but it does not follow that every act of a priest, bishop or archbishop should be lauded as something extraordinary, or is of good taste to call a bishop or archbishop "learned," "pious," "zealous," etc., every time his name is mentioned. It should be taken for granted that all the members of the hierarchy are learned, pious and zealous men, so, thank be to God, they are.

Let us have less palaver, and by poetry in Catholic circles; more rugged honesty and sincerity. I will matter little to Catholic prelates when they are called to give an account of their stewardship to God, whether they were flattered or censured. The duty of those under them is to obey, to uphold and to treat with respect. Even in commenting upon the policy of this or the prelate and its effect upon American Catholicism this respect should be observed. It may be violated either by harsh criticism or by insincere praise.
These words are as applicable now as they were a year ago. As the *Universe* says, the Bishops, themselves, will be the first to endorse a movement tending toward reform in this matter.

BIGOTS BEATEN

The bigots who wished to push through an amendment to the State Constitution shutting out charitable institutions under sectarian control from participation in State or municipal aid, have been badly beaten, as they deserve to be. The report of the committee which visited such institutions in various parts of the State, is that the State saves money by reason of the existence of these private and religious charities.

"Funeral obsequies" is an expression still noticed occasionally in both secular and religious contemporaries. It's a literary monstrosity, and should be banished. Where one word will suffice it is a waste of pen, ink and newspaper space to use two. Where economy in the use of words is practiced the power of expressing many ideas in limited space will surely come.

SELF-MURDER

The advice given in an article from the pen of Robt. G. Ingersoll, in which the notorious infidel defended suicide on the part of those who were in certain circumstances, has been followed rather more promptly than we imagine the writer supposed it would be. A copy of Ingersoll's article was found near the bodies of two young people who had taken their own lives the other day. It is naturally believed that the suicides were perved to commit the rash act through reading Ingersoll's godless production. If the great infidel would only be content with causing the life to leave the bodies of his victims, he would be less harmful than he is; but he also causes spiritual life to leave the soul, and brings everlasting death to it.

Sir Wm. Vernon Harcourt intends to introduce a measure in Parliament granting salaries to members of that legislative body. This will allow a poor man to become an M. P.—an impossibility in the past unless the poor member's constituents took care of him.

THE GOSPELS.

GOSPEL: St. Luke vii. 11-16.—At that time: "Jesus went into a city that is called Nain; and there went with Him His disciples and a great multitude. And when He came nigh to the gate of the city, behold a dead man was carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow and a great multitude of the city was with her. Whom when the Lord had seen, being moved with mercy toward her, He said to her: Weep not. And He came near and touched the bier. (And they that carried it stood still.) And He said: Young man, arise to thee, arise. And he that was dead sat up and began to speak. And He gave him to his mother. And there came a fear on them all, and they glorified God, saying: A great prophet has risen up among us, and God hath visited His people."

The dead man is a figure of a sinner in the eyes of God, deprived of every spiritual good and of the strength to do works for life eternal. The sorrowful mother who followed the bier was the figure of the Church which never loses sight of those of her children whom an has deprived of life. She continually prays for their conversion fervently and constantly.

Weekly Church Calendar

SUN. Aug. 26. Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost. Epist. Gal. v. 22-27. 11. Gosp. Luke vii. 11-16.
MON. 27. St. Joseph Calasantino, Confessor. Epist. 1st. St. Augustine, Bishop. Confes. 260. and Doctor of the Church. St. Hermes, Martyr.
WED. 29. Benediction of St. John Baptist. Epist. 1st. St. Rose of Lima, Virgin. St. Felix and Adoquius, Martyrs.
FRI. 31. St. Raymond Nonnatus, Confessor. Epist. 1st. Office of the Immaculate Conception.

ROCHESTER CATHOLICS AT THE SUMMER SCHOOL.

The speaker of the day was Rev. F. W. Wayte, C. S. R., of Rochester, N. Y., and his subject was "The Communion of Saints." Father Wayte's discourse was couched in simple language, and delivered in an easy and pleasing manner, his explanations and arguments appealing to the sense of his listeners. He said in announcing his theme that it might be asked why such a subject should be considered of sufficient importance to be the theme of a sermon on the last Sunday of the season. And he gave as the reason of the choice that he wished to lead up to the very important subject of the evening, and in order to have that subject clearly understood one must needs realize what the communion of saints really means; for this is the foundation of the practice of the invocation of the saints, and of their intercession for us.

One of the articles of the Apostles' creed is, "I believe in the Communion of Saints." What does this communion mean? It means the intercommunication of the three branches of the Church: the Church triumphant consisting of the souls of the blessed, who already enjoy the beautiful vision; the souls in purgatory, destined some day to enjoy the delights of heaven, but suffering for a time on account of their sins; and lastly, we who are members of the Church militant, engaged on earth in the warfare against the world, the flesh and the devil.

The Catholic Church teaches that the death of our just friends does not mean utter separation. It does not stand to reason that the faithful who have fought the fight and gained the bliss of heaven, should lose all remembrance of their brethren who are still engaged in the battle. No; the fact that they enjoy and experience what we cannot even imagine or comprehend, and that the love of God is intensified in them a thousand fold, tends to make the blessed more

eager to have us enjoy with them the rewards of the just. And why should they not pray for us now as well as when they were on earth? They who are in the very presence of God must have more influence with Him than mere sinners, as they can never, by any possibility, sin again. Christ says: "There shall be joy among the angels of heaven over one sinner who repenteth." This proves that the souls in heaven are not unmindful of what is going on upon the earth. The doctrine was treated exhaustively by the reverend speaker, and was lucidly and pointedly explained.—*Catholic News.*

Mrs. Katherine J. Dowling, representing the Cardinal Newman Circle, gave an interesting account of the Reading Circle movement in Rochester. It began with the formation of the Rochester Catholic Reading Circle, by Miss Emily Gaffney, whose devotion to the work, Mrs. Dowling justly declared to be beyond praise. Nazareth Convent has long had several Reading Circles among its pupils. Then came the Cardinal Newman Circle, and later, the Columbian Circle and the Catholic Literary Society. This last named was represented earlier in the session of the Catholic Summer School, by the Rev. Felix O'Hanlon and Mr. James Conolly. Rochester has apparently the distinction of being the first place in which the Reading Circle movement has extended to the Catholics of German origin—the young people of St. Joseph's Church, in charge of the Redemptorist Fathers, having recently started a Circle. The Rochester Circles have united in a Central Board, under the direction of which an annual course of lectures is given. The Cardinal Newman Circle has now 40 members. It was founded, by the Rev. James O'Connor during his rectorship of St. Bridget's Church. He still maintains his interest in it, and once a year invites its members to a reunion with the Father Hecker Circle at Seneca Falls, where he is now stationed. The Newman Circle has made a study of contemporary Catholic authors and also of Columbian literature. It has derived much benefit from interchange of papers with other Circles, notably with the Boyle O'Reilly Circle of Boston. Its membership was for some years entirely feminine—now it admits young men.

Miss Teresa McMahon spoke briefly of the Columbian Circle of Rochester, which has 38 members.
Mrs. Ward appeared for a young Circle, St. Gabriel's, of Watertown, N. Y.
Miss Emma McCarthy, president of "The Knowledge Keepers," the Circle attached to the Convent of Notre Dame, Watertown, Conn., and numbering 13 members, expressed regret that the other Circles of her city were not thus far represented. There are three more Circles in Watertown, all of small membership. She wished it might be possible, for the sake of the small Circles in Connecticut, to effect a State union of Reading Circles, and she thought that diocesan or State unions might work well generally.

Miss Emily Gaffney, of Rochester, N. Y., thought the ground of Reading Circle work in her city had been well covered by Mrs. Dowling. She said a suggestive word, however, for the relation of the Reading Circles to the Summer School. The former had largely kept up the interest in the latter during the year. The Rochester Reading Circle had sent 27 representatives to the session of 1894.—*Pilot.*

LOCAL NOTES

The first week in September is the usual time for the annual retreat of the priests of the diocese. It will be held at St. Bernard's Seminary this year.
Miss Ida M. Knobles, of 513 Lyell avenue, left Saturday evening for San Francisco, Cal.
Mrs. Wm. Crystal, of this city, with a party of friends are visiting in Trenton, Canada.
Mr. and Mrs. F. J. O'Hara, of Saturna, Florida, have been visiting Michael McDonald and family of this city.

Miss Nellie M. Conlon of the trimming department of W. D. Scofield & Co. returned home Wednesday of this week, after a months vacation, spent in LeRoy.
Miss Lizzie Conlon with her cousin, Miss Margaret Sweeney of LeRoy, are visiting the latter's sister in Buffalo.
Mrs. Michael Canan and her three children of 32 Catherine st., have just returned from a five weeks visit with friends and relatives of East Bloomfield.

Miss Zetta O'Connell, of the East Side postoffice, is spending her vacation with friends in New York City.
Miss Kittie A. Cooney, is spending two weeks at Hemlock Lake.
Miss B. Conway and Mrs. M. Culligan are visiting relatives in Lima.
Miss Anna Buckley and niece of 288 Adams st., are visiting friends in Syracuse.

CATHOLIC NEWS NOTES.

Short Items of Interest From all Parts of the Catholic World.

Religious Happenings Presented in a Condensed Form.

His Lordship, L. F. R. LaSche, Bishop of three Rivers, has lately celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. This has been an occasion of great jubilation to the inhabitants of lower Canada, as the venerable prelate is the oldest member of the episcopacy in Dominion.

Archbishop Ireland, of St. Paul, at the instance of the Papal authorities, has suggested to the State Department a desire for an early return of the Columbian relics from the Vatican, which have been in the custody of the department since their exhibition at the World's Fair. The department is in some strait about the matter, for it is pledged to carry the valuable relics on a man-of-war, and the Navy Department sees no chance to detail a ship for that service in the immediate future.

The Rev. James O'Reilly, rector of the Church of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Mt. Carmel, Pa., has been given charge of the Church at Downingtown. The Mt. Carmel Ledger says of him: "Possessing a uniformly kind and agreeable disposition, besides being an able advocate of the Christian faith, he has caused himself to be generally beloved and respected by the people at large irrespective of church ties. He can leave with the full satisfaction of having performed his duty faithfully and well while in our midst. It seems the Catholic Church recognizes in Father O'Reilly a peculiar fitness for establishing congregations and developing church growth in localities where promising success is almost anticipated. His two years' sojourn in Mt. Carmel have proved the best directed efforts in the history of Our Lady."

The dedication took place recently of the Benedictine Industrial School at Bristol Station, Prince William County, Va. The school is on the new Southern Railway, about forty miles from Washington and not far from Bull Run battlefield and in the vicinity of St. Ann's Benedictine Institute, a training school for indigent white girls, designed to train the pupils as domestics, dressmakers, seamstresses, dairy maids, house maids, nurses, cooks or laundresses. Several buildings have been erected. The *Church News* says a notable coincidence in connection with this settlement is that it is upon, or very near, the township of 80,000 acres upon which King James II. granted, on the 10th of February, 1687, a protection for the free exercise of the Catholic religion "to George Brent, of Woodstock, in our county of Stafford, in our Colony of Virginia, Richard Foote and Robert Bristow of London, merchants, and Nicholas Hayward, of London, notary public," and "to all and every inhabitant which now or hereafter shall be settled in the said towns and the tract of land belonging to them the free exercise of their religion without being persecuted or molested upon any penal laws or other account for the same." The names of two of the grantees is still preserved by Brentsville and Bristow Stations.

By a decree dated April 7, 1894, all erections of the stations of the cross made previous to the 7th of April of the present year are now valid, no matter what essential particular may have been neglected at the time of the erection. The details connected with the erection of the stations are so many and some of them are so minute that a priest who procures the necessary facilities for erecting them only once or twice in his lifetime may easily have overlooked one of vital importance.

Archbishop Riordan, of San Francisco; Rev. P. F. Quigley, D. D., of St. Francis de Sales Church, Toledo, Ohio; Rev. Thomas McSweeney, of San Francisco, and Mr. and Mrs. F. Wessinger, also of the latter city, are at Glenwood Springs, Colorado, between Denver and Salt Lake City.

At the recent matriculation examination of the London University two Catholic young ladies were among the successful candidates in the first division, and these were Miss Mary Kathleen Dannehy, a student in the convent of the Sacred Heart, Southampton, and Miss Florence Gertrude Mitchell, a student at Mount Pleasant.

A number of the Sisters of the Visitation Order of the Park avenue convent in Baltimore are spending the summer at the Mount de Sales and Georgetown convents, and will return to their community early in September. The improvements in the Baltimore convent are progressing rapidly and the erection of a large four-story building for the monastery, as well as the extensive remodeling of the old building, are under way. The latter will be completed in time for the school opening, excepting the chapel and some portions of the interior, which will not interfere with the school department of the convent. The chapel will be greatly improved and enlarged and will be beautifully adorned. Sister Mary Hilda has been appointed directress of the Mount de Sales Academy. She was Miss Rose Sands, daughter of Admiral Sands, of Washington.

Venerable Sister Aloysia of the Cross, head of the college of Notre Dame, San Francisco, died recently after a very brief illness. Sister Aloysia was the founder of the San Francisco branch of the order of Notre Dame, having been raised to the dignity of Superiorress for that purpose. She was born in England in the year 1833, and at the age of 21 she entered the mother house of the order at Namur, Belgium, where she made her vows. This was on March 28, 1854, and the latter part of that year saw her domiciled in the convent at San Jose. She remained there until 1866, when she was transferred to San Francisco.

The Church of St. Vincent de Paul, Bedford, Indianapolis, has just been dedicated. The church is 127x54 feet. The interior will be frescoed and electric lights will be provided. The actual cost of the church will be \$20,000. Many donations were made, such as all the stone used in the construction, the windows and the pews, which are very fine. It has been estimated by architects that the building could not be erected elsewhere for less than \$45,000, so the cost of the stone and its transportation would be great. It is a matter of general surprise that so small a congregation could erect such a fine and costly edifice.

One of the most notable events in the history of Crawfordsville, Ind., has just occurred, in the silver jubilee of Rev. J. R. Dinnen, pastor of St. Bernard's Church. The jubilee commemorated the twenty-fifth anniversary of Father Dinnen's ordination, which took place in 1869, at Fort Wayne, Ind., Bishop Leurs officiating.

The Benedictines have been invited to keep daily choir in the stalls of the grand Cathedral of Westminster, which the Catholics of England are about to build. Thus the divine office will be sung in all its fullness in the new temple. Early and late the praises of God will be sounded in busy London and the world will be challenged over and over again every day to lay aside for a while its temporal cares to consider its eternal interests.

In Youngstown, Ohio, the other day five young women took the solemn vows of poverty, chastity and obedience and pledged their life work to the Ursuline Order of nuns. They were Mary Canavan, in religion Sister Scholastica; Hortense Pantot, Sister Mary Louis; Margaret Clemons, Sister Hildegarde; Celis McCabe, Sister Margaret, all of Youngstown; and Harriet Breen, who will be known as Sister Irene.

A Catholic Bishop has been appointed by the Chinese Government a Mandarin of the third class. He is the Right Rev. Mgr. Anser, Bishop of Taleyte, Vicar Apostolic of Southern Chantong. He now ranks among the officials of the Celestial Empire with Judges of Courts of Appeal and generals of the army. He is held in the highest honor by all classes, and his new dignity will give him increased respect with the natives.

Rev. Charles J. Powers, O. S. F., is temporarily acting as assistant to Very Rev. Dean Flynn, in the Church of the Assumption, Morristown, N. J. A permanent assistant cannot be appointed until the return of the Bishop from Europe.

Father O'Connor, Bordentown, N. J., who was recently ordained to the priesthood at Geneva, celebrated his first High Mass at Bordentown recently in St. Mary's Church. Father O'Connor was born in Bordentown.

Rev. J. Callaghan, of St. Mary's Church, East Orange, N. J., has been urgently requested, both by letter and by visitors, non-Catholics as well as Catholics, to give his consent to have a series of entertainments during Fall and Winter, the proceeds to go towards the church and school building fund. He has given his consent and it is announced that the entertainments will begin in September.

Father Killean and Father Gately, of Bayonne, N. J., have been in the Catholic.