

The Catholic Journal
*The Only Catholic Newspaper
 Published in the Diocese.*
 PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY AT
 37 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."
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SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
 Per Year, in Advance, \$1.00
 Entered as second class mail matter.
SATURDAY APRIL 20, 1895.

CITY NEWS AGENTS.
 The CATHOLIC JOURNAL is sold by the following newsdealers, and can be obtained there Saturday mornings:
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AN ACCIDENT
 The JOURNAL will reach its readers this week somewhat later than usual, owing to an accident, which happened to the forms just as the paper was about to go to press. Two entire pages were so completely "bled" that all the type had to be re-set, thus delaying us nearly five hours and making it impossible for us to reach the post-office in time for the mail on which the JOURNAL usually goes out. Accidents will happen in the best regulated offices, but we hope it will not be again necessary to ask the indulgence of our subscribers for the reason we ask now.

A REACTION THAT WILL COME.
 In the excitement and controversies arising from the attempts of fanatical bigots to awaken religious animosity among the people, the great cause of Christian education was, for a time, relegated to the background. There are not wanting evidences that it is again coming to the front. The defects of our present system of education—rather the great defect, which consists in not paying attention to the spiritual development of the child's nature—must in time become evident to the great majority of Americans. A system doing justice to all creeds and classes will be introduced. The reaction which must follow the A. F. A. movement will cause our fellow citizens to acknowledge the injustice of taxing one class of the community for a system of schools, which that class cannot consistently make use of.

Then, too, we believe a general reaction will set in throughout the world in favor of religion, as a necessary bulwark for the protection of society. Nowhere have the promises of irreligious men that the condition of the people would be improved if faith (superstition they call it) were cast aside, been kept.
 Instead of the golden age which the secularists predicted for those nations whose people would forsake God and religion; the burdens of the poor have become heavier and the man of wealth, in turn, has become less sure that his possessions will be left undisturbed.
 Respect for lawful authority has naturally vanished from the minds of those who denied God, the source of all authority. The lives of rulers are in constant jeopardy from men who carry to their logical end the teachings of the infidel. We find once prosperous and populous countries decreasing in population, because the laws of God are violated in the family.
 These things are beginning to have their effect on the minds of men naturally well disposed. They see the great mistake made in trying to build up society by leaving God out. They recognize that society leads but to chaos. The reaction in favor of the old-time faith in God must come and with it will come a sentiment in favor of combining religious instruction with secular teaching.

IRISH AFFAIRS.
 Mr. William O'Brien, M. P., contributes to the Easter number of the Chicago New World a letter that furnishes the most satisfactory information regarding the state of affairs in Ireland that has been published. He says:
 "The Parliament situation is excellent. The reproach that we have allowed Home Rule to be placed in the background is completely knocked on the head. Within the past month we have had from Lord Rosebery, Lord Spencer, and Sir William Harcourt declarations as clear as words could make them that Home Rule remains and must remain the primary and predominant policy of the Liberal party. And Mr. Morley has removed any possible doubts as to what the Cabinet means by Home Rule by declaring that it means a bill not falling short of Mr. Gladstone's bill of 1886, which, as Mr. James O'Kelly said, proposed to give to Ireland a better Parliament than Great Britain's Parliament. There can therefore be no doubt as to the Liberal position. The Tory leaders happily have been equally frank as to what a Tory administration would mean. Mr. Balfour stated in the most emphatic manner that his Irish policy had not altered one jot or tittle since the days of Tullamore and Mitchellstown, and Mr. Matthews, the Tory Home Secretary, went out of his way to declare that the hostility of the Tories on the question of amnesty remained as dogged as ever. The only two possible national policies are so clearly outlined that nobody can pretend to misunderstand them, and the Tory and Liberal with an

sworn programme of coercion and implacable hatred of Irish Nationality, or we must keep in the Home Rule Government who have done their best to redeem their pledges who have solemnly pledged themselves to keep a National Parliament for Ireland in the forefront of their programme, and who in the meantime have tabled a Land Bill which will probably mean the saving of a couple of millions a year to the farmers of Ireland, and the restoration of the greater number of the evicted tenants. The position is so clear and so safe that we may with the utmost good humor leave it to the intelligence of our fellow-countrymen to judge between us and those who in their recklessness strive to bring back the Tories. We have all need of a good deal of patience. Perhaps our internal troubles may be a useful preparation for self-government. But upon the whole the country is sound, and the party is sound, and I think we may go forward to the general election with a fair confidence that it will end in a Home Rule victory, and with a certainty that it will not end in any decisive victory for the Tories. What will be the extent of the defeat of the victory of Home Rule at the general election will depend chiefly upon the suppression of personal revivals in the ranks of the party itself and the gradual approximation of all sections of Nationalists toward the common platform contemplated by the Archbishop of Dublin.

WATER STORAGE.
 The passage of the Water Storage bill by the Assembly last Thursday, it having previously passed the Senate, makes probable the accomplishment of a great work, and one that will bring many benefits to that section of the country from Mt. Morris to Rochester, inclusive. There is not a place in the whole State of New York that presents a grander scene to the eye than the point at which it is proposed to erect the great dam. High banks rise from the river on either side hundreds of feet, at some points so steep that a stone dropped from the top and going straight down would fall into the river, at others sloping so gradually that a stone thrown with all one's strength will scarcely reach the river bed. In places these banks are bare rock, without a trace of vegetation. In other places they are covered with woods. In the autumn, when the leaves of the trees have assumed their brightest hues, the slight bow from the top of the bank is one never to be forgotten. All the colors of the rainbow are spread out below.

It is proposed to have the Bible read in the truant school to be established in this city. The idea is to give the wayward young people who may be sent to that institution a little smattering of religious education. If the children of all creeds are to be forced to listen to this Bible reading it is, of course, an injustice. The Bible is clearly a sectarian book. If it be the St. James version it is objectionable to Catholics; if it be the Douay version it is objectionable to Protestants; the Jews would not want Jewish children to be forced to listen to the reading of the New Testament, and infidels are opposed to both the New and the Old Testament. It is strange that the same element which protests against religious schools being supported by State money, should propose this Bible reading in a corrective institution. It seems to us that since religious training is a good thing to accompany the secular instruction given to the depraved and incorrigible, it should be a desirable addition to the instruction imparted to the children who are still good.

A meeting was held last week at the residence of Archbishop Janssen in New Orleans, of a number of gentlemen who have undertaken to advance and materialize the idea of establishing a Catholic winter school in that city. A plan was submitted and adopted, and a committee of three was appointed to co-operate with Archbishop Janssen in the selection of a board of trustees, to consist of twenty-five members, who will have full charge of the management of the school.
 The objects of the school are:
 "First—The Winter School of America has for its object the instruction of our people and of such as may come to us from other places by courses of lectures by competent persons, in science, literature, art and religion.
 "Second—It shall be held in the city of New Orleans, opening Ash-Wednesday of each year, and continuing during an uninterrupted session of three weeks.
 "Third—There shall be held four sessions each day during the course, except on Sunday.
 "Fourth—The society of the Holy Spirit shall furnish the needed funds for its inauguration, and supply the services which may be required. Said society, through its honorary president our most Reverend Archbishop Francis Janssen and its board of direction, shall have the management and control.
 "Fifth—The honorary president and board of direction of the Society of the Holy Spirit shall be in this work assisted by an advisory board of twenty-five, appointed annually from among the patrons, life or annual, of the school, and seven shall constitute a quorum of said advisory board."

Even the Methodists are commencing to adopt "Romanish" practices and following in the wake of the High Church Episcopallans. One Methodist minister in this city requested the loan of a crucifix and four candlesticks of an Episcopallan friend for use on Easter Sunday.
 Parents should know what their children read; if they peruse, sentimental blood and thunder novels, papers or books the chances are they will disgrace themselves before many years.
 The abstinence of Lent should not be followed by over indulgence in pleasure; nor should the restrictions of our religion be unheeded now that the penitential season is past.

AN IRISH NATIONAL MUSICAL FESTIVAL.
 Preparations are being made for the holding of an Irish National Musical Festival in the wake of the Feis and to be held in Dublin. Its objects are to give an opportunity to hear Irish music, particularly the old tunes given in the traditional manner, to encourage the publication of old Irish airs, not yet set down in writing; to sing songs in Gaelic and to encourage a new Irish School of Composers. The plan of the festival is somewhat after that of the Welsh Disteddfod.

DEATH.
 Out of a land in whose bowers
 Perish and fade all the flowers;
 Out of the land of decay,
 Into the Eden where fairest
 Of flowers, and sweetest and rarest,
 Never shall wither away.
 Out of the world of the wailing
 Thro' the world of the anguished and ailing;
 Out of the world of the sad,
 Into the world that rejoices—
 World of bright visions and voices—
 Into the world of the glad.
 Out of a life ever mournful,
 Out of a land very mournful,
 Where in blank exile we roam,
 Into a joy-land above us—
 Where there's a Father to love us—
 Into our home—"Sweet Home."
 —Father Ryan.

THE GOSPELS.
GOSPEL. St. John xx. 19-31.—At that time. "When it was late that same day, the first of the week, and the doors were shut where the Disciples were gathered together for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, Peace be to you. And when He had said this He showed them His hands and His side. The Disciples therefore were glad when they saw the Lord. He said therefore to them again: Peace be to you. As the Father hath sent Me, I also send you. When He had said this He breathed on them; and He said to them: Receive ye the Holy Ghost, Whose sins ye shall forgive, they are forgiven them; and whose sins ye shall retain, they are retained. Now Thomas one of the twelve, who is called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other Disciples therefore said to him: We have seen the Lord. But he said to them: Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe. And after eight days again His Disciples were within, and Thomas with them. Jesus cometh, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst and said: Peace be to you. Then He saith to Thomas: Put thy finger hither, and see My hands; and bring hither thy hand and put it into My side, and be not faithless, but believing. Thomas answered, and said to Him: My Lord and My God. Jesus saith to him: Because thou hast seen Me, Thomas, thou hast believed; blessed are they that have not seen and have believed. Many other signs also did Jesus in the sight of His Disciples, which are not written in this book. He that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."
 These wounds did not disfigure the glorious members of His body, but rather increased their beauty, and He retained them in order to show that it was by suffering that He purchased His present glory, to confirm the truth of His passion and of His resurrection, to excite continually our gratitude, and to incessantly present to the eyes of His Eternal Father the price of our souls.

WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR.
 Sun. 12.—Low Sunday, Epist. 1. John 6. 4-10; Gosp. John 11. 19-28.
 Mon. 13.—St. Soter and Calixt, Popes and Martyrs.
 Tues. 14.—St. George, Martyr.
 Wed. 15.—St. Fidelis of Sigmaringa, Martyr.
 Thurs. 16.—St. Mark, Evangelist.
 Fri. 17.—St. Cyprian and Marcellinus, Popes and Martyrs.
 Sat. 18.—St. Turibius, Bishop and Confessor.

ARTHUR BALFOUR, M. P., FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION.
 Arthur Balfour, M. P., answers as follows, the attack of a Nonconformist on the Voluntary School system, as it exists in Great Britain.—
 "I am perfectly certain he believes as much as I do that religious education is as essential a part of the education of a community as any other, and I am certain he would be the last man by his vote or his voice, to support a plan, by which religious education might be hindered or hampered. I am glad he has given me the opportunity of saying that it is in no sectarian interest, with no view to the proselyting success of this religious community that I have thus explicitly made my statement of belief on this matter. I have all expressed myself if he and those others who have heard me, or who will read what I have said, do not understand that in my view, the education of the child must be looked at as a whole. . . . Leave it to those who are earnest in the cause of religious education to provide and safeguard the completest scheme you chose to devise of instruction; but do not compel a man while freely subscribing to a voluntary school to give what you call State money in support of a school of the whole system of which he disapproves."

Referring to the universal belief of mankind in another life, Father Vaughan says: "A modern traveller gives an account of a king or South African chief who wished to despatch a message to one of his favorite warriors who had fallen in battle and whose remains had been entombed with the usual pomp and ceremony. How did he proceed to carry out his wish? He called into his dread presence a little boy of the tribe, and gave him the message verbally. He made him repeat it all he was asked, the poor child had thoroughly grasped it. Then the powerful savage drew his sword, and with a single well-directed blow struck off the boy's head, exclaiming: 'Go and deliver my message.' Now, whatever we may think of the barbarity this indicated, it at least proves that the savage king believed (a) that his warrior still existed somewhere, and what is more, that (b) the boy, whose head he had severed from the trunk would also continue to live on in some other sphere, and might even communicate with others in a similar condition."

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SPRING'S SWEET FLOWERS.
 Are not more delicious than the pies, cakes, tart, crackers, etc. sold at Culross' Bakery, 30 State Street.

A DINNER IN KOREA.
 It is a Ceremonial That Extends Through the Entire Day.
 "Korea, the country which caused all the trouble between China and Japan, has many queer social customs," said J. A. Morrill, "and I remember going to a banquet given by a member of the foreign office there, which, in many respects, was quite unique. The guests arrived long before the dinner hour, for in Korea an affair of this kind lasts all day, and were ushered into a pavilion adjacent to the one in which the dinner was to be served. After several half hours had been whiled away in smoking and in conversation the dinner was at last announced, and we were summoned into the other hall.
 "As soon as we had entered the officials began to divest themselves of some of their clothing, for parts of a native's wearing apparel seriously incommoded him in taking food. We took our places at a large rectangular table, which was heaped with food of all kinds in brazen dishes of hemispherical shape. For the first course we had soup and sea, which is a kind of wine, and for the second the waiters handed around some of the other dishes which stood on the table. These contained meats of various kinds—beef, pork and fried fish cut in thin yellow slices. At this juncture there entered several Korean singing girls, clad in the gaudiest costumes, and whose business it was to make themselves generally agreeable when at a banquet, for they constitute all the female society that there is in that country. Their singing was not what an American would call good, nor was their dancing, but their conversation and presence certainly added a zest to the occasion.
 "Long as it is, a Korean banquet eventually comes to an end, and this one closed with a decoction of pear juice colored crimson and spiced with pine nuts. This we sipped at our leisure, while the attendants lighted pipes for us. After watching the performances of the singing girls we summoned our chairs and were carried to our various home. I at least feeling much wiser by having participated in one of the queer customs of a queer people."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

ROBBED BY PARROTS.
 These Birds Play a Part in Shaping the Destiny of America.
 A flight of birds, coupled with a sailor's superstition, robbed Columbus of the honor of discovering the continent. It is a curious but historical fact. When Columbus sailed westward over the unknown Atlantic, he expected to reach Zipangu, Japan. After several days' sail from Gomera, one of the Canary islands, he became uneasy at not discovering Zipangu, which, according to his reckoning, should have been 216 nautical miles more to the east.
 After a long discussion he yielded to the opinion of Martin Alonso Pinzon, the commander of the Pinta, and steered to the southwest. Pinzon was guided in his opinion solely by a flight of parrots, which took wing in that direction. It was good luck to follow in the wake of a flight of birds when engaged upon a voyage of discovery—a widespread superstition among Spanish seamen of that day—and this change in the great navigator's course curiously exemplifies the influence of small and apparently trivial events in the world's history.
 If Columbus had held to his course, he would have entered the gulf stream, have reached Florida and then probably have been carried to Cape Hatteras and Virginia. The result would probably have given the present United States a Roman Catholic Spanish population instead of a Protestant English one, a circumstance of immeasurable importance.
 "Never," wrote Humboldt, "had the flight of birds more important consequences."—Current Literature.

A Haunted Lumber Camp.
 Strange tales come from the Sound nahunk region in regard to Jack Reed's depot camp on the road leading to Strickland's mountain. The camp is built over the grave of a man who was killed in some unknown way, and the woodmen say the place is haunted. At any rate on every moonlight night a listener outside the camp can hear the sound of rolling stones that apparently are grating, grinding, rattling, plunking each other, as though sliding down a steep bank.
 Diligent search has been made for the source of this strange noise, but so far no one has solved the mystery. Old lumbermen remember that the camp has been considered to be haunted for years, and the sound of the rolling stones has been heard on many a moonlight night in the past. Many lumbermen who are on their way into the Soundnahunk region prefer to push by the depot camp and take a night tramp rather than sleep over that grave and hear those grinding, rolling stones.—Bangor News.

Nonsequential Names.
 It has been complained that foolish names are often bestowed on the materials in which we garb ourselves, and that it is nonsense to speak of "electric blue," "crushed strawberry" or "Lois Fuller," but such titles are sensible and descriptive compared to many used to describe fashionable tints in vogue during the reign of Louis XIV. What should we think nowadays of "unsolved widow," "springing ape," "invalid Spaniard," "risen dead," "love's desire" and "baboon laughter"?—Chicago Post.

Spell the Same Both Ways.
 I have collected the following palindromes during the last three years and herewith present them for the curious to ponder over: Adda, Anna, bab, bib, bob, bub, civec, daf, deid, deified, dewived, dowed, did, dood, eoce, eve, ewe, eye, goe, gig, gag, leve, madam, Maram, noon, non, Otto, pap, peep, pip, pop, pup, redder, refer, repaper, reviver, rotator, sees, selles, sexes, zshas, sis, sirus, semes, steffets, tat, tenot, tit, toot, tot, tut, waw and welaw.—St. Louis Republic.



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