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CHAMBERLAIN'S DIPLOMACY

Joe Chamberlain is beginning to hedge. At a speech in Birmingham last week he averred that a war between Great Britain and the United States was not to be thought of for a moment.

There is a grim sort of humor in Chamberlain's speech. The civilized world knows full well that had it not been for England's cowardice the Armenian atrocities would have been repressed almost as soon as they commenced.

It now seems to be understood that an entente of some sort has been concluded between Russia and Turkey, whereby the latter agrees to close the Dardanelles to the war ships of all nations with whom Russia may be at war.

Straightway, Chamberlain, in behalf of England, abuses the Turk and proposes that the United States drop the dispute over a paltry boundary line in Venezuela, and unite with England to crush the Turk.

It cannot be denied that many an air castle could be built on the prospect of an alliance with the United States and England.

Governor Morton is a level-headed man. His message to the legislature regarding economy is timely and

THEY ARE SECTARIAN

Writing on the Manitoba school difficulty the San Francisco "Monitor" says: "Since the Protestants by importations of fanatical Orange bigots have become a majority (in Manitoba) a public school system was established based on Protestant principles, and the Catholic schools were cut off from any support."

Our contemporary is decidedly astray on the point that public in the United States are "non-sectarian." If he means to be understood as saying that the public schools are purely secular schools, even then his term "non-sectarian" is incorrect.

We are sick and tired of hearing the State schools praised as "non-sectarian." They are nothing of the kind. A Catholic child cannot attend them without serious danger to faith and morals.

Where are all the generous Catholics of Rochester? We read every day of non-Catholics leaving or giving large sums of money to non-Catholic charities or educational institutions.

While we believe in civil service reform, judiciously applied, we think it will be unjust if the local civil service board tries to prevent old and tried employees from drawing their salaries because they have not passed the civil service examination.

There is not a single Catholic among the newly chosen attendance officers. As these officials have to deal with the pupils of parochial as well as public schools, it would seem that there should be at least one Catholic on the list who should be assigned to the parochial schools.

That was a remarkable event that occurred in Albany last week, the reception of a young Jew into the Franciscan order. The Rev. Father Oppenheim comes from a wealthy Jewish family at the Capitol, and his relatives have disowned him.

THE WAR CLOUD

It now looks as though the war cloud over Europe had lifted for the time being. Russia is not such a warm admirer of the Emperor of Germany as to support him in all his hot-headed schemes, while France will never be really friendly with Germany.

While all this activity on the part of the English is mostly braggadocio, still they will fight if put to it. While we may not admire the English or their underhanded methods of diplomacy, still we must admire them for their splendid arrogance and their bull dog fighting qualities.

The war flurry has demonstrated to England that she is absolutely friendless among the nations of the world; yet such is her haughty arrogance and unbending bulldoggedness that she practically says she does not care a fig for any or all of them.

There is but one country that England really fears, and that is the United States. She may bluster and bully but at least she dreads a war with the Americans.

The consolidation of New York and Brooklyn should not be railroaded through at lightning speed, neither should it be framed for the benefit of partisan politicians.

Rev. Dr. Quigley, well-known in Rochester, has resigned the rectorship of the Buffalo Cathedral to become rector of St. Bridget's in the same city.

Catholic churches annually issue a statement of their financial condition. We do not hear of any non-Catholic churches following her example.

Be careful what your children read. Do not be over-zealous and permit them to read only works of devotion. Read yourself and be informed on the literature of the day.

There is no disputing the statement that Rochester has the best newspapers between New York and Chicago.

The Legislature should not allow insurance companies hailing from countries that refuse permission for American insurance companies to operate in New York.

Not satisfied with stealing a large slice of Venezuela territory, England now wants to take the Island of Trinidad from Brazil.

We fail to see why the Davis resolution affirming the Monroe doctrine should not be passed promptly by Congress. It is sound American doctrine and sound common sense as well.

Maackenzie Bowell is still premier of Canada, despite the efforts of the Orangemen to drive him from power.

What a variegated assortment of weather we had last week, to be sure.

William H. McElroy, the new editor of "The Post Express," is one of the most versatile and scholarly men in American journalism.

St. Mary's hospital is enjoying a period of prosperity to which it is entitled. But few persons realize the amount of good done by this kindred Catholic institution at Rochester.

The rebellious members of St. Stanislaus church should give up the Polish National Alliance. It is as nothing when compared to the salvation of their souls.

Fernando D. Mooney has been elected U. S. Senator from Mississippi. It is not yet evident whether he is sound Money or wildcat Mooney.

Let's see, wasn't it last week that the press despatches announced for the fifty-first time that Gomez and Garza, the Cuban rebel leaders, were killed?

Another evidence of the progress of electric cars, the shipping of 500 mules to England.

It is plain that there are legislators who prefer notoriety and "considerations" to statesmanship.

If Levi P. Morton is not nominated for president, why would he not be a first-class man to send to the United States senate?

Presidential booms are plenty now. Many of them will be punctured by next August.

The Raines license bill is raising a storm of opposition all over the State. It is not yet a perfect measure.

Why would it not be a good plan for the United States to purchase Cuba?

THE GOSPELS

GOSPEL: St. Matthew xi 1-16. At that time Jesus said to His disciples this parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like to a householder who went early in the morning to hire laborers into his vineyard. And having agreed with the laborers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing in the market place idle and he said to them: Go you also into my vineyard, and I will give you what shall be just. And they went their way. And again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did in like manner. But about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing, and he said to them: Why stand you here all the day idle? They say to him: Because no man has hired us. He saith to them: Go you also into my vineyard. And when evening was come the lord of the vineyard said to his steward: Call the laborers and pay them their hire, beginning from the last even to the first. When therefore they were come that came about the eleventh hour they received every man a penny. But when the first also came, they thought that they should receive more; and they also received every man a penny. And receiving it they murmured against the master of the house, saying: These last have only worked but one hour, and thou hast made them equal to us, that have borne the burden of the day and the heat. But he answering said to one of them: Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst thou not agree with me for a penny? Take what is thine, and go thy way; I will also give to this last even as to thee. Or, is it not lawful for me to do what I will? Is thy eye evil because I am good? So shall the last be first, and the first, last, for many are called but few are chosen."

This parable is explained in two ways. It may be applied to men in general, or to each Christian in particular.

Weekly Church Calendar

Sunday 2-Septuagesima Sunday, Epist. 1 Cor. ix. 24-27; Gosp. Matt. xx. 1-16 Monday 3-Purification of the B. V. M. Candlemas Day, (Feb. 2.) St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr. Tuesday 4-St. Andrew, Corsini, Bishop and Confessor. Wednesday 5-St. Philip of Jesus, Martyr. Thursday 6-St. Titus, Bishop and Confessor. Friday 7-St. Dorothy, Virgin and Martyr. Saturday 8-St. John of Matha, Confessor.

Hood's Sarsaparilla, taken at this season, will make you feel strong and vigorous and keep you free from sickness later on.

HISTORIC SLIGO.

Edmund D. Whelan at the Scene of the Ancient Battle of Moytura.

"The Hill of the King."

SLIGO, IRELAND.

Sligo derives its name—not from Suwanee River, but according to the railway guide—from the "Shelly River"—rather a bright musical name too. But as to the shells, if there be any, they must be hidden beneath the deep, rolling river, as it sweeps past the town.

I took refuge in the Imperial Hotel just as the clouds lowered and the rain came down again in torrents. The hotel is just at the end of the bridge overlooking the dark current referred to. It was like meeting with an "oasis" in the desert.

The "Hill of the King" have been variously applied to it. The Van Archaeon O'Rourke in his History of Sligo thinks that the correct meaning of Knockna-Reidh is the "Hill of the smooth, level top"—a designation which describes perfectly the peculiar outlines and character of the hill. Tradition tells us that Eoghan Bh, King of Connaught, was mortally wounded in a great battle fought in the vicinity of this hill against the Northmen.

EDMUND D. WHELAN.

In 1640, upon the frontiers of Lorraine, a detachment of infantry having been surprised by a company of light horse from the enemy, the captain ordered that no quarter should be given to those who had thus fallen into his hands. One of these latter had received several severe wounds already, and when to finish the work, a soldier gave him several thrusts with his bayonet, and even beat him upon the head, the suffering hero said with astonishing coolness: "Try as you will you cannot take away my life. I am a child of Mary. I wear her Scapular, and she will not let me die without confession." "Why did you not speak before? We would have given you your life." But, make an Act of Contrition, and be content, for there is certainly no priest to be had." To these kind words, spoken by one of the cavaliers, the soldier replied: "I still hope that God will grant me this favor," and in truth, although sadly mutilated, he still had sufficient strength to drag himself along the road to Metz. A priest led thither by Providence passed that way. He made his confession to him, and received the absolution—final pledge of Mary's protection—for which his soul had so ardently longed—then full of faith and hope he died at the feet of the priest.

you past the hotel under a long bridge of low arches, as I suppose it has been for ages. Tradition says that the Sligo river is one of the nine Irish rivers mentioned by Ptolemy, the supposed first inhabitant of the country. On the water were swans gliding about gracefully. I could see at a glance that there was a rich field for a descriptive pen and a fine magnificence raised abbey, and a little farther off the spire of a modern cathedral. And as for lakes, mountains, ancient castles, cromlechs and waterfalls—they are here galore on every side.

In reading over the various histories of Sligo, one readily sees there is no more historic district in Ireland. A way back, before the Christian era, we are told, the great battle of Moytura, six miles from Sligo, at the foot of Knockna-Reidh (Hill of the King) was fought. Here, if tradition doesn't err, Balor "of the mighty brow," the great Fomorian leader, was killed. The far-famed Carruamora Sepulchral Monuments are spread over the scene of the conflict for two square miles—the most extensive Celtic collection, excepting perhaps Carnac in Brittany.

The beautiful cromlech (now called the Kising Stone) was called Leaba-Na-Bhain. The most striking object in the landscape, which is singularly beautiful around Sligo, is Knockna-Reidh—a singularly formed "solitary, flat-topped, verdant hill, crowned with a large sepulchral tumulus, as it was well described by Mr. Frazer in his Handbook for Ireland. Around this remarkable hill history and tradition cling with a Celtic tenacity. But "doctors differ," and so writers differ, too. The "Hill of the Moon," the "Hill of Execution," and the "Hill of the King" have been variously applied to it.

The Van Archaeon O'Rourke in his History of Sligo thinks that the correct meaning of Knockna-Reidh is the "Hill of the smooth, level top"—a designation which describes perfectly the peculiar outlines and character of the hill. Tradition tells us that Eoghan Bh, King of Connaught, was mortally wounded in a great battle fought in the vicinity of this hill against the Northmen. The dying King gave orders that his body should be interred in a standing posture, with his red javelin in his hand, on the "side of the hill" by which the Northmen pass when flying before the army of Connaught. By this it is supposed that the Connaught King wished to have the satisfaction (after death) of seeing from generation to generation the Northmen flying before the armies of Connaught. The legend goes farther and says that the Northmen was so terrified at the dead King always staring them in the face, that at last they came by night and dug him out as the mountain.