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**MISGUIDED CLERGYMAN**

The case of the Rev. D. M. Kirkpatrick is a peculiar one. He has been acquitted by a jury of the charge upon which he was arrested and put upon trial—that of impersonating an officer. Judging from the published evidence presented in the Police court the verdict was justified. The police department apparently was premature in making the arrest without sufficiently strong evidence to warrant expectation of a conviction. Again referring to the published evidence, Rev. Kirkpatrick told a queer story while in the witness chair. He shamelessly told that he had pursued fallen women even to their apartments. In all his testimony there was not a hint that he tried to reform these Magdalens or that he wanted to. What he sought was "material" for a series of lectures on the dark side of life in Rochester. According to Rev. Kirkpatrick he has not been alone in his investigations, but has been accompanied by a number of other clergymen who had a fancy to explore the slums of the Flower City.

It may be that the Rev. Mr. Kirkpatrick and his colleagues were actuated by the loftiest of motives, but we cannot see what great good will come of clergymen discoursing from their pulpits on such a subject. To those who are acquainted with the extent of the social evil, these discourses will convey no news; to those who are ignorant of such things knowledge of inestimable harm may be conveyed. Our feeble understanding does not enable us to differentiate between an immoral play and a lecture on subjects and things unmentionable in polite society, even if delivered by a clergyman in a church pulpit. The way to restrain the social evil is, without undue publicity, to collect evidence against the owners of houses, blocks and apartments who rent their property to dissolute characters, and present it to the grand jury. The owners who lease their property for such vile purposes only to gain a little more filthy lucre than is possible when rented to decent persons, are far more blamable than the unfortunate victims of man's lust. The indictment and conviction and sentencing of half a dozen such owners will do more to rid the residence portions of the city of dissolute women than a dozen courses of lectures by sensational clergymen.

The result of Dr. Parkhurst's "raid" in New York city has been to drive the social outcasts from the "rough sections" into the residence districts, and respectable tenements have been poisoned and the reputation of their decent tenants blackened by the presence of these social outcasts. Dr. Parkhurst is morally responsible for driving these creatures from the rough where they were "localized," and into the habitations of respectable persons. He did not provide a home for them, neither is it in his power that his society made any attempt to reform them.

The social evil is one of the most serious and intractable problems to grapple with. We doubt the efficacy of Rev. Kirkpatrick's method of dealing with it. He seems to be ignorant that even fallen women have some rights that even "reform" clergymen are bound to respect. Our candid opinion of Rev. Mr. Kirkpatrick is that he is sincere in his reform ideas but misguided in his methods of procedure.

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**THE STATE GOVERNMENT**

The government of New York state is now entirely organized for 1897 and the year will see many changes. Levi P. Morton has been succeeded as governor by Frank S. Black; Charles T. Saxton has retired from the lieutenant governorship in favor of Timothy L. Woodruff; instead of Hamilton Fish, James M. E. O'Grady of Rochester will preside over the deliberations of the assembly as speaker.

Notwithstanding these changes there will be no great change in the policy of the state government. Affairs will move along in their accustomed channel and the public at large will not notice any material change, unless it be that more vigorous methods will be employed, because of the younger blood at the helm. This could well be. Legislation could be expedited and the public business transacted with greater haste than at present. If legislators would only subordinate public to local and personal interests, our state legislature need not be in session more than two-thirds of the time usually consumed. More than that, the statute books would not be encumbered with half the unnecessary and useless laws found there now. Lawyers might have less work, but the general public could stand that.

It is to be hoped the new governor will also place the public good above personal or partisan interests. The citizens of the state of New York elected Black by an overwhelming majority, not because he was a republican, but because they thought him a man of sterling character who would rise above party and partisanship. They expect his appointments will be made with a view to securing for the public service the very best men possible to obtain. They do not expect he will reward unfit men, no matter how much personal obligation he is under to them, with appointment to public office. Political and personal obligations should not be paid off by gifts from the state treasury. Until he forfeits their confidence, the people of New York will refuse to believe Frank S. Black will act otherwise than as a man of loftiest purpose and purest motives.

**SPEAKER O'GRADY.**

Hon. James M. E. O'Grady is a young man upon whom fortune has showered her choicest blessings. He has been singularly favored. It is rarely that the speaker's chair in the assembly of the state of New York is reached when one is on the sunny side of forty, yet such is the enviable record Mr. O'Grady has achieved. If fortune continues to smile no one can venture to predict what other honors are yet in store for him. His many friends sincerely hope that the end is not yet.

Speaker O'Grady is another instance of what pluck and perseverance will accomplish. He had to work his way up from the ranks. He had not wealth or social position to aid him. But he had high character, sterling integrity, laudable ambition, and these attributes have brought him success such as is rarely attained by men of twice his age.

It is to be sincerely hoped that the political machine with which the speaker is affiliated will not insist upon his pursuing such course as to kill him off ere the sun of his career has hardly arisen. Too many men of as high purpose and character as Mr. O'Grady have been politically ruined by the exactions of grasping political machines.

Here is how a Philadelphia exchange speaks of the new speaker's victory: "Not satisfied to retire from the field after its many reverses during the past few months, the A. P. A. has courted another rebuff. Because a Catholic had been 'slated' for speaker of the New York legislative assembly, the order began a fight against his selection. Nevertheless

he has been honored with the unanimous vote of his party, and has been elected in consequence. Why don't the conspirators give up interfering in American politics and go home to Canada?"

**THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE**

Governor Black's first message is commendable in several respects. In the first place it was brief and for that reason was more widely read than any similar document in years. The fault of all state papers is prolixity, hence they are seldom perused, much less studied or pondered.

In the second place there is backbone and individuality in every paragraph. There is no unnecessary verbiage; the sentences are cleanly cut and their meaning unmistakable. They aim at the mark and hit the bullseye every time. The expressions are distinctly Blackesque.

The recommendations are pertinent, especially on the preservation of the Adirondacks and on the remodeling of the civil service laws so as to make them more practical. There will be thousands of the citizens of New York right in the ranks of those most devoted to the cause of true civil service reform, who will hail with joy legislation that will tend to make it easier for competent men to obtain positions in that part of the public service for which they are most competent, and not make such appointment contingent absolutely upon the applicant's ability to pass a Regent's examination in geography, geometry and algebra. The "competitive" part of civil service reform has been carried to such exaggerated lengths as to make it supremely ridiculous.

Taken all in all, Governor Black's first message is a satisfactory state paper.

"The care with which Rome selects candidates for episcopal honors," says the Boston Republic, "is of itself a very good guarantee of the eminent fitness of the ecclesiastics whom it chooses for the places to which it nominates them. Of course, mistakes are possible; mistakes have even been made; but when Rome selects a man for a bishop her choice is generally an excellent one. Catholics, of course, have long recognized that fact, but it is something new to find Protestant secular papers testifying to the same fact, as those of Philadelphia and Buffalo have recently done by commenting the Holy See's wisdom in selecting Dr. Prendergast for coadjutor to Archbishop Ryan and Dr. Quigley as the third bishop of Buffalo.

The "Catholic Standard and Times" aptly says: "United States Senator Morgan, of Alabama, has announced that he would like to see a knowledge of the Ten Commandments made a test for citizenship. Why not make them a compulsory rule of life for members of both branches of congress? The seventh and eighth (the Protestant eighth and ninth) would be particularly useful in obstructing 'River and Harbor' and other such jobs and in keeping the members to at least a pretense of truth-telling."

The law should be no respecter of persons. The rich man who does wrong, who embezzles trust funds, should be as severely punished as the poor fellow who is dishonest because of environment or who steals to keep his family from starving.

It remains to be seen whether State Superintendent of Public Instruction Charles R. Skinner has elevated himself as high as he thought in Governor Black's estimation by his decision in the Watervliet school case.

It is evident the "new journalism" is bound to present a new phase of the Cuban revolution every week.

It is astonishing how much the "Union and Advertiser" finds to commend in Governor Black.

There can be no doubt that the "400" of New York and Albany will not monopolize the present state administration.

We cannot see how the interests of morality are to be conserved by clergymen acting as spies on fallen women.

The legislature of 1897 should pass a "good roads" law, providing for a system of state roads.

**THE GOSPELS**

**GOSPEL: St. John, ii. 1-11.**—At that time: "There was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the Mother of Jesus was there. And Jesus also was invited, and His disciples, to the marriage. And the wine failing, the Mother of Jesus saith to Him: They have no wine. And Jesus saith to her: Woman, what is that to Me and to thee? My hour is not yet come. His Mother saith to the waiters: Whatever He shall say to you, do ye. Now there were set there six water pots of stone, according to the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three measures apiece. Jesus saith to them: Fill the water pots with water. And they filled them up to the brim. And Jesus saith to them: Draw out now and carry to the chief steward of the feast. And they carried it. And when the chief steward had tasted the water made wine, and knew not whence it was, but the waiters knew who had drawn the water: the chief steward calleth the bridegroom and saith to him: Every man at first setteth forth good wine, and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse; but thou hast kept the good wine until now. This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and He manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him."

What should we observe about this miracle? We should observe that Jesus Christ by this miracle prepared the way for that still greater miracle which He was to work on the institution of the Most Holy Sacrament by showing that as He was able to convert simple water into generous wine He could also convert bread and wine into His own body and blood.

**Weekly Church Calendar**  
Sunday, January 17—Second Sunday after Epiphany. Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus. St. Anthony, Abbott. Last Acts: 8:12. Gosp. Luke ii. 21. Last Gosp. John ii. 1-11.  
Monday, 18—Chair of St. Peter at Rome. St. Prisca, Virgin and Martyr.  
Tuesday, 19—St. Canute King and Martyr. SS. Maritus and Companions, Martyrs.  
Wednesday, 20—St. Fabian, Pope and St. Sebastian, Martyrs.  
Thursday, 21—St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr.  
Friday, 22—SS. Vincent and Anastasius, Martyrs.  
Saturday, 23—Espousals of the B. V. M. and St. Joseph. St. Emerentia, Virgin and Martyr.

**A Native Clergy for West Africa**  
The Vicar Apostolic of Benin, Mgr. Pellet, who resides in the British colony of Lagos, has conceived the idea of making a distinct effort at the formation of a native clergy for West Africa. His plan is to erect a seminary at Ipopon in that colony. Several young natives have long been applying to study for the priesthood, and the Bishop believes that some have real vocations. He thinks that the climate, so fatal to Europeans, is one of the main reasons that make a native clergy so desirable, and even necessary, if the country is ever to be evangelized on a large scale. For the natives the climate is absolutely harmless. Moreover, there is the immense advantage of their knowledge of the language and customs of their countrymen, and the greater confidence they naturally enjoy with the latter. The rapid growth of Mohammedanism is the most threatening of all dangers on the West coast. Fifty years ago there was not a single Moslem at Lagos; now there are from 7,000 to 9,000, whilst there are 6,000 Catholics. Their progress in Yoruba is still more remarkable; whole towns, like Ilorin, are exclusively Mohammedan. Hence the necessity for apostolic work. Fetishists may be, and are constantly converted to Christianity; Mohammedans never. The projected seminary would be designed to serve all the West Coast Missions—those at the Niger, Dabomey, the Gold coast, the Ivory coast, etc. Mgr. Pellet's project appears to us to be the most important step ever yet taken for the conversion of West Africa. He appeals very earnestly to Catholic charity in support of this admirable undertaking. We wish him all success in his appeal.

The Very Rev. Joseph Pied, provincial apostolic of the coast of Benin, Western Africa, is at present in America, engaged in collecting from the charitably disposed what they are willing to give in aid of the projected seminary. Donations are hereby respectfully solicited. For every \$5 offering a mass will be said for the intention of the donor.

Contributions may be addressed to the

Rt. Rev. Mgr. Bessonius, Cor. Meridian and 5th Sts., Indianapolis, Ind.

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**Forty-Seventh Annual Statement**  
OF THE  
**Monroe County Savings Bank**

33 and 35 State St., Rochester, N. Y.

JAN. 1, 1897.

RESOURCES.		LIABILITIES.	
Bonds and Mortgages.....	\$ 6,417,731 00	Due Depositors.....	\$ 8,925,962 37
Land Contracts.....	10,750 00	Interest Accrued.....	28,500 00
Demand Loans.....	8,000 00	Taxes.....	1,250 00
United States Bonds (market value).....	1,339,590 00		20,750 00
Bonds of Cities (market value).....	1,170,090 00	<b>Surplus</b>	<b>\$1,474,371 09</b>
Bonds of State (market value).....	100,000 00		
County Bonds (market value).....	151,000 00		
Interest Accrued.....	152,716 16		
Real Estate.....	204,000 00		
Cash in Banks and Trust Companies.....	681,050 33		
Cash on Hand.....	195,333 97		
<b>\$10,480,088 46</b>		<b>\$10,480,088 46</b>	

DAVID HOYT, Sec. and Treas. JAMES E. BOOTH, Pres't.

**STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF MONROE.**  
William Hamilton, Thomas J. Devine, George G. Clarkson, being duly sworn, each for himself, says he is one of a committee of three regularly appointed by the trustees of the Monroe County Savings Bank, an institution for saving (as provided and directed by Section 128 of Chapter 689 of the laws of 1893), and that the within statement is a true statement of the assets in possession of and owned by said institution on the morning of January 1, 1897, before the transactions of that day, and the value thereof; and that the liabilities of said institution are also truly ascertained and herein stated as appeared by the examination made by such committee in pursuance of the law above recited, that the deponents' knowledge of the value of said assets was derived from the best sources of information at his command.

WILLIAM HAMILTON,  
THOMAS J. DEVINE,  
GEORGE G. CLARKSON.  
Subscribed and sworn to by each deponent before me this 11th day of January, 1897.  
WM. W. CHAPIN, Notary Public.

**OFFICERS FOR 1897.**

JAMES E. BOOTH.....President.  
RUFUS K. DRYER.....Vice Presidents.  
ALEXANDER M. LINDSAY.....Secretary and Treasurer.  
DAVID HOYT.....Attorney.  
WILLIAM B. LEE.....Attorney.

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Benjamin M. Baker, Rufus K. Dryer, William Hamilton,  
George G. Clarkson, Eugene T. Curtis, Thomas J. Devine,  
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