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THE UNIVERSITY.

CIRCULAR LETTER ISSUED BY DR. CONATY.

Friends Are Urged to Renewed Interest—An Appeal to All Benefactors of the Institution.

The Rev. Dr. Conaty, rector of the Catholic University of America, has issued the following circular letter addressed to the members of the Divinity Fund Association, of the University Fund Association, of the Chapel Fund Association, and to all benefactors of the Catholic University of America:

"The annual report of the Divinity Fund, the University Fund, and the Chapel Fund associations has been purposely delayed until the present, in order that I might have the privilege and opportunity of addressing myself to the valued friends of the University, and urging them to renewed interest in this important work. Now, more than ever, the University needs the generous assistance of clergy and laity, which these funds give, for the purpose of doing its best work in libraries and laboratories, which must be fully equipped in order to meet the requirements of scientific study. All endowments are applied to the special purpose of the endowment, and cannot be diverted into other channels, no matter how urgent the demand.

"The only literary endowment the University enjoys is that provided for the Science and Law departments by the generosity of Mr. Joseph Banigan of Providence, who has guaranteed \$4,000 annually for twelve years, or until it reaches \$50,000. This is independent of his munificent gift of \$50,000 for the Chair of Political Economy. The chapel of the Divinity school, with its thirteen altars and five private oratories, affording to the divinity students, who are mostly priests, the opportunity to celebrate mass daily, is maintained at great expense, and the chapel fund has that maintenance for its object. The library of the Divinity school is now without endowment, and calls constantly for old and new books, that the students may be enabled to meet the wants of the day, and be familiar with the best thought. The Chemical and Physical laboratories are the absolutely necessary tools for work, and must be fully equipped in order that the best results may be obtained and the best experiments conducted. The University Fund association aims to furnish the money needed for a complete equipment in the scientific departments of the University in civil, mechanical and electrical engineering, and the various branches of study outside the Divinity school. To what better purpose could persons of means devote a portion of their wealth than to endow the Chapel, the Library, or the Laboratories, and thus follow the excellent example so nobly set by Mr. Banigan?

"An appeal is made to the clergy for the Divinity fund, in which membership is obtained by pledging \$100 a year for ten years. Many of our public spirited priests are members of this fund, which, according to last report, contributed \$1,250. This gave valuable assistance to the University work in the higher education of the clergy.

"An appeal is made to the Catholic laity for the University fund, which, by the same terms, gives them the privilege of placing the University in the position of ability to do the best University work with the laymen who seek it. By the last report \$2,430 came to this fund. To both clergy and laity the Chapel fund appeals, by which, on payment of \$10 a year, means are furnished for its chapel wants, which are many and urgent. Last year's report showed 210 members.

"It is well to remember that the University is near to every Catholic, for it is the work par excellence of the Catholic church in America, and exists for the whole church. It is indeed for the Church of God in these United States, and its success is to the honor of our church and our people. Our Holy Father Leo XIII., who has done so much for the advancement of learning, and is now the leader of the civilization of this century, has this University much to heart, as one of the cherished works of his Pontificate. In his Encyclical Longinqua he says: 'There already indeed exist several distinguished universities. We, however, thought it advisable that there should be one founded by the authority of the Apostolic See, and endowed

by us with all suitable powers in which Catholic professors might instruct those devoted to the pursuit of learning."

"All of us realize that we are now in the very thick of the battle of truth with error, and that the opportunity of placing our church in America in the very front rank as a leader of higher education is imminent. The Providence of God has richly blessed the efforts already made, and the munificent gifts of Catholics to the University are only equalled by their splendid spirit of devotion to the cause of Christian education. Let us never forget that the University is not the work of a few. It should be, and is, the privilege of all to be factors in the great enterprise. These three funds allow all friends of education to help the University. It must be encouraging to you to see the splendid results that have been obtained through their generosity.

"The Holy Father looks to Catholics of the United States to sustain this University in the glory of an institution like to that of Louvain, which, he declares, in this Encyclical Longinqua, is the pride of the entire Belgian nation; to it is ascribed the almost daily increase in prosperity and glory in Belgium. As we know, Louvain owes much of its prosperity to the constant, generous assistance of the masses of the people. The success of the Catholic University of America has been marvellous, and its work beyond all anticipation. In the spirit in which the entire people seem now to take it to their heart, great results may confidently be expected. Its present good condition is due under God to the untiring and unceasing energy and enthusiasm of its first rector, Bishop Keane, and the one desire of his heart is that the University may attain to greater prosperity by a fuller and more complete equipment. He earnestly looks to all his friends to loyally stand by this great work, and help realize the fondest hope of Leo XIII. and our American Episcopate, that our University may be what we pray it to become—the University of America, and an honor to our republic. A generous need of aid from clergy and laity toward the University would aid very materially in giving the means by which this magnificent temple of higher learning, would, indeed, speak forth the glory of truth, and send out well trained officers to lead the people of all ranks toward the highest and best scholarship.

"As a mark of his recognition of the work done by the members of the Divinity Fund, the University Fund, and the Chapel Fund associations, the Holy Father graciously bestows his Apostolic Benediction on all the members.

"Besides this, as a special token of recognition from the University, the Catholic University Bulletin or Chronicle will be sent regularly to each member of the associations. Two solemn Masses, assisted at by the whole University, are celebrated every year for our living benefactors. Many private Masses are said for them every month by our faculty and students. They are ever to be held in grateful remembrance, and the prayers of all who are benefitted by their generosity will constantly ascend to the throne of God for them.

"It is my privilege to extend the thanks of the University to those who have already sent in their annual contributions. It is desirable, in the urgency of our needs, that returns be made as speedily as possible from those who have already affiliated themselves with these associations. If you are already a member, this circular will serve to thank you for your work, and to encourage you in its continuance. If you are not a member, I take the liberty of urging you to become one, and thus help us in this great work by being a practical aid in its accomplishment."

Seeing is Believing

Don't wait to be told, but come in and see what immense wall paper values you can get for your money at 55 East Main street. Van Hoesen's.

If You Need a Typewriter,

We have them at your price; high grade, perfect in all respects—no competition. Gray & Hitchcock, 67 E. Main

For Nearly A Quarter of a Century.

L. C. Langie has been supplying his trade with the best coal that money could buy. The result of this policy is seen in his large and flourishing business. Try his coal next time you order. Office, Triangle building.

Ladies' Auxiliary to the Catholic Winter School.

The Ladies' Auxiliary to the Catholic Winter School held its first meeting this season Feb. 8th in the parlors of the Jesuits on Baronne street, New Orleans. The meeting was executive, and confined to the officers. Mrs. Thos. J. Semmes, the president of the auxiliary, in a few earnest words explained the object of the meeting, the great interest which members of the auxiliary should take in the Winter School, and her hopes that all would co-operate in the effort to make the session of 1897 even more brilliant than that of '96. Mrs. Semmes, continuing, dwelt a moment upon the social features of the Winter School, which, indeed, should be one of its most interesting features, bringing together the distinguished visitors from other states and the warm, true-hearted people of the south in such pleasing intercourse, that from year to year visitors would look forward to meeting again with the friends formed in preceding sessions of the school, and thus form a close bond which will undoubtedly become one of its most helpful means of promoting the growth of the school. Visitors feeling the fine intellectual influence of the school no less than the delightful opportunity afforded of meeting in close friendship the cultured people of our city, will not be slow to tell other friends in their own states of the hospitality, the culture, the interesting people to be met in attending a session of the school, and thus will grow up a strong and true influence that will attract larger and larger attendance each year.

Mrs. Semmes then announced that there had been a meeting between a committee from the Winter School board and some of the officers of the Ladies' Auxiliary, and it was deemed best to call a general meeting of the auxiliary to decide upon the plan of entertaining the guests. Mrs. Semmes thought that if once a week, for instance, every Thursday evening during the sessions of the school, the auxiliary would hold a public reception in the hall where the lectures are held it would prove an interesting means of bringing together the patrons of the school in New Orleans and the visiting guests. The other officers of the auxiliary quite agreed with this idea, and Thursday of every week was set apart for the weekly receptions of the auxiliary. All the members of the Ladies' Auxiliary are expected to attend and assist in doing the honors. Mrs. Semmes will be ex-officio chairman and president of the committee, which will be composed of all the vice-presidents of the auxiliary.—New Orleans Picayune.

Card of Thanks.

The Sisters of the Rochester Home of Industry wish to thank the Rev. pastor of Corpus Christi Church, and Rev. Dr. McGuire, and all those who kindly assisted in disposing of tickets for the lecture on Sunday, Feb. 14th. We cannot explain the great assistance it was to us these hard times. The amount realized is about \$250.00. There are still a few who have not made returns.

We also wish to acknowledge the following donations: Mr. L. Ernst & Sons donated bill of \$20.70; Mrs. John Klem, \$5.00; Mrs. H. S. Wright, \$2.00; Mrs. Rufus Sibley, 5 barrels apples.

To me it is a refreshing thought to know that my friends have so generously remembered this work. All I can now do is to beg for each one the richest of all blessings.

MOTHER HILYONYM.

PERSONALS

Rev. Father Story of Brockport has left for an extended trip through continental Europe, Egypt and the Holy Land.

Mr. Charles J. Dollen has left Rochester on his annual trip southwest, visiting Georgia, Florida, Illinois, and California. In Butte, Mont., he will read a paper before the State Silver League, "Why Should Silver be Remonetized?"

Edward J. Sullivan, of this city, has been elected a director of The Ball Electric Light Company of New York city. The company has a capital of \$2,000,000, and its factories are located in New York, and Hempstead, New York.

Opening day, to-day, at Meng & Shafer's three stores.

But Begin With The Welsh light in your home and store, you can save one-half the cost of your lighting. Gray & Hitchcock, 67 East Main street.

AN APPEAL.

In Behalf of the Negro and Indian Missions in the United States.

The following circular letter has just been issued by the commission for the Catholic missions among the colored people and the Indians:

Dear Fathers and Brothers in Our Lord:

The needs of our Negro and Indian missions urged us last year to address you a special appeal. To see that, notwithstanding the financial embarrassment felt throughout the land, the collection for 1896 shows an increase over those of the three preceding years is truly gratifying to all who take interest in this work.

The spiritual needs of the Negroes and Indians living in our midst, at our very doors, strongly impressed the Fathers of the Second and Third Plenary Councils of Baltimore. They felt that these peoples had very special claims upon our charity, that Jesus Christ, who loves them, who shed His blood for them as for us, will surely hold us accountable if we fail to do what we reasonably can to secure to them the religious blessings which we enjoy.

These are, we doubt not, the sentiments of your own hearts—they must be the sentiments of all who duly appreciate the value of their faith. We have constantly brought home to us when the truths and practices of our Catholic faith mean for our own people. Before the child is able to reason out a line of conduct for himself, faith comes to tell him what he ought to do, and to give him motives that will strengthen his will to do it. Is he led away for a time by the seductive charms of worldly pleasures? Where else than in the teachings of faith does he find the motives that enable him to triumph at last over his evil propensities and to keep straight on in the way of virtue? As reflection and experience mature his mind and character, he clearly realizes that faith has been the inspiration and support of all that high and noble in his life, that but for it he would have entered upon courses without the power of coming back, which would have made his existence a wreck. Have we not found our own faith deepen as we daily touch the fact of the lowly and humble lifted up to noble living through the power and faith of Christ? Where is there outside of Christian peoples any parallel to it? History tells us what the masses in all ages have been, when not leavened by this divine principle.

Our own flocks have the fulness of the gift of faith. They must see what its possession means. They must burn with the desire to bring to others the same happiness. They must long to help to secure to men and women capable of knowing and loving and enjoying God what will make it possible for them to lead lives worthy of their exalted destiny. Zealous priests, devoted religious, men and women, have felt these things stir them to the very depths of their souls, and they are giving their lives to impart their treasure to less favored brothers. Our people will share in their labors and, and merits, will strengthen their hands and increase their power for good by generously giving according to their means. Nor will they, when the value of their faith is vividly brought home to them, be less generous in securing its advantages for their own.

While the collection of the last year has been larger than those immediately preceding, the amount gathered for the mission during the past five years has fallen considerably below the figure reached during the five years from 1887 to 1891. At the same time the number of churches and schools for the Negroes and Indians, of Missionaries and Sisters working among them, has considerably increased. Above all, the appropriations formerly made for our Indian schools are being more and more reduced, till as some of the bishops say in their reports with keenest regret that they will be obliged to abandon this work. You will not allow this to occur. You will gratify the longing of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for the welfare of these souls whom He shed His blood to save, and whom He has left in your power to benedict.

Faithfully yours in our Lord,
James Cardinal Gibbons,
Archbishop of Baltimore.
P. J. Ryan, D. D.,
Archbishop of Philadelphia,
J. J. Kain, D. D.,
Archbishop of St. Louis,
The Commission for the Catholic Missions among the Negroes and Indians.

A JESUIT SCIENTIST HONORED.

Father Secchi, the Famous Astronomer, at One Time a Professor at Georgetown College.

A monument was dedicated a few days ago at Rome to P. Angelo Secchi, of the Society of Jesus, which was the tardy recognition of a great genius. Prof. Secchi was at one time professor of astronomy at Georgetown University at Washington, D. C., and as such, though his stay was short, his work is well remembered. The monument cost 18,000 francs, raised by subscription, and was dedicated with fitting ceremonies.

P. Angelo Secchi, S. J., was in his day one of the greatest astronomers. His work was especially devoted to the study of the sun, and his book on "The Sun" is to-day an authority. He also studied and wrote about the fixed stars, and as early as 1845 he had found the spectrum of 500 fixed stars. His invention, the heliospectroscope, is still unsurpassed, and his measures of 1,324 double stars excited the admiration of all astronomers. From his studies of the fixed stars resulted what to-day are called the Secchi types of stars.

Cardinal Gibbons' Canon.
"Eliminate from your homes all obnoxious and dangerous literature. Remove from your homes sensational newspapers. You would not place upon your mantel piece a bottle containing dangerous or poisonous liquid, especially if it had an attractive and inviting label, lest it should be injurious or fatal to your children or other members of the household. And how can you place upon your table a sensational paper with its attractive exterior, and which contains the most insidious poison?"

No one respects the freedom of the press more than I do. A free press is indispensable, but freedom of the press and license of the press is quite another thing.

I desire to give you, my brethren, two admonitions regarding Sunday papers. Select none but the best; such as are clean, possessing high moral tone, and which will give you food without poison. Resolve not to read a Sunday paper until you have first assisted at divine service and heard the word of God. As on communion day you do not break your fast till you have partaken of the Holy Eucharist, so let the voice of your heavenly father be stamped in prayer on your heart and memory before you give your attention to things terrestrial.

CATHOLIC SOCIETIES.

What is Transpiring in the Different Fraternities—Current Calendars.

Council 25 held a most enjoyable meeting Monday evening. Five candidates were initiated, and four applications received. After the meeting the members and their friends had a progressive euchre party. The ladies' prizes were won by Miss Mary Egan, first; Mrs. W. F. McDermore, second, and Miss Anna Buckley, third. The gentlemen's prizes were won by Miss Gilfoil, Mr. Joseph Finn, and Mr. Erey. The social features of Council 25 are becoming quite attractive; amusements being held after each meeting.

The C. M. B. A. Central Council are preparing a history of the order in Rochester, which will be shortly published.

Society Calendars.
C. M. B. A.
Monday—21, 21, 121.
Tuesday—22, 22, 122.
Wednesday—23, 23, 123.
Thursday—24, 24, 124.
Friday—25.

C. M. B. A.
Monday—21.
Tuesday—22.
Wednesday—23, 66.
Thursday—24.
Friday—25.

D. O. F. E.
Monday—1.
Tuesday—2.
Friday—5.

A. O. E.
Tuesday—6.
Wednesday—7.
Thursday—8.

See that the name "Culron" is stamped on all crackers you buy. They are reliable.

Opening day, to-day, at Meng & Shafer's.

THREE FRANKS' ENTERTAINMENT.

To be given for the Catholic Orphan Asylum.

On Wednesday evening, Feb. 17th (St. Patrick's day), three concerts will be given for the benefit of the Catholic orphan asylum. One will be given at Cathedral Hall, with Prof. Eugene Douas as soloist; another will be given at Immaculate Conception hall, under the direction of Mr. William F. Friedman, and a third will be given at St. Mary's hall, on Fitzhugh street, with Miss Fannie Moran as soloist. Each of these entertainments elaborate musical programmes are being prepared, and those who have attended the concerts heretofore given for worthy object will need no urging to be present on this occasion. It is something of the high order of the music to be rendered, this public of charities, the care and protection of the orphan, is one that appeals directly to the hearts of the most human. The admission has been placed at the low price of 50c each, and crowded houses should be the response of our liberal hearted people.

AMUSEMENTS.

COOK'S

McKee Rankin has discovered a phenomenal young actress in the person of Miss Emma O'Neill. She is a San Francisco girl, and although she is little previous stage experience, she has created a strong sensation in New York by her vivid yet restrained acting. All the great actors and actresses are flocking to see her. Mr. Rankin, who is her manager, has a chance to judge of her talent when the lady appears at the Grand Opera in his new play of "The Girl of the Year" which is to be seen at the Grand Opera House the first half of next week.

Next Thursday, Feb. 19th, on Saturday with a Saturday matinee, the Lam-Metropolitan will present a sensational and entirely new play, "The Love of a Fool," which is to be seen at the Metropolitan. It is a play of great dramatic merit, and well acted by a superb cast. It should be seen by all who are interested in dramatic art. A large and diverse audience is expected to see the actors of the play.

ACADEMY

The Academy of Music will produce the first half of a new style of performance, and of amusement in Rochester, in the form of a grand spectacle, "The Girl of the Year," which is to be seen at the Metropolitan. It is a play of great dramatic merit, and well acted by a superb cast. It should be seen by all who are interested in dramatic art. A large and diverse audience is expected to see the actors of the play.

WONDERFUL MIRACLES

For the week ending Feb. 19th, the Metropolitan will present a sensational and entirely new play, "The Love of a Fool," which is to be seen at the Metropolitan. It is a play of great dramatic merit, and well acted by a superb cast. It should be seen by all who are interested in dramatic art. A large and diverse audience is expected to see the actors of the play.

Rev. Dr. McGuire, of the University of America, will give a series of lectures on the history of the Catholic Church in America, which will be held at the Metropolitan. The lectures will be given on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings, and will be of great interest to all who are interested in the history of the Catholic Church in America.

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