The Catholic Journal

The Only Catholic Newspaper Published in the Diocese.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY AT
324½ 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*.

Communications solicited from all Catholics, accompanied in every instance by the name of the author. Names of contributors withheld if desired.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Per Year, In Advance.....$1.00
Entered as second class mail matter.

SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 1897.

TELEPHONE 1366.

City News Agents.

The CATHOLIC JOURNAL is sold by the following newsdealers, and can be obtained of them Saturday mornings:

L. Merk, 234 East Main street.
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Yawman & Heislein, 170 E. Main St.
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A NEW ADMINISTRATION

On Thursday the government of the United States passed into new hands, into the charge of a new party, new officers, and entered upon a new policy. There was no great excitement, no great turmoil. Probably two-thirds of the population on Thursday bestowed no more than a passing thought on the fact that a new president had been inaugurated. In no other country in the world could such a bloodless revolution have been accomplished. In no other country would the reins of government have been transferred with less heart-burning and less strife.

Probably a large measure of this placidity is due to the belief that there will be but little if any radical change in the policy to be pursued by the incoming McKinley administration over that followed by the outgoing Cleveland cabinet. THE JOURNAL has expressed its belief, based on utterances of the president-elect, and the published interviews and record of several members of the new cabinet, that with the possible exception of the tariff, there would be much the same policy pursued by the McKinley administration as was followed by the Cleveland regime. We have seen nothing as yet that would warrant a change of opinion.

It is to be hoped that the same wise, conservative course that has been pursued by Grover Cleveland and his advisers for four years past will be continued for the four years to come. There are a number of delicate questions confronting the new administration. Hot headed or imprudent action might plunge the country in untold misery and trouble. It is well that the advisers by whom President McKinley will be surrounded are men of even temperament, calm judgment and of mature age. They will not be likely to make any false moves.

The people of the entire country, irrespective of party, unite in tendering to William McKinley, jr., their heartfelt congratulations and sincere wishes for the success of his administration. He will be, we trust and expect, the president of the entire people.

ALL THE BIBLE.

The Boston "Globe" of a recent date contained a symposium on "Must We Believe All the Bible and Accept It Literally to be Christians?" The Catholic answer was given by Rev. Timothy Bresnihan, S. J., president of Boston college, who wrote as follows:

"Must we believe all the Bible and accept it literally in order to become Christians? We must. Christianity will prosper or decline with the growth of the belief or disbelief in the supernatural. It sprang from and is a continuance of the supernatural facts recorded in the Bible. These facts are so intimately connected with it that the grounds for denying or disbelieving any one of them will be found on analysis to apply with equal force to all others. Ultimately, the reason for disbelieving any individual fact narrated in the Bible, or for distilling out of any of them a meaning accommodated to the palate of modern thought, is an inability to accept anything that exceeds or transcends the natural. No one, therefore, may appropriate the sacred name of Christian who by rationalism or materialism in higher criticism has cut himself off from the historical development of Christianity.

"We may, through repugnance for the supernatural, select what we shall believe or determine how we shall misunderstand certain records of scripture, we may in an etymological sense constitute ourselves biblical heretics; or, on the other hand, we may, in the words of Leo XIII., hold that 'all the books, which the church receives as sacred and canonical, are written wholly and entirely, with all their parts, at the dictation of the Holy Ghost.'

"But if we select, we should, if we were logical—which, fortunately, is not always the case—give up the supernatural entirely, and forego the name of Christian; for we have no right to reject the fundamental basis of a creed and retain the denomination. We should be intellectually children if we wished to eat our cake and to have it."

WEST POINT CHAPEL

There has been an animated dicussion over the proposition for the federal government to donate land at West Point on which was to be erected by private contribution a chapel for the accommodation of the Catholic cadets at the United States military academy. The bigots set up an awful howl. They declared it was little less than sacrilege to permit the erection of a "Romish" place of worship on government property, ignoring utterly the fact that the Protestants already had a chapel at West Point, erected at government expense. Of course, it was terrible that the Catholics were not satisfied with the Protestant chapel and Protestant services, but the bigots either did not stop to think or did not care to consider how inconsistent and how unjust it would be to ask Protestant cadets to attend Catholic services in a Catholic chapel. It makes all the difference in the world whose ox is gored, The Boston "Republic" states the case so well that we cannot refrain from quoting its editorial in full, as follows:

"Secretary of War Lamont granted permission over a year ago to the Catholics of West Point to build a chapel for the accommodation of the Catholic cadets at the military academy. The moment the permit was issued a howl went up from the 'patriotic' societies all over the land. The government was accused of a purpose to form a union between the church and the state, and the 'hand of Rome' was seen in the act of seizing the whole military establishment of the United States. Protests, remonstrances, threats and appeals were poured into the war office by the bushel. The secretary lost his courage under the fusilade and revoked the concession. We took occasion at the time to rebuke him for his cowardice. We still think he displayed a lack of American grit.

"But he has gone back on his first views of the case and has given his consent to the erection of a chapel within the government reservation. The building will cost $20,000. His new change of position has been officially noted in Congress, and in reply to an inquiry from that body Colonel Lamont said: 'A number of communications have been received protesting against the grant of the permit requested. Inasmuch, however, as no perceptible harm has resulted from similar permission heretofore given, and being convinced that those of Catholic faith at this post—one-third of its population—are entitled to the convenience of worship, which they cannot otherwsie obtatin, it has been my judgment that the protests are unreasonable and untenable.'

"Well said. We sincerely hope that the secretary will not change his mind again before March 4. There never was any decent excuse for the protests which unreasoning bigots made against the erection of this chapel on the government land. There is a Protestant church there. Did anybody object to its erection? Why should 'one-third of the population' be deprived of the right to worship God according to the dictates of their conscience? Why should they be forced either to attend services in a Protestant church or be debarred from attending any services whatever? Only narrow, rampant bigotry would object to the accommodation which the war department tardily grants to the Catholic instructors and cadets at West Point."

Word comes from Rome that the Vatican has ordered the publication of the complete catalogue of forbidden books, and has formulated new regulations for the Congress of the Index Expurgatorius more suited to the social conditions of the present age. Books and other publications prejudicial to religion and morals will, in particular, be included. The catalogue will be a valuable reference book. While determining to crush out the harmful works, however, the Holy Father is anxious that the store of wholesome Catholic works shall be increased. He has set aside, it is said, nearly £20,000, the interest on which will be employed in constituting a certain number of prizes for the best Catholic historical works which may be published in Italy or abroad. With this object His Holiness has appointed an official commission in order to examine the works, and himself has sketched out the programme of the competitions.

Says the Liverpool "Catholic Times:" "We confess that we have been agreeably surprised on reading the results of the last census in Germany so far as they denote the condition of the church. We had been under the impression that owing to official influence, which is decidedly Protestant, and other causes, Catholicism in Germany was barely holding its own. It appears, however, that it has been making steady progress. In 1890 there were only 66 Catholics in every 100 inhabitants; now there are 67. In German Poland, too, there has been an advance, in spite of the introduction of colonists, the majority of whom are Protestants. The Polish Catholics under German sway were in 1890 in the proportion of 33 to 64 Protestants. To-day the proportion is 35 Catholics to 63 Protestants. One would imagine that the Protestant archbishop of Dublin, instead of undertaking Quixotic Protestant crusades in Spain, would go the aid of co-religionists in the land of Luther, where the logic of the adherents of the old faith is proving too much for them."

Says an exchange: "The youthful editor of the New York Journal takes occasion frequently to point out some of the foibles and weaknesses of his veteran contemporary, Mr. Dana of the Sun. Here is Mr. Hearst's view of one day's activity of Mr. Dana: 'Mr. Dana yesterday described Rev. Dr. Rainsford as a 'mischievous social agitator.' Two editors, whose identity we may leave to conjecture, he denominated respectively 'a poor Irish adventurer' and 'a wretched Hungarian Jew.' President Cleveland he dismissed as a demagogue. Refreshed by this exercise in the polite amenities of the old journalism, Mr. Dana so far unbend as to actually speak with patronizing approval of Abraham Lincoln."

Cigarette smokers will be interested in the following discoveries made by chemical analysis of the favorite weed: The cigarette contains among other things, opium, belladonna, alcohol, velerian, tonca bean, stramoninm and melotolis. A nice combination of drugs to inhale every few hours!

Hon. Henry Heitfeld, who has been elected to succeed Senator Dubois of South Dakota in the United States Senate, is a Roman Catholic. He is 38 years old, and was born in St. Louis, his father being a respected citizen of that city and a native of Germany.

Out of ten Louisville aldermen indicted for malfeasance in office, nine are members in good standing of the A. P. A. Enough said.

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The death of Rev. P. J. Clune removes from the priesthood of the diocese of Rochester one of its best-known and zealous members. His untimely death at an early age is a source of deep regret to his many warm friends who all unite in a heartfelt prayer for the repose of his soul.

The Washington Catholic, published in Tacoma, Wash., is the latest addition to the Catholic press. The initial number is well gotten up and is interesting. If the publishers keep up the standard set the Catholics of Tacoma will have no cause to complain. We welcome the Catholic among our ranks.

The Utica Globe, Rochester edition, of last week, in speaking of the consecration of Rt. Rev. J. E. Quigley as Bishop of Buffalo, says that Archbishop McQuaid of Rochester performed the ceremony. We doubt the correctness of the item

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The Colorado Catholic says: "Rochester is now something of a diocese since it received the gift of four counties from Buffalo." We think that the Rochester diocese always compared favorably with others.

THE GOSPELS

GOSPEL: St. Matthew iv, 1-11. —At that time "Jesus was led by the spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterwards He was hungry. And the tempter coming said to Him: If Thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. Who answered and said: It is written: Not in bread alone doth man live, but in every word that proceedth from the mouth of God. Then the devil took Him up into the holy city and set Him upon the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him: If Thou be the Son of God, cast Thyself down, for it it is written: That He hath given His angels charge over Thee, and in their hands shall they bear Thee up, lest perhaps Thou dash Thy foot against a stone. Jesus said to him: It is written again: Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. Again the devil took Him up into a very high mountain: and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them, and said to Him: All these things will I give Thee, if falling down Thou wilt adore me. Then Jesus saith to him: Begone, Satan, for it is written: The Lord thy God shalt thou adore, and Him only shalt thou serve. Then the devil left Him: and behold angels came and ministered to Him."

What lesson should we draw from this Gospel?

We should learn to love and practice mortification and penance, and not to lose courage when strongly tempted. We should repel the suggestions of the devil with the maxims and precepts of the Gospel, and look to God for the reward of having suffered and endured for His glory.

Weekly Church Calendar.

Sunday, March 7—First Sunday in Lent.—Epist. 2 Cor. vi. 1-10; Gosp. Matt. iv. 1-11.
Monday, 8—St. John of God, Confessor.
Tuesday, 9—St. Frances of Rome, widow.
Wednesday, 10—The Forty Martyrs. Ember Day
Thursday, 11—St. Thomas Aquinas, Confessor and Doctor of the Church.—(March 7.)
Friday, 12—Most Holy Crown of Thorns. Ember Day.
Saturday, 13—St. Gregory the Great, Pope, Confessor, and Doctor of the Church. (March 12.) Ember Day.

Catarrh in the Head

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