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WEST POINT CHAPEL.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL McKENNA'S
ADVERSE DECISION.

Holds That the Government Cannot Per-
mit the Erection of a Church Upon Its
Property Even if Put Up by Private
Funds. Mr. Coudert's Com-
ment-What Mgr. Sharette
Thinks.

After granting and revoking a per-
mit to erect a Catholic chapel on gov-
ernment land at West Point, ex-Sec-
retary of War Lamont re-granted the
permit before he went out of office.
Secretary Alger promptly endorsed his
predecessor's action. Attorney-Gen-
eral McKenna, supposed to be a Cath-
olic, has strained a construction of
the constitution of the United
States into an opinion that the
government cannot grant the permit.
The story of how the attorney-general
reached this conclusion and the ad-
verse opinions of eminent lawyers on
his finding are told in the following
press dispatches:

Washington, May 20.—Attorney
General McKenna to-day delivered to
Secretary of War Alger an opinion on
the right of Catholics to erect and
maintain a chapel on the military res-
ervation at West Point. Mr. Lamont,
during his term, granted Father
O'Keefe, the Catholic priest at West
Point, the right to erect a chapel on
ground designated by the command-
ant, the license for which was revoka-
ble by the secretary of war on sixty
days' notice. Secretary Alger en-
larged the time of notice to six months.

Father O'Keefe then proposed that
he would erect a stone chapel, costing
\$20,000, which, on completion, he
would present to the United States on
condition that it should be used in
perpetuity for the celebration of re-
ligious services. Attorney-General
McKenna to-night said:

"This case came before me, and
after carefully reviewing all the stat-
utes I decided that the secretary of
war had no color of law to accept a
gift such as Father O'Keefe contem-
plated. I reviewed every statute
covering any phase of the matter as to
the secretary's right to grant such a
license as was given by both Secretary
Lamont and Alger. On these I de-
cided that it would be impossible to
grant such a license without further
legislation, and remitted the proposi-
tion to congress.

CAN GIVE A LIMITED LEASE.
"There is one statute giving the
secretary of war the power to lease
any government property in his care,
not in use, for a period of five years.
I could not satisfy myself that the
erection of a stone church of the cost
and dimensions determined, came
within the provisions of the law. The
fact that the United States reserved to
itself the right to revoke the lease or
license did not cover the ground, be-
cause the mere fact of the erection of
such a building contemplated a per-
petuity. Such an expense would not
be incurred unless the parties tacitly
understood that the United States
would refrain from exercising its rights.

"This would confront the govern-
ment with enduring a perpetuity not
contemplated by law, or at some time
or in some emergency exercising a
right in a manner that might seem in-
vidious. Therefore, because of the
absence of sufficient statutes and also
on the ground of good public policy, I
decided that the secretary had not
power to grant the license sought by
Father O'Keefe. My decision is very
full and covers all the points. Re-
ligious sentiments did not enter into it."

It should, moreover, be noted that
Attorney-General McKenna is him-
self a Catholic. Secretary Alger de-
clined to make a statement.

COUDERT TO McKENNA.

"The decision of the United States
Attorney-General that we cannot erect
this little Catholic chapel at West
Point," said Mr. Frederic R. Coudert
last night to a New York "Journal"
reporter, "is so astounding and so
unexpected that I hardly know what
comment to make. It amazes me to
think that a public official holding an
office of so much responsibility, could
render a decision which seeks to de-
prive a number of his fellow citizens
of a right which belongs to every citi-
zen of this country.

"If this decision is considered just
by the president, if the interpretation
of Mr. McKenna is sustained, it will
drive from the republican party many
of its representative men. I sup-
ported Mr. McKinley, but I cannot

stand any such exhibition of intoler-
ance.

"No matter on what grounds Mr.
McKenna bases his decision, I am
sure it will meet with the disapproval
of every intelligent, liberal-minded
American citizen. True, he will claim
that in rendering his decision he was
guided solely by the statutes govern-
ing the case, but that will not blind
those who know the facts to the real
motive actuating those who oppose the
building of the chapel.

"I am willing to submit to a jury of
enlightened American citizens the
question whether the erection of this
chapel is a bad precedent, and the re-
sult of their decision I do not fear.
Let me clear the question of all tech-
nicities and state the situation as it
really exists at West Point. Unpre-
judiced citizens can then judge the
case on its merits. A large propor-
tion of the soldiers and their families
at the military academy are Catholics.
The government provides no suitable
place for them to worship in. There
is a substantial chapel for the officers
and cadets who are not Catholics. It
was built by the government, and the
government supplies an Episcopalian
chaplain.

"The Catholics are obliged to hold
their services in a plain, wooden build-
ing, unsuited for religious services and
entirely inadequate for church pur-
poses. This building is also used by
the ministers of other denominations,
and frequently Catholic services must
be suspended to allow the other de-
nominations to hold their services.
This is not only unjust to the Catho-
lics, but it is equally unjust to those
who do not worship according to
Catholic faith.

"Now a number of Catholics get
together and say they will build at
their own expense a modest little
chapel, where the members of their
faith can worship undisturbed. They
ask nothing from the government;
they willingly admit that the permis-
sion they seek is a right which any
denomination should be accorded, and
they further say that they will permit
the government to make any regula-
tions concerning the building that
prudence may seem to suggest. The
only privilege we ask is that a little
part of the military reservation be set
aside where this building can be
erected.

"It is a shame that any petty big-
otry should defeat so laudable an en-
terprise as the building of this chapel.
I say this not because I am a Catholic
but because I am an American citi-
zen who strenuously opposes bigotry
of all kinds. If I were asked to con-
tribute toward the building of a non-
Catholic chapel at West Point I would
most cheerfully comply with the re-
quest, and would give the enterprise
all my aid. It is unjust to deny to
Catholics a privilege of this kind, and
I am certain that any political party
which sustains such a proceeding will
surely meet its just fate at the hands
of an intelligent public."

Lawyer Coudert's attention was
then called to the fact that the attor-
ney-general was a Catholic, and that
his decision was based on no personal
hostility to that religion.

"It is too bad," replied the law-
yer, "that Mr. McKenna is a Catho-
lic. This, however, does not render
less unjust his action. Neither can
his plea that legal consideration alone
entered into the question convince the
people that his action is not an injus-
tice to Catholic citizens."

Washington, D. C., May 23.—
Mgr. Sharette, auditor of the papal
delegation, to-day expressed himself
as very much surprised that Attorney-
General McKenna had rendered a de-
cision against the erection of a chapel
at West Point. Mgr. Sharette is a
lawyer himself. He said:

"I cannot understand how Mr.
McKenna arrived at the conclusion
that Father O'Keefe intended to make
a gift to the government. Of course,
if a man or a corporation erects a
building on another man's land, by
that very fact the structure becomes
the property of the soil. It is not a
gift, but a natural consequence of his
act. When it was determined to erect
this chapel at West Point, under the
permission of the secretary of war, no
one could imagine that any Catholic
thought the church would have any
title to it. The government could
have taken it at any time and devoted
it to any use it desired. I do not in-
tend to criticize Mr. McKenna in any
way, because I am not thoroughly fa-
miliar with the American statutes,
but it seems to me that it was possible
to have erected this chapel, especially
when the Catholics were willing to
take all the risks involved in build-
ing on ground on which they could
not secure title."

James W. O'Brien is editor of the
Sunday Union, a Catholic newspaper.
In the issue of his paper published
yesterday was an editorial reference to
Attorney-General McKenna's decision
concerning the West Point chapel.
The editorial said:

"The West Point chapel is vetoed.
Attorney-General McKenna has de-
cided that Father O'Keefe cannot be
permitted to erect that \$20,000 place
of worship for Catholic soldiers on
government property. This privilege
was given by the former secretary of
war and confirmed by the present se-
cretary. The Methodist preachers' con-
vention sent screams of protest. And
now the Catholic gentleman who is
a member of Mr. McKinley's cabinet
comes forth with a legal veto. The
opposition preachers are delighted that
the howl they raised has taken shape
in a legal blow from the hand of a
Catholic official. It is a sad blow to
the poor Catholic soldiers."

Highland Falls, N. Y., May 23.—
Father O'Keefe was seen to-day, and
had but little to say regarding the
Catholic chapel at West Point and the
decision of the attorney-general. No
official information of the decision had
reached him, and under the circum-
stances he did not wish to discuss
it. He said Archbishop Corrigan
of New York, in whose name the
license to build a chapel at West
Point had been issued, has the abso-
lute assurance from the secretary of
war that it will not be recalled or in-
terfered with.

The Catholics of Highland Falls
and West Point are greatly stirred up
over the matter. Indignation at the
action of Attorney-General McKenna
is widespread, and President McKin-
ley comes in for no small share of the
blame. What makes the feeling
deeper is the fact that the principal
Protestant and Methodist min-
isters and business men of Highland
Falls took in the affair. Dominie
Barrow and Mr. Travers, it is claimed,
headed a protest against the erection
of the chapel. Mr. Barrow recently
came from Canada, and West Point-
ers resent his interference.

PEO NINO'S PRAYER.

In an audience at the Vatican
our Holy Father distributed with his
own hand, to every one present, the
following beautiful prayer, which was
very goodly composed by himself:

"O good Jesus, our Master and
Lawgiver! Do Thou deliver us from
all our enemies. O Lord and mighty
King! All is submitted to Thy power,
and none can resist Thy sovereign will;
if Thou has resolved to save Israel,
Thou art the Master of all things; no
one can oppose Thy majesty. Now,
O Lord! have pity on Thy people,
for our enemies are bent
on our ruin. They have sworn
to destroy the inheritance Thou
hast purchased for us. Do Thou
change, O Lord, our afflictions into
joy, that we may live and praise Thy
name. In this sad disturbance and
condition of things, whom shall we in-
voke but Thee, O Lord, our King!
Remember Thy church in tears; Thou
alone can help us. Since traitors
and blind leaders have united for one
object, to do away with Thy promises,
to ruin Thine inheritance, to shut the
lips that praise Thee, to obscure the
glory of Thy House and of Thy al-
tars, O Lord! deliver not thy servants
to those who hate thee, that they may
not exult over our destruction; but do
Thou turn their wicked designs to
their own shame. Remember us, O
Lord! Be Thou propitious unto us
in our great tribulation, who live
and reign forever and ever. Amen.
—Boston Pilot, 1877.

Before deciding on your route to
Milwaukee, call upon the nearest
ticket agent of the West Shore R. R.
and secure information as to the low
rates, and improved service that will
be in effect via the Nickel Plate Road.
You can save from \$1.50 to \$3.00 in
fare. Solid through trains are run
and through sleeping cars on three
fast express trains daily. Everything
the very best at the lowest rates.
For further information write F. J.
Moore, Gen'l Agent, 23 Exchange
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belt values not to be had elsewhere
for the same money. Henry Likly &
Co., 155 East Main and 96 State.

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If you change your residence this
spring, don't fail to notify us, giving
both old and new address.

FOR JUNE.

The following is information con-
cerning some indulgences prayers and
practices for June:

1. An indulgence of seven years
and seven quarantines may be gained
by all the faithful, as often as, with at
least contrite heart and devotion, they
visit a picture of the Sacred Heart of
Jesus exposed for veneration in any
church or chapel, and pray there for
some time for the intentions of the
Pope.

2. To the faithful who shall say this
prayer once a day before a picture
of the Sacred Heart, is granted an
indulgence of 100 days; if they say it
so for a month, a plenary indulgence
may be gained, provided they receive
the sacraments and pray devoutly for
the welfare of the Church and the in-
tentions of the Pope:

"My loving Jesus, I (N. N.) give
Thee my heart and I consecrate my-
self wholly to Thee, out of the grate-
ful love I bear Thee and as reparation
for all my unfaithfulness; and with
Thy aid I propose never to sin again."

3. To all the faithful who shall
make a novena to the Sacred Heart
is granted an indulgence of 300 days
every day and a plenary indulgence
on the day immediately after the no-
vena or during the octave, provided
they receive the sacraments worthily
and pray devoutly for peace and
union among Christian peoples, for
the extirpation of heresy and for the
welfare of the Church.

4. A plenary indulgence may be
gained on the Feast of the Sacred
Heart by all the faithful, who, being
truly penitent, after confession and
communion, shall visit any church, or
chapel in which the feast is celebrated
and there pray for the intentions of
the Pope.

5. In order to animate the faithful
to pray often for the dying, the Pope
has granted an indulgence of 100 days
every time that the following prayer
is said, and to those who say it at
least three times a day, at different
times of the day, for a month, he
grants a plenary indulgence on con-
dition that, after receiving the sacra-
ments, they shall visit a church or
public oratory and there pray for his
intentions:

"Most merciful Jesus, lover of
souls, I pray Thee by the agony of
Thy Most Sacred Heart and by the
sorrows of Thy immaculate Mother,
wash in Thy Blood the sinners of the
whole world who are now in their
agony and who are to die this day.
Amen. Heart of Jesus, once in ag-
ony, pity the dying."

6. To those who penitently and de-
voutly shall say this ejaculation, is
granted an indulgence of 100 days,
once a day:

"May the Sacred Heart of Jesus
be loved everywhere!"

7. For the saying of this ejacula-
tion is granted an indulgence of 300
days, once a day:

"Jesus, meek and humble of heart,
make my heart like unto Thine."

To all the faithful who with at
least, contrite heart and devotion,
shall utter this ejaculation, is granted
an indulgence of 300 days, once a
day:

"May the Heart of Jesus, in the
Most Blessed Sacrament be praised,
adored and loved with grateful affec-
tion, at every moment, in all the
tabernacles of the world, even to the
end of time. Amen."

9. To all who during the month of
June shall either in public or private,
with at least contrite heart, say some
special prayer or perform some pious
act in honor of the Most Sacred Heart
of Jesus, are granted an indulgence of
seven years, once a day, and a plenary
indulgence on any day of the month,
provided that, after receiving the sacra-
ments, they shall visit a church or
public oratory and there pray for the in-
tentions of the Pope:

O, Sweetest Heart of Jesus, I implore
That I may ever love Thee more and more.

JUNE WEDDINGS.

We have a select line of fine wed-
ding invitations at reasonable prices.
Call and see them at the CATHOLIC
JOURNAL office, 324 East Main st.

Mrs. K. L. Wilcox of 744 East
Main street has reopened her elegant
parlors and desires the patronage of
her friends.

CATHOLIC SOCIETIES.

What is Transpiring in the Different
Fraternities—Current Calendars.

Hibernian Rifles.

On the morning of Memorial day
our company marched from the ar-
mory to the government building,
where they were photographed by
Photographer Heberger. From there
they marched to Spring street, taking
the position assigned them by Col.
Heberling, forty men in line. They
made a fine appearance, and often
along the line of march, they received
well deserved plaudits. After the
parade the company went to James
Lee's, on Magna street, and partook
of an elaborate dinner. The home of
the host and hostess was tastefully
decorated with the national colors, and
a display of fireworks greeted the com-
pany on its arrival. After dinner Mr.
Kelly played some very nice selec-
tions on his violin in which he showed
marked ability. President Hayden
sang "The Round Towers of Ireland,"
and Sergeant J. L. Sullivan "We
Like the Yankee Nation," in a very
pleasing manner. Sergeant T. Sexton
recited a piece entitled "The Dingle
Goat."

At this stage Brother T. Eustace
of Division 2 came with several boxes
of cigars, and made a very able
speech in which he said that though
he was prevented, on account of busi-
ness, from seeing the company in pa-
rade, he was with them in spirit, not
only now but at all times. After this
the boys indulged in a game of base
ball, the captain and Brother Eustace
acting as umpires. Lieut. Cullen's
nine was decided, the winner by 8 to
6. After the game supper was served
and the A. O. H. band, in charge of
Bro. Charles Sammel, with Mr. J.
Kelly, furnished music.

Bro. M. Connors and T. Mason
gave a fine exhibition of jig dancing,
and also J. P. Hayden and Mr.
J. Lee. Mr. Lee recited "Around
the Camp Fire" in an elegant man-
ner. Sergeant Deleahanty sang some
good songs, after which Chas. J. Dol-
lan, in an eloquent speech, said, in
part: "It is with profound feelings of
emotion and gratitude that I rise to
thank you for your appearance to-day.
You have performed a duty which
any man or body of men should be
proud of. You have honored the
dead, and by so doing paid tribute to
yourselves, as you have for the last 17
years, and may it continue for years
to come. But no man could expect
anything but the highest patriotism
from the name of Irish soldier. (Ap-
plause.) History proves it to be an
unquestioned and unquestionable fact
that for courage and patriotic Irish
soldiers stand first of first and second
to none. Come back with me to Round
Mountain and Mallow Ridge, and
see the green jackets as brave and de-
fiant at the cannon's mouth as to make
Stonewall Jackson exclaim: 'Oh,
here comes those green jackets! Re-
treat or a man with a Confederate
uniform will never leave the field
alive. Go still further back and see
the record of the Irishman in the revo-
lutionary army of 1777; and again to the
hero of New Orleans, not to speak of
a Kearney, Reynolds, O'Rourke and
Little Phil Sheridan, winning victory
from defeat. Can any man but
point with pride to the past? Yes,
point to it as a monument to the men
not only in this land, but wherever an
Irish soldier can be found. Look at
their courage! An Irish soldier before
Richmond being carried to the rear
after having lost his arm. The gen-
eral asked him: 'Do you not think you
will lose the day?' and he said, forget-
ting his agonies, 'Divil a loss! Do
or die. We will never give in until
we see Jeff Davis rode on a rail-
(Laughter.) Again, look at the
courage of old Jack Barry, the Irish
commander on Lake Erie, in 1812,
with a wooden frigate, defeating the
pride of the English navy, and he
said: 'I am glad to live to be
here to give them for Limerick gun-
powder tax.' (Applause.) Although
you were the only representatives of
the 1,600 Hibernians in Rochester
to-day, let me congratulate you, for
you have shown unity, patriotism and
independence. Let it be the watch-
word: 'On to the state convention in
Syracuse with not forty but eighty
men, and let us rejoice to be free men
under the star spangled banner. Long
may it wave o'er the land of the free
and homes of the brave, proclaiming
rest to the dead and peace to the liv-
ing, where we can see a mother's bless-
ing from this free and happy land
where the cross of England's shame
dom never will be seen, and where
thank God, we can live and die, and
wearing of the green, and be ever

ready to honor those before whom we
up their lives for the Union and the
old flag. (Applause.)

Captain M. Quinlivan delivered
an able and eloquent speech, and
"Company A. Hibernian" then
now it looks as if nothing could
could stop your growth, as the more
opposition and obstacles we meet
with the stronger and larger the com-
pany grows." After he had finished
speaking the company rose in a body
and gave three rousing cheers for Cap-
tain Quinlivan, the stand-by of the
Emmet Guards and veteran com-
mander of the present organization.

Before leaving Brother Lee's the
company passed a vote of thanks to
Mr. and Mrs. Lee, Mr. J. Kelly, the
A. O. H. band, the CATHOLIC JOURNAL
and ex-Lieut. P. Quinlivan who
worked so much to add to the comfort
and enjoyment of the boys.

The company then joined with Bro.
M. Connors and Serg. John M. Sullivan
and sang "The Star Spangled
Banner" and "God Save Ireland."

The affiliated party of Auxiliary
and Div. 6, A. O. H., Thursday,
May 28th, passed off pleasantly. There
was a good attendance and all report
a good time. Many invited friends
were heard to remark that Div. 6
Auxiliary are true entertainers and
always have a good time. This com-
mittee was in charge, Mrs. and Mr.
J. E. Redding, J. H. Driscoll, L. A.
Rally, Jas. McGee, Lewis O'Keefe,
George Hawkins, Anna Maloney,
Frankie Garland, Anna McCarthy.

Auxiliary No. 2 had a large at-
tendance at their regular meeting on
Wednesday evening and had a
candidates, after which a com-
mittee was appointed to prepare a
law suit to take place on the
this month on the bench of
C. T. Ham, at the justice's
son and Louise's organ. The
library has never had a more
pleasant time for all their
their motto, they will have
reputation on the bench of
thing will be delightful and
brothers and sisters will be
welcomed.

Under the "good and
the order" Bro. Lyons of
addressed the ladies and
facts that were presented to
then cordially invited all the
to join Div. 6 in their
Niagara Falls.

After the meeting, and while
was being enjoyed, Bro. Lyons
shown the library, and was
agreedly surprised to find a
collection of so fine a collection
looking over the books, he
church history, Irish history,
many other useful and
books, and said he
learned that we had started
work.

In a recent issue of the
gave this interesting
order of the Knights of
founded in West
"The Hibernian Rifles"
Rev. Michael J. Kelly
G. O'Connor, chairman
James T. Mullins, John
Daniel O'Leary and
Gary. It is a fine
vancoment of its
perfection of the
and the honorary
bers and their families.
feature is of the
society as a whole
of Ireland. It is
in Rochester, New
New York, and in
grows more mem-
the grand old
roll. Captain
bishops, and
the only
church in the
proved of it."

Twenty-seven candidates
the first degree, and
the second at the meeting
council Wednesday evening
Father Hickey, James
Edward J. Ryan, and
committee of the
death of Brother

At a meeting of the
of the Hibernian Rifles
to which the
Collins, and
Whelan, and
members of the
and a
the subject of
their time of
society.

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of the Hibernian Rifles
to which the
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