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DIFFERENCE OF OPINION

It is amusing to read the editorials in papers of different sorts anent the recent election. They all have a plausible explanation of why it happened or why it did not happen. The free silver papers are hailing the result in Ohio and New York as a great boon for the white metal. The sound money journals are contending now that this was only an off year any way and that next fall's congressional elections must be waited for.

The most amusing comments are to be read in the foreign press. The German and English papers seem to think that because Tammany hall will control New York politics for the next four years that we have committed political suicide. It must be confessed that much of this is due to the bigoted spirit displayed by certain American papers that are much read by the foreign journals. Such sheets as the Boston "Herald," the "Evening Post" and others of the same stripe paint members of Tammany Hall as thieves, blacklegs, thugs and loafers. Just what weight the voters of New York give the sayings of these papers is seen in the fact that nearly a quarter of a million voters cast their ballots for the Tammany nominees. That does not soften the criticisms of the Mugwump press. They have the assurance to tell the voters of the great metropolis that they did not know what they were about, and keep right on calling names. It might as well be said right here that Hugh J. Grant is an educated man, a wealthy gentleman, who did not make his money in politics and is in every way the peer of the misfit Irish-Anglomaniac who presides over the destinies of the "Evening Post" Thomas F. Gilroy, who has been as bitterly lampooned as any man who ever sat in the mayor's chair in New York, is a gentleman who would adorn any circle and who is a perfect Chesterfield in manners and deportment and quite able to go anywhere that the editor of the Boston "Herald" can.

It is undoubtedly true that many things that were wrong have been done by individual members of Tammany Hall. It is equally true that persons connected with other political parties and organizations have not always walked in the straight and narrow path. The mugwumps are continually pointing to Mayor Strong's administration as a triumph for their ideas, yet it has been a downright failure. The streets have been somewhat clean, but it has cost twice what Tammany spent for the same purpose. General Collis, who made an utter failure of the administration of the department of public works was a theoretical politician of the practical [illegible] that Senator Quay breeds in Philadelphia. So far as we can see the [illegible] will not compare even favorably with Tammany's administration of the city government.

But granted that Tammany was all that the mugwumps charge, the people have decided that they want Tammany again, and they are supposed to be better judges of what they want than even the holier-than-thou editors of the mugwump press.

We are also surprised to see the Catholic "New World" of Chicago holding up Henry George as a model. Undoubtedly Mr. George was personally a man of pure motives, but his ideas of political economy were contrary to those of the Catholic church. On the ground of detriment to faith and morals Catholics could not accept George's ideas. More than all, George sneered at Archbishop Corrigan and practically charged that he and his advisers were in league with political cliques for ulterior purposes. THE JOURNAL pointed out at that time that Catholics could not and would not support Henry George after such uncalled for remarks, and we believe that had he lived until election day Mr. George's vote would have vindicated our position.

Election results, however, prove that the solid voters pay little attention to partisan newspapers, mugwump or otherwise.

"FREAK" MARRIAGES

A few days ago the secular press chronicled the "marriage" of two foolish young people in a lions' cage in a Boston museum, just for the sake of notoriety and a few paltry dollars given by the museum managers for the sake of alluring fools to advertise their show. The contracting parties deserve the severest censure, but what shall be said of the minister, for the press dispatches say that a minister performed the ceremony, who so degraded his sacred calling as to be a party to such a sacrilegious proceeding? Is he fitted to minister to poor sinful humanity? Can his example be productive of higher and nobler thoughts? Could the congregation to which he is called to preside over have the respect they should have for their spiritual director? Needless to say, the minister in question was not a Catholic priest. He was a non-Catholic preacher, and to the credit of the denomination with which he is affiliated it has decided to dismiss him from its clergy. This fact shows that even the non-Catholics are aroused to the fact that the public is nauseated at the "freak" notions that have been introduced into church and pulpit by sensational preachers of the "Mad." Peters, "Tom" Dixon, et al. ilk. It is a good sign We earnestly hope that the public taste will soon frown down sensationalism of all sorts, including sensational journalism, sensational dramas and sensational preachers.

There is a serious phase to the freak marriage, if marriage it can be called at all, that we have just spoken of. Such occurrences do much to degrade and bring into contempt the marriage rite already so lightly regarded by our non-Catholic friends. They seem to look upon marriage as an experiment, a pleasant diversion, a passing fancy, as a cloak for many other breaches of decorum, instead of one of the most solemn ceremonies in the journey from the cradle to the grave. Such a thing as considering marriage as a sacrament does not enter their minds. If ever they heard the solemn words: "What God hath joined together let no man put asunder," they forget it right speedily and at the first tiff or difference of opinion the services of the ever-ready divorce lawyer is called into play, the courts are appealed to, family skeletons are aired in court, the marriage vows are sundered—and the parties try it all over again with new partners. Is it not disgusting to think of, even from a moral standpoint? When their parents set such an example is it any wonder that the young people of to-day have such loose ideas of morality?

It is a pity that the non-Catholic clergy has furnished one of the most powerful incentives to divorce court experiences. If they would refuse to perform the marriage rite for divorced parties who seek to remarry, there would be fewer divorces. But so long as they find ministers, so-called, who are not only willing but eager to marry people for a record or for a fat fee they will not shrink from the divorce court.

If the non Catholic clergymen could be brought to see that marriage is one of the most solemn and sacred institutions of civilization; when they will refuse to assist at its solemnization in sensational places and without due investigation and deliberation; when they refuse to sanction the rupture of its ties for the most trivial reasons, the divorce court will have received a deadly blow. Let them join with the Catholic church in proclaiming marriage a sacrament and there will be no need of agitation for uniform divorce laws.

A SOUND DECISION

Judge Pinney of the Supreme court of Wisconsin, in a lucid decision recently handed down, holds that masses for deceased testators are strictly in accordance with the religious freedom guaranteed by American law. In his decision Judge Pinney said: "We know of no legal reason why any person of the Catholic faith, believing in the efficiency of masses, may not make a direct gift or bequest to any bishop or priest of any sum out of his propetty or estate for masses for the repose of his soul or the souls of others."

The really remarkable thing, however, about this case, was the revelation it made of the generous impartiality of the testator whose will was impugned. Owen McHugh was his name—evidently a poor Irishman, who had by long and arduous toil amassed a little money. He left legacies to sundry relatives, then some money for masses for the repose of his own soul and those of members of his family, and finally a portion to the Protestant Episcopal bishop of his diocese, Fon du Lac, for the benefit of his church.

A NICE INSTITUTION

At last the A. P. A. stands forth in its true colors in Rochester. According to the testimony in a case tried in the local courts the lodges of the A. P. A. in this city furnish a first class place for married men to meet other men's wives and infuse into their minds what an awful institution the Catholic church is. The reports of the same trial also demonstrated that the politicians who were scared by A. P. A. threats would be frightened by their own shadows. One female apaist testifled that in her lodge there were about ten male members and sixty female members. Truly a powerful force in politics! Now that the order has been shown up in its true colors it is to be presumed there will not be any more interest in it or any attention paid to it by politicians. Mr. James Sargent is to be thanked for the involuntary insight he has furnished the public into the inner workings of this beautiful institution.

Next Thursday will be Thanksgiving day. There are no persons in the United States who have more reason to thank God for His manifold blessings than the Catholics. They are permitted to worship God without fear of persecution worthy the name. Their lot has been placed in the grandest country on the globe. They have been born in an age than which God's blessings were never more bountifully distributed. Then let us all join in a hearty thanksgiving to God for His mercies and blessings.

Cardinal Vaughan's paper, the London "Tablet," declares upon what it calls good authority, that the statement that from 600 to 700 converts per month are received into the Catholic church in England is under, instead of over, the truth. When this statement was first publicly made by Cardinal Vaughan it was ridiculed by certain Anglican and Protestant Episcopalian papers; but the Tablet insists that the figures are accurate enough, though it thinks they understate the actual number of conversions.

It looks as though "dollar gas" was a popular shibboleth in New York. It was one of the principal Tammany rallying cries.

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In view of the non-Catholic stock argument that the Jesuits are constantly conspiring in favor of monarchs in order to get the ear of the monarch and so run things as they please, it rather startles one to hear that in South America they have helped the natives to set up republics and cast off the yoke of Spain. This is seen in an article by M. Romero, the present Mexican minister to this country, in the "North American Review."

Referring to a biography of the famous General Miranda, by Dr. Becerra, of Caracas, he says: "I found in Dr. Becerra's book valuable information that had not come to my knowledge before, about the work done in Europe in the latter part of the eighteenth century by native Americans and Spanish Jesuits, whom the father of the then reigning king of Spain had previously expelled from his dominions in America, to establish the independence of the Spanish colonies on this continent."

All the non Catholic ministers are not bigots; at least one would so judge from the published reports of their sermons. Here is an extract in point from a sermon recently delivered by Rev. Dr. Barrows of Chicago: "Protestant bigotry is more offensive than Catholic bigotry, and deplorable in deed are the ignorant and violent criticisms of the whole Catholic church made in Germaay, Great Britain and America by persons who have never read a single authoritative exposition of Catholic doctrine. It is refreshing to learn that the last anti-Catholic crusade in America, which deceived so many ignorant and credulous people by its gross literary frauds, which exacted oaths which ought to have blistered the lips of the Americans who took them and which pursued a policy which brought Protestantism itself into disrepute, deepening antagonism, lessing our influence over our Catholic friends and stirring just resentments in their minds, has been made to give up its moral insanity and increasing prevalence in power."

This may or may not be true, but it is a good story: "A woman's rights orator in London denied that public business led to neglect of home duties, and requested any man in the audince who had suffered from this cause to stand up. One man arose, and he was her husband,

THE GOSPELS.

GOSPEL: St. Matthew xiv., 15–35: At that time, Jesus said to His disciples: "When therefore you see the abomination of desolation, which was spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place, he that readeth let him understand. Then they that are in Judea, let them flee to the mountains. And he that is on the house-top, let him not come down to take anything out of his house. And he that is in the field, let him not go back to take his coat. And woe to them that are with child, and that give suck in those days. But pray that your flight be not in the winter, or on the Sabbath. For there shall be great tribulation, such as hath not been from the beginning of the world until now, neither shall be. And unless those days had been shortened, no flesh should be saved; but for the sake of the elect those days shall be shortened. Then if any man shall say to you: Lo, here is the Christ, or there, do not believe him. For there shall arise false Christs and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders, in so much as to deceive (if possible) even the elect. Behold I have told you beforehand. If therefore they shall say to you: Behold, He is in the desert, go ye not out; behold He is in the closets, believe it not. For as lightning cometh out of the East, and appeareth even unto the West, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Wheresoever the body shall be, there shall the eagles also be gathered together. And immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven. and the powers of heaven shall be moved. And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven; and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn: and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with much power and majesty. And He shall send His angels with a trumpet, and a great voice; and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest parts of the heavens to the utmost bounds of them. And from the fig tree learn a parable: when the branch thereof is now tender, and the leaves come forth, you know that summer is nigh. So you also, when you shall see all these things, know ye that it is nigh, even at the doors. Amen, I say to you, that this generation shall not pass till all these things be done. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass."

In regard to Christians, Christ spoke of that abomination which will be caused by all sorts of crimes, and which, like a mighty torrent, will overflow the earth in the days of Antichrist, who will appear at the end of the world.

Weekly Church Calendar.

Sunday, November 21—Twenty-fourth and last Sunday after Pentecost. Patronage of the B. V. M. Less. Ecclus. xxiv. 14-16; Gosp. Luke xi. 27-28; Last Gosp, Matt. xxiv. 15-35.
Monday 22—St. Cecilia, virgin and martyr.
Tuesday, 23—St. Clement, Pope and martyr. St. Felicitus, martyr.
Wednesday, 24—St. John of the Cross, confessor. St Chrysogonus, martyr.
Thursday, 25—St. Catherine, virgin and martyr.
Friday, 26—St. Silvester, Abbott. St. Peter of Alexandria, Bishop and martyr.
Saturday, 27—Feria.

NEW BOOKS.

Catholics have no longer reason to complain of a want of pretty books at reasonable prices, for Benziger Bros. have just issued two delightful little tales, entitled "Aser the Shepherd," and "Bezaleel." Each has a beautiful illustrated cover and a lovely frontispiece, and they sell for the remarkably low price of 35 cents each, postage 4 cts. extra. The stories themselves are exquisite, and place the author, Miss Taggart, in the front rank of American writers.

"Aser the Shepherd," who tells this story, is the five year old son of a shepherd who is in charge of the Temple flocks and is one of those to whom the angels brought the "good tidings of great joy." When the father and his brother shepherds hastened to pay homage to the new-born Lord the little child of five accompanied them, and he alone was privileged to kiss the hand of the Divine Infant. It is not our purpose to give the story in detail; suffice it that it shows a thorough acquaintance with the manners of the Jewish people at the time of our Lord, is told in a delightfully quaint way, and is exquisitely tender.

"Bezaleel" is the story of a young man who, as we read in St. Matthew, asked Our Lord what he should do that he might have life everlasting. The author traces his life from early manhood to the end introducing, incidently, many historical personages and describing much that is interesting of the customs of the Jewish people. The interest is sustained from first to last, and the work is beautifully done. The price of each is 35 cents net, postage 4 cts. extra.

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Strange Happenings.

An unusual sight was witnessed at Cranbrook, in Kent, England, the other day. A swarm of bees settled on a post letter box, and soon afterward a second swarm located themselves inside the box, the whole colony following the queen through the aperture provided for letters. Every preparation was made for the capture of the swarm upon the arrival of the rural postman to clear the letters; but, owing to the awkward position of the winged visitors, it was found impossible to hive the bees until night, when they were smoked and safely housed. Owing to this unusual incident, the letters posted before the bees took possession of the pillar box were delayed for several hours.

Uses of Bamboo.

Bamboo is of universal use in China. The windows are delicate lattice work of bamboo, and the furniture is of slender bamboo, bent and curled and plaited. The water bucket is a good big stalk, sawed off just below the joint and made as deep as is needed above it. For a bottle a slender piece is taken and treated in the same way. If, in the confusion of building, a knife is mislaid a good sharp edge of a bamboo is taken, and it does just as well for everything, except cutting bamboo, as if it were sheffield steel. While building hunger is kept off by cutting the little tender shoots just as they peep from the ground and cooking them like asparagus.

Love and Magnolia.

South American lovers have a pretty custom. It is well known that when the petals of the great laurel magnolia are touched, however lightly, the result is a brown spot, which develops in a few hours. The fact is taken advantage of by the lover, who pulls a magnolia flower and on one of its pure white petals writes a motto or message with a hard, sharp pointed pencil. Then he sends the flower, the young lady puts it in a vase of water and in three or four hours the message written on the leaf becomes visible.

Advertising Enterprise.

The palm for enterprise in advertising will, without a doubt, be conceded to belong to a Dutch company, which has made a contract with a well known European actor, Francois Rivoli, that compels him every evening, wherever he may be, to include in his own repertoire a representation of the head of the firm who is to be mimicked exactly by the actor. In exchange for this service the firm supplies the necessary scenery and pays the actor a yearly income of 1,200 Dutch guilden

THE SACRED SCAPULAR.

It Is the Livery of the Mother of God and a Badge of Holy Distinction.

Suppose that some one who signalizes himself in the defense of his country is honored by that country with some badge of distinction, will such a person cast aside his honors contemptuously? Should not the piece of brown cloth made in the form of a scapular and entitling us to special blessing be worn with respect?

It may be held that wearing the scapular is simply a bit of superstition. Granted, if we attribute any power to the material object, the bit of cloth But we do justly attribute great power to the Mother of God, in whose honor scapulars are worn. Mary herself, when in 1257 she appeared to St. Simon Stock of England, assured him that those wearing scapulars with honor and devotion would never be punished with eternal torment. Surely the mother of the Saviour has the power of putting her promise in execution. The wearer, however, must hold the badge with veneration and endeavor to lead a life of rectitude. It will not do to expect protection through the scapular unless there is a corresponding stamp of her approval.

Since the advantages are great and the requirements few the badge of the Blessed Virgin should be worn with respect as a garment of protection just as one wears the insignia of office of privilege, placing trust in the protective power of the Mother of God. All Catholics should be careful not to neglect to avail themselves of the simple means of grace by enrollment among those who desire the aid of Mary against the temptations of life and in the struggles of the hour of death.—Rev. Father Walshe.

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