

The Catholic Journal

The Only Catholic Newspaper Published in the Diocese.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY AT 94 1/2 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...

SUBSCRIPTION RATES Year, in Advance \$1.00 Entered as second class mail matter.

SATURDAY, NOV. 20 1897.

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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 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.

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.

There 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.

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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.

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 their show.

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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.

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.

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marry people for a record or for a fat fee they will not shrink from the divorce court.

If the non-Catholic clergy 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.

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 property 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.

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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.

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."

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 audience 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. Whosoever 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. Eclus. 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. Felicitas, 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—Feira.

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 newborn 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, incidentally, 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.

THE SACRED SCAPULAR.

It is the Livory of the Mother of God and a Badge of Holy Dignification. Suppose that some one who signifies 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 1267 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 Walsh.

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