

**The Catholic Journal**

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Published in the Diocese.

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**THE DECEPTIVE MUGWUMPS**

The Rochester "Herald" is hard to  
please. On Tuesday of last week one  
of the local papers published an inter-  
view with Assemblyman W. W. Arm-  
strong on the question of caucus re-  
form, in which the assemblyman thus  
outlined a suggestion on the subject  
by a Rochesterian:

"It would be a good scheme to  
have the inspectors of election, when  
they sit as registry boards, ask each  
voter who registers if he wishes to par-  
ticipate in his party primaries the en-  
suing year. If he answers in the af-  
firmative, the inspector can then ask  
what party he expects to vote with,  
and so record him. When the next  
year rolled around and the party cau-  
suses are called these poll lists could  
be brought into requisition and no  
person be allowed to vote whose name  
did not appear thereon."

The "Herald" excepts to the sug-  
gestion, as it has a perfect right to,  
but the grounds for its exceptions are  
neither forcible nor logical. Our  
contemporary says:

"In the first place, such a plan  
would to a great extent do away with  
the secrecy of the ballot, which is  
justly regarded as the national bul-  
wark against unlimited corruption at  
the polls. Besides, a man should not  
be called upon a whole year in ad-  
vance to announce with what party  
he is going to vote. The assump-  
tion that a man is a republican  
or a democrat for life, through good  
and evil, without regard to men or  
issues, is at the base of all that is bad  
in the political machine."

We fail to see where the plan pro-  
posed by Assemblyman Armstrong's  
friend would "do away with the sec-  
recy of the ballot. The voter is not  
called upon to indicate with what  
party he intends to vote, neither is he  
obliged to vote with any particular  
party if he does so. He can vote for  
any party or candidate he chooses,  
but he cannot vote at the caucuses of  
more than one political party—and  
that the one in which he enrolled  
when he registered the year previously.  
As we understand the situation, one  
of the crying evils of our present cau-  
sus system—from the reformer and  
mugwump standpoint—is that cer-  
tain cliques of politicians control the  
caucuses of both the great political  
parties by causing heelers to vote in  
one or the other or in both party pri-  
maries, as their bosses decide. It is  
patent that this could not continue  
were the Armstrong plan in vogue.  
Voters could vote only in one party  
caucus. That would certainly be a  
gain from a reform standpoint.

The Herald's objection that a man  
cannot be expected to be a republican  
or a democrat all his life is a silly one.  
No one outside of an insane asylum  
will vote always with one party. Mr.  
Armstrong's suggestion would not  
prevent a man voting as he pleased.

It would simply prevent him from  
posing both as a republican and a  
democrat at one and the same time,  
blowing hot and cold for revenue di-  
rectly or indirectly.

Why don't the mugwumps come  
out in the open and advocate what  
they really think would be the proper  
method of procedure—allow no one  
to vote at the caucuses except those  
who are taxed on say \$10,000 worth  
of property or possess certain educa-  
tional qualifications, say a Regent's  
academic certificate or a diploma  
from a college or a university?

**OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

The "Burchard of Washington,"  
Rev. Hugh Johnston, seems ag-  
grieved that Catholics do not send  
their children to the state schools.  
Mr. Johnston and all his ilk are un-  
reasonable in such objections. In the  
first place, Catholic schools instruct in  
all the useful branches of sound Eng-  
lish education. In the second place,  
they are more economical, costing no  
more than one-third the expense of  
supporting state schools; and com-  
manding at the lowest possible price,  
merely food and clothing, one of the  
most expensive necessities of the age  
and country—skilled and brained in-  
tellectual labor. In the third place,  
their teachers are devoted to their  
work of teaching as a life work; study  
every day, and waste no time in idle  
visits and foolish amusements. In  
the fourth place, these teachers are in  
sympathy with the religious faith of  
the patrons of their schools. In the  
fifth place, parental or Catholic  
schools alone will stand the test of  
logic; they are consonant to sound  
democratic-republican doctrines; they  
make possible the inculcation of  
morality by the authority of a divine  
Lawgiver; they respect the natural  
rights of parents and meddle with and  
infringe on no one else's rights.

As a noted upholder of parental  
schools has said:

"They are a necessity demanded  
by the circumstances of the times,  
and the demoralized condition of the  
country, as well as for the future wel-  
fare of the Republic. It is our com-  
mon country, belonging not to one  
man more than to another. He is the  
best citizen, no matter where he was  
born, who loves it most and labors in  
his sphere of life, according to his  
ability, with purest motives, for the  
honor and prosperity of the Union.  
He would be a renegade and base  
traitor of his country who, believing  
that morality on a religious founda-  
tion was essential to the safety and  
continuance of the government should  
consent to withhold from children all  
possible means of growth in sound  
moral principles and conduct."

**COADJUTOR FOR BP MULLEN**

It has been announced that Very  
Rev. John E. Fitzmaurice, D. D.,  
rector and professor of homiletics of  
the Seminary of St. Charles Borromeo,  
Overbrook, has been appointed  
by the Holy See as coadjutor, with  
right of succession, to Bishop Mullen,  
of the diocese of Erie. He was or-  
dained priest by Bishop Wood in  
1862 and has been rector of St. Charles  
for the last eleven years, having been  
appointed by Archbishop Ryan. He  
received his degree of doctor of di-  
vinity from Georgetown university on  
the occasion of the latter's centenary.  
The coadjutor bishop elect comes of  
a family which has given many mem-  
bers to the cause of religion. Revs.  
James J. Fitzmaurice of St. Mi-  
chael's; Francis P. of St. Joachim's,  
Frankford, and Edmund W., of St.  
Gabriel's, Hazleton, are brothers. Two  
uncles in Ireland are priests, one of  
whom was nominated for Bishop of  
Kerry when Dr. Morianity was se-  
lected. He also has an aunt in Ire-  
land who is a Presentation nun. One  
other brother, a layman, resides in  
Ireland.

The latest statistics furnish the fol-  
lowing particulars regarding the dioc-  
ese of Erie: Priests, 97; churches  
and missions with churches, 123;  
stations, 33, ecclesiastical students,  
16; one seminary of religious order  
with 79 students; academies for young  
ladies, 8; parochial schools, 40; pu-  
pils in both, 8,022; orphans in the  
one asylum, 164; hospitals, 2, and  
one home for the aged. Catholic popu-  
lation, 65,000.

The sensational press had a rare  
tidbit for a few hours last week and it  
is not yet certain that some of them  
credit the yarn still. It was to the  
effect that the real reason why  
Hannis Taylor did not lecture before  
the Catholic University on Cuba was  
that the Spanish minister at Wash-  
ington invoked the successful inter-  
vention of Archbishop Martinelli.  
The fact of the matter was that Mr.  
Taylor was unable, on account of an  
acute bronchial trouble, to lecture,  
and hence canceled his engagement.  
In any event Delegate Martinelli is  
not the head of the university, and  
was not the one to whom the Spanish  
minister would appeal. That part of  
the story was made up out of whole  
cloth.

President McKinley is said to be  
terribly cut up over the bigoted ser-  
mon of Rev. Hugh Johnston on  
Thanksgiving day in the Washington  
church which the president attends  
and which THE JOURNAL commented  
on last week. We should think he  
would be, especially since the event  
occurred almost coincident with the  
announcement that the president  
would appoint Attorney-General  
McKenna to succeed Justice Field  
on the United States Supreme  
court bench. The reverend rater  
says he had no intention, of  
indirectly assailing Mr. McKenna,  
but we have our doubts, although we  
really do not care if he did. What  
we do object to is his wholesale vilifi-  
cation of the Catholic population of  
the United States.

Bishop McDonnell of Brooklyn evi-  
dently intends that in his diocese  
Pope Leo XIII's wishes that the close  
of the present century shall be marked  
by special devotions in the Catholic  
world. The Brooklyn prelate has  
notified his pastors to refrain from  
having missions or retreats in their  
parishes during 1898, in order that  
their flocks may the more eagerly  
enter into the spirit of the missions  
which he wishes every church in his  
jurisdiction to hold the year after-  
that. It may be noted that Mon-  
signor McDonnell evidently con-  
siders that the next century will be-  
gin in 1900, not in 1901, as some  
folks contend.

The day on which we commemorate  
Christ's birth on earth, when he left  
His home in the starry heavens to  
take upon Himself the sufferings of  
sinful humanity in order that you and  
I, dear reader, might be saved. How  
have we appreciated His condescen-  
sion? Have we lived such lives as  
He would approve? If not, now is  
a good time to begin. Let the com-  
ing Christmas find us ready to greet  
Christ as He would have us be.

"Kid" Hall has been found guilty  
of extortion by a jury of his peers and  
will receive his sentence to-day.  
Judge Sutherland is to be highly com-  
mended on his course in deciding to  
hold the Hall case behind closed  
doors. There is no earthly reason  
why morbid curiosity seekers should  
be permitted to gloat over disgusting  
evidence either in person in the court  
room or through the columns of the  
press.

Chinamen who want to obtain free  
passage to their own land these days  
just skip across to Canada, get them-  
selves smuggled back over the line, a  
deputy United States marshal places  
them under arrest, they are ordered  
deported by the federal judge and  
Uncle Sam pays all further expenses  
until they are landed back safe on  
Chinese soil. It's a great scheme.

It is too bad that when three or  
four parties are indicted for the same  
offense they cannot be tried at the  
same time and the public spared the  
nauseating details more than once.

A few days more and another year  
will have departed into eternity. We  
cannot recall it. Has it been a  
twelvemonth of spiritual happiness?  
Or would you wish to live it over  
again and differently?

When you are in need of job print-  
ing of any kind leave your order at the  
CATHOLIC JOURNAL office, 324 1/2 East  
Main street.

**THE GOSPELS**

GOSPEL: St. John i. 19-28—At  
that time: "The Jews sent from Jeru-  
salem priests and levites to John, to  
ask him: Who art thou? And he con-  
fessed and did not deny; and he con-  
fessed: I am not the Christ. And  
they asked him: What then? Art  
thou Elias? And he said: I am not.  
Art thou the prophet? And he an-  
swered: No. They said therefore  
unto him: What art thou, that we may  
give an answer to them that sent us?  
What sayest thou of thyself? He  
said: I am the voice of one crying in  
the wilderness: Make straight the  
way of the Lord, as said the prophet  
Isaiah. And they that were sent were  
of the Pharisees. And they asked  
him, and said to him: Why then dost  
thou baptize, if thou be not Christ,  
nor Elias, nor the prophet? John  
answered them, saying: I baptize with  
water, but the reprob stood One in the  
midst of you Whom you know not.  
The same is He that shall come after  
me, Who is preferred before me: the  
latchet of Whose shoe I am not worthy  
to loose. These things were done in  
Bethania beyond the Jordan, where  
John was baptizing."

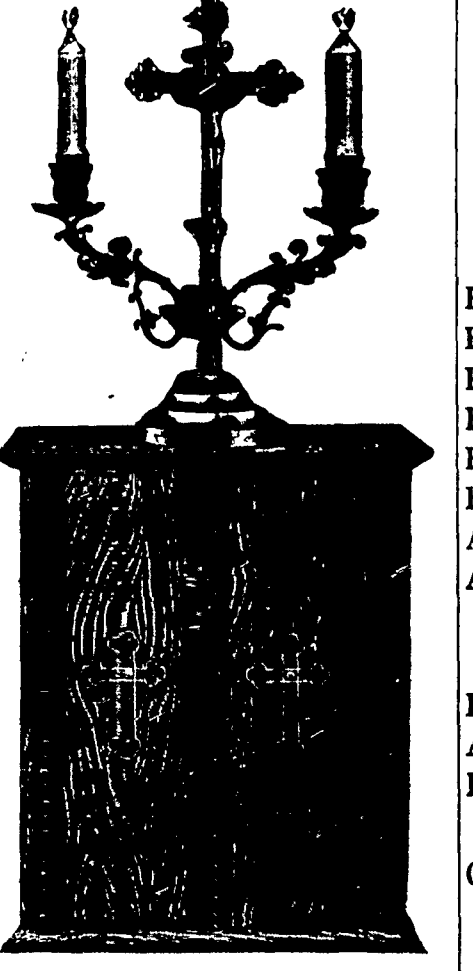
We should consider what our own  
answer will be when, like St. John,  
we are asked: "Who art thou?"  
Grant, O Lord, that we may be able  
to answer when the time comes: "We  
are Christians." Lastly, let us apply  
to ourselves these words: "Make  
straight the path of the Lord." Let  
us make every effort to prepare for  
the spiritual new-birth of Jesus Christ  
in our souls.

**Weekly Church Calendar.**

Sunday, Dec. 12—Third Sunday in Advent.  
Epist. Phil. iv. 4-7. Gosp. John i. 19-28.  
Monday, 13—St. Lucy, virgin and martyr.  
Tuesday, 14—Of the Octave.  
Wednesday, 15—Octave of the Immacu-  
late Conception. Ember day. Fast.  
Thursday, 16—St. Eusebius, Bishop and  
martyr.  
Friday, 17—Ember day. Fast.  
Saturday, 18—Expectation of the B. V. M.  
Ember day. Fast.

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Diamond Studs ..... 4.00 to 49  
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Watches ..... 5.00 to 45  
Cuff Buttons ..... 75 to 3  
Earrings ..... 1.00 to 3  
Diamond Earrings ..... 3.00 to 35  
Don't delay. Pick them out now and  
remember your credit is good with us.  
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accommodate those that cannot come  
during the day.  
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- 88c.**

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To-day's announcement pertains to 250 dozen Handsomely  
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  - Russian Seal Collarettes, fancy silk lining ..... 5.50
  - French Seal, Astrakhan yoke, fancy lining ..... 6.50
  - French Seal, Astrakhan yoke, ten fur tails ..... 7.25
  - Best XXX Electric Seal, Persian yoke ..... \$9 to 20.00
  - Best XXX Electric Seal, Krimmer yoke ..... \$9 to 20.00
  - Alaska Sable, Persian yoke and beads, fancy lining ..... 20.00
  - Alaska Sable, Electric yoke, fancy lining ..... 15.00

- Capes.**
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