DIOCESAN NEWS.

What Our Friends in the Surrounding Parishes Are Doing.

From Our Special Correspondents.

(Continued from 7th page.)

TO CORRESPONDENTS

Correspondents will please bear in mind that all communications should be received at this office not later than Wednesday morning.

Ithaca.

Neil Mooney of New York is visiting friends in the city.

Rev. J. J. Kelly was in Rochester during the early part of the week.

Miss Mamie McAllister of South Aurora street entertained a number of friends last Monday afternoon, the occasion being her birthday.

Miss Katherine McManus has returned from Aurora, where she attended the funeral of her uncle, Andrew Neville, last week.

Drs Conway and Hughes of Auburn visited friends here last week.

One day last week while hunting near Brookton, John Blodgett, jr., accidentally discharged his gun, and the bullet passed through his right arm. He was immediately brought to Brookton, where he received medical attention. It was found that the shot just grazed the bone. He was brought home and is now in a fair way to recover rapidly.

Mrs. John Lynch of 69 Willow avenue met with quite a serious accident last Thursday. In attempting to fix the fire she burned her arm quite badly from the elbow to the wrist. This is quite unfortunate for Mrs. Lynch, as her husband is confined to the house with a stroke of paralysis.

Caledonia.

On Sunday morning occurred the death of Mrs. McQuillan aged 88 years, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. John Callan. The deceased had been an invalid for 20 years. She leaves three sons, as follows: Thomas McQuillan of Wheatland Bernard of Logan, Ia., and Patrick of this village. The funeral was held on Tuesday; interment at St. Columba's cemetery.

Patrick Murray of Kansas is spending some time with his sister, Mrs. Patrick Connor, whom he has not seen before in 28 years.

On Wednesday evening, Dec. 1st, at St. Columba's parsonage, occurred the marriage of Mr. Fred Heiffer and Miss Bertha Taffe.

Mrs. J. H. Martin and daughter Frances, of Dunkirk, spent the past week with Mrs. Mathew Martin.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Jopp spent Sunday with friends in Avon.

Newark

Mrs. B. C. Williams spent Tuesday with her son George, in Rochester, who is studying law with Mr. Greene of that place.

Miss Stella Shirtz, has a position in Harvey's confectionary store.

Mrs. J. McCarthy, having spent several months at her father's, Mr. P. Walsh, returned to her home in Helena, Montana, last week

Miss Emma Genthner spent Wednesday with Rochester friends.

Mrs. W. A. Roe will attend the wedding of her brother Bert Coleman, of Sodus Centre, and Miss Ott of New York, next month.

Rev. D. W. Kavanaugh has returned from Colorado. His parishioners are pleased to hear his health is improved.

Miss Mamie Roe attended the party at Sodus Centre, Thursday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Hotchkiss of Cortland, are spending the winter here with relatives.

Miss Hill of Stanley is visiting West Miller street friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Peirson have moved into town for the winter. Mr. Peirson is assisting his father-in-law, S. D. Smith, in his grocery store.

Miss Johnson has a position in Mr. Greenwood's law office as copyist.

The Military Band Fair was a success. The entertainments were given under the management of Dr. Mills each evening. About $800 was cleared.

Mr. Wilcox and family will move to Dispatch in a few weeks.

F. C. Wickham of Sodus Point, was in town Tuesday.

L. H. Wheat has a position in Sandusky, Ohio, Mrs. Wheat expects to go there soon.

Seneca Falls.

The funeral of Bernard Devlin was held at St. Patrick's church Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Rev. Father Dwyer officiated.

Mrs. Michael Carraher died at her home on Ovid street, Tuesday afternoon at 4 o'clock. Deceased is a member of the L. C. B. A. Branch 80. The cause of her death was peritonitis. She is survived by two sons and two daughters.

Two masses were said at St. Patrick's church Wednesday in honor of the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Palmyra.

Miss Anna Ryan spent Sunday with Miss Lula Engel of Lyons.

Lawrence Kelley of Newark was in town Saturday.

Miss Annie Walsh of Rochester is spending a few days with Mrs. Eddy Parker.

D. Cavanaugh of Rochester is in town organizing a branch of the C. R. & B. A.

T. B. Griffin was in Rochester Tuesday on business.

Weedsport.

James Bolway of Syracuse was in town Sunday, visiting friends.

William Deneen of Jordan was in town Saturday.

Frank Cort of Memphis spent a few days last week visiting friends and relatives in this village.

William Clossey of Buffalo was the guest of Miss Kittie Wesley.

Henry Burns and Philip Cline of Jordan were in town Sunday.

THE SUICIDE.

[Written for the CATHOLIC JOURNAL.]

Who is the suicide? Wherefore ye ask:
Who in the sun of prosperity bask.
Little ye care—'tis forgot in a breath—
Only an outcast gone to her death.
Months had she wandered through the great city,
Hopeless, disconsolate, seeking for pity.
Man's inhumanity, down to the water
Drove that poor erring one—somebody's daughter.

When from the pier she leaped, none saw her quiver—
None heard that gasp of fear, hushed by the river,
And that repentant cry—is it forgot?
Praying that mercy which man giveth not?
And ye who scorned her plea—turned from her moan,
What though a soul be lost? 'tis not your own.
Women, your sister erred; where was the aid
Given to help that poor, weak, sinful maid?
Spoke ye a kindly word? took ye her arm?
Nay, 'twould contaminate—shrink in alarm!
Proud in the virtue that ne'er has been tried,
Well may ye shrink from her, strong in your pride.
But she was your sister, and from her ye turned,
Denying the pity for which the soul yearned.
Her heart ceased to beat when ye pity denied
Ye murdered her! Yes, she was no suicide.

LEO A. MCSWEENEY.

PATRONESS OF THE UNITED STATES

Catholic Belief in Mary's Immaculate Conception

One of the favorite arguments of those individuals who dispute the divinity of the Catholic church is the accusation that she teaches to-day other doctrines than those which were known to and accepted by the early Christians; and among such new doctrines they usually assign a prominent place to the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin, whose feast under that title the whole church celebrated Wednesday.

While it is true, of course, that belief in the Immaculate Conception did not become an article of Catholic faith until the time of the definition of the dogma by Pius IX, in 1854, it is equally true that from the earliest Christian ages that belief was universally held by the faithful. Even were authentic early declarations in that belief lacking—which is far from being the case—that fact would not militate against popular faith in the Immaculate Conception; but would simply argue, in view of the character of the belief itself, that such faith was so general, so universal, that nobody dreamt of doubting it, and nobody, in consequence, felt called upon to proclaim or defend it.

But early declarations of Christian faith in the Immaculate Conception are not lacking. There are a few of such testimonies. The Epistle of the priests of Achaia, describing the martyrdom of St. Andrew the Apostle—the original Greek copy of which was found some years in the Bologna library—makes that martyr, an Apostle, declare to the proconsul who condemned him to death: "Because the first man had been created of an immaculate earth, it was necessary that the perfect Man should be born of an Immaculate Virgin, in order that the Son of God, who had previously formed man, should restore the eternal life which they had lost in Adam." There is testimony that takes us back to the very origin of the church, and shows that the Apostles themselves firmly believed in the dogma which it was reserved for Pius IX. to define.

Coming down to the third century, we have St. Dionysius of Alexandria declaring Mary "sealed by the Holy Ghost, and ever protected by the power of the Most High, preserved without corruption and blessed from head to foot," in a letter written against a dissenting bishop of Antioch, St. Ephrem, in the following century, in a sermon on the Mother of God, calls her "immaculate, all pure, exempt from stain." St. Augustine, in the fifth age, arguing against the Pelagians, asserts that "All are children of wrath except the Blessed Virgin, concerning whom, for God's honor, I wish there to be no question when sin is treated of; for we know that more grace for overcoming sin in every point was conferred upon her, by her meriting to conceive and bear Him who evidently had no sin." Skip six centuries now and come down to St. Peter Damian, and he tells us, in a sermon on the Assumption: "The flesh of the Virgin, assumed from Adam, bore none of Adam's stains;" and in the next centuries we have the abundant testimonies to the Immaculate Conception by St. Bernard and St. Bonaventure; all of which evidences amply show that faith in the dogma was universal in the church from its very beginning and long before the dogma was authoritatively defined.

Turn now to the councils of the church, and as early as 1459 we have the one held at Avignon and presided over by Cardinal Peter de Foix, confirming the decision made by the irregularly-held council of Basle, in 1439, that belief in the Immaculate Conception of Mary was in conformity with the worship of the church, Catholic faith and right reason, and setting apart Dec. 8 as the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Among the Popes who defended this dogma, without, however, defining it, was Sixtus IV, who, in 1476, granted special indulgences to those who kept the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Dec. 8; and who, in 1483, condemned those who called the observance of that feast sinful or who declared it heresy to believe that God's Mother was exempted from original sin. Pius V., in a bull dated 1566, confirmed these constitutions of his predecessor, and after him Paul V., and Alexander VII., both of the 17th century; and Gregory XVI., in the present age, in many ways favored the popular belief and enriched the feast of the Immaculate Conception with ampler indulgences than before attached to it.

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception was kept in the East as early as the Twelfth century. England is believed to be the first land in the West to keep it, very soon after the observance of it in the East; and before the middle of the Fourteenth century its celebration in the Roman church was general. Clement VIII., in the beginning of the Seventeenth century made the feast a greater double; Clement XI. made it a holiday of obligation in the following century; Pius IX gave the feast its present title, and Leo XIII made it a double of the first class. Finally, eight years before the definition of the dogma, the Fathers of the Sixth Baltimore council, which met in 1846, declared their belief in the dogma by solemnly choosing the Blessed Virgin, conceived without sin, the patroness of the United States.—[Columbian.

The Beautiful Snow

Reminds one that the coal bin is rather low. If you are in need of any coal try an order with L. C. Langie. Yards at North street, South Clinton street, and main office 337 East Main street.

Try Our Lehigh Valley Coal.

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