

CITY PARISH NEWS.

Interesting Budget of Happenings Gathered by Our City Reporters

ST BRIDGET'S

Monsignor McGinnis paid a brief visit to Father Hendrick before returning to Boston. He was presented with a fine automatic reel by Mr. P. H. Yawman.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Shiel of Ward street are enjoying an outing at Ontario Beach.

Mrs. J. O'Connor of Hand street has recovered from her recent illness and will spend the remainder of the summer at Hemlock lake, accompanied by her mother Mrs. James Rock.

Miss Louise McKearney, Miss Lucy Fitzgerald, Miss M. C. Hogan and Miss S. R. Quinn will leave for Cliff Haven, Lake Champlain, Saturday morning of this week, to remain at the Summer School for two weeks.

Mrs. J. Desmond and little daughter are spending a few weeks at the lake.

The altar boys and graduates of class of '98 wish to extend a vote of thanks to Rev. Father Hendrick for their outing at Rigney's Bluff. Through his kindness they spent two weeks in an enjoyable manner. They came home well browned after their camp life and report many favors received.

The students of St. Andrew's Seminary are camping at the Bluff this week, chaperoned by Edward Dwyer of St. Bridget's.

We learn from the Erie Dispatch that over six thousand members of the L. C. B. A. organization attended the re-union at Erie last week Tuesday. Mrs. K. J. Dowling, Supreme Auditor, extended greetings in behalf of the Rochester sisters.

The Misses Mary A. Maloney and Florence O. Mullen are gone for a week's outing at the L. N. I. cottage. Birds and Worms, Irondequoit Bay.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Mr. and Mrs. M. J. McMahon of Plymouth avenue visited points of interest in New York the past week. Among these were St. Patrick's Cathedral, one of the finest structures there. Steeples and towers without number rise heavenward from its roof. Inside, altars are stationed all along the sides of the church besides the high altar being up in front. The chancel is about as large as our home church. Snuffboxes are kneeling by the hundreds and many strangers are passing through, protestants as well as Catholics, all eager to see the magnificent edifice. We visited Central Park with its natural stone formations, its little lakes with floating gondolas also its menagerie. We looked in merely at the Metropolitan Museum of Fine Arts. If you stayed a life time you would not comprehend it. The scenes depicted in the paintings are simply grand.

Patrick H. Quinn of 137 Jefferson avenue, died at his late residence on Monday, aged 62 years.

Deceased is survived by five daughters and four sons. The funeral was held from the house Wednesday morning at 9.30, and from the church at 10 o'clock.

Miss Josephine and Anna Quinn of Atkinson street, are visiting relatives in Ogdensburg.

Miss Lois Smith of Spencer street, returned this week from an extended visit in Avon.

Miss Helen Rielly of Tremont street, is visiting friends in Auburn.

A number of boys of the class of '98 are camping at Rigney's Bluff.

Misses Margaret and Kathryn Wallace of Denver, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Barnes and their little daughter Hilda of Glasgow street, started this week for Atlantic City.

Miss Lois Dowling of Tremont street, is visiting relatives in Erie, Penn.

There was a mass said in this church Wednesday for the souls in purgatory.

The "Manila Cycle Club" was formed this week with the following officers: Miss Blanch Ryan, president; Miss May Minges, vice-president; Miss Gertrude Reddington, secretary; and Miss Mary Donnelly, treasurer. The club is composed of twenty young ladies for the sole purpose of social enjoyment.

Wednesday of last week was spent picnicking at Glen Haven by a number of young ladies of this parish.

ST. PETER AND PAUL.

A trolley party was given by the alumnae of St. Peter and Paul's school Wednesday evening. Supper was served at the Wirtz hotel. The table decorations in cut flowers were very elaborate. After supper the members enjoyed dancing until time to return. The arrangements were in the hands of W. E. Andrews, president of the society.

The choir of St. Peter and Paul's church on Maple street held its annual outing at Bay View Thursday. One hundred persons were present.

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CATHEDRAL.

Mrs. Margaret M. Williamson, aged 73 years, died Sunday at the residence of her brother, Richard Whalen, 73 Frank street. The deceased was a life-long resident of Rochester and had attended St. Patrick's church ever since it was instituted. She was a woman of truly Christian qualities and possessed a loveable character that endeared her to all who had the favor of her acquaintance. She was the widow of Richard Williamson, a well known carpenter contractor, who died several years ago. Since her husband's death Mrs. Williamson resided with her brother, who survives her, together with an adopted daughter, Miss Kate Williamson, and several nieces and nephews. Included among the latter is Commissioner James L. Whalen of the Executive Board. The funeral was held Wednesday morning at 8:45 from the house and at 9 o'clock at the cathedral.

William M. F. Williams and Miss Catherine F. Johnson, both of Rochester, were united in marriage Saturday morning last at St. Patrick's cathedral by the pastor, Rev. Father Hickey. The bridesmaid was Miss Gwendolin Dick, a niece of the bride, and the best man was William J. Creagan. The altar and sanctuary were elaborately decorated with flowers and palms. After the marriage service a wedding breakfast was served at the home of the bride. After a trip to the Thousand Islands Mr. and Mrs. Williams will be at home after September 1st at 47 avenue B.

Mary J., daughter of John and Ann Ryan, died on Monday morning at the family residence, 20 Clark street, aged 26 years. The funeral services were held at Lady Chapel on Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock. The sympathy of a large circle of friends is extended to the bereaved family.

Among the floral offerings were a cross from William Weiss, wreath, Miss Lulu Haungs, carnations, Miss Theresa Hartle, pillow, Mr. and Mrs. Willard Ford, basket, employee of fitting room of Todd & Bancroft. The pall bearers were Charles McGarity, James Maher, William Hartle, Joseph Deleahanty, John Quinlan and George McKenna.

Rev. John Van Ness of Holy Rosary parish, left last Sunday evening for a three weeks vacation. Father Van Ness is just recovering from a serious illness, and his many friends trust that he may return entirely well. During his absence the parish will be attended from the Cathedral.

ST. JOSEPH'S

The Knights of St. Mauritius, affiliated with the local commandery of the Knights of St. John, celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary Sunday. The members, in full uniform, attended high mass at St. Joseph's church. A musical entertainment and a fine display of fire works were given at Germania hall Monday evening. A large number being present.

HOLY REDEEMER.

Sarah Laurie died Thursday at the family residence, 690 North street, aged 41 years. She is survived by her husband, and a daughter, Mrs. George Smith. The funeral will take place from the house this Saturday morning at 8:30 o'clock and from the Holy Redeemer church at 9 o'clock.

ST. MICHAEL'S

Work upon the new school building of St. Michael's parish will be commenced very soon. Ten thousand dollars is required for the work and Rev. M. J. Hargather, rector of St. Michael's, announces that \$9,200 is raised and that when the remaining \$800 has been subscribed the work will begin. It is thought that the work may be well near finished before cold weather comes next fall.

PERSONALS.

Miss Anna M. Hawkins of Elmira is the guest of her cousin, Mamie E. Grenagel, James street.

Miss Juliet Bohrer of North street, is spending her vacation in Chicago.

Miss Caroline Cramer, one of Rochester's favorite sopranos, left this week Tuesday for New York and on Thursday sailed on the steamer Furst Bismarck, to be gone for one year's study with Madame Marchesi of Paris.

Miss Bessie Green has returned from a month's visit in the city of Washington, where she was a guest at the home of Colonel Kelly, of U. S. A.

Mrs. M. L. Meade and Miss Edith M. Sharpe have returned from a two weeks visit among friends and relatives in Seneca and Ontario counties.

Reduction Sale of Straw Hats.

\$1.50 straw hats, 75c.
\$1.00 straw hats, 50c.
75c straw hats, 37c.
50c straw hats, 25c.
25c straw hats, 15c.

MENG & SHAFER,

14 W. Main street, 11 State street, Powers Block.
188 East Main street, opp. Whitcomb House.

THE CONVICT'S STORY.

Strange Connection of a White Cat With a Burglar's Life.

"It's no secret that I've been in the penitentiary," said the old man. "It was a white cat that took me there, and a white cat that saved me and made me a better man."

"One winter, a good many years ago, I was in Houston, sick and dead broke. An old pal of mine meeting me on the street took pity on me and soon helped me out of my troubles. But not for nothing. As soon as I recovered he wanted me to join him in some burglaries that he had planned. At first I refused indignantly, for I had some rough notions of honesty; but a little talking—he was a fine talker—and a few drinks did the work and I agreed to go in with him."

"Conscience makes cowards of us all, and I guess that was why Ed trembled like a leaf when he saw a white cat flash past us as we stood shivering in the garden of a house on Harris street that night. It was an easy matter to break in, and we soon had all there was worth taking. In a little room at the end of the hall a child was sleeping. The dim light of a lamp showed the pretty cot, the fair flushed face of a little girl, her golden hair streaming over the snowy pillow, and crouching by her side a white cat, whose pink eyes glittered like stars. We had to pass through this room, and I could not for the life of me help bending down and touching that beautiful hair with my lips—it looked so like the hair of my darling who died only the year before. It was her death that drove me to drink and trouble," and the old man wiped away a tear.

"Well, I don't know exactly how it happened, but the cat gave a terrific squall, and I had only just time to seize it and stuff it in my bag when a bullet came whistling by my head. I got out of the house somehow, still carrying my bag of plunder, and ran down the road, out of town, finally taking refuge in an old barn. I was badly wounded, and, to make a long story short, they arrested me and took me to jail. My partner was dead."

"They told me afterwards that in my delirium I cried continually for the white cat, and when they brought the animal into my cell—for they found it unhurt in my bag—I nursed it and was quiet. It was a strange fancy of a sick man, but it led me back to health. The story was told at the house which we had robbed, and the little girl and her father came to see me. He was a good man, and she was an angel—God bless her for her innocent prattle and sweet eyes of pity."

"The penitentiary was a rough place in those days, and I believe I would have died in a few months if the child had not sent me a tiny white kitten, which I was allowed to keep, and it saved me from despair and death. Every time I looked at it I thought of the little angel that gave it, and of that other little angel—my dead child—and made a new resolve to be a better man."

An Unfortunate Linguist.

John was an ambitious Chinaman. He had made money in Chinatown, San Francisco, but had devoted himself to business so thoroughly that he remained totally ignorant of English.

He came to New York determined to avoid his fellow-Chinamen, so that he might learn to speak English during his six months' stay in the metropolis. He took a room in an East Side house, paid promptly, made himself agreeable to his landlord, who allowed him to wait on customers in his little grocery store, and he never went near Pell or Mott street. After several months' residence in New York and many hours of study, the Chinaman ventured forth among his people, where he proceeded to give an exhibition of his proficiency in the English language. What he said sounded strange to the other Chinamen, and the ambitious one nearly swooned when he discovered that he had learned German by mistake.

His New York home was in the German part of the city where English is an unknown tongue, and the poor fellow had to begin his linguistic work over again.

Paper Floors in Germany.

Paper floors are enjoying a steadily increasing popularity in Germany, which is readily explained by the many advantages they possess over wooden flooring. An important advantage consists in the absence of joints, whereby accumulations of dust, vermin, and fungi, dangerous to health, are done away with. The new paper floors are bad conductors of heat and sound, and in spite of their hardness have a kieselguir-like, soft feel to the foot. The costs are considerably lower than those of floors made of hard wood. The paper mass receives a small addition of cement as binder, and is shipped in bags, in powder form. The mass is stirred into a stiff paste, spread out on the floor, pressed down by means of rollers, and painted with oakwood, nutwood, or mahogany color, after drying.

Notable Centennials of the Year.

The following centennial celebrations will be held this year: The 400th anniversary of Vasco da Gama's discovery of the way to India by way of the Cape of Good Hope, at Lisbon, in May; the burning of Savonarola, at Florence, in May; the birth of Holbein, at Basel, in June; Montpelier will celebrate the 100th birthday of Augustus Comte; Ancona, that of Leopoldi, and Paris that of Michelet, the historian.

FIGHTING IN THE MAST.

How the Rapid Fire Guns in the Fighting Top are Operated.

Fighting in the military mast of the big battleships in our navy will probably be the most dangerous duty our seamen will be called upon to perform in the war with Spain, says the Kansas City Journal.

Exposed to the full fury of the enemy's fire, with scarcely any protection, and with the possibility of having the entire mast shot away, the man on duty in the mast is in a position perhaps the most dangerous in all modern naval warfare.

The steel barbettes of the present time, save in certain battleships, where an overhead shield is carried, give a protection more apparent than real, more picturesque than practical. And while the military top crews have the advantage of seeing something of the straggling, yet they present too inviting a mark to the enemy, and have stations which in battle are pretty sure to be untenable from the heat and smoke.

The small arms men have frequent practice aboard ship, and considering the difficulties of the environment, are good marksmen. It is no easy task to fire from a platform placed at the foot of a pendulum, swinging irregularly, and the results attained testify to the value of the drill and to the physique of the individual.

On the larger battleships the military masts are hollow, and access to the fighting tops is gained through the interior. The ammunition is also passed up inside. In the smoke and grime of battle one can well realize what a hell these places would be.

Another thing that must be considered is the fact that this will be the United States navy's first practical test of the modern warship. The last ten years have brought about a greater and more sudden change in the outward appearance of men-of-war than has ever been recorded in the history of naval affairs. This is in the main due to the almost complete banishment of sails, yards, and the more or less intricate rigging necessitated by their use, in favor of military masts, or, in some cases, mere signal poles.

The military mast of to-day is constructed primarily to carry guns, and secondarily for signalling purposes, for it must be remembered that in all cases in which ships have been equipped with fighting tops since their very first inception, the primary duty of the mast which upheld it was to carry sail for the propulsion of the ship.

Some of the masts are supplied with an upper top for the electric light, a peculiarly shaped edifice below to discharge three quick-firing guns to be discharged right ahead, and a species of conning tower below, from which the captain can overlook the smoke clouds and see to direct his ship in action. The latter types are all constructed with much the same ideas.

Some have a lookout, or conning tower, others have not, but all have three or six pounder quick-firing guns and electric light projectors, and one or two lighter machine guns in addition.

The small caliber rapid-fire and machine guns employed in tops are supported by riflemen, and in every fight their work of clearing the guns, sweeping the decks and superstructures, and of picking off the officers and leading men is, to say the least, hazardous. In the galley days the military tops were fairly well protected, but during the sail era the topmen handling the swivel pieces and deck rakers, and forming a special corps of musketeers, had no protection, except what was given by a network of mattress-filled hammocks.

It would take a big projectile to bring a mast down, but then, if it did, great would be the fall thereof. And think of the poor devils that would come crashing down with it! And think of them even if the mast doesn't come down, perched up there, living targets for shot and shell! The thin plating is of no avail against anything larger than a rifle bullet, and a small shell might pass harmlessly over the heads of the men in an open top which in a closed one would have been burst by the iron sides and scatter death and destruction within.

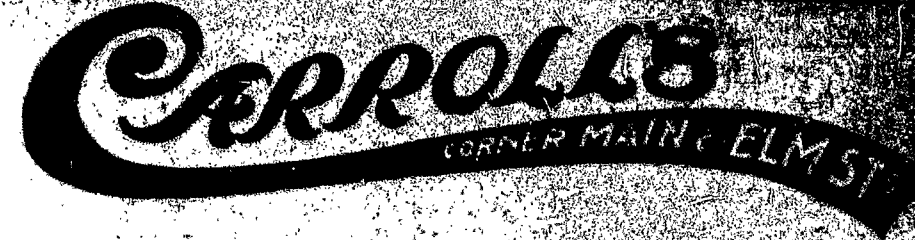
Australia's Curiosities.

There are some curious things in Central Australia. According to Prof. Baldwin Spencer, Lake Amadeus, in the dry season, is merely a sheet of salt. Ayers Rock, about five miles round, rises abruptly from the desert. Formerly vast rivers flowed here, and the diprotodon, a wombat-like creature, worthy of its name, and four times as large as a kangaroo, flourished on the plains. Now there are hardly any animals to be seen. The fish live in water holes of the hills until the floods wash them down to the valleys. At the end of the wet season the water frogs fill themselves with water, roll themselves in the mud, and lie low till the next rains, which may not come for two years. Meanwhile, the provident frog, like the "mole" of Robert Burns, may have the misfortune to furnish a drink to a thirsty black. The natives also get water from the roots of trees. They are in the "totem" stage and rever certain plants or animals which protect them. Men of one group can only marry women from another single group.

Age of the Whale.

The age of the whale is calculated according to the number of laminas, or layers, of the whalebone, which increases yearly. From these indications, ages of 300 to 350 years have been assigned to whales.

Importance of Trifles.
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