The Catholic Journal

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A CATHOLIC ASSOCIATED PRESS

About a month ago notices were sent out relative to organizing a Catholic Press Association. A number of replies have been received to date. They include eleven states and one from Canada. All are heartily in favor of organizing a Catholic Press Association conducted on business principles, and each and every one thought the idea of holding a yearly convention would be of inestimable value to the Catholic press. The secular press get together and accomplish a great deal. Why not the Catholic press? To our mind it would be the means of building up an association that would be a credit to our cause. We want to learn from those editors who either through neglect or other causes have not replied to the notices sent out. Here is what one of the editors thinks of the scheme:

The Los Angeles Tidings says: "One reason why Catholic papers are less successful than they otherwise would be, is their failure to co-operate, as do the secular press. This is due, in great part, to an apprehension, on the part of publishers of the stronger journals, that the establishment and continued existence of a number of less pretentious local sheets might somewhat abridge their own circulation and importance. We have been told, time and again, that a few ably edited and widely circulated papers would be more beneficial than a multiplicity of local publications struggling for existence. This line of argument carried to its logical conclusion would result in the issuing of but a single strong Catholic newspaper, circulating throughout the entire country, something that most of those who advocate the principle would scarcely desire to see carried into effect. But there is a better and a more sensible way out of the difficulty, and one that the near future will probably see made effective. It is proposed to organize a Catholic Press Association, with headquarters say in New York or Washington. This would enable the local journals to make a vast improvement, especially in the matter of general Catholic news, and prevent their being duped, as many of them have been and are, into the publication of fake telegrams from Rome and other places that are foisted upon them by designing parties. Such an organization could also be made useful in many other ways that would lessen the expense of publication and increase the power for good of the great majority of the 150 or more Catholic papers now published in the United States.

The first step toward such a consummation might be for the editors and publishers to meet in convention and talk the matter over, when doubtless some plan would be evolved that would ultimately lead to so desirable a result. Such a plan is being at present agitated and the Tidings is heartily in favor of it, though the details have not as yet been fully elaborated.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

WHO WILL ADOPT THIS BOY?

EDITOR CATHOLIC JOURNAL:

Dear Sir: Perhaps in some of the Catholic homes in which your excellent paper circulates there is a childless mother who would be willing to spend the maternal instinct of her heart on an infant whom she could call her own. There is at present in my care a baby boy who has been bereft of both father and mother. I am seeking a good Catholic home in which to place him as their own. Address A. E. Breen, Box 1004, Rochester, N. Y.

CLIFF HAVEN, N. Y.

Dear Editor:—Seated upon the shore of Lake Champlain, I cannot refrain from writing a few words for the CATHOLIC JOURNAL of Rochester in behalf of the Catholic Summer School of America. Of this historic spot it is hardly necessary to speak, and yet its beauty must be once seen to be understood or appreciated. No more beautiful spot could have been selected. The broad expanse of water before us with the bright green mountains beyond on the Vermont shore, the islands dotting the lake here and there, the cool and refreshing breezes, so thoroughly appreciated after the extreme heat of our city for the past month; the restful hours seated upon the wide verandas of the different cottages, all combine to fill the heart with gratitude for the inauguration of the Catholic Summer School at this delightful spot and for the blessed privilege of attending it. The Catholics of Rochester who have never embraced the opportunity of coming here cannot realize what they miss, and it is only after they have once come that they will wish to return again and again. Aside from this there are many more privileges to be enjoyed. Our little chapel where the members of the school daily assist at the holy sacrifice of the mass, where upon the first Friday we have the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by benediction in the evening, the frequent visits to the chapel through the unoccupied hours of the day forms part of the spiritual food which we here receive. Our daily gathering at the Assembly hall to listen to some of the distinguished lecturers of the day upon various and interesting subjects forms our mental food and our bodily necessities are found thrice a day in general abundance at the large dining hall upon the grounds, a convenient distance from each of the cottages. Neither is the social feature overlooked. Receptions, literary and musical programs are frequently given, not forgetting the hop. Boat riding, bathing and fishing may also be indulged in. There are nine cottages upon the grounds, commodious and pleasant. Rochester cottage stands in a beautiful location, facing the lake, with a fine green lawn and a cluster of pine trees between it and the shore. It now has sleeping capacity for about fifty persons and every room occupied, though we dislike to say it, Rochester lodgers are far in the minority. We live in hope that the people of our city will awaken to the idea that we have built a cottage for the accommodation of our people and hope still to see many of them before the session of ninety-eight closes.

Aug. 6, 1898. S. R. Q.

C. B. L.

EDITOR CATHOLIC JOURNAL:

Dear Sir—I often lament the absence of notes about the Catholic Benevolent Legion, under this heading. I know that the Legion is one of our very best Catholic societies, and regret that some of the "shining lights" of local councils refrain from using your open columns with interesting items about this order. Perhaps they prefer to let some else perform the task, and so it has been neglected. I labor under some disadvantages, but submit these notes in the hope that they may be of general interest to your readers. I cannot tell of projected entertainments or excursions, nor of preparations for forming new local councils. Indeed, the work of forming new councils has not been carried on with much vigor, when we consider that the design of the Legion is to have a council in every flourishing congregation throughout the country. It will be many years before this portion of the programme will be performed unless greater energy is shown by leading members. The first local branch of the C. B. L., Rochester Council, No. 207, was instituted January 13, 1888, more than ten years ago. It started with 18 members, each one of whom fully intended to comply with the very easy task of bringing in at least one new member every year. That would not be a very difficult task, and might easily be performed with due and immediate attention, but we find that performance is postponed until nearer the end of the year, for "there's plenty of time." I need not illustrate further. If that purpose had been observed and accomplished, Rochester council would now be one of the strongest and best societies in the city with more than 1,000 members. Its net increase during the last year was one. Well, even that is better than can be claimed for some councils.

The comrades of Rochester council cannot be said to have been devoting their undivided attention to legion affairs, but they did quite as well as others in the diocese, and in the course of a few years, on June 10, 1890, they assisted in forming Flower City council No. 305, with 50 charter members. In the interim nearly 200 councils had elsewhere been formed, but none in this immediate locality.

In the course of more years, on December 9, 1897, our third local council was formed and named Genesee, No. 637. During the interim the number of councils and members in the legion had doubled, and while it must be admitted that more might have been accomplished at home, the record is fairly good. Rochester council has 127 members, Flower City has 87, and Genesee has 20.

The C. B. L. is now the strongest Catholic fraternal association in America and is fast achieving its purposes. Its plan is to select the leading young men in a congregation and form them into a local organization for social, benevolent and intellectual improvement, and to enable them to afford moral and material aid to one another and their families. Local councils are encouraged to provide funds by quarterly dues, or otherwise, for protection of their own members in case of sickness The secondary purpose of the legion is to provide life insurance of from $500 to $5,000 payable to the beneficiary upon his death. This occasions a strict physical examination of each applicant, for all are expected to be in good health when they join. Assessments for this benefit fund are levied upon each member in proportion to the amount of insurance he carries, and the age he had attained when he joined. Naturally the insurance feature receives much attention. The other features are too much neglected. They provide just the kind of an association we should have in every Catholic congregation. Imagine the advantages Catholics will derive from such an association, with its subordinate councils doing their full duty. CHANCELLOR.

THE GOSPELS

GOSPEL: St. Mark, vii. 31-37.—At that time: "Jesus going out of the coasts of Tyre, He came by Sidon to the Sea of Galilee through the midst of the coasts of Decapolis. And they bring to him one deaf and dumb; and they besought Him that He would lay His hand upon him. And taking him from the multitude apart, He put His fingers into his ears, and spitting, He touched his tongue. And looking up to heaven He groaned, and said to him: Ephpheta, which is, Be thou opened. And immediately his ears were opened, and the string of his tongue was loosed, and he spoke right. And He charged them that they should tell no man. But the more He charged them so much the more a great deal did they publish it. And so much more did they wonder, saying: He hath done all things well: He hath made both the deaf to hear and the dumb to speak."

From this we should learn that in order to cure men of the infirmity of sin it is necessary to free them from the superstition, the corruption, and the false maxims of the world, and to teach them to follow doctrines and laws different from those of the Gentiles.

Weekly Church Calendar

Sunday, August 14—Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost. Epist. 1 Cor. xv. 1-10, Gosp. Mark vii. 31-37.
Monday, 15—Assumption of the B. V. M. Holyday of Obligation. Less. Ecclus. xxiv. 11-20; Gosp. Luke x. 38-42
Tuesday, 16—St. Hyacinth, confessor.
Wednesday, 17—Octave of St. Lawrence.
Thursday, 18—Of the Octave of the Assumption. St. Agapitus, martyr.
Friday, 19—Of the Octave.
Saturday, 20—St. Bernard, Abbott, Confessor and Doctor of the Church.

CATHOLIC SOCIETIES.

What is Transpiring in the Different Fraternities—Current Calendars

PICKINGS FOR THE GOOD OF THE C. M. B. A.

BY J. J. H., B. SI.

CHAPTER III. SERIES V

It has been intimated that in some branches the question of revenue is uppermost; that is, members are sought for the initiation fees they pay into the treasury rather than for their physical, mental and moral qualifications. I hope this observation of those who have made such assertions have no foundation in fact, for such a condition of things in any association is greatly to be deplored. The branch that will take in unworthy and unfit persons for the sole purpose of replenishing its treasury is really in a bad way, and should be at once investigated, for if a branch is allowed to drift into this way of doing business the respectable element is ultimately driven from its meetings and it sinks to such a low level that it is scarcely worthy of recognition.

The writer has no doubt that actions of a branch in some particular case may have called forth the remark I refer to, and I do not think that initiations for revenue only are very numerous in the C. M. B. A., or that even such ever existed, for within the range of my observation the drift is towards securing good members only, and that branches in general are more thorough in their investigation of the character of the applicant for admission, and keeping out those who would in any way lower the existing standard. It would be a sorry state of things indeed, if every man who had money to pay an initiation fee could apply, with the certain assurance that money was the "open sesame" to the C. M. B. A. Therefore, brother, when such remarks are made in your hearing from an outsider, or even if a brother should forget himself, be a man and let your answer be convincing that such does not exist or is even tolerated in the C. M. B. A.

[To be continued.]

Hibernian Rifles.

The special meeting of the company held during the week was well attended. Its executive session was of a general business of interest to the company and its members in the work of recruiting and equipping the company, as it is a question whether the companies comprising the newly formed A. O. H. regiment were mustered into service or not. The regiments as organized will still continue and have its encampments, field, staff and general officers with the membership just the same, and in every respect as nearly in touch with the regiments now serving in the United Irish society as will be permissable and for the good of the organization. The officers and members of company A were well remembered in the distribution of the officers in the newly formed regiment. Col. McGowan has offered Capt. Michael Quinlivan, commander of company A, the honor of having been selected as the first major of the regiment. It is to be hoped the captain will accept, as it is stated in the official notification that he is entitled to the position, being the senior officer, having had the continuous command of this company for 25 years, and a military record for 30 years. The notification earnestly urges his acceptance. His present command is desirous of his accepting the honor, but as the captain on two previous occasions refused to accept similar positions it is doubtful if he can be induced to accept.

Several of the boys have returned from their vacation and reported as having had a good time.

Comrade Mason was unfortunate during the week to have an accident by falling from his bicycle, but he is much improved, and in a fair way to be about again in a few days.

CONQUERING AN AUDIENCE.

Artemus Ward Found a Novel Way of Doing It.

A writer in the New York Times narrates an incident which shows that Artemus Ward's unique and kindly humor was not dependent upon adventitious circumstances. He was to lecture at a town in Central Pennsylvania On the morning of his lecture a fierce snowstorm broke over that section and raged so long and so furiously that few people braved the tempest When Artemus Ward appeared on the platform he found an audience of three men, each in the seat his coupon called for, all three far in the rear of the hall.

Artemus kept his solemn face to its solemnest, as he advanced to the footlights, and, beckoning to the men, said:

"Come up closer, gentlemen. I want to speak to you."

He had to repeat the invitation before his audience understood that he meant what he said When they had taken seats together in the front row, Artemus said "There, now, that is more sociable" He paused a moment, and went on

"Gentlemen, you are entitled to see my show and hear my lecture, if you are so disposed But I understand that beneath this hall there is an excellent cafe and I suggest that we spend the evening there, you as my guests."

Though reluctant to forego the show and lecture as they saw Artemus had no mind for them the three agreed to his proposition the lights were turned out, and the little party descended to the cafe where for hours they made merry at whence they were reluctant to start for home

If Artemus Ward was not at his best then his best must have been past all telling for the stories he told and the way he told them made his audience forget time and circumstances and completely banished any lingering regret for what they had not received upstairs.

Largest Tank Steamer.

The largest tank steamer in the world belongs to the Standard Oil Company, and was made at the Roach shipyard, in Chester Pa The capacity is 720,000 gallons of oil and the cost $250 000 The dimensions are Length over all, 254 feet, beam, 40 feet, engines 1 500 horse power, speed, 12 knots per hour. The ship was designed by John Haug of Philadelphia The tanks are arranged fore and aft, with the machinery and men's quarters amidships A longitudinal bulkhead divides the tank space in half, and three watertight cross bulkheads, forward and aft, make twelve main tank divisions To prevent the oil from reaching the fires by leakage, two wells are situated one on either side of the machinery space, and these are filled with water Each well can be pumped out from the deck through a small tank capping each well Extension tanks on deck, connected with the main tanks, take up any surplus oil shifted by the rolling of the ship, and keep the main tanks always full Large vent hatches cap each of the deck tanks and provide a means for the escape of gas Four filling mains connect with the deck tanks, and through these mains oil will be pumped into the tanks at the company's docks Arrangements are also made for carrying and burning fuel oil.

Mohammed Ali.

One of the most remarkable traits in the Pasha's character says an English writer, was his mania for foreigners, an eagerness to welcome strangers of every degree, to listen to them, reward and help them if possible, and above all to persuade them to believe in his schemes of reform. In his opinion, the fellah was a serf, a beast of burden, the Turk a hopeless barbarian, fit only to be his sergeant, or tax collector; but a third element remained, by the cultivation of which he might create an instrument of profit, a bulwark of defense, and even a final refuge from his enemies. In no respect did he prove himself more conspicuously to be a born leader of men than in his consummate handling of Europeans with whom he had to deal.

He was only an ignorant Major of Bashi-Bazouks, knowing little of our civilization, yet by his genius for exploiting the wants and ambitions, the vices and failings of Europeans in general, by making himself indispensable to all of them in turn, he gained their loyalty and enthusiasm just as if he had been one of an old and long-established dynasty of Christian Kings in Alexandria. The fact remains to his credit that, as a whole, the interested European colony of Egypt gloried in the strength of Mohammed Ali, feared him and lamented his fall, at the hands of Palmerston as the ruin of their own fortunes.

Only a Few More Leap Years.

"In time leap year will go out of existence entirely," explained an almanac computer, "but as it will not occur for over 800 years, we haven't much personal interest in the event. In the ordinary course of events 1900 would be leap year, but it will get left in the calculation. In other words, while it does occur, it does not occur, simply because it is not in the agreement that it shall occur. The story is a long one, but it can be briefly told so that the average person can understand it without much difficulty.

Cooking in Mexico.

As all cooking is done with charcoal and ovens are practically unknown in private houses very few families bake bread. The small, hard-crusted loaves of French bread are delivered all over the city in great baskets four feet across that are carried on the heads of cargadores.