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SPREADING INFIDELITY.

Nowadays, few of our faith in this country apparently stop to inquire "Am I my brother's keeper?" For instance, since the close of the Spanish-American war we have sat silent and careless as to the efforts made by the several Protestant denominations to wrest Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines from the Church. Nevertheless, such efforts are being made. The Havana correspondent of the Catholic Mirror puts the case in a new light by saying:

Mission houses are in evidence in every part of this city, and although the attendance at these services is meager, it would be folly to say that collectively they are not operating powerfully upon the public mind to the detriment of the Catholic Church.

"The danger apprehended is not in the number of genuine Latin converts to the creeds that will result (Mexico, South America and the Latin countries of Europe have long since demonstrated this lesson), but rather in the encouragement which false teaching and misrepresentations give to an ultra denial of all religion. For here, as elsewhere, there are many who will hearken to disregard the dogmatic and disciplinary teaching of the Catholic Church and will turn to indifference, and unless something be done, a few years hence will witness a crop of infidels that would have delighted the heart of Ingersoll.

"The greatest apprehension should be felt regarding the educational features which these missions possess as a means to influence the rising generation. Schools under missionary auspices are being established at various points in the island offering tempting inducement to an impoverished people to avail themselves of a free education. The sole object of such efforts, disguised though it may be at first to the unsuspecting patrons, is the religious perversion of the little ones."

Is there nothing that can be done to secure the faith of our brethren in Cuba? Catholics helped wrest that island from the clutch of Spain; do they now mean to sit still while the seed of infidelity is being sown before their eyes? Do we not owe a duty toward those brethren of ours who are now confronted by perils?

THE RELIGIOUS IMPOSTOR.

Notoriety seems the chief desire of many Americans, it must be admitted. Now addition to humbug may give us curious standing in the eyes of the world. Commenting editorially on the Dis De Bar trial over in London, the Manchester (England) Herald forcibly arraigns the whole output of our "culture and civilization" in saying:

"It is to America we must chiefly look, however, when we wish to see religion made the mask of outrageous imposture. There one sect of deluded fools succeeds another almost daily, being usually the business speculation of some 'smart' trader on human credulity. One of the latest swindlers to be unmasked there is that of the Mental Scientists, of which a Mrs. Whymans was the 'high priestess.' In every State of the Union and even in Europe she had credulous followers who have for some years past been providing her with funds amounting to about \$1,000 monthly, in return for what she primarily income she claimed to be able to give attention to any bodily ailment, whether natural, or caused by age or disease. The audience have now, however, cut her out."

"The sooner does she succumb, however, than a new sect is patented in New York. 'The New Church of the Future' is the name of the impostor's scheme. She is a woman of some years, and takes as her motto the motto of a New York Senator: 'The strongest of us are the strongest.'"

tonet, which probably means that while the game lasts the dentist will be able to feather his nest well; but as another tenet is at direct variance with the moral law his career is likely to be brief. No punishment can be too heavy for those who trade on the most sacred aspirations. Our pillars for those earnest deluded souls who clutch at the straw of the impostor in groping for the light."

Archbishop Walsh, of Dublin, says: "If all the prayers of loving hearts from the beginning of the world, and all the seraphic worship of the thrones and principalities in heaven, and the burning devotion and love of the Virgin Mother of God and the million voices of the universe, of all creatures of heaven, and earth, and sea, were offered up in one universal and harmonious act of praise and adoration, they would not equal, or even approach in value and efficacy the infinite worth of a single mass."

Fourteen young ladies have received the holy habit of St. Joseph's convent, St. Paul, Minn., and ten renewed their vows.

A LIÉ ON ITS TRAVELS.

The Slander Concerning the Schools in Porto Rico.

A man named Ballard recently wrote a letter to the New York Sun in which he made the statement that in the course of 100 years of occupation and possession in Porto Rico Spain had not erected a single schoolhouse.

In reply to this The Catholic Standard and Times copied from the report of the United States commissioner of education for 1899-1900 a statement made by General Eaton, who had been sent to the island especially to study the educational question for the government. General Eaton declared officially that he found more than 500 schools in operation. Indeed, he went further and gave an excellent character to the method of teaching. Yet notwithstanding that this official report is on file at Washington, being a public document, it is accessible to the people, ministers, politicians and agitators continue to repeat Ballard's lie in the Sun and to comment upon a condition which never existed.

This is a style of controversy quite common with our Protestant friends. A lie once started against the Catholic church, no matter how absurd, no matter who its author, no matter how often or how effectively it has been refuted, never stops on its travels. It goes on from generation to generation without reference to its origin or its absurdity. In time it becomes in the minds of its disseminators a historic fact, the denial of which they view with impatience. All the world tales and yarns and romances which the tribe of "scoundrel" deal in today have been exploded, dissipated and utterly disproved dozens of times, but that does not stop their circulation or check belief in them by glib and ignorant Protestants. Boston Republic.

A Souvenir of a Very Mean Man.

At the 10 o'clock mass in St. Thomas Aquinas church, Eighteenth and Morris streets, the other Sunday morning, the Rev. Father Carey, after inviting the congregation to attend a forthcoming church entertainment and to be prepared to make a silver offering at the function in question, said:

"Speaking of silver reminds me. I believe the meanest man in this parish and perhaps the meanest in this whole city was at one of the earlier masses here this morning. This is what he put in the basket." Here Father Carey held up to view what appeared to be a new silver coin.

"Now," he continued, "that looks very much like a dime, doesn't it? Well, it isn't. It's a counterfeit, and it's the very worst sort of counterfeit." There was a short pause as he manipulated the coin with his thumb and forefinger, saying: "I am now unraveling the counterfeit." A moment later he said: "Here is the penny," holding the copper coin aloft in his right hand, "and here," raising his left hand, "is the tin foil!"

The two exhibits were held up for inspection a minute or so, while the congregation sat and gazed. Finally Father Carey replaced the penny and its silver covering in his pocket with infinite care. "A keepsake," said he, and turned again to the altar.—Philadelphia Catholic Standard and Times.

The American College in Rome.

The Rev. Dr. Thomas F. Kennedy, rector of the American college in Rome, has just purchased a building near the Pilotta palace, where the American college will be installed. For some time the authorities in charge of the American college have desired to enlarge its accommodations. The college is located in the Via dell'Umiltà, in buildings erected in 1601 by one of the Orsini family as a convent for Dominican nuns. Later it was occupied by the Vistandines. In 1850 Pope Pius IX. gave it to the American hierarchy for the use of the seminarians from the United States sent to Rome to make their ecclesiastical studies. These now number nearly a hundred, and the old buildings were inadequate for their needs; hence the purchase of enlarged quarters. The funds for the addition were supplied by subscriptions among the old students, who are scattered over the United States, and from the bishops who send their diocesan students to Rome.

CATHOLIC INDIANS.

A SOCIETY FOR PERPETUATING THE FAITH AMONG THEM.

The Catholic Indian Bureau at Washington is endeavoring to establish such an organization—a suggestion as to its scope.

In a circular sent from the Catholic Indian Bureau at Washington it is proposed to establish a society for the preservation of the faith among Indian children. The idea is an excellent one. The object is good, the need is pressing, and the simple conditions of membership are within the reach of all. Twenty-five cents a year and an occasional prayer for the success of the society are all that is required of its members.

Our readers will recall how shamefully the last two administrations of our government have repudiated their agreement with Catholic authorities concerning the maintenance of schools for Catholic Indians. At their own expense Catholics built a number of schools for Catholic children, with the expressed understanding that the government should allow a stipulated sum for the education of each child. Little by little this allowance was withdrawn until it finally ceased.

Nor did justice stop there. By a certain ruling it was decided that Indian parents had no right to send their children to Catholic schools, even when their instruction cost the government nothing.

Happily a recent decision has reversed this ruling, and Catholic Indians may now send their little ones to such a school if they wish—we still have the privilege of paying for their education from our private resources while those who are not of our faith receive the government bounty.

Even this is something to be thankful for, and if our 25 cents a year can preserve the faith of the Indians it is cheap at that price.

Contributions may be sent to the Rev. W. H. Ketchum, director of the bureau of Catholic Indian missions, 241 F Street, N. W., Washington.

Speaking of this very subject, The Ave Maria makes a most excellent suggestion. Why not extend the scope of such a society to include the negro missions as well as the Indian?

Why not, indeed? It is surely as praiseworthy an object of our zeal if we might venture a suggestion under this head, it would be that our charity extend one step further and include all those who are outside of the pale of the church in this country of America and the formation of a home mission society.

The Indians number about 20,000, the negroes about 5,000,000, while the number of those who acknowledge no religious belief, according to our last census, is 47,000,000. Such a society would be popular. Its work would not be confined to the far west nor to the south, but could begin under our very eyes in any city or town.

The object of such a society would be to furnish means and missionaries for the conversion of all America. Prayer and almsgiving would be the only requirements of its members. Suppose 1,000,000 out of our 12,000,000 or 15,000,000 Catholics were faithful members of such a society, what an incalculable good could be accomplished for the salvation of souls!

We have a League of the Sacred Heart, a League of St. Joseph, why not a League of the Blessed Mother of God, the patron of our country, for the purpose of its entire conversion?

The Winchester convention of missionaries to non-Catholics shows what even a few zealous men may accomplish. But it emphasizes the fact of the vastness of their undertaking and the need of a greater and more loyal support. Guidon.

Archbishop Ryan's Joke.

Archbishop Ryan of Philadelphia is known throughout his diocese as a wit. A Columbia freshman who hails from Washington was accompanied by his mother when he came on to New York to matriculate at the university. On their way north they stopped at Philadelphia and called upon the archbishop, who is an old friend of the family.

"So you thought it necessary to come on with your son?" Archbishop Ryan said to the lady in the course of their conversation.

"Yes, indeed. I want to see him installed in a house that is properly kept and to see that his room is conveniently situated to the fire escapes," replied the mother.

"Well, now, I take it that the other fire escape is not too far away," said the archbishop, smiling.

"I don't understand," said the puzzled lady.

"I mean the church," replied his grace.—New York Times.

Just the Usual Lie.

The Rev. Dr. William F. McGinnis of Brooklyn, president of the International Catholic Truth society, has received from Cardinal Rampolla, the papal secretary of state, a denial of the report that the pope had in a discourse with the bishops of southern Italy advocated propaganda against Judaism and anarchism. The utterances of the pope, according to reports sent out, were alleged to have been made soon after the assassination of President McKinley.

"I wrote to the cardinal as soon as I read these reports," said Dr. McGinnis, "and his reply shows that the reports were made out of whole cloth. The alleged discourse never took place."

New York's Cathedral.

St. Patrick's cathedral in New York will shortly have a magnificent addition which will cost \$400,000. It will be a chapel at the east end of the main edifice of the thirteenth century French Gothic architecture.

COOK OPERA HOUSE.

One of the headlines for next week's bill at the Cook Opera House will be Marie Wainwright, who will appear in the stellar role of a playlet entitled, Josephine and Napoleon. This sketch is said to serve very satisfactory as a vehicle for Miss Wainwright's well-known histrionic abilities. Another popular attraction will be Lucille Saunders, a contralto opera singer.

The Six Blackbirds are half a dozen real "coons" who sing, dance, give cake-walks, make you laugh and entertain your royalty for close upon half an hour. Waterbury Brothers and Tenny pleasantly combine music and excellent comedy in an offering that is said to be far above the average.

The Tennis Trio are expert club jugglers. Macart's dog and monkey circus is sure to make a big hit with the children. Carroll Johnson personates a colored "swell" and closes his act with a clever recitation called "A Finish Fight" that is said to be as good as "Casey at the Bat."

The Flood brothers are sensational acrobats. This bill will be given at the Cook Opera House every day in the week, except on the Sabbath, with a daily matinee.

BAKER THEATRE.

The coming of Ward & Vokes to the Baker Theatre for three days commencing next Monday, including the usual matinee on Tuesday and Wednesday, promises a real treat, as their new vehicle, "The Head Waiters" is said to be decidedly the best production of farce comedy that these two popular comedians have ever presented. The principles are Ward &



The Head Waiters at the Bakers

Vokes, Lucy Daly, Margaret Daly Vokes, George Sydney, Joe Kelly, Louis Powers, Lew Miller, Josie Daly, Maude Alice Kelly, Bessie Franklin, and Lila Conquest.

"The Convict's Daughter" which will be the attraction for the three days, commencing Thursday, January 16th and including usual matinees on Thursday and Saturday is one of the cleanest and most heart reaching plays ever produced. The play is simplicity human and well blended without a single objectionable feature.

COLUMBIA DESK CALENDAR FOR 1902.

This calendar has been a fixture in many business offices and homes for many years, its great popularity being largely due to the thoroughness with which it serves its purpose as a memorandum device. It is a most convenient repository of things to be remembered and at the same time possesses all the requisite features of an almanac for every day use. The printed part, as in former years, largely consists of voluntary contributions from bicycle riders of nearly every country in the world. The new edition is handsomely printed and mounted on a steel holder, whereby the calendar can be hung in any convenient location or placed at any desired angle on the desk. Copies may be obtained by sending ten cents in postage to the American Bicycle Company, Eastern Sales Department, 152 Franklin Street, New York City.

WEEKLY ORGANO CALENDAR.

Sunday—January 12—Gospel, St. Luke II, 42-52—St. Arcadius, martyr.
Monday 13—St. Veronica.
Tuesday 14—St. Hilary, bishop, confessor and doctor.
Wednesday 15—St. Paul, first hermit.
Thursday 16—St. Marcellus, pope and martyr.
Friday 17—St. Antony, abbot.
Saturday 18—St. Prisca, virgin and martyr.

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THE UNITED IRISH LEAGUE.

EDITOR OF CATHOLIC JOURNAL:

It was with special interest I wrote two years ago through these columns on the birth and formation of the United Irish League in Ireland. While dwelling on the worth of the League and good results most likely to accrue in the application of its principles, I also expressed the ardent hope that branches of that same League might spring up in every city and town throughout these United States. That hope has seen its realization in the splendid activity, that is being displayed in many of our large cities, in the starting of branches of that Irish organization well termed United Irish League.

An national exertion, when founded on Justice, as well as a manly struggle, is ever worthy and should receive aid and sympathy. The object of the League is too apparent to Irish Nationality to need an explanation. To right the wrongs of 700 years standing in Ireland through the channels of moral and physical forces, is the order and proclamation of the Irish representatives on both sides of the Atlantic. Mr. John Redmond and his fellow delegates, while here recently on their noble mission from Ireland, stated their principles in clear and logical order that the summons to all Irish-Americans in every quarter of America to be up and doing for England's difficulty is Ireland's opportunity. A greater difficulty England never experienced than her present mean contemptible and cowardly war on the weak, poor and yet noble Boers. Their conduct in their heroic defense against mighty England so-called, is worthy of the highest emulation! Aye, the sons of Erin may emulate them with honor and with a telling blow to old Albion. Such action will meet the hearty approval of such Irishmen in this country as John Finerty, Rev. Patrick Cronan, Patrick Ford and a goodly number of other true and good Irishmen of the "Provisional Executive Committee."

When such grand, true and representative men as they give the "watchword" to the Irish element of this country they are given a hearing and all opponents are "driven to bay."

"That there may be union and strength in Ireland to deliver her from the double riveted despotism of England" was Robert Emmet's dying speech. Hence no true Irishman will have the presumption to blast that hope that was expressed by the lips of the immortal Emmett. Only cowards fly from the solid virtue of Hope. Hence the branches of the United Irish League in this country are worthy of every manly assistance and words of encouragement.

Verily England's cup "of iniquity" is filled. In words of that old time correspondent of the Irish World, "Trans-Atlantic"—"England is on her last legs!" Very true, for at the present she has more "irons in the fire" than she can attend to. Aye, with prospects of getting badly burnt herself! Every blow given by Irishmen will cheer and help the cause of the Boers and every success of their's will cripple England in her effort to crush out the Irish nation.

Watkins, N. Y., H. O' C.

FIVE MINUTE SERMON.

SHORT INSTRUCTIONS ON THE GOSPEL BY A REVEREND FATHER.

St. Luke tells us that Our Lord at the age of twelve years went with His Holy Mother and St. Joseph to Jerusalem to be present at the festival, which was solemnized for seven days, in the Temple, and the feast of the Pasch or Passover; that these days being over, He was lost from their sight and remained in Jerusalem in the Temple while they set out for their home believing that He was in the company of His relatives.

Mary and Joseph after having lost Jesus were in great affliction, and hastened to seek for Him among their friends and relatives, and not finding Him, they returned to Jerusalem, and found Him in the Temple then He went with them.

We should learn that if Jesus Christ King of kings, Lord of lords, did not refuse to obey Mary and Joseph, we should not refuse to obey humbly and voluntarily our parents, superiors and all who are charged with our care and education.

The Commercial Training School 340 Powers Block, is organizing a class in telegraphy to be taught by an expert telegrapher.

The Commercial Training School, 340 Powers Block, was the first to use the name of "Training School" as the name of a business school in this city. Imitation is the sincerest flattery, but this school by every law of fairness is the only one, that has a right to the name in this city. A certain other school stealing our thunder please take notice.

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