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Brackett and His "Morality Bill"

Senator Edgar T. Brackett, a good pious Methodist of Saratoga has introduced a bill in the state legislature, the object of which, he says, is to provide for "teaching morality" in the public schools of the state.

The Saratoga statesman would insist further that "no license be issued to teachers unless they are proficient in morality."

That's very pretty but who is to ascertain and certify that teachers are "proficient in morality?"

Upon what points are they to be examined and upon what system of morality is the new department to be based?

Is it to be the Methodist brand of morality? Or will the text for proficiency be whether the schoolma'ams believe in infant baptism? Or will they be asked if they believe in the latest doctrines as laid down by Brahma?

Or will a knowledge of the "Saratoga Code of Morals" be insisted upon as a pre-requisite for a license to teach?

It is well-known that Senator Brackett is a warm admirer of Richard Canfield, that philanthropist whose hobby is teaching young millionaires the mysteries of roulette, rouge-et-noir, baccarat and kindred games of chance and who has endowed thereby an art museum in Saratoga Springs with paintings by Whistler and other high-priced artists, modern and ancient.

One of Canfield's cardinal maxims is that it is no sin to fleece a rich lamb. Would Senator Brackett ask that proficiency in the code of ethics he preaches indirectly in Saratoga by his arduous efforts to second Canfield be included in the public school curriculum?

And, finally, would he be satisfied if the Rev. Dr. Charles R. Parkhurst, Dr. Charles R. Skinner (minus the Rev.) the Rev. Minot J. Savage, the Rev. O. P. Gifford (of Buffalo endless chain and Albany lobby fame) the Hon. Richard Canfield, the Hon. "Jim" Corbett and "Prof." James Sargent of Rochester, were the board to examine applicants for teacher's licenses and report as to their "proficiency" in the "Brackett Code of morals?"

Perhaps Brother Brackett would be better satisfied if the Hon. William Barnes, Jr., who has made Albany the most "wide open" city in the United States were added to the Board?

Credulous. In a recent lecture in Buffalo, Rev. Dr. Holmes, of Poughkeepsie, was reported as saying: "Personal welfare was the outlook of each man in the past. In our own age each seeks the welfare of the others."

The reverend gentleman either is over credulous or he has a queer idea of how "each seeks the welfare of the other." Does he contend that the western cold storage cornerers who have forced up the price of eggs and all other food stuffs to such a point that many poor people are compelled to subsist on half rations "seek the welfare of the others?" Or is his idea that one member of the "cornering syndicate" is seeking the welfare of the others?

Would Dr. Holmes have us believe that the coal mine operators who have boosted up the price of the coal which God placed in the earth for the benefit of all mankind, so that its use by the extremely poor is well nigh prohibited, were "seeking the welfare of the others?"

Are the sweatshop proprietors who wring the very hearts blood out of underpaid, ill fed girls and women "seeking the welfare of others?"

Because John D. Rockefeller puts up the price of kerosene a cent or two a gallon and collects his standard oil dividends from the poor people of the country and then hands over one-tenth per cent of his profits to church or college "seeking the welfare of the others?"

And there's Andrew Carnegie. Of course when he hands over a few thousand dollars to a town in order that it may build a "Carnegie library" which will hand down to posterity the name of the donor "seeking the welfare of the others?" We always had an idea that Carnegie was "touting his own horn" rather than hiding his light under a bushel.

In our opinion Daird Harum's maxim "Do unto others as they would do to you but do it first" more nearly represents the prevailing sentiment of to day than that high sounding one enunciated by Rev. Dr. Holmes.

Sauce for the Goose, Etc

Speaking in Chicago on Washington's birthday, former Secretary Elihu Root said that there was no constitutional government in Columbia; that no government of law protected the people of Panama and their interests against the will of an arbitrary and foreign power, that "Panama was entitled to be free" and that "the isthmus was theirs and they were entitled to govern it."

Paraphrasing: "There is no constitutional government in Ireland; no government of law protects the people of Ireland and their interests against the will of an arbitrary and foreign power; Ireland is entitled to be free." "Their country is theirs and they are entitled to govern it."

Then, suppose, a proposition was made that the United States intervene to prevent England landing troops to put down an Irish uprising with the intention of proclaiming Ireland a republic?

What a howl would go up from the Hays, the Tafts, the Choates, the Root, the Lodges, and the Beveridges! Indeed, it makes a difference whose ox is gored.

Monsignor O'Hare's Advice.

Monsignor P. F. O'Hare of New York, does not believe that honor to St. Patrick does not need to go so far as dances on the evening of March 17th. Here is the way he talked to his congregation last Sunday:

"We all know that the Irish societies get up a ball for St. Patrick's night. Well, now, I don't think that the proper and dignified way to honor St. Patrick during Lent. It would be more in keeping with our Catholic spirit and teaching to have some other form of entertainment, such as a lecture, the rendering of a programme of Irish music, or something elevating and instructive like that, and leave your ball alone for some other time. St. Patrick was in himself the embodiment of penance, and it was by his great sufferings and acts of self-denial that so many graces were given the Irish race. We resent very properly any insults given our people on the stage, but does not our conduct very often, such as is manifested at balls on St. Patrick's night, give our enemies opportunities of saying things that bring the blush of shame to the cheeks of intelligent Irishmen? I hope in the name of God, you will take this advice in the spirit in which it is given, a spirit to respect yourselves, your religion and your patron saint."

Lesson We Should Learn. Last week Rochester was visited by one of the worst fires in its history in point of loss to property.

This week rising phoenix like from the ashes, work is already begun on buildings to replace the burned ones.

American activity and energy does not rest idle long even under adverse conditions which might discourage a more phlegmatic people.

Let us all act in concert to repair, as best each one may, the damage done to our fair city.

If some of the employees, who are out of a place owe us money we should be lenient. If some of the firms which were burned out wish to rent quarters which we own, we should not advance rents to an exorbitant rate on the

savage theory that necessity makes right. In short let us demonstrate to the world at large that in Rochester at least the Golden Rule still survives.

Procrastination.

The state legislature has been in session for two months and aside from the pernicious educational centralization bill has transacted no business worth speaking of.

Why is it that our high priced legislators waste so much time every winter at Albany? Every one knows that the legislature could transact all the business it does every year inside of sixty days.

Then why don't they do it? It may be that the state and the legislators themselves would be better off if there was a wholesale clearing out of the men who have been at Albany for a decade and more. To long a sojourn in Albany, so it is said, does not conduce to uprightness of purpose or strengthening of moral fibre.

Christian Sentiment.

Rev. Dr. D. L. Ferris of Calvary Episcopal church in Pittsburg, has an appreciation of the fitness of things. Commenting upon an announcement that grand opera is to be given in that city during holy week, Mr. Ferris said: "In no other city in the United States could they draw enough audiences at that season to make the performances pay." He went on:

"I would as soon think of attending grand opera with father and mother lying dead at my home as to attend on Good Friday, and the fact that the management can fill the house at any other time in Holy Week is a source of shame not only to the Episcopalians but to all the churchgoing population of Pittsburg."

If all the ministers would follow suit these greedy theatre magnates would soon find that it would be to their advantage to close their playhouse during Holy Week, at least.

Who Indeed.

Mr. Taft says: "The Filipino people as a people, have breathed in through their educated leaders the inspiration of liberty and free government."

Pertinently, a contemporary comments: "From whom did the educated leaders get their education?" Certainly not from "El Americanos."

Wonder why it was that Secretary of the Treasury Shaw thought it necessary to insist that newspaper men must be excluded from the hall while he was talking to the bankers of New Jersey the other night.

Whatever faults Mark Hanna may have possessed he was a "square man" and always fought in the open. There are few living politicians of whom this can be said, truthfully.

A French translator of President Roosevelt's works appended a foot note that the Golden Rule was one of the Aphorisms attributed to Pythagoras. No wonder the French atheists are so eager to crush out the Christian schools.

General Wood will not have much difficulty to secure confirmation at the hands of the United States Senate now, we fancy.

The New York "Sun" has it that diamonds are now computed by the ton in America. A contemporary adds: "And to think that those precious gems are doomed to sparkle on so many unclean hands!"

Last Monday was Washington's birthday but no flower was paraded in the button holes of admiring country men.

The "Rev. What's His Name?" who came over here to throw down and uproot the ritualistic wing of the Protestant Episcopal Church, preached a Sunday or so ago to a handful of New York reporters most of whom fell asleep. Bad as ritualistic Episcopalians are they may not be spoken of in the same breath as the "low church bigots."

It cannot be possible that after our proclamation of strict neutrality in the Russia-Japanese war that the American government will allow a "regiment of rough riders to be drilled and recruited for Japan" in the United States.

SOCIETIES

Installation of Advisory Senate L. C. B. A. took place Monday, Feb. 22. The following officers were installed by Mrs. Burke, past president of the Senate: Chancellor, Mrs. Burke; president, Mrs. Pierce; 1st vice pres., Miss O'Connor; 2nd vice pres., Mrs. Albrecht; rec. sec., Mrs. Murphy; fin. sec., Mrs. O'Hara; treas., Miss Sullivan; marshal, Mrs. Weber; guard, Mrs. Quinn; reader, Mrs. Heuter; executive committee, Mrs. Savard, Miss McLaughlin, Mrs. Cunningham, Mrs. Kennedy, Mrs. Kreig.

Next meeting will be held March 28, French Hall. All members are expected to be present.

UNION CLUB.

A lecture and musicale was given at the club rooms Thursday evening and the following program was rendered: Selections, Malone's Orchestra, piano solo, Miss Alice C. Connors; reading from "The Christian," Miss Hughes; vocal solo, "The Jewel Song," Miss Pearl Keenan, accompanied by Miss Gertrude Keenan; selection, Malone's Orchestra, lecture, "Abraham Lincoln," Rev. W. P. Ryan.

Editor Catholic Journal: I have received the prize which was announced in last week's Journal and I sincerely thank the donor for the same.

Yours truly, George W. Finegan

Forty Hours Devotion.

The devotion of the "Forty Hours" will be held in the churches of the diocese of Rochester as follows: March 6 Fairport, Penn Yan.

Weekly Church Calendar.

Sunday March 6 Gospel, St. Luke, ch. 11:28 St. Collette, virgin. Monday 7 St. Thomas Aquinas, doctor and confessor.

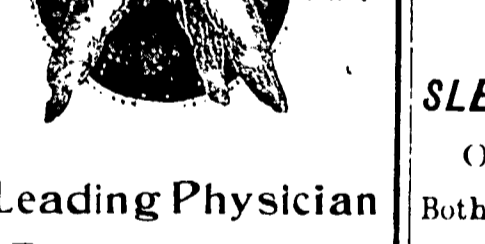
Tuesday 8 St. John of God, confessor. Wednesday 9 St. Frances of Rome, virgin. Fast. Thursday 10 The Forty Martyrs. Friday 11 The Five Wounds. Fast. Saturday 12 St. Gregory the Great, pope.

Personal.

Chief Joseph M. Henderman of Hornellsville, N. Y., came down to the big fire last week and offered his assistance to the Rochester firemen.

Low rates West via The Nickel Plate Road. Special one way Colonist tickets to points throughout the West and Southwest, on sale first and third Tuesday each month to April, 1904. If going West this winter see local agents or write R. E. Payne, Genl. Agt. 291 Main St., Buffalo, N. Y.

Read our proposition for a dinner set in this issue. If you don't need them for yourself they will make a handsome present for any friend.



A Leading Physician in Rochester says: "Nearly one half of the illness is caused by decayed teeth. Are your teeth in good condition? That is an important question. See that at once that your teeth are filled and properly attended to. If the tooth aches and needs pulling it can be done without pain. A FILLING DIRT does it all."

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ROCHESTER SAVINGS BANK Resources Jan. 1, 1903, \$20,841,412.53 Surplus Jan. 1, 1903, - 1,923,431.30 Money loaned on bond and mortgage in sums of \$500 and under at 5 per cent. Over \$50,000 at 4 1/2 per cent. Deposits made on or before the first three business days of any month will draw interest from the first day of that month, provided they remain to the end of a quarterly interest period. JAMES BRACKETT, President. HENRY S. HANFORD, Treasurer. THOMAS H. HUSBAND, Secretary.

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