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ROCHESTER TELEPHONE 2363. SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 1904.

Rank Imitation. Bishop Griffin of the Protestant Episcopal Church last week, so the press despatches stated, had the hardihood to "celebrate a pontifical high mass" in the Protestant Episcopal Church of St. Edward the Martyr in New York city.

If the press despatches do not lie, the service was "one of the most advanced in point of ritual ever witnessed in an Episcopal church in New York city." There were candles, crucifixes, and thurifers, acolytes, deacon and sub-deacon, and other officers of the mass. The bishop was in cope and mitre and two priests who were ordained were invested with chasuble, cincture and alb.

But, oh the shallowness of it all.—The whole ceremony was but a pretense and a sham. The show was pretty and the trappings were gaudy enough. But there was no difference between that service and one in the plainest, severest, most cheerless of Scotch Presbyterian churches. There is no Divine Presence, in any Protestant church, not even an Episcopal church.

There is naught but tawdry imitation to save over the consciences of bishop, priest and communicants.

It may be that the service referred to may damn the participants in the eternal flames of perdition.

The Two Main Things. Congressman W. Bourke Cockran is one Catholic who is not ashamed to let the world know what faith he professes. Neither is he a half-hearted Catholic of the sort that is proud to be styled liberal.

Speaking at a mass meeting called in New York last week to further the Catholic federation, Mr. Cockran gave forth these splendid sentiments: "To-day we find civic patriotism combining with private philanthropy and charity in building up such institutions as hospitals, orphan asylums, and so forth. Floods, fires, disaster of every kind call forth our warmest heart beats and most generous giving. All this comes from Christian teaching—Christian revelation.

"I have not time to go into details, but two things I wish to mention—Christian education and divorce. I say that the youth uninstructed in Christian teachings of morals and right is not fit to be a citizen of this or of any other country. What does Christianity teach us but morality and honesty—right and wrong. What does the Constitution demand of us but honesty in men and morality in women? I tell you the nation which banishes Christian teaching from its confines and allows the youth to grow to manhood ignorant of morality and honesty is doomed—eternally doomed."

No Sealed Book. In a recent magazine article Rev. Dr. John F. Mullaney writes entertainingly and convincingly in refutation of the oft-repeated statement that the Catholic church opposes the reading and study of the Bible; in fact that she tries to make it "a sealed book" to her children.

Dr. Mullaney says: "The church is not opposed to the reading of the Bible as many Protestants charge in their un-Christian and uncharitable attacks. For nearly 2,000 years, the church has guarded and preserved the Bible from destruction and corruption. For centuries before the invention of printing, her learned sons and daughters

were constantly employed in transcribing and translating the Holy Bible. It was translated into every modern language of Europe long before Martin Luther had seen the light of day. No, dear Protestant friends, the Church is not opposed to the reading of the Bible; it is her duty as well as her right to see that her children are not misled by unsound translations. She encourages in every way possible the proper perusal of the Bible, and it is her great desire, as evidenced in the exhortation, of popes and bishops, and especially by the timely encyclical of Pope Leo XIII., that the gospel of Jesus Christ may be imprinted on every Christian soul."

Dr. Mullaney cites Hallam, Doctor Blunt, Dr. Metland, and other non-Catholic writers to refute this hoary, time worn charge made and re-made by bigots when all other slander fails against the Catholic church.

It would not seem that it were not necessary to reiterate the falsity of these charges. But the educated bigot is more malicious than the ignorant one.

There is a Difference. It is not to be wondered at that ignorant secular papers could not see why Cardinal Svampa should be allowed to greet the King of Italy while the visit of President Loubet to the same monarch evoked protest from the Vatican.

"In Bologna," as an exchange aptly remarks, "the royal ruler is no usurper. That territory has long been a possession of the House of Savoy. The same is true of Venice. When Pope Pius was Cardinal Saraceni, patriarch of Venice, he invariably greeted the King of Italy with royal honors. Neither Bologna nor Venice is classed as a Papal belonging. But when the Patriarch of Venice became Pope Pius X., conditions changed."

Succinctly Put. Writing to a New York paper, R. P. Green states the position of France succinctly and concisely as follows:

"It seems to me that open and vigorous rupture is preferable on the part of Pius X. to same submission and futile protesting against spoliation. Before France was, the Papacy was—all the glories and fame of France date from the days when she was, not only in name, but in fact, the faithful eldest daughter of the Church. Since she insanely cast away the honor of being so she has been the prey of the spoiler, and students of affairs calmly contemplate the day when she will have descended into the rank of a second, or even third, rate power. Every circumstance of my early education leads me to have a high regard for France; no lack of friendship prompts the wish that she will again lead the European world, and by the only possible means, the means by which she rose—close friendship with the Holy See.

"A year ago the papers told us that Mr. Loubet was going to Rome to see the King, but desisted because of Rampolla's objecting; in other words, a visit to the King by the President was a club held over the heads of Leo and his secretary. I, for one, am glad that the new secretary makes no protest beforehand, but says, 'Come, if you think best.' It may bring the old trouble to a crisis; it is quite a matter of opinion as to whether France can support a rupture so much better than can the Vatican."

"Syndicate and newspaper letters" are, generally speaking, cheap, unreliable stuff. One of these syndicate letters recently depicted a gathering of politicians at the Delevan House in Albany. The affair described took place last winter; but the Delevan has not been political headquarters in the State capital for nearly a decade.

All the politicians are crying of "harmony." But it seems to be a scarce commodity, even in the Prohibitionist party.

This is the season when the "trained-in-the-head only" college graduates submit plans of revolutionizing the world, the sun, the stars, and the waters under the earth.

Notice To City Subscribers. Our collectors will call on city subscribers next week. Kindly be prepared to pay them when they call.

Five Minute Sermon

The Justice of the Pharisees. Christ commands us to be reconciled to our neighbor whom we have offended as soon as possible, and to give him satisfaction. The Jews thought they could atone for any sin, even for murder, by making an offering in the temple and Jesus Christ commander them not to make the offering until they had made peace with their neighbor, which they should do immediately. We, also, are bound by this command; and hence, if we have either in word or deed offended a person, before we pray or receive the sacraments we should banish from our heart all angry feeling; we should, as soon as possible, give satisfaction and ask pardon of the person offended; and we should show that we entertain no feelings of resentment, and if we have been offended we must be ready to forgive.

We are to learn from this Gospel that to enter the kingdom of heaven we must be really and not apparently good that is, we must have an upright heart animated by charity and subject to all things to the holy law of God, always bearing in mind that true justice does not consist in the external practices of devotion, but rather in the purity of conscience, in the abnegation of our will, and in the control of our passions. We are also to learn to abstain from any act of anger, and from saying anything that can offend or grieve our neighbor. Lastly, we are to learn not to be slow in making peace with our neighbor whenever we have displeased him, and also not to make a reconciliation difficult.

Weekly Church Calendar. Sunday June 26—Gospel, St. Matt. v. 20-24—SS. John and Paul, martyrs. Monday 27—St. Ladislas, king and confessor. Tuesday 28—St. Leo II, pope and confessor. Wednesday 29—SS. Peter and Paul, apostles. Thursday 30—Commemoration of St. Paul. Friday July 1—St. Theobald, confessor. Saturday 2—Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Old Associations To S H.

On thee, Sodality of Our Virgin Queen. In joy or sadness we fondly lean. When danger threatens we are not alone, Thy protecting arms around us are thrown.

With all my heart I gladly sound thy praise. For thou hast favored us with happy days— Bestowing on us treasures rich in worth. Than which there is not dearer on this earth.

O sacred priceless gift and richer far Than sparkling gems or costly jewels are Is "Child of Mary," title of thy love. Which is conferred on us from heav'n above.

But all too soon these happy days will end. And we must leave thy shel'ring care, dear friend. And wander forth into the world of strife. Unattended by the joys of early life.

It matters not how far from thee we stray. In thought, in spirit we'll be here always. Ofttimes in Mem'ry's garden we will find Fragrant flowers of the rarest kind.

As thro' its ever winding walks we stroll. We'll stop to pluck those blossoms of the soul. Those tender recollections of the past— And gratefully enjoy them while they last.

No others like them any where we'll meet. The fragrance which they shed is lasting sweet. And once inhaled a strangely pleasant feeling. Unconsciously or the senses stealing.

Possessed of subduing charms and soothing pow'r. Will bring us back again to the present hour. And, as it soothes and lulls the aching heart to rest. Recall again these scenes and sounds so blest.

And fettered even tho' we be with care. There'll be a time, the silent hour of pray'r. When Memory will bring us back once more To sodality days—the days of yore.

Then turning to our heavenly queen again. We'll chant her praise the same as then. And ask her mother's love to guide us still. And help us all our promises to fulfil.

(To-night) we'll cross the bridge which spans the tide of years. To a land where sunshine thro' the cloud appears. And sheds around a glow of tender light. Dispel'ling gloom and darkness from our sight.

Old associations will meet us here. All others for the time must disappear. They reign alone here in this far-off land. And before them now in awe must stand.

Old associations! ever dear to the heart. Entrancing are the joys which you impart! And sad betides the memories you awake. Yet we love you still for old time's sake!

You weave indeed a spell of magic pow'r. To comfort us in ev'ry passing hour. Recalling days of joy and charming bliss. Which in our busy later life we'll miss. With you to guide we'll wander on to-night. Enjoying all these scenes of rare delight. Which greet the eye on ev'ry hand. And swell the beauty of your lovely land.

We'll gather sweet wild flowers by waters clear— Fond recollections of our sodality dear. And weave them into a garland fair and bright. To offer to her children here to-night.

'Tis June, the fair and lovely month of June. Her song is sweet, and Nature is in tune. No other time I know of all the year. When the whole world seems so full of cheer.

When Nature is adorned with flowers so fair. And beauty's smiles are beaming ev'rywhere. Rapt in ecstasy we listen to her song. And powerless as we are it carries us along.

Honored are they who are found such scenes among— They live forever in her song so sweetly sung. One scene there is upon which we love to gaze. We recognize a dear one while she sings his praise.

It is our pastor, whose image we can trace. Amid the flowers and sunshine of this place. It makes the scene so pictureque more bright— His face radiant with kindly smiling light.

Many years in his Master's service he has spent. To-day we celebrate that great event. For his honor and glory he has labored hard. Of His treasures he has been a faithful guard.

May God's holy peace with him always rest. May the remainder of his life with joy be blest. May his reward in heaven be great. And his life on earth one long, happy day.

His ever faithful assistants brave and true. Are here with him to greet us, still "true blue" Leaving ev'ry thought of self behind. They ever have been zealous, devoted and kind.

Inspired by lofty ambition's noble aim. And holy thoughts which kindle into flame. They hear alone the voice of One divine. Calling to them from the sacred inner shrine.

Ever to the true life drawing nigher. Day by day we see them climbing higher. For religion's sake to win a lasting fame. And glory too, to crown her noble name.

Thy noble work, O friends of God, continue still. Teaching all to bow before His will. And guided thither by your lessons of love. May we one day meet you in realms above!

Beloved Sisters, gentle, good and kind. You too have left pleasant memories behind.— What gladness fills our hearts to now behold The visions you recall of days of old! Associated with them are friends most dear.

Who gather now to meet us here! But not for long, with us those friends will stay. Like shadows of the morn they'll pass away.

In a garden of beauty, divinely fair. We see pure white flowers, a kind so rare. The gardener knows that he will soon have need. The frail, but fair sweet flow'rs to pluck indeed.

So he guards and tends with loving care. The opening buds, which he soon must spare. And feels the time is fast drawing nigh. When he must appear with them on high.

Transplanted to the gardens that they love. Henceforth, forevermore, they'll bloom above. In that other land their fragrance they will shed. Whilst we watch and weep and mourn them as our dead.

And now to thee, our sodality, most dear. Without a doubt, without a single fear. We pledge a loyalty forever true— The faithful loving hearts that learned of you.

A wisdom and a knowledge all so rare. Will ever guard and cherish it with care. And long will you remain, as from the start. This high and holy wisdom to impart!

Divine thy mission, thy work most grand! Distinct in it thou wilt forever stand. Directing all who seek thy shel'ring care. To lands above, where all is bright and fair!

The above was written and read at the Second Reunion and Banquet of the Young Ladies' Sodality of St. Mary's Church, Auburn, by Miss Catharine Coma Collins.

The occasion was significant, as it marked the thirty-first Anniversary in the Priesthood of the Director of the Sodality, Rev. Wm. Mulhern.

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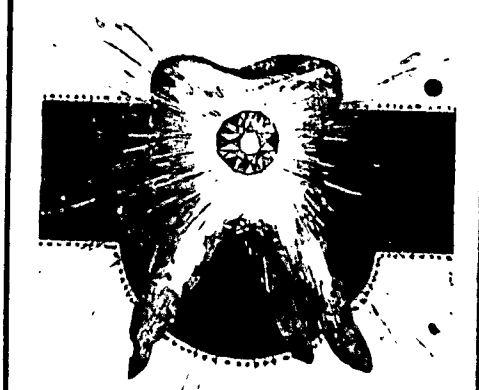
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