

THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY AT
200 East Main Street, Rochester, N. Y.

CATHOLIC JOURNAL PUBLISHING
COMPANY

If paper is not received Saturday notify the
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SUBSCRIPTION RATES
One Year, in Advance, \$1.00
Entered as second class mail matter.

ROCHESTER TELEPHONE 1255.
SATURDAY, DEC. 9, 1905.

Decided Against

Three out of the five justices of the Appellate division have concurred in the decision that the nuns in Lima cannot recover salaries for teaching services rendered in the union school under contract executed by the district trustee, but overruled by Charles R. Skinner, when state superintendent of public instruction.

The Journal is not surprised at this decision.

It will be recalled that we warned our readers not to expect any other result.

It must also be borne in mind that the presiding justice of the appellate division is from Skinner's hometown and is a personal and political friend of the late earl of education. It is not a matter of wonder that he sees disputed questions through like-colored glasses.

This is not the last of the contention. Counsel for the Sisters announces that they will carry the case to the Court of Appeals and if need be, to the Supreme Court of the United States. It is worth while to have a judicial adjudication whether the garb of a nun constitutes sectarianism within the meaning of the constitution of the State of New York. If it does then the constitution should be amended.

Joy in Sorrow

In preparation for the great feast of Christmas, the Church has ordained a season of prayer and penance, second only to the Lenten observance. This is known as Advent. In this is demonstrated the wonderful knowledge of the heart of man possessed by the early Fathers, who worked out that magnificent organization which appeals to the reason as well as the sentiment of men, without a period of sorrow joy is not appreciated. Too much happiness dreads the mental appetites.

But, like a rift in the gloom, comes the feast of the Immaculate Conception, celebrated on December 8th. On this day we pay a joyful tribute to the spotless Mother of God. We do not worship Mary as some non-Catholics charge. We venerate her as the Mother of God. Why should we not, if we believe in the Divinity of her Son? Could it be imagined that Purity could be conceived in impurity? Is not the very thought revolting? Believing that the spotless Mother of God is the most precious memory any more than the patriots should be obliged for venerating the memory of Washington?

To Catholics the feast of the Immaculate Conception is of especial interest. It is the patronal feast of the Church in this, the country where the Church has achieved its greatest importance in this century.

Right

Probably Bishop Scannell, of Omaha, has taken drastic measures in excommunicating those members of his flock who assisted in the wedding of a divorced person even though that person were not a Catholic.

It may be assumed by the laity that the bishop knows the canon law of the church and that he has acted in accordance with it. This being so and having warned the members of his flock in what manner he would proceed, the bishop is not to be faulted.

tempt for the laws of the church itself because the excommunicated persons occupy high social position and are possessed of great wealth.

Incidentally, how many non-Catholic clergymen would have courage to act likewise? That there are some we have no doubt, but the number is infinitesimal. Perhaps that explains the slim attendance upon and lack of interest in non-Catholic services.

Sunday Amusement

Vividly, has the proverb about the house divided against itself been illustrated in the controversy over Sunday afternoon amusement.

A committee composed of laymen and clergymen whose object apparently was to provide some sort of recreation and intellectual improvement for the non-church goers, formulated a tentative plan which appeared to them feasible. So far, so good.

Unfortunately, the non-Catholic clergymen scented a counter-attraction to their not too well-attended Sunday afternoon services. They protested. Their clerical brothers on the committee not wishing to appear in an attitude of antagonism toward their colleagues, tried to placate them. The discussion veered around until the ministers charged the committee with aiming at secularization of the Sabbath.

Next came denominational wrangling. One clergyman seeking a fit pretext to confound his opponents, charged that the majority of non-church goers were Catholics, forgetting that Catholics are bound, under pain of mortal sin to attend mass on Sunday mornings. Another saw no good in the Sunday afternoon band concerts in the summer months. Needless to say, this gentleman is opposed to Sunday amusement in any form. If people will not attend his church why, then, they may go to the devil afoot or horseback as they please.

Probably, discussion until doomsday would not bring about a unanimous feeling on this much-mooted question. Like the temperance movement, the observance of Sunday always will present two sides in an argument and violent partisans will be ranged on either.

Probably less rancor would have been engendered had the committee been composed entirely of laymen. Then the ministers might not have felt it necessary to intervene.

Sincere regret is felt that a purely non-sectarian effort to provide persons who are not attracted toward religious services at such a place where they may congregate free from pernicious influences could not be discussed without rancor. The incident demonstrates that a better and kindlier civic feeling is needed in Rochester.

Great American Bishop

Reviewing Abbe Klein's book, the "Catholic Sun" says:

"The interview with Rt. Rev. Bishop McQuaid of our sister diocese of Rochester forms for our people of Central New York a chapter of special interest. The big-hearted, hospitable prelate, true to his well known generosity, entertained and delighted the Abbe in a manner peculiarly his own. And although his meeting with the head of one of the flourishing dioceses in the United States, was purely accidental it proved to be one of the most enjoyable and instructive of his whole tour. This chapter makes very interesting reading. The Rt. Rev. Bishop was at his best when telling the Rev. Abbe of his seminary and schools. These have formed the real life work of the good Bishop and well may he feel proud of them. The Abbe's praise and admiration are not misplaced when poured out on the great work of this great American Bishop.

Business men of Rochester corroborate the "Catholic Register" when it asserts "That the weekly paper should be a better medium for advertising than the daily is evident. It is the paper of the home. Young and old read it. It does not kindle to-morrow's fires. It is kept for a long time; it is not unwieldy. No ordinary person could possibly read all the news in the daily papers, not

to speak of the advertisements. The daily paper is glanced at during breakfast, hastily scanned on the cars, and is then thrown away. The daily paper has to be taken, whether you like it or not, such is the tyranny of curiosity. The man who takes a weekly paper takes it because he likes it, because it speaks to him as companion, a friend."

A law of the Church forbids Catholics to take part in any Protestant service under any circumstances. Should that not be sufficient reason for sending Catholic boys and girls and Catholic young men and women to Catholic educational institutions?

Says Rev. P. A. Sheehan in "My New Curate": "When we were children the infinite lay beyond the next mountain because it was the unknown. We grew up and we got knowledge; and knowledge destroyed our dreams, and left us only commonplace. It is the unknown and unlimited that still appeals to us—the something behind the dawn, and beyond the sunset, and far away athwart the black line of the horizon that is forever calling and beckoning to us to go thither."

The "Catholic Sun" has a timely article on "Too frequent changes in text books in Catholic as well as public schools." As we understand it, that question has been solved in the diocese of Rochester by the diocesan institute of teachers. Hereafter text books and examinations will be uniform in all the Catholic schools of the diocese.

Says the "Ave Maria": "A notable characteristic of Chinese converts is their devotion to the Blessed Virgin. The Sisters of Charity at Ningpo, to whom we lately had the pleasure of sending an offering for their mission, tell us that 'no good Chinese Christian would think of retiring to rest without chanting the Rosary, no matter how tired or weary he might be. In the evening we see hard-worked fishermen kneeling in their little boats with their wives and children, fervently singing away, quite regardless of their pagan surroundings.'"

"Inference is obvious" comments the "Morning Star" upon the following true story: "The Judge of a city court (in one of our large centres) was much opposed to divorce. As a test of the sincerity of purpose of those who came before him to be married, he always asked (although he could not legally require it) that the high contracting parties should, before the marriage, sign an agreement never to apply for a divorce. During his incumbency he had occasion to make this request just thirty-five times, and in every case he met with an emphatic refusal."

Rev. M. P. Dowling, S. J., reads a needed lesson in a recent article on "The Godless Women": "It would be a false conception to imagine that because a woman is not performing public functions, because she is not present in the glare of the footlights, because she is not engaged in making great history, that therefore her time is lost; that she is, as it were, an outcast from the providence of God and that her days are useless. If she be a good wife and a good mother, and a good sister, and a good daughter, if she help her father to bear his burdens, if she relieve her fading and failing mother, if she restrains her brothers from wicked associations, if she gather the forsaken around her knee in the moment of distress and press them to her heart, and love them and make them feel that life is worth living, because there is a human heart that goes out to them, she may perform her mission in the world."

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At this season our store is a beautiful bazar filled with holiday goods selected with scrupulous care especially for people who know good things when they see them.

Each year finds the geegaws less conspicuous as gifts. Our friends appreciate receiving something either bluntly useful or as indicating an accurate knowledge of their fads or fancies. That's why we are now offering extraordinary values in merchandise of the practical sort—inducements that will prove most tempting because most timely.

To-day we offer as follows:

Clearing Tailored Suits at Radical Concessions

At \$15.00—Formerly \$25 and \$28.50

This sensational sacrifice affects long and short coat models that have been most fancied this season. They are made of good broadcloths and best chevots in wine, plum, navy and brown or dark grey all wool mixtures. Coats are lined throughout with excellent quality satin—in brief, suits that were \$25.00 and \$28.50 now reduced to \$15.00.

At \$25.00—Formerly \$35 and \$37.50

In this collection are included entirely new and authoritative models of mannish all wool mixtures and the fashionable high, self-colored chevots and broadcloths—productions away above the average in every particular—such as will appeal to those who require exclusiveness as well as style—formerly \$35.00 and \$37.50, now \$25.00.

At \$35 to \$110—Formerly \$50 to \$135

Among the still higher grades of tailored and semi-tailored suits we are offering equally pronounced inducements and, what is equally important at a time when they will be most acceptable. These models bear the hall mark of high birth. The skill of the artist is evidenced in every twist of trimming and touch of ornamentation. Included in the collection referred to in caption are suits with Eton or short "Pony" coats—

the latter, an advance Spring creation—together with exclusive tight-fitting models of extreme length. They are made of velutina or imported broadcloth in rich wines, dark cardinals or Austrian greens, also of imported fancy fabrics in entirely new combinations. And this is what we have done to the prices:

\$65 Suits for \$50

\$75 Suits for \$60

\$88 Suits for \$75

\$100 Suits for \$75

\$135 Suits for \$110

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At \$10—Formerly \$15 and \$18.50

Tourist Coats in a wide diversity of full box, semi-fitted and overcoat models, 50 and 52 inches long, of all wool light or heavy weight light and dark mixtures, made with or without velvet collars—\$15.00 and \$18.50 garments now to close at \$10.00.

At \$19.75—Formerly \$25 to \$30

High grade three-quarter length coats in tight fitting, semi-fitting or tourist models in an extensive range of blanket plaids and mannish mixtures, reduced from \$25.00 and \$30.00 to \$19.75.

At \$25—Regular Value \$35

Evening Coats in effective Empire models of broadcloth in wine, cardinal, orchid, eminance, reseda and new evening and pastel shades, lined throughout with satin—a regular \$35.00 value for \$25.00.

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Walking or driving in winter is one of the healthiest and most delightful sports—providing you are well protected from the chilly blasts and driving snow.

- Men's Fur Coats, \$18.00 up.
 - Men's cloth, fur lined and fur trimmed Coats from \$25.00 up
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 - Ladies' Near Seal, \$35.00 up.
 - Ladies' Persian Lamb, \$75.00 up.
 - Ladies' Cloth, fur lined Coats, Natural Squirrel Coats, Blended Squirrel Coats, French Mink Coats at all prices and all sizes. All sizes on hand or garments made to measure without extra charge.
 - Ladies' Fur neck scarfs from \$5.00 up.
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