

# The Catholic Journal

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## WASHINGTON LETTER

Among Our National Legislators

(Special to The Journal)

The national capital presents again the life and bustle that usually accompanies the assembling of Congress. The one subject of conversation and discussion is, of course, the railroad rate question. With the great number and variety of views before me the probable outcome of the battle would seem to be a compromise measure. It is well known that in the arguments before the Senate committee the railroads had, if anything, the better of it. They are represented by the ablest counsel, and any measure that will pass the Senate will be most carefully considered. That there will be some sort of legislation on this subject this winter seems to be generally conceded.

With this question finally disposed of it is not known if the President will advocate any "monkeying" with the tariff. There is a strong tariff revision sentiment in the Republican party, and many members feel that they cannot return to their homes and face their constituents with a clear conscience if their party has stood "too pat" on the tariff. In fact, failure to do anything in this line is looked upon by many as precursor to a Democratic House of Representatives. It is well known that since the time of President Grant's first term only one President, McKinley, had a House of Representatives of his own party in the second half of his term and it is felt that the political complexion of the next House will depend largely upon what the present Congress will do, rather than upon any particular policy of the administration.

There is every assurance that another effort will be made to attempt some legislation against the Catholic Indian mission schools. Aside from documents which were offered me in confidence, the general nature of which I alluded to in a former news letter, the following resolution was adopted by the Lake Mohonk Conference, October 21, 1905, at its regular meeting in New York:

"Resolved, that this conference respectfully petition Congress, by legislation, to pass upon the question whether any funds held in trust by the United States should be used for the support of any schools under denominational or ecclesiastical control. And the conference records its conviction that the decision repeatedly embodied in the legislation of Congress, against the appropriation of any public funds for the support of such schools, should also be by law enforced against the use of Indian tribal funds, of which the United States government is the trustee."

"We recommend to the Secretary of the Interior and to Congress that such measures as are necessary be taken to make possible the admission of full blood children of the so-called five civilized tribes residing in the Indian Territory into the Government Indian schools of the country."

Here we are again with the same problem before us. Will Congress yield to the demand of these fanatics? That is the burning question of the hour. And this question is not limited to the narrow view of the passage of this particular bill. It embraces the broad proposition whether our Congress will eventually become a truly American Congress, imbued with the spirit of American fairness, and thoroughly emancipated from the thrall of bigotry that has so long obtained there. The last Congress was the first in the history of this country to resist the demands of bigotry, but the new Congress, about to assemble, has many new members and the outcome of the battle is not assured. The loss of Mr. McAndrews, of Chicago, a former member of the Indian committee and a Catholic, will make the committee doubtful, but the hope may be held out that Mr. Stephens' little amendment will again be buried in the waste paper basket of the Indian Affairs Committee. Later on I shall give a detailed account of the fate of the bill, and of the vote cast.

## Football in Georgetown University

A statement has recently appeared in some of the Catholic papers to the effect that the president of Georgetown University had put his foot down on football, and that it was abolished as a sport at that institution. Since the publication of this

item Georgetown has played the George Washington University of this city, defeating them by a score of 12 to 6, and a few days ago, at Thanksgiving, the Carlisle Indians, being defeated by a score of 76 to 0. It would seem that after this last game the right time had arrived for quitting for good.

## Some More Meddling

I have begun to do some more "meddling" by interviewing the members of Congress with whom I am not already acquainted and explaining to them the Catholic side of the Indian question. There is no one else to do it properly and systematically, and there is no other way of neutralizing the insidious work of the enemies of these schools, and of the church. There is a strong probability that these fanatics, if defeated this winter, will again raise a howl about "an agent of the Catholic Church," but in spite of this I feel that my will will be appreciated by all fair-minded people and that I shall succeed, where others have failed. In this work I have already the promise of valuable assistance from Republicans and Democrats alike, men who look with disgust upon the sanctimonious hypocrites who infest the corridors of the capitol every winter.

E. L. SCHARF, Ph. D.

## Cook Opera House.

Will M. Cressy and Blanche Payne will be the main attraction at the Cook Opera House next week. Mr. Cressy is the author of 90 successful vaudeville sketches. Next week they will present the latest of his plays, "Town Hall To-night." This is described as a most quaint and droll offering, in which Mr. Cressy impersonates the man who is everything from janitor to manager of the village theater. Miss Payne is leading woman of a repertoire company. The Ross Wentworth Trio, an act of equestrianism, in which beautiful horses and pretty feats are shown; Cooper and Robinson, colored entertainers; the Debovier Grand Opera Trio, presenting the prison scene from "Faust"; George Wilson, a monologist of known ability; the Wilton Brothers, in a novel comedy horizontal bar act Daisy Harcourt, an English character comedienne; the Three Armstrongs, trick bicyclists and the kinetograph will make up the bill. Matinees will be given daily.

## NATIONAL THEATRE.

It is the general consensus of opinion that the man who puts burnt cork on his face is far funnier than the one who finds it necessary to "black up." There are exceptions, however, and one of them is Ernest Hogan, who will be seen at the National next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, as "Rufus Rastus" at the head of a company of sixty people—all colored and all talented and guaranteed laugh-makers.

"Lured From Home," a new melodrama from the pen of Hal Reid, will be seen at the National Theater next week Thursday, Friday and Saturday. There is a little girl, the daughter of the hero and heroine, the golden link of love; the arch villain and villainess; the tramp, who in the end sees the folly of his ways and reforms; the untutored but honest jockey and his sweetheart; and the typical Bowery tough, who will stop at nothing where money is at stake. All the scenes are realistic and startling, the locality being in the great city of New York.

## EXCURSION TO NEW YORK CITY.

The West Shore R. R. offers a reduced rate excursion to New York city on Friday, December 29th, when round trip tickets good ten days returning will be sold for \$9. Tickets will be good on trains leaving Rochester at 6:08 and 10:57 a. m., 7:02 and 9:24 p. m. Tickets will be good returning on or before Sunday, January 7th. New York's great theatres will have special attractions during the holiday week, including Grand Opera with the greatest aggregation of singers the world has ever seen. See Chinatown by night; see the Hippodrome, the largest theatre in the world, cost \$1,700,000 seats 5,200. There are also a great many other interesting sights in New York at this season of the year.

## AROUND THE GLOBE.

Three Franciscan Sisters left Vancouver, B. C., the other day for Japan, where they will devote their lives to ministering to lepers.

Governor Folk, of Missouri, appointed the Rev. J. J. Furlong, of New Madrid, Mo., a delegate to the National Immigration Conference, which met in New York on Wednesday of this week.

A society of Catholic lawyers has been organized in Italy to defend priests gratis against the slanders and calumnies of which they are being made the victims in the anti-Catholic press.

Archbishop Christie, of Portland, Ore., and Bishop Hartley, of Columbus, arrived in New York from Genoa last Saturday. Both were returning from their ad limina visit to Rome.

At the meeting of the trustees of the Catholic Summer School, held recently at the Catholic Club, New York city, Rev. John Talbot Smith was chosen president of the school, to succeed Rev. D. J. McMahon, who resigned.

Under the will of the late Catherine Woods, which directed the residue of her estate to be devoted to a worthy Catholic charity, to be selected by her executor, the American Society for Visiting Catholic Prisoners has received the sum of \$3,000, to be invested, and the interest is to be devoted to the uses of the society. This is the first bequest the society has received, and the society, in accepting the legacy, adopted resolutions of thanks to Mr. P. H. Spellisay, the executor of the will, by whom the society was selected as the beneficiary.

Writes the Rome correspondent of The Freeman's Journal concerning the great men's Confraternity of the city of Limerick, which all travelers in Ireland note with wonder and edification: Dr. O'Riordan, humble and gentle as he is, has added new lustre to the old Catholic city of Limerick in the eyes of the whole world. He was recently received in private audience by the Pope and gave His Holiness an account of the splendid Confraternity in Limerick—the Confraternity of the Holy Family, which actually counts in its ranks almost every man in Limerick.

A few days ago in a bog near Roscommon, while a farmer was engaged thereon in digging work, his spade came in contact with a small wooden box, which he unearthed. In opening in the wood went to pieces. Inside was a leatheren covering, which was also deteriorated by age, and inside this again was another covering, and the last that met the finger's gaze was a book entitled "Discourses on the Sacraments," by King Henry VIII, in a splendid state of preservation. On the inner leaf is the following: "A Defence of the Seven Sacraments against Martin Luther, by Henry VIII, King of England, France, and Ireland, to which are added his epistles to the Pope."

One of the little-known heroines of the Civil War was buried in Chicago the other day. In the chapel of Mercy Hospital funeral services were held over the body of Sister Mary Bernard Welch, one of the Chicago nurses who went to the front in 1862 to care for the boys in blue.

Sister Mary Bernard died at the hospital of pneumonia. She was 74 years old, and had spent fifty-one years in her sisterhood. Of this period forty-five years were passed in Mercy Hospital.

When the Civil War broke out she was sent to the South with six other nurses from the Mercy Hospital. Of this band the sole survivor is Sister Elvior, now in the convent at Twenty-ninth and Wabash avenue. These women had charge of a floating hospital in the Mississippi and tributary streams during Grant's campaigns.

The Municipal Council of Paris have decided that the Augustinian Nuns, who are in charge of the Hotel Dieu and of the St. Louis Hospital, under a decree of 1810, should be expelled, and that lay nurses should be put in charge. The substitution is likely to cost the city something like 100,000 francs, and the real character of the decision may be judged from the fact that the nuns are to be expelled within a period of three months, and that in no case are the Augustinian Nuns to continue the performance of their duties under the costume of lay nurses. The majority, however, seem to have been somewhat frightened at their own decision, and their leader has been reported that it was not intended to

enforce this decision. But we know what these declarations mean. The final decision, however, rests with the government and the Council of Ministers. The resolutions of the Municipal Council are, by themselves, powerless against the decree of 1810, and it remains to be seen whether M. Rouvier will countenance the laicizing propensities of the Council.

## The Awakening.

I was walking one day on the highway,  
The sun shone brightly on me,  
But my heart was heavy with sorrow,  
No light my soul could see.  
When, lo! I heard in the distance,  
A sound that seemed to call,  
Of a life beyond the portal,  
'Twas the chime of the Vesper Bell.

In entered the Sacred Edifice,  
The crowd reached far as the door,  
I paused as if by magic,  
And knelt with the rest on the floor.

And when in that solemn stillness,  
When silence reigns supreme,  
When the Sacred Host is raised on High,  
And our prayers ascend to Him.

I silently prayed for guidance,  
From the Royal Throne above,  
And promised a life's devotion,  
In return for our Lord's dear love.

I prayed with a heart full of gladness,  
For the call that came to me,  
While walking on in darkness,  
And having no light to see.

HANNA E. KELLY.

## BAKES THEATRE.

Next week the Moore Stock Company will present one of the newest and most wholesome comedies ever written, "Charley's Aunt." A clean, bright story of the most laughable kind and one that is bound to repeat its former success with the same company at the Cook Opera House. Almost everyone remembers the story of "Charley's Aunt," of her belated arrival "from Brazil," where the nuts come from. Her presence is needed to chaperone a dinner party in the rooms of the young men. The only way out of the predicament caused by her non-arrival is to pass as obliging, but willing young man friend into service and make him impersonate the aunt. The play will be presented all next week with the regular matinees on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. For Christmas week "Davy Crockett" has been selected.

## Five Minute Sermon.

### St. John Bears Witness to Christ.

St. John informed the Jews of the nature of his mission, and directed their attention to the prophecy of Isaiah which foretold his coming, by quoting the words of the prophet: "Speak to the heart of Jerusalem, saith the Lord, and call aloud to her, be ye comforted, my people, for your evil is come to an end. Then shall ye hear a voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight His paths." He also gave them a striking proof of his great humility, for though promised by an angel, born by a prodigy of the Most High, and sanctified before his birth by the presence of the Redeemer, yet he merely says of himself: "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness."

We should learn to practise humility as St. John did, by confessing sincerely our nothingness, by not sounding our own praises even when there may be occasion to do so without danger of ostentation and by suffering with patience injuries and words even when performing faithfully our duties.

We should consider what our own answer will be when, like St. John, we are asked: "Who art thou?" Grant, O Lord, that we may be able to answer when the time comes: "We are Christians." Lastly, let us apply to ourselves these words: "Make straight the way of the Lord." Let us make every effort to prepare for the precious coming of Jesus Christ.



## New Church to be Dedicated.

Preparations are being made for the dedication of the new St. Mary's Church, which is being completed on the corner of Main and Gibson streets.

The early morning service will be at 8 o'clock and 8:15 will be celebrated in the old church and the new church will be opened at 10:45 o'clock.

Invitation cards have been sent to all the holders of St. Mary's old and new church, and the church will be opened at 10:45 o'clock. The church will be opened at 10:45 o'clock. The church will be opened at 10:45 o'clock.

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