

Narrow Boston.

In the course of a talk with a Boston interviewer, Mayor Fitzgerald does not paint an attractive picture of Boston. Just read the following extracts from the interview and then wonder how the city ever so far from its stately reserve as to elect him as its chief magistrate:

"What is the matter with Boston? It is cold and proud, and it wraps the mantle of Puritanism around it. It is deaf to the throbbing heart of youth at its door. But it has got to open to us, it has got to let us in. I have said it to the Merchants' Association of this city. I am ready to say it again and again. You have got to permit the young men of Irish, Italian, Jewish and French blood to get into business in Boston."

"Has Boston refused to do this? Well, look around you. Look at the names over the business houses, Battista in the Vittorio Emanuele. What do you see? You see the names of old New England families every where. Tight-fisted, tenacious, these grounded upon the Gospel of St. Matthew. They squeeze out and freeze the ardent young soul of the Irishman. They present a cold front to the business enthusiasm of the Jew. Young men from the provinces, if they have an English name, are more to their liking than young men born in Boston of foreign extraction, although these young men, born in Boston love Boston and are ready to think and work and plan for the future of Boston."

"Boston is the only place in the country, the only place in the world, if you please, where the Jew has not had the fullest opportunity for the exercise of his great natural talents. The atmosphere is too cold, too hard. And if the Jew, whose traditions for ages have developed in him a sense of material values, the Jew who will bear everything, endure everything, for the sake of that goal of a larger freedom which comes with ultimate success—if the Jew True, every word of it, even though has found this condition in Boston, what in heaven's name can the Irish man do?"

"Where do you find a basis for such an arraignment of the business spirit of Boston?" I asked the Mayor. "I find it in an analysis of the membership of her business clubs and associations. Take the membership of the Chamber of Commerce, the most powerful organization for business in the city. That organization has 1,000 members. Analyze it for yourself. I have no exact data, but I know that it is overwhelming. You will find a dozen, midnight, 8.15 and 10.45. maybe twenty Irish names on its membership. You will find two Jews. What do you think of that for a great American business center?"

"I'm perfectly well aware of the arguments for this state of things. We won't let in the Jew—he will crowd out the Americans, he will absorb into his own hands certain lines of business. Well, isn't the American Jew a good American? Isn't he as good a citizen as any other citizen? Isn't this America made up of a blend of foreign elements?"

"And then, when you have kept him out, what happens? Look at what we have lost to New York. The clothing and cloak making industries. Is that good for Boston? Is it good to let manufacturing and mercantile possibilities slip out of her hands? Shall we be content to let these things go while we hug ourselves in our exclusive Yankee Americanism?"

AUBURN, N. Y.

Auburn Council, Knights of Columbus, will confer the first degree upon a large class of candidates on next Thursday night. The membership of the council is gaining and it is expected to soon reach the 250 mark. The usual New Years open house will be given the members by the house committee.

The funeral of the late Mrs. James Derring took place from the home of the family on Wednesday. The many friends of the deceased, visited the house since her death and at the funeral was crowded with mourners.

The funeral mass was read at the Holy Family Church, after which the burial services were conducted. Interment was in St. Joseph's cemetery.

Around the Globe.

Rev. Henry C. Granger, for eight years rector of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Evanston, announced yesterday that he had embraced the Catholic faith. Mr. Granger, according to the statement of a friend, was formerly a Presbyterian, but joined the Episcopal Church eighteen years ago.

The first active steps have been taken towards the formation of a branch of the American Federation of Catholic Societies in St. Louis. The movement has the approval and the well-wishes of His Grace Archbishop Glennon.

Another priest composer is to be heard in Italy. With the permission of his ordinary, Cardinal Richelmy, Canon Giocondo Fano, of Turin, assisted at the rendering of his "The Names of the Business Houses, Battista" in the Vittorio Emanuele Theater of that city a few years ago. The libretto, so to call it, was where. Tight-fisted, tenacious, these grounded upon the Gospel of St. Matthew. The music found great favor. The composer had to appear several times at the footlights, and the piece will be repeated.

Particulars of the will of the late Mrs. Lewis-Hill, widow of Sam Lewis, the famous Hebrew money-lender, of London, have now been published. Amongst the bequests for charitable purposes are £10,000 to the Lord Mayor of Dublin, to found an "Ada Lewis" Winter Distress Fund for Dublin, and £5,000 to the Little Sisters of the Poor, London.

The "Catholic and Times" is not far out of the way when it indulges in the hope that the reputed Catholic, elected to office in the recent election will prove themselves worthy of their profession. "The good are happier than the bad, even in this life," is an assertion of a larger freedom which comes with ultimate success—if the Jew True, every word of it, even though has found this condition in Boston, what in heaven's name can the Irish man do?"

Congress, the United States Supreme Court, the New York City Board and the Rochester School Board have declared against simplified spelling. It would appear that there are some places where a presidential ipse dixit is not all-powerful.

Prayers were offered Sunday for Mrs. James Fogarty and Michael Kennedy. The Christmas masses were at 8.15 and 10.45. Father Dougherty reviewed the results of the mission in his sermon. High Masses this week are celebrated as the month's mind of P. M. Breen, Wednesday; William McCork, Thursday, and Mrs. Mary O'Connell, Saturday.

The holiday fair opened as usual on Christmas night, with the Christmas Star Vol. IV, made its appearance Monday afternoon and was especially devoted to the assistance of the recently deceased, Rev. John A. Conway, who was so highly esteemed among the people of St. Mary's. The ladies of the Rosary tried to serve meals promise to it good to let manufacturing and mercantile possibilities slip out of her hands? Shall we be content to let these things go while we hug ourselves in our exclusive Yankee Americanism?"

A new statue of St. Patrick, made by the Dafrato Co., of Chicago, was unveiled for the midnight Mass and will be blessed next March 17th. The new sounding board from Brooklyn seems to improve the acoustics of the church and will probably be retained after four weeks trial.

Inauguration of Governor-Elect Hughes. Excursion to Albany, via New York Central, "America's Greatest Railroad," Monday, December 31st. Tickets good going on afternoon and evening trains; good, returning on trains leaving Albany on or before noon, January 2d, except limited trains Nos. 18, 22, 50, 26, 19, 41, 51, 11 and 25. Visit Albany, the State Capital, and see the new Governor inaugurated. Only \$6.15 for the round trip from Rochester.

FRANCE AND THE CHURCH.

The Progress of the Unholy War Against the Crucifix.

The mayors of not less than 283 French towns have sent in their resignations rather than consent to the taking down of the crucifixes in the communal schools, and several prefects have followed their example. In many places the inhabitants have carried the crucifixes back to the schools in procession and nailed them to the walls. Instances of children being punished for having rosaries or prayer-books in their possession are increasing, and the French papers of the Opposition are full of particulars of this sort of petty persecution. Throughout the country from end to end the names of God, Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary and even of the saints have been effaced from all the schoolbooks, and a teacher who recently opened school hours with the Lord's Prayer was immediately denounced by the Freemasons of the town and lost his position within twenty-four hours for this awful crime, but a teacher who held the crucifix in his hands for the children to spit upon as they went out of the school was immediately promoted to another place, rather fortunately, since some of the people of the town had announced their intention of lynching him in the public streets if they could catch him. There can be no question whatever that before very long a frightful revolution, which will exceed in horror the commune of 1870, will break out in France. They will use dynamite this time instead of petrol.

London Catholic Times.

The Burden We Bear.

However perplexed you may be at any hour become about some question of truth, one refuge and resource is always at hand—you can do something for some one besides yourself. When your own burden is heaviest you can always lighten a little some other burden. At the times when you cannot see God there is still open to you this sacred possibility to show God, for it is the love and kindness of human hearts through which the divine reality comes home to men, whether they name it or not. Let this thought, then, stay with you. There may be times when you cannot find help, but there is no time when you cannot give help.

A Roman Army in France.

Rome has an army, one that might prove more redoubtable than the German hosts if driven into war, for the reason that it is already in France and needs no mobilization orders. This army is constituted by the Catholics of France, and its fortresses are the churches of France. The government does not dare to cross the threshold of these fortresses.—Paris Gaulois.

SHORT SERMONS.

There is no salvation of soul or hope of everlasting life but in the cross. There would be no real misery on earth if every man studied the life of the soul as carefully as he studies the life of the body.

Things are not so ill with you and me as they might have been, half owing to the number who lived faithfully a hidden life and rest in unvisited tombs.

As a graceful mosaic is made by the tasteful inlaying and cementing together of an almost infinite number of little stones, so is a saintly life made up of an unbroken chain of small acts of virtue.

The cross is always ready and everywhere waits for thee. Thou canst not escape it wheresoever thou runnest, for wheresoever thou goest thou carriest thyself with thee and shalt ever find thyself.—Thomas a Kempis.

ABOUT THE AGE OF TREES.

Oldest in Europe—Rings Formed by Annual Growth an Evidence.

There are few questions of natural history more interesting or on which imagination allows itself more faraway flights than the ages of trees. The famous plane in the Argens Island of Cos, which has been the wonder and admiration of centuries, has again challenged attention; on this occasion with a "revised" claim to the age of 2,000 years. It has been repeatedly visited and described, and there can be no doubt as to its being a tree of patriarchal venerability. But the subject of its age has so often been dismissed with the estimate that it must be "at least a thousand years old" that the addition of another thousand is a little startling. The facility with which this result has been attained is, however, eminently characteristic. In a recent account of the tree attention is called to a suggestion of the late Dean Farrar that both St. Luke and St. Paul had probably rested beneath its shade. The idea is highly picturesque, says the London Globe, but it can only be soberly regarded as a piece of effective local color.

This, however, is by no means the only tree of its kind which has been similarly endowed with a fancy age. The famous plane near Caphoge, in Arcadia, is thought to be the identical tree referred to by Pausanias in the second century; and another near Constantinople is considered of equal age. Of course these trees belong to the Oriental branch of the great Platanus family, the planes which Londoners are so pleasantly familiar being all of the Western species.

On such a subject we have still to look to the German Forestry Department for some of the most carefully ascertained facts and deductions. It is the opinion of those best qualified to judge that there is no European tree which can be proved to be older than 800 years, and that no tree in Germany attains that age in a healthy state. The rings formed by the annual growth of exogenous trees are, of course, the best evidence of their age, but this is only to be obtained before decay's effacing fingers have obliterated the record.

Documentary evidence of the existence of a specified tree at a remote date is not necessarily conclusive. Trees are often thus referred to as acknowledged boundary marks, which seems to invest them with an authenticity which they do not really possess. It is not a question of the truth of the record, but it is a fact that young trees have not seldom been planted on the sites occupied by famous predecessors and, standing, as it were, in their shoes, have come to a good end for them.

A taken illustration of such a possibility is afforded by the Rufus Stone in the New Forest. As its name implies and its inscription records, this stone was erected on the spot formerly covered by the oak from which the arrow which slew William Rufus is said to have glanced. This tree in an advanced state of decay, was in existence in the eighteenth century, but was replaced in 1745 by a stone which was itself restored in 1841.

Britain's Love for Ruling Class.

The presence of a personal sovereign is the outward and visible sign that caste is still supreme in the British empire. The external abuses of the feudal system have been abolished in Great Britain, one by one, until those that still linger are almost harmless, but the inner spirit survives to this late day, and even now its manifestations are abundant in almost every part of the social structure of the British Isles. There are still alive the fiction that the king rules and that the army of the empire is his majesty's army. There is still a willing acceptance of a titled aristocracy and also of an upper house, the vast majority of whose members sit there by the right of birth only, without regard to their individual merits. No doubt the British people could change these things speedily and without violence if they really desired to get rid of this inheritance from feudalism. But they have not got rid of it, and this is evidence enough that they do not wish to abolish a state of affairs which the American people look at with amazed wonder as a survival of the dark ages. A native American finds it wholly impossible to understand the mental attitude of a certain man of letters in London, who justified his ingrained Toryism by the assertion that he simply would not be ruled by his equals.—The Reader.

Vegetables and Fruits.

The term vegetable has reference to the whole or any part of a plant cultivated especially with reference to use at the table. But the use of the word vegetable doesn't always depend upon cooking, for celery is a vegetable and apples are fruit whether eaten raw or cooked. One would suppose the tomato to be entitled to the term fruit, for the method of its raising resembles that of fruit. But it is usually called vegetable whether eaten raw or cooked, in spite of its appearance. The quince is so fruitlike in appearance—so resembling apples, pears, etc.—that it persists in being called fruit, though eaten only when cooked. Sometimes the vegetable is only a bud as with cabbages and brussels sprouts, leaves as spinach, stems above ground as asparagus, stems enlarged (tubers) underground as common potatoes, or roots as sweet potatoes, turnips, beets, and carrots.—St. Nicholas.

GENESECO.

A kitchen is being erected on the east side of the dining room of Emerald Hall.

Miss Mary J. Biggins spent Christmas with her sister, Mrs. W. Curran in Avon. Miss Anna Kelly is spending this week in Buffalo with relatives. Misses Mary and Elizabeth Dwyer of New York city are home for the holidays.

Mrs. Ellen Fitzgerald, Mrs. D. McLean, Mrs. Chas. Kelly and Miss Ella Fitzgerald all of Rochester, were guests of the family of D.C. Piper the first of the week.

William Gallagher and family spent Christmas in Avon, the guest of Mr. and Mrs. John F. Ryan.

Mrs. Hughes and daughter, Kathryn, are spending the week in Batavia with relatives.

Mrs. Gault and son, John, visited relatives in Rochester, Christmas.

Daniel Toland of New York city is home for the holidays.

Miss Eleanor O'Connor of Glen Clove, N. Y., is spending her vacation with relatives.

Misses Conlin spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. T. Dolan of Moscow.

Ed. J. Finigan left on Saturday last for Gloversville, where he will spend the holidays with her parents.

Patrick Thomas Meehan and Mrs. Mary Ellen Gilboy Magee, both of this village will be married at St. Mary's church New Year's day at 4 p. m. After a short wedding trip they will reside in Geneseo.

Midnight mass was celebrated at St. Mary's church on Monday eve, the choir rendering Adeste Fideles, Miss Adeste in B flat, complete, Novelo Adeste for Offertory, and Lauda — by Lalebille was also sung. Rev. A. A. Hughes made a few appropriate remarks on the birth of Christ. The altar was trimmed with flowers and a large congregation was present at the services. On Christmas day mass was celebrated at 11 o'clock.

M. L. Hughes and wife and daughters Mae G. and Alice A. and A. L. Hughes of Rochester, were guests at St. Mary's rectory for Christmas.

On Sunday afternoon at 8:30 o'clock the Ladies Catholic Benevolent Association prepared a Christmas tree loaded with presents for the children of the Sunday school of St. Mary's church at Emerald hall, and after a short program of verses spoken by the little ones, the presents were distributed by Santa Claus and was greatly enjoyed by all those present. Besides the presents on the tree each one received a bag of candy and a bag of popcorn. The ladies of the association who had charge of the arrangements worked hard to make it a success and they are to be congratulated in their work to entertain the little ones of the church.

Weekly Church Calendar

Sunday December 30—Gospel, St. Luke, 11, 33-40—St. Sabinius, bishop and martyr. Monday 31—St. Sylvester I., pope and confessor. Tuesday January 1—The Circumcision of Our Lord. Wednesday 2—St. Macarius, hermit. Thursday 3—St. Genevieve, virgin. Friday 4—St. Titus, Disciple of St. Paul. Saturday 5—St. Telesphorus, pope and martyr.

Baker Theater.

"Michael Strogoff" is to be presented by the Moore Stock Company at the Baker Theatre next week. This play is a Russian melodrama made from the famous story by Jules Verne. The plot deals with Michael Strogoff, courier of the Czar, who is sent on a perilous journey to Irkutsk with important despatches. He travels incognito, and when he passes through his native village, he is recognized by his mother, but is compelled to refuse to acknowledge her. Michael is seized as a spy and condemned to be blinded. Accordingly a red hot sword is passed before his eyes. He continues his journey, however, guided by a girl who he has befriended. When he reaches Irkutsk, his enemy and captor assails him with a dagger. He is astonished and terrified, when Strogoff wards off his blows. He regains his sight, vanquishes Ivan and is rewarded for his bravery.

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Cook Opera House.

The vaudeville show scheduled for next week at the Cook Opera House, will be headed by Wilfred Clarke, a well known comedian and his company in a farce entitled, "What Will Happen Next?" Two German lads just barely over the legal age limit called, The Uessesms, are scheduled to give a gymnastic act that has attracted widespread attention. "Moting", the English comedy act, which was such a big favorite here last summer, will return with its quaint comedy and amusing characters. All sorts of difficult acrobatic stunts done on the tight wire are promised by La Troupe Carmen, who are said to have the greatest turn of this kind in the world. Franco Piper, a man who plays several banjos at once, and juggles them at the same time, will have a novel offering that is said to be meritorious from a musical standpoint, as well as because of its oddity. Dave Lewis, a well-known musical comedy funmaker, will offer a monologue. Borani and Nevaro will have their novel tramp comedy turn which has a big surprise wrapped up in it. John D. Rucker, the Alabama Blossom, and moving pictures will fill out the bill.

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