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Friday, May 3, 1907.

State Exalted.

We do not know who is back of the "Marriage License Bill" fathered in the State Senate by Senator George Cobb, of Watertown, but we suspect that he has bought a Socialist gold brick.

The Cobb bill makes it a misdemeanor for any person to perform the marriage ceremony without the contracting parties produce a license signed and issued by the County Clerk.

While the cupidity and carelessness of many non-Catholic clergymen afford strong argument in favor of some check on marriage still, the Cobb bill is a distinct recognition of the supremacy of state over church in that no exception is made. At present, the law of the state makes a felon of the man who marries a girl under the legal age without her parents give consent.

Every Catholic priest has knowledge of circumstances and conditions under which immediate marriage may avert undesirable conditions. This solution of a perplexing problem would be rendered difficult, often impossible, if a county clerk, often several miles away and perhaps after legal office hours, had to be visited.

Worst of all, the Cobb bill originally provided that in making out the marriage certificate the clergyman must certify that "by virtue of the authority conferred by this license, I have this day married So and So."

How could a Catholic priest, as Senator Grady so well put it, affix his name to such a document without perjuring himself before God? The state confers no power upon the priest to solemnize marriage. That is derived from God for marriage is a sacrament.

Senator Cobb made the statement upon the floor of the Senate that "many Catholic priests have written me in approval of this bill." We have no reason to doubt the accuracy of the Senator's statement, but the above quotation is silent evidence that the writers had not read the bill. They had evidently heard of the general provisions of the bill and based their approval upon those.

Without venturing criticism, we may say, from experience, that it is a safe policy never to approve a legislative bill until it has been read through carefully and, better still, until a lawyer has been consulted.

Politicians often seek to conceal the true purpose of bills introduced in the Legislature.

Unnecessary.

From Assemblyman Henry R. Glynn the Catholic Journal has received a copy of a bill introduced in the Assembly by Mr. Northrup of Poughkeepsie which provides that "a portion of the Bible shall be read daily in the public schools, without written note or oral comment; but a pupil whose parent or guardian informs the teacher in writing he has conscientious scruples against it, shall not be required to read from any particular version, or to take any personal part in the reading. No school books calculated to favor the tenets of any religious sect shall be purchased or used in the public schools."

At the hearing before the Assembly Committee on Public Education, the only support for the bill came from those arch-bigots, the Junior Order of American Mechanics. Their chief orator told Mr. Cunningham, chairman of the committee, it was not sufficient that Bible reading in the schools be left, as at present, discretionary with the public sentiment of the school district. "New York is a Christian state," he cried.

At the same time the Senate was passing a bill which would compel every Catholic priest and every Christian minister to recognize the supremacy of the state over the church in the solemnization of the sacrament of matrimony!

Consistency, thou art a jewel!

A Clean Mouth.

In the woman's department of one of the secular magazines, we find this paragraph:

"Recently, I had occasion to wait in a exclusive hotel. Beside me sat a girl who especially attracted me, on account of her daintiness. She looked like a little Dresden shepherdess, and had every mark of refinement and lady-likeness about her. The minutes passed and my little lady began to show signs of impatience. Finally, however, her friend for whom she had evidently been waiting—a girl quite as dainty as herself—appeared. She jumped to her feet and put out her hand, saying in a perfectly cultivated voice: 'Hello old sport, where in ——have you been all this time?'

"The friend never turned a hair at the expression, and calmly made her excuses.

"It was absolutely the most shocking greeting that I have ever heard, because it came from the lips of a girl who had been unmistakably brought up amidst refinement and culture.

"The poison seems to be spreading. It is no uncommon thing to hear young girls use the little words that soon lead to profanity. Gentlemen are taught that they should not use swear words in the presence of ladies, but what will become of their fine chivalry if those very ladies turn around and use their tabooed expressions?

"True wit doesn't need profanity to brighten it."

Let us hope this never will be written about a Catholic girl!

Not So on Our Side.

Gradually, even the erstwhile ardent advocates of the "enriched curriculum" fad are awakening to its faults and limitations. Last Sunday the "Democrat and Chronicle" said:

"The complaint is general that the graduates of the grammar and high schools cannot spell. If there was any one thing the country school children of the long-ago could do better than all else it was to spell. They were taught from the ancient spelling book orally and were made to stand up and 'spell down.'

"The entire system has been changed, and on the theory that it is the sight that is mainly concerned the pupils are taught merely to write down the words of the spelling lesson.

"Whether it is this or a failure of memory is not clear, but certainly there are more complaints than ever before of the inability of the new generation to spell.

"Even the teachers graduated from the normal schools are said to be deficient in orthography.

"In view of this, the School Board at Newark, New Jersey, has ordered a return of the spelling book of our sires and the competitive spelling which inspired the ambition of the youngsters of the past.

The spelling book has not been abolished in the Catholic schools.

Probably that is why Catholic boys and girls are good spellers.

No Regalia.

The "Catholic Sun" puts it well when it says:

"Why is it that members of various non-Catholic societies are so slow to learn that it is against the rules of the Catholic Church for them to enter a church in which she worships arrayed in all the tinsel and goldlace of their lodge regalia?

"She has endeavored to make her meaning plain for years and years and years, and yet, every now and then, she finds the lodges attempting to make entrance. Perhaps they do not know, and again, perhaps they do. A society called the Eagles is the latest to prove guilty of this blunder.

"We do not assert that the Eagles are deliberately trying to fly into places where they ought not to go—at least in uniform, but if they do not know the laws of the Church their Catholic friends ought to tell them. A gentle hint spoken in time might help them to save their wings."

Church Would Lose.

Former Governor General Ide, of the Philippines, in a recent speech in Fitchburg, Mass., painted this picture of what would happen were the American government to withdraw from the islands:

"The government of the United States is in the Philippine Islands, for a purpose, entirely different, it is believed, from that which has inspired any other power to engage in which is practically colonial administration * * * In this connection the probable position of the Catholic Church authorities has a most important bearing. The civilized inhabitants of the Philippine Islands are Catholic, but there is among them a great schism or division, and an attempt to found an independent Philippine Catholic church. It is evident enough to any person who is familiar with conditions in the islands that a withdrawal of the restraining hand of the United States, and a passing of the whole power of government over to the Filipinos unrestricted, would result almost immediately in an attempt on the part of a considerable portion of the Filipino people to go beyond the complete separation of church and state which now exists under the American rule, and to confiscate the vast properties and estate of the church and to take them over by the government as has been done in Mexico and many other countries.

"The islands from one end to the other would be filled with strife on this question, as well as on many others. The Church realizes the situation and the danger, and good Catholics, in the main, in the United States, may be relied upon to receive the information from higher authorities that the withdrawal of the United States from the islands would be fraught with the utmost misfortune and danger to the Church."

Notes.

By all means, let us have a non-partisan Court of Appeals!

Grover Cleveland, with his $37,000 a year retainer from the insurance companies, feels justified in standing up for big salaries for life insurance presidents.

Father Fortunat de Fours, a Franciscan missionary priest now in India, in an article contributed to the Catholic publication "Etudes Franciscaines," says that Catholicity is increasing very rapidly in that country. Of 1,506,098 Christians in 1872, there are now 3,000,000, half of whom are Catholic. Between 1891 and 1901 the Catholic population has increased at the rate of 15 per cent. Summing up, Father Fortunat is of opinion that a social cataclysm cannot be far distant in a country which is divided at present into two castes—the very rich and opulent on one side; the starving and outcast on the other.

Congratulations to Father Judge, editor of the Chicago "New World." He has just won his doctor's cap in competitive examination over in Rome.

Twenty-three honest and respectable men in Pittsburg! Who'd have thought that a staid Chamber of Commerce would take up such a challenge?

A new Catholic paper has made its appearance. Its name is "Catholic Life," and it is published in Washington, D. C. Long life to the latest recruit to Catholic newspaperdom!

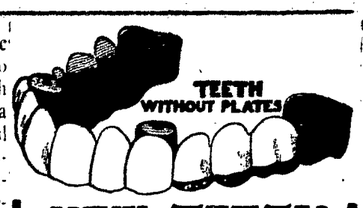
We all hope the Jamestown Exposition will be an unqualified success.

Says the New York "World": "Mr. Taft's presidential candidacy fails of support in a quarter where such an event might be least expected. 'I do not want my son to be President,' says the Secretary's venerable mother. But if the declaration is surprising, in view of what would be the usual maternal trend, the reason which chiefly supports it is eminently a maternal reason. 'A place on the Supreme Bench, where my boy would administer justice, is my ambition for him.' It is difficult to conceive of a higher ambition for a son than that he should administer justice. And if one sought to express in better, simpler phrase than this mother's the ideal conception of a great court and the judges who form it, his task would be troublesome indeed."

Theodore Roosevelt knows whither popular sentiment is tending.

Governor Hughes believes he should have power to investigate all state departments. By all means let him have it. If there be anything wrong, we should know it.

Why not write into the law a provision that the terms of all appointive officers shall cease with that of the governor making appointment?



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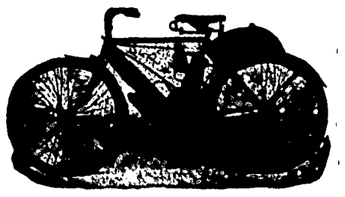

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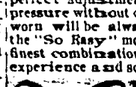

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The quantity is not large to be sure; indeed, we would like to have had five times as many to present to you this Saturday; but the first two hundred and eighty-five men to reach here tomorrow, may be assured the biggest and best clothing value of the entire Spring Season.

Materials are fine worsteds, overplaids and the like; some are in gray checks and plaids; others are in the new and fashionable browns. They are tailored to perfection; cut with broad shoulders and wide lapels; hand-made button holes; hand-padded collars and the like. Trousers are cut after the Poole system; all London shrunk—to avoid bagging at the knees. In fact, every little detail has been looked after as carefully as though you were to step into your tailors and be measured.

The difference in cost to you is what the tailor would charge you—and our price of $14.85—for you could not secure a better fit, if you would.

All sizes are represented—for the stout short fellow; for the tall lanky chap; for all the in betweens.

Choose at $14.85. A Bargain.

Third Floor.

Clearing Away the Boy's Hats

The "Summer Boy" doesn't wear a hat only when he has to—and we know it. Hence our desire to clear up present stock before summer gets here. The fact is, we bought too many hats—but when order was placed for them, we expected store to open in January instead of March.

We've taken our entire stock of high grade Hats, and reduced them all to

$1.25 and $1.89 each

Assortment comprises Napolean, Continental and other novelty shapes—in straw, cloth, felt and silk. Colorings include red, blue, pink, brown and white, as well as various pretty combinations.

A great many Tams, too, in white, blue and gray Serge, as well as silk, ooze leather, patent leather and cloth.

Third Floor

Most Practical Foot-Wear For Little Folks

Since every youngster's foot has its own particular shape and contour, we believe that our system of measuring each foot—before fitting shoes—to be the only correct one. The rest is easy—for we have the very best Footwear for Children that money can buy.

There is no model of shoe that will fit all children's feet; a variety of shapes is absolutely essential, the variety we have and the quality is uppermost in each.

There are wide toes and narrow toes, and all the in-betweens—and the wide ones cost no more than the narrow ones, the way we figure it.

Again, welt-sewn shoes are really the only sort a child should wear, since all McKay sewn shoes must naturally be sewn through and through, the waxed thread and lasting tacks remain to give trouble to the tender feet sooner or later. The channel cut in the sole to sew through, naturally leaves a rough ridge; these soles are simply covered with a light leather or drill—but the unpleasant feature still remains.

All our Children's Shoes are welted---absolutely free from tacks and wax threads.

We shall make a special exhibit this Saturday of our famous "Pla-mate" Shoes for little folks—genuine Goodyear welt; designed for the natural shape of the foot—whether it be wide or narrow at the toes.

Black Vici Kid Oxford ties and lace Shoes also tan Russia Calf.

Sizes 5 to 8 at $1.45—instead of $1.75.
Sizes 8 1-2 to 12 at $1.65—instead of $2.00.
Sizes 12 1-2 to 2 at $1.95—instead of $2.50.

Third Floor

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Reports are being circulated in this city that Gold Bond Stamps will be discontinued when this firm closes out its present business. This we wish to deny most emphatically. We have made arrangments with the new company to continue giving Gold Bond Stamps.

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