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Catholic Press

It is pleasant to note the increasing interest taken in the Catholic press, both in the great organizations of Catholic laymen and by the hierarchy and clergy. Writing in the "Augustinian" Rev. F. A. O'Brien of Kalamazoo, Mich., says:

"It is a well-known and lamentable fact that Catholics are too prone to the sensational news of the daily papers, and too little given to reading the church papers. It ought to be the pride of every Catholic to have his diocesan paper in his home.

"What a help it would be to the pastor were his diocesan paper in half the families of his parish. The people would become more united, and there would be aroused an esprit de corps that would be a tower of strength to the priest. Then, in each home, would be a constant, persistent, insidious advocate of no mixed marriage, of Catholic schools, of submission to Holy Church, of loyalty and support of pastors, of generosity in charity and of liberality in maintaining all church institutions. These teachings would be inculcated by examples from the news of the Church all over the world, and in a thousand other ways impracticable in sermons, but successful in the church papers in the land.

"Whatever a pastor does for a diocesan paper in his parish comes back to him a thousandfold in the help he receives in his own work."

The New Orleans "Morning Star" has this to add:
"Some one wrote us recently if we ever knew a family of negligent Catholics which was a subscriber to a Catholic paper. No, we cannot recall an instance in our experience, but we do remember having seen some such families that were subscribers and readers of several secular magazines, and what is worse, their houses were littered every Sunday with foul smelling yellow journals, reeking with the filth of sin and corruption. Every one to his taste."

Oh Dear!

As might be expected, the A. P. Apes are working themselves into frenzy over the appointment of Maurice Francis Egan as minister to Denmark.

The "Monitor" of San Francisco polishes of the bigots off neatly as follows:

The Petaluma "Courier" has turned pale green because Dr. Maurice Francis Egan has been appointed as United States Minister to Denmark. The fact that Dr. Egan will not leave for Copenhagen till autumn seems particularly distressing to the "Courier". "He will retain his place in the university here and draw the salary both as a professor and diplomat," cries the "Courier," and then he—she—no, it—stamps its little foot and declares vehemently that President Roosevelt's tastes seem more Catholic than discriminating.

But the joke is on Dr. Egan after all, for says our Petaluma professor of Gaelic at the university:

"Of course, if we could have an Ambassador to the Emerald Isle, Dr. Egan would have been sent thither, where his language and his accent and his name would have been most acceptable." Oh! but this is a good one! His accent! Our polished Philadelphian, with his delightful mastery of French! His accent!

Score One More.

All over the country comes the wail that the public school system is top-heavy, that it is insufficient, that something is wrong because pupils are not able, upon graduation, to take their proper places in the world at large.

New York, Rochester and other places in New York state are not the only localities where the superiority of the parochial school pupils is conceded.

The failure of sixty per cent of the grammar grade pupils of the public schools of Altoona, Pa., in an examination for admission to the high school, while every pupil sent from St. John's parochial school passed successfully, and the demonstrated superiority of public schools in the country to those in Altoona, itself, was the occasion of a thoughtful editorial in the "Times" of that city.

"Where does blame lie?" asks the writer. "Surely this disparity is not because the public school scholars are less alert or less susceptible to mental development than are those from the parochial and country public schools. The system which prevails here must be at fault; for how else can we account for the conditions that exist?"

Upon this, the "Ave Maria" comments as follows:—"In the case of parochial schools, brother, the higher efficiency is easily explained. The teachers, being full of religious women or men, who have consecrated their lives to the cause of education, and who are thus freed from social distractions and worldly ambitions, are enabled to devote themselves more exclusively to their work. They can maintain better discipline in their schools, and they naturally exert greater influence over their pupils than secular teachers. Our parochial schools in many places are badly graded, inadequately equipped, overcrowded and unprovided with the necessary number of teachers. Once these defects are remedied, the results everywhere will be what they are in Altoona."

It is the same, all over. The practical use in battling with a stern world.

To Be Commended

In one way, at least, the upstate public utilities commission is to be commended for the way in which it is starting off in its new duties.

It is reported that it has decided upon a rigid inspection of all the trolly and steam roads in the State with especial idea of noting and remedying weak spots and places where dangerous accidents are liable to occur.

While New York state has been freer than some of the states from the dreadful accidents with which the columns of the daily press teem, still there have been several which might have been over-niggardly in straightening bad curves, in expenses of operation and maintenance. We have not read that dividends have been passed by these same corporations. To be sure, stockholders should not be made to suffer but it is the general public which gives the corporations their franchises, their corporate protection and whose patronage furnishes the profits from which dividends are paid.

Has not the public a right to expect that all reasonable precaution be taken for its safety when, traveling on railroads? When we read in the paper that such experts as Charles M. Schwab declare that a poor and unreliable quality of steel rail is being used by the railway company,

is it not high time that rigid investigation be instituted to ascertain whether railway managers have been guilty of negligence, criminal or otherwise?

The utilities commission has made a good selection of a secretary by reappointing the secretary of the old state railroad commission, Mr. John S. Kennedy. He is a capable official, a good Catholic and a loyal Knight of Columbus. We congratulate the commission and Mr. Kennedy. The commission also has retained Charles R. Barnes of Rochester, another good appointment.

Absurd

In keeping with the namby-pamby system of education in our public schools, with the mawkish pleas that jails and prisons should be fitted up like metropolitan hotels for the convenience of pampered rich criminals who may be sentenced thereto, is the absurd recommendation made by the Board of Visitors that the curriculum at West Point be made less technical, that army officers might be educated as all-round gentlemen.

Probably, like the poor dears whose little petted brains, weary from over-eating and late parties cannot study and pass examinations, hence must not be worked hard in the public schools, the West Point cadets are possessed of brains which will not grasp mere matters of ordinary educational detail.

Beside army officers are not expected now to lead cotillions, grace pink teas and lend attraction to drawing rooms. Why should they be expected to be proficient in mathematics, in army tactics, in the essentials of their profession? The subalterns will look after those details, in time of action, as the rich young top's valet attends to all the details needing brain action. When the Hague conference is merged in the millenium there will be no more war so soldiers must be powdered dandies!

Let the recommendation of the Board of Visitors be adopted and the next step either will be to abolish the competitive examination as a prerequisite to admission to West Point and the substitution of a certificate of proficiency from the local leader of the "400" from the city where the candidates resides or the inclusion tests of proficiency in dancing, mixing and drinking cocktails, chafing-dish cooking, expertness in tying cravats and the correct styles in haberdashery. As "The Post Express" says: "By all means let the cadets become cultured. If they are not allowed to be useful they may as well become ornamental."

Says the "Sacred Heart Review": "An amusing instance of the way in which non-Catholics succeed in finding a text of Scripture to fortify whatever religious theory they may hold is reported from a town in Nebraska. There a colored preacher with only one eye is endeavoring to prove to his congregation that Jesus Christ had a special message to the one-eyed when He said (St. Matthew vi., 22): 'The light of thy body is thy eye. If thy eye be single, thy whole body shall be lightsome.'"

When will Rochester pavements not be torn up?

"Old Sol" did rule supreme last week!

In electing Thomas M. Mulry of New York, as its president, the National Conference of Charities and Correction, not only elected a Catholic to the position for the first time but selected a man pre-eminently qualified for the place, as well by acquired as by natural attainments.

The "Celery King Complexion" is what one Rochester lady calls the beautiful skin that comes from the use of the tonic-laxative, Celery King, 25c at druggists.

Around the Globe News From Washington

Catholic News From Many Places

The Jesuit Fathers in Holland are starting a house for working-men's retreats. The building for this purpose at Venio (Limburg) is nearly finished. There is sufficient room for eighty working-men, who during the retreat receive board and lodging in the house itself. Seven such foundations are already existing in Belgium, in which thousands of men make retreats every year.

According to a London Times telegram from Paris the French government has spontaneously handed to the British government £2,400 for the six members of the English Passionist Fathers dispossessed of their property in Paris. The money has been handed over to the Community, who have expressed their thanks.

Vandals broke into the old mission church, Our Lady of Angels, in Los Angeles, Cal., recently and cut from the frames two pictures valued \$600 each, which they carried away. The paintings, entitled, "Descent from the Cross" and "The Sepulchre of Christ" were executed by Father Tanquary fifty years ago. Aside from the intrinsic value, they were highly prized because of their associations.

Those who think a union of Church and State an awful thing ought to read the message just sent to the Argentine Congress by the President of Argentina. He declares himself proud that relations with the Holy See are harmonious and cordial, states that maintaining a legation at the Vatican produces splendid results and asserts that a union of church and state is an excellent thing for his country. The prelates of Argentina, he says, are earnest in furthering the welfare of their native land as they are in advancing the cause of God.

The Congregation of Rites has allowed to be introduced the cause of beatification as martyrs Sister Magdalen and her companions of Arras and the Ursulines of Valenciennes guillotined during the Reign of Terror. They will, therefore, be designated Venerable for the future.

Brother Ignatius Romake, S. J., attached to the Church of the Immaculate Conception, New Orleans, celebrated the 60th anniversary of his entrance into the Society of Jesus. Brother Ignatius is a native of Hanover, Germany, and has been in New Orleans since 1849. Nine members of the family have entered the religious life.

At Morganfield, the county seat of Union County, Kentucky, a few days ago, Hon. Truman Drury was elected Mayor of that picturesque and progressive little city. Mr. Drury is of English Catholic descent, his ancestors having come to Maryland with Lord Baltimore, many of them since having held responsible positions in Church and State. Personally, the new Mayor is an eloquent young lawyer, a Knight of Columbus and highly esteemed by all who know him. He is a cousin of Bishop Spalding of Peoria.

A Handsome Edition

The Buffalo "Union and Times" has the following editorial note this week: "One of the handsomest special editions that has reached this office is that of the Rochester Catholic Journal devoted to the parochial schools of our sister city. The schools were all pictured and described and there was a list of graduates, which included names of men and women who have reached eminent places in their chosen walks. The work of compiling must have been arduous, but the result is most gratifying."

Rush, N. Y.

The funeral of Miss Margaret Fagan was held Monday morning at 9:30 from the house and at 10 o'clock from St. Joseph's Church, Rev. John B. Doran of Groton officiated, assisted by Rev. M. J. Cluney of Honeoye Falls and Rev. Jas. Donnelly of Victor. The bearers were Leo Gildea, Jas. Doran, Wm. John, Richard and Raymond Fagan. The funeral was largely attended. Interment was at Scottsville.

Deceased had many friends and is survived by her parents, John and Anna Fagan; two sisters and two brothers; Sister M. Agnita of Nazareth Normal, Rochester; Mrs. Bert Diver, Joseph and William Fagan of Rush.

The Religious Census.

The work of preparing a religious census of the country is progressing very satisfactorily at the Census Office here. The effort of the government to obtain reliable data concerning the strength of the different religious bodies is due largely to a very general demand on the part of the denominations. It is proposed to make this census on improved and more detailed lines, as compared with the last census of this character taken in 1891, and published in 1894. In that enumeration the statistics were given chiefly by counties and organizations. Under the head of the Catholic Church, for instance, the statistics were divided into three sections, by counties, archdioceses and dioceses, and were given under the following heads: Number of organizations (parishes), church edifices, approximate seating capacity, halls, etc., seating capacity of halls, value of church property, number of communicants. To these will probably be added in the new census the number of parochial schools and pupils, the number of Catholic societies and their numerical strength in each community, and an enumeration of the population of each parish, mission church and station, with the number of priests in each locality.

Mr. North, the director of the Census Bureau, in view of the peculiar organization of the Catholic Church, took occasion to ask Archbishop Ireland for the co-operation of the Catholic hierarchy in this work, and at the last meeting of the archbishops his Grace brought up the subject, with the result that a committee of three, of which Archbishop Ireland was chairman, and Archbishop Glennon secretary, called upon the director at the census office for the purpose of discussing the work incident to the taking of the census. At the request of Mr. North Archbishop Glennon volunteered to take charge of the work in behalf of the church. It is with him purely a labor of love, there being no salary attached to the position of special agent, to which he was appointed, but he has, by virtue of his office, the use of the United States mails.

The work is being done almost exclusively through correspondence and all the denominations are taking a deep interest in it, and in the result. The hope is expressed that the difficulty about the membership will be removed in some way. Protestants admit to membership only such persons as have reached a certain age, while Catholics include all baptized persons. This has frequently given occasion to criticisms of the Protestants claiming that the Catholics unduly swell their numbers by counting babies and children under eight or ten years. But here the Protestants themselves disagree. They cannot come together on the "age of reason," some making it one thing, others something else. According to that no satisfactory enumeration would be possible, but it is likely that the Census Bureau will find a way to harmonize the conflicting statistics, by taking the church membership by ages, sexes and races. Then every denomination can take its choice.

Considerable difficulty is anticipated in securing accurate, or even approximately accurate, data about the Polish, Slavonic, Hungarian, Italian, Bohemian and Greek Catholics. Thousands of these are scattered all over the country, in mining districts, and on railroads, and in many cases they never see a priest. Many others are visited by a priest only once or twice a year, and it would be obviously impossible for him to gather reliable statistics regarding the numerical strength of these scattered sheep of the fold. Only a special agent could obtain satisfactory results, by traveling through these sections, but it is not likely that the government would be willing to go to that trouble and expense. In the cities there will be less difficulty in this respect, but even there the priests are apt to make the distinction between those who attend to their duties regularly, including also assistance to the financial needs of the parish.

While no particular time has been set for the completion of the work, it is anticipated that it can be done in less than six months from now.

Resume of Statistics of Last Census
Various claims as to the number of communicants have been made by the different denominations since, but it was felt that the official census of 1891 gives the only reliable data obtainable. That census summed up the statistical results as follows:
"There are 119 denominations thus associated in ecclesiastical families or groups, and 24 which are not thus associated. The total

of communicants of all denominations is 20,610,000, who belong to 165,177 organizations or congregations. These congregations have 142,521 edifices, which have sittings for 43,500,000 persons, and are valued, with their sites and furniture, at \$679,000,000. Besides these edifices, 23,000 halls, school houses and private houses are occupied as places of worship, and the halls and school houses provide sittings for 2,400,000 persons. There are 111,036 regular ministers, not including lay preachers."

Only five denominations have over 1,000,000 communicants, and seven have less than 1,000,000 and more than 100,000.

Catholics	6,200,000
All Methodists	4,500,000
All Baptists	3,700,000
Presbyterians	1,200,000
Lutherans	1,200,000
Episcopalians	540,000
Reformed	309,000
United Brethren	225,000
Mormons	166,000
Jewish	130,000
Friends	107,000
Christians	103,000
Order of denominations by number of congregations:	
Methodist Episcopal	25,000
Reg. Baptists, South	16,000
Meth. Episcopal, South	15,000
Reg. Baptists, Colored	12,000
Roman Catholics	10,000
Regular Baptists	7,000

It will be observed that the Methodist Episcopal Church, which is second in number of communicants, is first in number of congregations, and that the Roman Catholic Church, which is first in number of communicants, is fifth in number of congregations. There are other differences, but none so notable as this. The Catholic organizations are much larger than those of other denominations.

While there are nearly three Catholic communicants to every Methodist communicant, there are 1-2 Methodist organizations to every Catholic organization (parish). The Catholic parishes sometimes contain as many as 15,000 communicants.

E. L. SCHARF, Ph. D.

The University of Notre Dame, it appears, has some features that cannot be duplicated in any other school. It is one of the old, well-established colleges, with settled traditions reaching back sixty-five years, with a distinguished staff of professors and excellent library and laboratory equipment. Its discipline is of the paternal kind—strong without being oppressive; and as it embraces in its scope the grammar school, high school and college such persons as have reached a certain age, while Catholics include all baptized persons. This has frequently given occasion to criticisms of the Protestants claiming that the Catholics unduly swell their numbers by counting babies and children under eight or ten years. But here the Protestants themselves disagree. They cannot come together on the "age of reason," some making it one thing, others something else. According to that no satisfactory enumeration would be possible, but it is likely that the Census Bureau will find a way to harmonize the conflicting statistics, by taking the church membership by ages, sexes and races. Then every denomination can take its choice.

An advertisement of the College and Academy appears in another column.

Dansville.
Next Sunday is Groveland Sunday.

Rev. Father Day of Mt. Morris was in town Tuesday.
Mrs. Robert Pratt and Mrs. D. E. Driscoll with a party of young ladies, members of the L. C. B. A., enjoyed a delightful trip to Conesus Lake Saturday, it being the sixteenth anniversary of the institution of the branch.

The L. C. B. A. will hold a series of lawn socials during the summer. The first of the series to be held at Mrs. John Rauber's Saturday evening.

The lawn social for the benefit of St. Mary's Church at Mrs. Lucy Geiger's last Saturday evening was a grand success.
Mr. and Mrs. Phillip E. Blum and Mr. and Mrs. Wade Pealer with their families have returned from an outing at the Pealer cottage, Canandaigua Lake.
Dr. Breen of St. Bernard's Seminary was the guest of Dansville friends the first of the week.
Rev. Father Dunn was guest of Rev. Father Crowley at Craig Colony Friday.
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Blum and family were at Conesus Lake Monday.
Miss Margaret Maloney visited in Rochester last week.