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Friday, August 7, 1908.

Still Another.

Borough President Bird S. Coler of Brooklyn, is not the only non-Catholic thinker and writer who is reaching the conclusion that the Catholic parochial school system is a good thing and should receive some meed of public attention and support.

Former Postmaster-General Thomas L. James, who is known as a staunch Protestant, had a remarkable article in the New York Herald in which he takes even more advanced ground than did Mr. Coler in his remarkable address in Brooklyn and quoted at length in the Catholic Journal of last week.

In the course of his article, Mr. James makes these statements to which we invite the attention of all our readers as he takes advanced ground even to many Catholics:—

"I have had many conversations with clergymen who are teaching in these parochial schools, and with some who are higher authority in this archdiocese, and I have always been impressed with the fact that the Catholic parochial school is, in their view, not organized and carried on in anyway to effect opposition to the public schools of New York, nor in any way to reflect upon the excellence of the curriculum or discipline imposed by the Board of Education.

"The sole purpose expressed and acted upon in all sincerity and enthusiasm and earnestness of purpose is to provide for the children of Catholic parents the daily religious training of the mind and heart, and that because by the constitution of the State of New York, religious instruction is not regarded as a part of the responsibility carried on by those who direct or teach in the public schools of the State.

"I, myself, in view of these statistics and because of my knowledge of the inestimable services rendered by Archbishop Corrigan and by his successor, Archbishop Farley, and particularly the vital services given by their predecessor, Archbishop John Hughes, in the time of our civil war, have been of the opinion that there might properly be some modification of the constitution of the State which would permit the incorporation of denominational schools and the support of them by appropriations from the school tax, provided these schools fully meet the State standards of secular education. I am sure a perquisition of that kind would be of almost inconceivable importance in this city because of its great and constantly increasing cosmopolitan population.

"I am one of those who believe firmly that only by inculcations of religion can the dangerous tendencies to anarchy and socialism, as that word is commonly understood, be prevented.

"If the constitution of the State permitted it, then the Jews and the Christian denominations would be encouraged to erect and develop their own schools and develop

teaching for their children, precisely as the Catholics have done. "There should be, and I am sure every Catholic clergyman interested in the public schools agrees with me, in case there were this modification of the State constitution, statutory regulation making it compulsory upon the Board of Education to make a rigid inspection of the building, to examine the teachers and to pass upon the course of secular study. If the parochial schools of the city of New York, in their secular department, were found to be in perfect accord with the standards fixed by the city Board of Education, then there would come an actual, visible and valuable part of the city system, subject to the regular supervision of the Board of Education, justifying the asking and receiving of an appropriate allowance of the public school appropriation; and, in addition to that, these parochial schools would be open to any child, no matter what the religious faith, or lack of it, of his parents might be who might wish to attend them.

Moreover, at this time a readjustment of the sort that I would approve would go a long way toward solving a very difficult problem for the Board of Education, namely, relief for the present overcrowded condition of the schools; and I am sure all those who are tolerant, welcoming any Christian or religious activity and influence and especially appreciating the importance of inculcating these principles in the children, would agree with me in saying that a modification of the constitution would serve especially to exemplify and impress the fundamental principle of this land of the free and home of the brave, which is equal and exact opportunity to all.

For the humblest citizen of this State would feel sure that his children could be then educated not only in accordance with the highest educational standards of the State, the State itself, through its responsible boards, supervising the secular part, but would also be morally and religiously educated according to the dictates of his conscience.

Socialists and anarchists will now hail President Diaz as a great and good man. Mexico Church and State are separated. No diplomatic relations exist between them. The Church and clergy are officially ignored in Mexico, and religious instruction and prayers in State institutions are prohibited. And this in Catholic Mexico.

The diocese of Great Falls, Montana, which was created May 8, 1904, is one of the most extensive in the United States, comprising a territory of 94,158 square miles, which is nearly twice the size of Iowa, and three times the size of Ireland. It is as large in territory, as the combined diocese of New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Baltimore, Milwaukee, St. Paul, Dubuque and Oregon, with a few thousand miles to spare.

Rev. Alberic Biddle, a member of the Trappist Order at Gethsemane, Ky., is a great-great-grandson of Rt. Rev. Wm. White, the first Bishop of Pennsylvania of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States, and second Bishop of that denomination. Twelve years ago Father Alberic became a convert to the true faith and joined the Trappists. He is now sub-master of novices at Gethsemane.

The "Michigan Catholic" well says: "The Shanghai municipal council has taken measures to suppress opium dens in that city. Now, let American municipalities wake up to a realization of the life blood of men, women and youth in this land of great opportunities.

Never Closed

In another column of to-day's issue extended reference is made to a remarkable article by former Postmaster General Thomas L. James on the Catholic parochial school system.

Mr. James calls attention to a fact, little known in all probability except to students of history and not to many of them. It is that the first Catholic school in New York was opened 107 years ago. To-day there are 155 parochial free schools in Manhattan borough alone educating upwards of 100,000 pupils at an annual saving in that city of nearly \$5,000,000 in yearly school tax.

These are the historical paragraphs in Mr. James' article: "Since the archdiocese of New York was established the Catholic population of the city has increased approximately 1,500,000, but the growth of the schools is even relatively greater. The Catholic schools in New York are also in their birth and growth coincident with the establishment of the arch diocese; but the first Catholic school was established 107 years ago—that is in the year, 1802. It was opened in St. Peter's Parish, which is the oldest Catholic parish in Manhattan, occupying its original site in Barclay street, almost exactly in the rear of the Astor House.

"In January, 1801, the Rev. Fr. O'Brien, acting rector of St. Peter's Church wrote to Archbishop Carroll, of Baltimore, in reference to the affairs of St. Peter's Church in Barclay street, the principal object being the opening of a free school, and to accomplish that the trustees of St. Peter's church had agreed to meet in midwinter of the year 1801. That letter is still in the Catholic archives in Baltimore. It was addressed to Archbishop Carroll because he had jurisdiction at that time over what is now New York City. Since the day its school doors were opened they have never been closed, except for vacation, and, I believe, that is the only instance on record, at least, in the United States, of a school maintained without interruption for 107 years.

Another Convert.

There is a special reason for rejoicing over the conversion to the Church of Shane D. Leslie, B. A., of King's College, Cambridge, says the Ave Maria. He is the oldest son of Squire Leslie, of Glaslough, County Monaghan, Ireland. Since 1160 the Holy Lough and St. Patrick's Purgatory (Donegal) have been held in the Leslie family. Pilgrimages hither have never been entirely suspended, though prejudice in times past did all in its power to prevent them. In future they will probably be encouraged. Lough Derg, of all places in Ireland should be in Catholic hands, and no doubt it eventually will be. Time's revenges are often strangest when longest delayed.

Catholic teaching is opposed to science is a favorite cry of the world-wise, of to-day. Father Rickaby, S. J., has a little set of questions to put to these Magi. He asks: "With what particular branch of science does Catholic teaching clash? What particular knowledge have you of that particular branch? What particular knowledge have you of Catholic teaching?" Try it on the next one, who assails you with the popular but false assertion.

Weekly Church Calendar

Sunday August 9—Gospel, St. Luke, ix, 41-47—St. Romanus, martyr. Monday 10—St. Lawrence, martyr. Tuesday 11—St. Tiburtius & Susanna, virgin and martyr. Wednesday 12—St. Clare, abbess and virgin. Thursday 13—St. Hippolytus, confessor. Friday 14—St. Eusebius, confessor. Saturday 15—Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Fourth Annual Conference of Teachers.

More than 200 nuns, teachers in Catholic schools of this diocese gathered Thursday morning in Cathedral Hall for the opening session of the fourth annual conference of the teachers of the Diocese of Rochester. The orders of St. Joseph, Notre Dame and Mercy were represented at the conference, which was the first of its kind to be held in the new hall of the Cathedral parish. Besides the nuns of the diocese and a general attendance of clergy from the city parishes, there were teachers from Savannah, Ga., and Concordia, Kan., and several priests from without the diocese.

Bishop Hickey presided at the session, Sister M. Marcella acting as secretary. Sister M. Cecelia Marie and M. Aquilina served as stenographers. Bishop Hickey welcomed the teachers. Regret was expressed at the enforced absence of Bishop McQuaid, whose illness compelled him to forego attendance at the conference. Miss Helen E. Lucas, supervisor of drawing in the Rochester public schools, was the first speaker, giving a demonstration of exercises in drawing. This, as well as the other papers presented, was followed by a general discussion.

Miss Harvey spoke on "Methods in Primary Reading," giving an exposition of the underlying plans of various methods and showing how reading aids in character building. Miss Helen H. Cook, supervisor of music, Aurora, Ill., gave an illustrated talk on "Methods in Music." Miss Cook is a graduate of Nazareth Convent and a former resident of Rochester. Discussion of all the subjects treated Thursday were continued Friday. Bishop Hickey was the last speaker Thursday morning talking on "Educational Needs of the present day."

Friday's program, which ended the conference included an illustrated lecture on Japan by Thomas B. Lawler.

Student Drowned at Oatka Creek

James T. Conroy of the town of Stanley and a student of St. Andrew's Seminary, who was drowned in Genesee River near Oatka was buried Monday morning at 10 o'clock from St. Francis of Sales church, Geneva, N. Y. A solemn requiem mass was celebrated by Rev. Alexander McKee of Stanley, deacon; Rev. Fr. Kennedy of Hammondport; subdeacon, Rev. Father Muckle of St. Bernard's Seminary, master of ceremonies. Rev. William McPadden of this place. Present in sanctuary were the Rt. Rev. Mong. Hendrick of Ovid, the Very Rev. William A. McDonald of Geneva, Rev. James T. Dougherty of Canandaigua, Rev. Father Gommenger of Lyons, and Rev. S. V. McPadden of this city. Two students of St. Andrew's acted as acolytes. The mass was chanted by the students. At the grave the services were conducted by Frs. Dougherty and Kennedy. Mr. Conroy was held in the highest esteem by both priests and students and his death was a great shock to all. The surviving relatives have the sympathy of a wide circle of friends. The most impressive sight was when the large body of students sang the Benedictus at the grave. Many students from both St. Bernard's and St. Andrew's Seminaries were present to pay the last tribute to their beloved classmate and companion. Requescat in pace.

Captain Bartlett's Three Cheers.

The papers report that the English Ancients were treated to a representation of American Revolutionary scenes at the Globe Theatre the past week. These undoubtedly varied essentially from those given at a theatre in London some months after the close of the war. On the one side was the English army in full red coated uniform, with every button in its exact place. Opposite them was the American army, composed, as the theatre bill stated, of "artisans, cobblers and tinkers" arrayed in their working dress, with buttons of every size and hue.

When the curtain dropped Capt. Bartlett, of Plymouth, Mass., the captain of a ship then in port, stood up in his seat in the pit, and in a voice as if given from a quarterdeck in a squall, called "Three cheers for the artisans, cobblers and tinkers who were too much for King George and his redcoats," and with a wave of his hat he gave these with a will. For a short time there was silence in the theatre, followed by the enthusiastic John Bull, appreciative cheer for the pluck and assurance of the Yankee captain, who became the lion of the city, receiving invitations to dine and free tickets to theatrical and other entertainments while he remained in port.—Boston Transcript.

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