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Friday, June 21, 1912

Misrepresented

Some bigots and some honest but ignorant persons are trying to make it appear that Pope Pius X is trying to upset and defy the American laws regarding marriage and divorce. Such is far from the fact. True, Catholic's may not be divorced and remain in good standing in the Church. Neither may they marry outside the Church and call themselves practical Catholics. But, while the Church holds marriage a Sacrament and deprecates divorce, nevertheless she does not claim any authority over the non-Catholic. And the bigot knows this full well.

The same misrepresentation is made of another decree of Pope Pius X regarding the right of a layman to bring an action against a priest in a civil court. Cardinal Bourne, of England, answers this slander as follows:—

Priests were not always perfect, neither were the laity always perfect and sometimes the clergy did not get on with the laity, and sometimes the laity did not get on with the clergy; and the Church had always said that should a layman have a grievance against a clergyman, it was in every way consonant with propriety and with right ideas that before taking the priest into a court of law the matter ought to be settled, if possible, by the friendly arbitration of a higher ecclesiastical authority. Could anything be more reasonable than that? Then if the higher ecclesiastical authority was unable to settle the matter, that authority was bound to allow the matter to go into a court of law. The Holy See had recently reminded the people of the privileges of the clergy in this respect in those countries where the arrangement had not been abrogated; that those arrangements must remain in force; so that in those countries, and in those countries only, a layman who took a priest into court without invoking as a preliminary that friendly arbitration that such a one might be subject to the penalty of excommunication. That, in a few words, was the explanation of the Motu Proprio "Quantavis Diligentia." On those words there had been an extraordinary amount of misconception, and they had been used to let him say, not with conscious unfairness, he trusted, but most unfairly and without justification.

Impolite

Good manners requires that a host should abstain from conversation or references which would embarrass his guests. On the other hand, guests should refrain from conversation which would give offense to the host. This rule should also be observed by preachers who invite organizations of mixed membership like the Grand Army of the Republic to attend services in their Churches.

It would appear that the Rev. Augustus Barnett—we will wager his forbears were Catholic's—is not possessed of this trait of

a gentleman. He invited Philadelphia veterans to a "patriotic service" in his "Reformed Church of the Redeemer." The year before the same veterans went to a Catholic Church. The sermon was without a bigoted reference. Not so with Dr. Barnett. He delivered a genuine "Guardian of Liberty" screed in which the Catholic faith was assailed and the Pope derided. It appears that Barnett is a pal of General Nelson Miles in his warfare against Catholicity.

It were well that G. A. R. veterans should stipulate in advance that "patriotic sermons" must also be minus bigotry, else Catholic veterans should stay away.

Is This the Programme?

It looks as if the Methodists and Presbyterians, at least, proposed to try and resuscitate their failing fortunes by the olden recipe: "When all else fails, pitch into the Pope." The Presbyterians have been having an innings out in Seattle while the Methodists have been holding forth in Minneapolis. The first rehearses the stock assertion that the Catholic's are secretly organizing and drilling an army to support a revolution having for its object the seizure of America for the Pope. The Methodists assert boldly that unless the Methodists take the Bible into Spain, Italy and South America, the benighted Catholics in these countries never will see the Sacred Book! And this in the face of the fact that had it not been for the Catholics the Methodists would have no Bible to print or distribute!

Archbishop Ireland has made vigorous and forceful answer to the Methodists while Bishop Canavin has given eloquent advice to the Presbyterians. But both will fall on deaf ears. The bigot figure that a trade against the Pope will produce a larger crop of subscription dollars than preaching the Gospel or vaudeville by Billy Sunday. So they will continue right on in their campaign of slander and misrepresentation. They figure that Henry Ward Beecher's definition of the religious test of some people: "Do you hate the Catholic's?" Yes, Well, then pass into Heaven" is heeded by many persons these days. We wonder?

Not So Here

The following extract is from an interview with Archbishop Howley, of Newfoundland:—
"We have the most perfect educational system of any country in the world. There is practically no such a thing as a common school, and denominational education is everywhere the rule. Our people are divided into three groups, Catholics, Anglicans, and Methodists, with whom are joined all Nonconformists as minor Protestants, and our grants for education are allotted in proportion to the number of members in the different bodies. There is very little friction, and Catholics have absolute control of their part of the public fund and devote it to both primary and secondary education. We set aside a few thousand dollars each year to support teachers in the poorer districts, and we strain every nerve for efficiency. We are affiliated with London University, and many of our boys and girls have carried off the honors.

Graduation exercises over and school year ended, next comes the vacation.

If abuse of the Pope does not produce a goodly list of contributions for "foreign missions" our Methodist friends will choose a new song mighty quick.

Well, the Colonel was in the limelight all right, this week.

A man to live alone must be either an angel or a devil.

Clerical Appointments

The newly ordained priests have been assigned by Bishop Heiey as assistants in the following churches:
Rev. J. Curtin, at St. Augustine's; Rev. J. J. Baier, Holy Family; Rev. G. W. Dowd, Rev. V. F. Hurley, Cathedral; Rev. A. F. Edelman, St. Francis Xavier; Rev. J. M. O'Brien, Holy Apostles; Rev. C. E. Muckle, St. Mary's; Rev. M. B. Groden, Corning; Rev. C. F. Shay, Hornell.

Tom Karl

Tom Karl, the eminent tenor was a native of Dublin, but his life has been spent in some of the other cities of Europe, notably Milan, where he studied seven years and sang in Grand Opera in all the principal cities of Italy, he then came to America where he made this country his adopted home and has sung in every city in this country, with the greater artists of the world in former days and for many years in the most successful English Opera Co., the Boston Ideals and the "Famous Bostonians" of which he was one of the owners and leading tenor. He has sung at the leading Festivals in Oratorio, with the "Handel and Haydn Society," of Boston and at the celebrated Worcester Festivals. He has accepted a position at the head of the vocal department of the Rochester Conservatory of Music and has been very successful in his work there the past season. As a Catholic he has sung for the charities of the Church throughout the entire country and recently sang at Convention Hall, both evenings for the Sisters of St. Ann's Home, his beautiful voice giving greatest pleasure and singing the Irish melodies as only an Irishman can sing them. His complimentary performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's beautiful Opera of "Patience," Monday, July 1st will be of interest to the city he has now chosen for a permanent home and especially to our Catholic citizens.

A. O. H. Reunion

Div. No. 2, A. O. H., are to hold a reunion at Bay View, on the afternoon of June 29th and all the members of the Division are expected to attend if possible, with their wives and children, and sweethearts. O'Connell's Own Band together with Brothers Jeremiah Breen and John Powers, with their fiddles, will make the old bay resound with the strains of Irish music and song. A "Caed Mille Failte" is extended from the arrangement committee: Martin B. O'Neil, Thomas Frazer, Cornelius O'Neil, Thomas Eustace, James Usher, John Powers, John Cotter, Miskel, James McCourt, Patrick Macky, Daniel Crowley, Edward Moriarty, J. Tighe. Brothers will attend a special meeting which will be called the first part of next week and procure your badges before they are all gone.

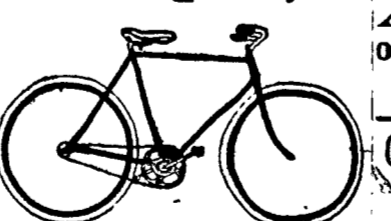
Weekly Church Calendar

23 S. St. Agrippina
24 M. St. John the Bapt.
25 T. St. William
26 W. St. John and Paul
27 T. St. Sampson
28 F. St. Leon
29 S. St. Peter and Paul, Ap.

Pilgrimage

The 22nd annual pilgrimage to St. Anne de Beaupre is this year under the direction of Rev. J. J. O'Reilly, Enterprise, Ont. Full particulars are printed on advertising page of this issue.

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For The Contractors' Note Book

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