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Sturdy Fight.

It was a sturdy and withal dignified opposition that was made manifest in Albany last week when the Public Education Committee of the Assembly gave a hearing on the Greiner-Tallett Bible reading bill.

Jews, Unitarians and Lutherans stood shoulder to shoulder with Roman Catholics in protesting against the bill as a sectarian measure which infringed upon the state constitution and would tend to disintegrate the public school system. Rabbi Goldenson pertinently said that the authors of the bill realized the untenability of their position by inserting the provision that upon a written request of parent or guardian a child might be excused from the Bible reading.

Philip H. Donnelly, of Rochester, made a spirited address in opposition. Pertinent, indeed, was his characterization that "this bill, if enacted into law would turn the public schools into parochial schools of Protestantism." He also declared that he was sure that the courts would declare the bill unconstitutional.

Those in favor of the bill were not coherent or cohesive in their arguments. One asserted that the Bible was not a religious book but a splendid specimen of literature. Another declared vehemently that the intention of the bill was to promote religion and that that was why it was introduced. Another let the cat out of the bag and said that Rev. O. R. U. Miller, of "Reform Bulletin" fame had compiled a leaflet for Bible reading, the selections in which would offend nobody and that these could be procured cheaply by school authorities.

We hear that the bill is to be amended so that the various school authorities may or may not permit Bible reading "from any Bible." While this is a concession, the fact remains that there is absolutely no necessity or demand for the passage of the bill even in that form.

Vipers.

We regret to say that there are some persons in Rochester—we are not at all certain that they are citizens of the United States—who belong to the viper brand of the serpent tribe. There are some snakes worse than others and the viper is one of the worst.

These vipers, actuated only by the lowest and vilest of motives, set out this week to defeat a man they never heard of before until he was nominated for judge of the Court of Claims. Something like a thousand letters were sent from Rochester to the Senate Finance committee protesting against the confirmation of Thomas Fennell, of Elmira. Although these vipers did not say so openly, their only opposition to Mr. Fennell was aroused by secret instructions from the heads of the secret anti-Catholic order that the Elmira candidate was and is a Catholic. No voice of protest was raised against Judge Rossmbeck, of Rochester, or Mr. Alexander, of Niagara Falls, Mr.

Fennell's associate judges, who are not Catholics. Mr. Fennell is not known in Rochester.

We are glad to record that the republican Senate Finance Committee upon whom the vipers relied, were not responsive to their demands but voted unanimously to confirm Mr. Fennell who, is a conscientious, high-minded American gentleman.

The vipers have also set out to secure the dismissal of the Catholic teachers in the public schools of Rochester. In this nefarious attempt they will fail unless the Rochester Board of Education is composed of bigots and this we do not believe for an instant.

Another of the tribe was arrested in Rochester last week upon an indictment found in Boston. Perhaps, the charge is untrue. We withhold comment until the case is tried. But we shall keep in close watch upon the case.

Plain Talk.

The secular Boston Transcript talks right out in meeting and warns the republican party against permitting itself to become identified with the bigots:

The same potent force which helped to push Mr. Cushing's candidacy for lieutenant-governor to the high-water mark the Transcript believes to have been largely instrumental in influencing Mr. Cushing's decision to oppose Mr. McCall in the primaries. That force raised the religious issue in the last campaign and urged Mr. Cushing's election on the ground that his candidacy was acceptable to the A. P. A. It brought him many votes, no doubt, because the issue was not fought out in the open, as it will be and ought to be in the next republican primary campaign. Publicity is the cure for bigotry. We regret the bitterness which ever follows in the wake of a discussion of religion in the arena of politics but we welcome the joining of the issue here and now in Massachusetts. If ever there was a time in the world's history when organized Christianity owed a duty to God and man to end religious warfare within its own house that time is today, with half the world at war. Whatever the fate of the republican party in the next election, it is far more important to the commonwealth that the candidates elected owe their success to their refusal to accept, much less to court, the support of those who traffic in religious prejudices than that any one party should triumph or any partisan policy prevail.

Keep Close Watch!

That episode in Buffalo where a supposedly drunken nun was proven to be a male A. P. A. garbed in the habit of a Sister should serve as a lesson and a warning. Whenever a similar episode is staged in Rochester and it is likely to be—those who unmask the impostor should restrain their impulse to inflict bodily punishment and turn the miscreant over to the authorities.

There are severe penalties provided for those who wear a religious garb when not entitled thereto.

When neither the Jews, nor Unitarians nor Catholics want a particular piece of sectarian legislation, it would seem that it ought not to pass unanimously.

Holy Name Societies in Rochester could exert a powerful influence in the community if their members stand together for right and better things in civic and social way.

Let us hope that we will not pay up in March for the spring weather of February.

Rochester's Board of Education showed a broad-minded spirit in opposing the Greiner-Tallett bill as unnecessary and intended to stir up strife and bitterness in the schools.

While reforms may be necessary in the tax laws, it would seem that the administration proposition at Albany, to place all local tax assessors under absolute control of the new state tax department goes a trifle too far.

Reading a Catholic paper is a wholesome practice during Lent. It improves one's knowledge of the history of his Church and it is a sorry reflection that too many Catholics manifest a woeful ignorance of such matters.

The Catholic who cannot abstain from meat during the Wednesdays of Lent does not, perhaps, realize that many of his non-Catholic friends know our Lenten regulations and laugh at him behind his back. Example is a good thing to set before those of the other side.

Bishop Hanna.

The invocation at the opening of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition last Saturday morning was delivered by Bishop Hanna. The directors of the fair made a happy choice and showed a true sense of the fitness of things in inviting Bishop Hanna to ask God's blessing on the great exposition.

Catholic News Notes

Marquette Hall, in Michigan City, Ind., recently dedicated by Bishop Aldering, is said to be one of the finest church halls in the State.

Evening classes have been introduced in Boston College, St. Peter's College, Jersey City, St. Joseph's, Philadelphia, and in colleges of other cities.

The late Mgr. Benson, in his work "The Dawn of All," written in Rome in 1911, speaks of "A Free Ireland," a "small France," and "a converted England."

The jubilee gift of the Catholics of the diocese of Duluth to their Bishop, Mgr. McGolrick, has been given by him to the orphans. It was \$11,000.

BUSINESS.

No man should permit himself to become a slave to his business. "Perpetual devotion to what a man calls his business," says Stevenson, "is only to be sustained by perpetual neglect of many other things, and it is not by any means certain that a man's business is the most important thing he has to do." The man who makes business a continual excuse for not being public spirited, neighborly and godly is merely a shirker.

Pickled Tea as Relish.

Pickled tea, "letpeso," is a rare delicacy in Burma and Siam. The leaves are thrown into boiling water and there remain until they become soft, when they are rolled by hand on mats and allowed to cool. They are then rumpled down into the internode of a bamboo, a stopper is made of guava leaves, and the bamboo is suspended two days, with stopper down, to drain off the water, and then buried in the ground till the letpes has matured, when it is ready for sale and use. If not buried the letpes becomes black and spoiled instead of yellowish, as it should be. The letpes is rarely made into a drink, but is eaten, generally with oil and garlic.

Milton's Retort.

John Milton was not a wit, yet he is reported to have made a crushing reply to a question from Charles II. "Do you not think," said the king, "that your blindness is a judgment on you for having written in justification of my father's murder?" "Sir," replied the poet, "it is true I have lost my eyesight, but if all the calamitous providences are to be regarded as divine judgments your majesty should remember that your father lost his head."

Tactful.

A musical conductor was trying the voice of a young woman who wished to secure a place in an opera troupe. The manager was standing by. The candidate was frail and timid. She finished her song with an air of distress. "How is it?" asked the manager unceremoniously. The conductor caught the pleading eyes of the girl, but he had his duty to perform. He struck three notes on the piano and left the rest to the manager. The three notes were B A D.

KILLED IN BATTLE.

Methods of Different Nations for Identifying the Dead.

When a German soldier falls in battle he is identified by a little metal disk which he carries. This disk bears a number, and this number is telegraphed to Berlin. There the soldier's name is determined. This system is as effective as everything else connected with the German army.

The British use an aluminum disk that contains, besides marks of identification, the soldier's church affiliation. The Japanese system is similar, each soldier wearing three disks, one around his neck, another on his belt and the third in his boot. The Russians wear a numbered badge.

The United States army uses a cloth tab woven into the shoulder strap of the tunic. The French use identification cards stitched inside the tunic. The French once made use of metal identification badges, but these proved an irresistible attraction to the savages whom the French faced in Africa, so the cards were substituted. Austria still uses a badge of gun metal in the form of a locket with parchment leaves inside.

Turkey has no identification badges for her soldiers. Edhem Pasha once explained this omission as follows: "A dead man is of no use to the sultan. Why, therefore, trouble with him?"—Baltimore American.

MOVING PICTURES IN JAPAN.

Shoes Are Doffed at the Door, and Spectators Sit on the Floor.

Many of the motion picture theaters in Japan, particularly in Tokyo, where there are over 100, are quite as elegant as some to be found in any American city. You can secure admission for as low as 5 cents up to as high as 60 cents. In the cheaper portions of most theaters the natives sit crosslegged on the floor in characteristic Japanese fashion. They remove their shoes before entering, and an attendant takes charge of these.

Both American and European pictures are shown, but the principal attraction is a long Japanese play, which is presented in a very unique fashion. In fact, it may be said that the Japanese have real talking pictures. The film is produced in the same manner as a stage play, with every portion of dialogue spoken.

When the picture is projected an actor and actress stand on each side of the screen and repeat the dialogue in full view of the spectators. The two reciters share the parts played by the different characters. As their spoken words keep strict time with the lip movements of the silent artists, the result, as may be imagined, is very effective.—Popular Electricity.

Shelley Was a Quiser Boy.

The poet Percy Bysshe Shelley as a small boy was an eccentric little being. He used to dress his four sisters to represent gods, and, filling a fire stove with some inflammable fluid and setting it aflame, he would marshal the diabolical procession to the back door. As a boy at Eton he would watch the livelong night for ghosts and consulted his books how to raise one. His diet in after years was meager enough to bring him wild fancies. Bread became his chief sustenance, and his pockets were well stored with it. "A circle upon the carpet, clearly defined by an ample verge of crumbs, often marked the place where he had long sat at his studies, his face nearly in contact with his book, devouring bread at intervals amid his profound abstractions. Sometimes he ate raisins with it, and his sweet tooth was immense.

Absolute Zero.

In the absence of all heat the temperature is zero, not the zero of the thermometers, but what is called "absolute zero." In other words, where there is no heat there is no temperature. Absolute zero is supposed to be about 273 degrees below the thermometric zero of the Centigrade scale and about 461 degrees below the thermometric zero of the Fahrenheit scale. Absolute zero might, imaginatively, be defined as molecular death, because a substance which has lost all temperature has necessarily lost all molecular or internal energy and has become entirely inert.—New York Journal.

Wood in Flying Machine.

Flying machines are made almost entirely of wood. The propellers of the aeroplanes are in most instances made of selected ash, which, in addition to being strong and light, will not split under vibration or shock. Built up layers of spruce with mahogany centers are also in use. Spruce is used in the construction of the frame because of its markedly straight grain and freedom from hidden defects.—Washington Star.

Installation Plan.

Bill Thought you said you were going to buy a cow?
Jill—Well, I'm doing it.
Bill—Where is it?
Jill—Over at my neighbor's. I'm buying it on the installment plan. I've bought a lot of the milk already.—Yonkers Statesman.

Investigating His Credit.

"Say, Brooks, can I borrow a little money from you until next pay day?"
"Why-er yes, I suppose so. How much do you want?"
"None at all, dear boy. I only wanted to satisfy myself that my credit was good."—London Standard.

I worked with patience, which means almost power.—Mrs. Browning.

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