

# The Catholic Journal

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Friday March 12, 1915.

## Church Gains.

According to the report published recently by the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, taken as a whole, seem to confute the claim that "the Church is losing ground." Taken as a whole, the religious bodies in the United States increased their membership nearly three-quarters of a million. For the first time the Protestant Episcopal Church passed the million mark. The elaborate statistical tables prepared for the Federal Council by Dr. H. K. Carroll, shows in detail the gains and losses of the year.

The grand total of members is now 38,708,149. All the larger denominations share in the increase. Baptists gained 121,125; Eastern Orthodox churches, 36,500; the Catholic Church, 136,850; the Lutherans, 56,248; the German Evangelical Synod, representing the State Church of Prussia, 29,315; the Methodists, 231,460; the Presbyterians, 52,019; the Protestant Episcopal church, 28,641.

The Catholic Church has gained nearly a million and a quarter since 1910, and more than five and a half millions since 1900.

The Protestant Episcopal Church has crossed the million line, having gained 86,468 since 1910, and over 300,000 since 1900.

The Methodist Episcopal Church, the second largest denomination, gained 187,487 in 1914, and nearly 700,000 since 1900.

The thirty churches, constituting the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, report nearly 17,500,000 members, somewhat less than half of the aggregate for all denominations, with 103,000 ministers and nearly 139,000 churches. These bodies have a net increase of over 500,000 members, or more than two-thirds of the entire increase of all bodies.

There are nine denominations which have a million and upward—the Catholic, 13,794,637; the Methodist Episcopal, 3,603,265; the Southern Baptist, 2,591,217; the National Baptist (Colored), 2,018,868; the Methodist Episcopal South, 2,005,707; the Presbyterian, Northern, 1,442,498; the Disciples of Christ, 1,363,163; the Northern Baptist Convention, 1,238,323; and the Protestant Episcopal, 1,016,228. These seven denominations aggregate over 20,000,000 members, or more than three-fourths of the entire aggregate of the 170 religious bodies.

## The Distinction.

Many persons confound liberty and license. The Federal Constitution prescribes that the liberty of the press shall not be abridged or curtailed but no where does the United States Constitution provide that the press shall have unbridled license. Neither does exclusion from the mails constitute governmental interference with the freedom of the press. Certain conditions may be prescribed, the fulfillment of which may entitle their holder to cer-

tain recompensatory privileges in the way of decreased postage rates. If these conditions are not complied with, then the privilege may be withdrawn.

The Catholic Citizen of Milwaukee explains clearly this distinction in the following editorial paragraph:

As was to be expected, Congressman Fitzgerald's bill in the House of Representatives, authorizing the Postmaster-General to exclude from the mails any publication which he decides to be "indecent, immoral, scurrilous or libelous," has raised a cry that the liberty of the press is endangered. The bill "authorizes" the Postmaster-General to decide of his own mere motion that a publication is libelous and, practically, to suppress it, says a Protestant exchange. We hold no brief for the bill in question; but we do not see that it necessarily attacks the freedom of the press. It merely withdraws a mailing privilege from certain publications. They may continue to be published and circulated nevertheless. It hampers their circulation, but it does not suppress their publication. Hersin is a distinction and a difference.

## Due to Papacy.

Those who read daily in the press about the Red Cross society and its work may be interested in the following account of its origin taken from the Northwest Progress of Spokane:—

The enlightened and charitable care given to the wounded in the military hospitals and ambulances, which accompany the armies, is admired and appreciated by all, but few are aware of its origin.

This useful form of Christian devotion is due to the Papacy. In the course of the war with the Turks, made illustrious by the Polish hero, John Sobieski, in the second half of the seventeenth century, Pope Innocent XI was struck by the fate of the sick and wounded suffering from insufficiency of sanitary aid. He had the idea of establishing at his own expense in Hungary a flying hospital provided with an abundant staff of doctors and surgeons, who followed the Christian army everywhere.

Thus was the foundation of the Sanitary Red Cross service of today laid by a Pope of Rome, just as our nuns laid the foundation of nursing service.

## Prayer for Peace.

Our Holy Father, Benedict XV, has ordained that Sunday, March 21st, be set aside in the Catholic Churches of the United States as a day upon which the faithful shall unite in earnest prayer to Almighty God that peace may return to the warring nations of Europe.

In accordance with the Holy Father's command, in all the Catholic Churches of the Diocese of Rochester special prayers will be offered at all the masses; the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed and many of the societies will receive Holy Communion in a body.

Surely, if all Catholic's pray fervently, the awful carnage in Europe may cease. At least, our prayers cannot but avail to avert the shadow of war from the United States and that peace may continue under the dominion of the Stars and Stripes.

What has become of the Bible reading bill at Albany?

It is unfortunate that sectarian issues are raised in the charities department in Greater New York.

The people of Rochester were generously disposed on "Catholic Charities Day."

The receipts of the Society for the Preservation of the Faith among Indian Children last year fell \$3,092.23 short of the previous year. This decrease, instead of increase, occasions much solicitude.

# News From Ireland

At the Newmarket-on-Fergus Petty Sessions Charles W. Healy, Manus, was sworn in as magistrate for the County Clare. William J. Corbett, Willbrook House, was sworn in at the Corofin Petty Sessions.

George Gallery, Ennis, has been unanimously elected clerk to the Clare Sanatorium committee.

The two-year old son of J. Collins, N. T., Sherkin Island, Balbincora, has succumbed to burns accidentally received through his having set fire to window curtains in his father's house.

At the Catholic church, Clonakilty, by the Right Rev. Mgr. O'Leary, P. P., V. F., Patrick Richard Farrelly, Officers' Training Company, Mallow, was married to Margaret, eldest daughter of the late Patrick Collins, Strand Road, Clonakilty.

Nurse Ly d, who has been attached to the Linnavady Union for the past twenty-five years, has retired owing to ill-health.

A woman named Bridget McCourt, dropped dead in her residence on Kilmorey street, Newry, on the first instant, after returning from Maas. She had been suffering from heart disease and an inquest was not considered necessary.

A marriage was celebrated on January 28, at the Catholic church, Rostrevor, by the Rev. Father McCrory, C. C., between John Smyth, Mayobridge, and Annie, third daughter of Mrs. Patrick Sloane, Killowen, and sister of the Rev. Father Sloane, Nebraska.

Councillor Gallagher has been elected Lord Mayor of Dublin in room of the late Alderman Clancy.

The Dublin hospital Sunday fund collection (November 8) amounted to £4,833. It was the largest since the fund was started in 1877.

Divergent war opinions led to an altercation between two men named Ryan and Holland, at Turroughmore, and both received gunshot wounds.

P. Kennedy, J. P., who has been re-elected chairman of the Loughrea Town Board, has held that position for over a quarter of a century.

The appointment as deputy lieutenant for Kerry is gazetted of Arthur Rose Vincent, Muckross Abbey, Killarney.

At the request of the magistrates, Judge Barry, at Athy, changed Monasterevan Petty Sessions from fortnight to monthly.

T. O'Gorman, N. T., Thomas town, has been elected president of the Kilkenny Teachers' Association.

Right Rev. Dr. DeWachter, V. G. Malines, in a letter to the Bishop of Ossory, thanks the people of the diocese for their contribution of £1,341 13s. 5d. for the Belgian relief fund.

The Rev. J. J. Kelly, after a residence of seven years in Killybeg, has been appointed parish priest of Suncroft.

J. J. Daly, Hospital, has been appointed to the Castlebar branch of the National Bank.

Rev. J. Matthews, C. C., Drogheda, was seriously injured through falling off an overhead bridge at Grogahwood railway station on the 31st ult.

On February 3, at her residence 23 Grattan street, Maryborough, the death took place of Mrs. Maria Barrett, relict of the late Francis Barrett.

The death has taken place of G. Prior, sr., proprietor of the "Nenagh Guardian," in his 70th year.

The painter, Joseph Brugo, has executed the picture of the Holy Father to be placed in the throne room of the Cardinal Secretary of State. His Holiness Benedict XV was so well pleased with it that he directed the artist to paint another to be sent to his former diocese, Bologna.

The cry of help is now being heard from the vast mission lands of the Church.

# DESCRIPTION OF IRELAND IN 682 A. D.

What St. Patrick's Influence Did For the Land He Loved.

By NEIL MACDONALD.  
(Copyright, 1915, by American Press Association.)

The following rimed account of the condition of Ireland in the year 682 by Prince Alfred, who subsequently became king of Northumbria, vividly portrays the prosperity, morality and superior intelligence of the people of the country at that early period. Like many others from England and the continent of Europe, he visited Ireland in quest of knowledge, the country being then not only the "isle of saints," but of eminent scholars as well.

FOUND in Innisfail, the fair, In Ireland, while in exile there, Women of worth, both grave and gay men, Many clerics and many laymen.

I traveled in fruitful provinces round, And in every one of the five I found, Abundant apparel and food for all.

Gold and silver I found and money, Plenty of wheat and plenty of honey, I found God's people rich in pity, Found many a feast and many a city.

I also found in Armagh, the splendid, Meekness, wisdom and prudence blended, Fasting as Christ hath recommended, And noble councilors untranscended.

I found in each great church, more o'er, Whether on island or on shore, Pity, learning, fond affection, Holy welcome and kind protection.

I found the good lay monks and brothers Ever beseeching help from others, And in their keeping the holy word, Pure as it came from Jesus the Lord.

I found in Munster, unfettered of any, Kings and queens and poets many— Poets well skilled in music and measure, Prosperous doings, mirth and pleasure.

I found in Connaught, the just, redundancy Of riches, milk in lavish abundance, Hospitality, vigor, fame, In Crusahan's land of heroic fame.

I found in the country of Connall, the glorious, Bravest heroes, ever victorious, Fair complexioned men, and warlike, Ireland's lights, the high, the starlike.

I found in Ulster from hill to glen Hardy warriors and rovalute men, Beauty that bloomed when youth was gone, And strength transmitted from sire to son.

I found in Leinster, the smooth and sleek, From Dublin to Slievemary's peak, Flourishing pastures, valor, health, Long lived worthies, commerce, wealth.

I found, besides, from Ara to Glee, In the broad, rich country of Ossorie, Sweet fruits, good laws, from all and each, Great chess players, men of truthful speech.

I found in Meath a fair principality Virtue, vigor and hospitality, Candor, joyfulness, bravery, purity, Ireland's bulwark and security.

I found strict morals in age and youth; I found historians recording truth, The things I sing of in verse unsmooth, I found them all, I have written sooth.

The Law of Compensation, "I had no mother's voice to lull me to sleep, when I was a boy," sobbed the first man, "And I had no father's voice to call me in the morning," sobbed the second.

Thus we see nature's wonderful law of compensation applied to the human equation—Philadelphia Ledger

Shrewd Advice, The virtues of a keen business man are often negative rather than positive. It is said that a great broker once told his son that only two things were necessary to make a great financier: "And what are those, papa?" the son asked.

"Honesty and sagacity." "But what do you consider the mark of honesty to be?" "Always to keep your word." "And the mark of sagacity?" "Never to give your word."

No Place For Fido, Mrs. Nexdore (angrily)—I want you to keep your dog out of my house; it's full of fleas.

Mrs. Naybor—Your house is? Mercy! I certainly shan't let Fido go in there again.—Boston Transcript.

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