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Protestant Opinion on the Exclusion of the Bible From the Schools.

Among other things, Catholics are accused of having driven the Bible from the Public Schools of our country, to the great injury of religious education. "Guardians of Liberty," "Knights of Luther," Billy Parkers and others "defending America against the encroachment of Rome," as they claim, especially have dwelt upon this point. That agnostics and Jews have opposed bible-reading in Public Schools is overlooked by these enemies of the Church, as is the fact that good reasons have been advanced by Protestants, why the Holy Book should not be used in the schools "as a religious book."

Thus Arthur Jackson Hall, in a dissertation, recently published by the University of Chicago Press, expresses the following view on this question:

"There seems no escape from the conviction that the great majority of those who advocate the use of the Bible in the schools have in mind its religious value. They are contending for the Bible in the schools either as a symbol of religion, or as a manual of religious instruction, or as a book of religious worship. In this way they hope to create the spirit of reverence and impart the knowledge of religion. All this is supposed to be accomplished by the reading of ten or twenty verses a day, without note or comment. The purpose indeed is praiseworthy, but the method is inadequate. From the point of view of a thorough religious education, it is impossible to believe that such a use of the Bible can be attended with any great value. On the other hand it is easy to see how it may be nothing more than a worthless form, leaving not a trace of good upon the minds and hearts of the pupils. Religious education, which has in view the end to be accomplished and not the means, cannot possibly look with favor on any such procedure. And yet many of the advocates of the Bible in the schools seem to feel that their whole work is accomplished when once the sacred volume is introduced into these institutions. The suspicion is aroused that, perhaps unconsciously to themselves, they are looking upon the Bible as a kind of fetch, a book of magic power, that they expect its mere presence in the school to work the miracle of transformation. But surely they are leaning upon a broken reed. There is no justification for what they expect. The Bible is invaluable for religious education, but not such a use of it as they recommend. Religious education raises the voice of protest. It refuses to be satisfied with such a makeshift. It therefore has little to regret in the exclusion of the Bible from the schools. It believes that the school has suffered no loss and the Bible no injury nor insult."

In the face of recent attempts to legislate in favor of reintroducing the reading of the Bible into the Public Schools of certain states, this statement from a Protestant source is of interest and value.

C. B. of C. V.

Weekly Church Calendar

Third Sunday after Easter.

Gospel, St. John xvi., 16-22.

S 25 Patronage of St. Joseph.
M 26 SS. Cletus & Marcellinus, PP., MM.
T 27 St. Turibius, B. C.
W 28 St. Paul of the Cross, C.
Th 29 St. Peter, M.
F 30 St. Catharine of Siena, V.
S May 1 SS. Philip and James, Apostles.

At Salina, Kas., a main building costing \$100,000 is to be erected for the Academy of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Will Open Home For Working Girls With Reception.

The first steps towards the opening of the new home for working girls in what was formerly the Pinnacle Club, at Monroe Avenue and Field Street, to be conducted under the direction of the Catholic Charity Guild, were taken Wednesday afternoon at a meeting of the heads of the departments, held in the Cathedral rectory with Bishop Thomas F. Hickey presiding.

A public reception is being planned for Thursday afternoon and evening, April 20, when the building will be thrown open for inspection before the new plans of the architect which convert it into suitable rooms for working girls, are put into operation. These plans, which are being prepared by Gordon & Madden, will also be ready for inspection.

The four floors of the building, with its present furnishings, will be open from 2 o'clock until 10 o'clock and a reception committee will welcome the public and friends of the new institution, which is to be called "St. Elizabeth's Guild Home," to its first house warming. Announcement of the reception and an invitation to the same will be made from all the Catholic pulpits of the city on Sunday.

Foreign Missions News

(Special Correspondence.)

Rev. Constant Daems, B. F. M., has been appointed Prefect Apostolic of South Kan-sou. He succeeds Mgr. Van Aertseker, who was made coadjutor to the Vicar Apostolic of Central Mongolia.

The Work of Mary Immaculate, founded in France, has for its object the salvation of women in pagan, heretic and schismatic countries. It is now just twenty-five years since the first Catholic Missionary nuns went to India, and a celebration in all the houses of these Sisters marked the event. Two venerable survivors of the first band are still living there. One of the first acts of the Catechists when opening a mission post is to erect a little grotto to Our Lady of Lourdes, and the protection of the Blessed Virgin has no doubt enabled the Sisters to endure the hardships of their life in India.

The Concordat between Servia and the Holy See has been ratified. On account of European events the ceremony was brief, and the bestowal of decorations upon the representatives of the Servian government, customary at such times, was postponed until the close of the war.

Fr. Van den Bogaard, B. F. M., is praying earnestly that the rice harvest in Suligao may be good one this year. It is gathered in May, and the salvation of the natives, materially speaking depends upon it. Last year the harvest failed, and the people are threatened with famine. The Philippines have suffered considerably on account of the war, as the chief products, hemp and copra, no longer find a market. At present, as the Father says, there is neither rice nor the money with which to buy it.

A good way, just now, of showing our sympathy for the missions would be to help educate native seminarians, and this does not mean expending a large sum either. Bishop Ducoeur, of Kwang Si, says on this subject: "I count on our native priests to carry on the work here, as there will be few European missionaries sent to China for some time to come. Next year I hope to consecrate four young Chinese apostles, and I recommend our seminarians to the benefactors of foreign missions. It is a form of charity that may mean the life of the Church in pagan countries."

St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Boston had 1271 patients last year.

Desperate Condition of the Arctic Missions.

A most pressing appeal comes to us for the Manitoba mission of Bishop Charles O. M. I. of Le Pas. He has fifteen priests, ten by Brothers and several nuns to care for besides the Indian children who depend on him for the necessities of life.

The almost unbearable conditions of life in the Arctic regions have often been described, and need no repetition now, but it is well to remember that the cost of whatever is obtainable there is doubled and trebled. The central post for the Eskimos is at Chesterfield Inlet, on Hudson Bay. One may travel hundreds of miles around the inlet without finding enough wood to build a fire. Coal at this mission costs forty dollars a ton, and both wood and coal must be brought from Montreal.

The war has ruined the fur trade; skins which two years ago sold for thirty dollars are now worth only two, while, on the other hand, the Hudson Bay Company charges twenty-five dollars for a sack of flour and sixty cents a pound for sugar.

It will be seen from these facts that a crisis is near. The missionaries, though in many cases broken by age and hardship, are anxious to remain at their posts, but this will be impossible unless immediate help is sent them.

Irish Martyrs Beatified

The 257 Irish martyrs (the word runs off the pen and the significance of it thus will not be misunderstood), are officially before the Congregation of Rites. Ministers come and go; politics go on forever; but an event such as this only happens once. And it was surely not altogether a coincidence that it has happened in St. Patrick's week, so that Father Mackey was able to add eloquent words on it to the text of the sermon which he preached in St. Patrick's Church.

The Holy Father has himself signed the commission for the introduction of the cause of beatification and canonization of Archbishop O'Hurley of Cashel, Bishops O'Devany of Down and Connor and O'Brien of Emly (united to Cashel in 1567), and companions, 257 in all; the cause of the remaining 23 servants of God being put back for further proof to be brought.

Six Nuns Flee Mexico.

Six Spanish nuns, who said they were driven from a convent near Vera Cruz by Carranza troops, who besieged the convent six days and threatened their lives, reached New York recently aboard the Spanish steamer Manuel Calvo, from Vera Cruz and Havana. They had appealed in vain for protection, they said, to Governor Aguilar of Vera Cruz, whom they cared for when he had fever two years ago.

"A mob of drunken soldiers surrounded the convent and hospital on March 1 and threatened our lives," said Mother Superior Simons, in charge of the party. "They besieged us six days, but our faithful servants protected us. We escaped at night by putting aside our nuns' clothing and wearing the common garb of Mexican women. An artillery officer, whom we had once done a kindness for, helped us escape. Not till after we got aboard ship did we resume our nuns' clothing. We were afraid to do so before."

By a decree of the Propaganda the Prefecture Apostolic of Sapporo, in Japan, has been erected. It consists of territories detached from the vast Diocese of Hakodate, of which the Right Rev. Alexander Berthoz is bishop, and comprises the large island of Hokkaido, the Kurile Islands and some smaller islands. The Prefecture takes its name from Sapporo, the principal city of Hokkaido.

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Where Religious Flourish

There is a church for every thousand inhabitants in the largest cities of the anthracite region of Pennsylvania, and nearly the same proportion in the rural communities. Scranton, with its 129,967 citizens, has 129 churches representing twenty-two different religions. Wilkes-Barre, with its 67,105 citizens, has 66 churches of fourteen denominations. Hazleton, with 25,452 inhabitants, there are 33 churches of nine different denominations.

Among the 175,000 mine workers there are Russians, Austrians, Irishmen, Germans, Italians, Welshmen, Englishmen, Hungarians, Scotchmen, Swiss, Canadians, Swedes, Turks, Frenchmen, Greeks, Roumanians, Danes, Norwegians, Dutchmen, Belgians, Finns and a dozen minor races. All these peoples retain, to a certain extent, their own customs, religions, and especially holidays, of which there are a bewildering number.

Fully half of the mine workers are Roman Catholics, and the religious and secular holidays, some of which affect only part of the labor, but many of which close down every mine in the region.

The death of Cardinal Agliardi leaves a great void in many ways. In the high administration of the Church Cardinal Agliardi was Sub-Dean of the Sacred College and Chancellor of the Holy Roman Church. Cardinal Vincenzo Vannutelli becomes automatically Sub-Dean, so that the Dean and Sub-Dean are brothers; the successor to the chancellorship has already been exercising the ingenuity of Vatican correspondents to Italian papers, also the successor to his eminence's suburban See of Albano.

The proportion of foreign to Italian cardinals is more marked than ever, five Italian cardinals having passed away since last September. There are now 26 Italian and 31 foreign, and Cardinal Falconio, who in Rome is regarded as so much a Roman Cardinal, that it is not quite possible writing from Rome to place him among the Americans.

C. R. & B. A. to Hold Banquet

Arrangements are being made for a banquet to be given the Supreme officers of the Catholic Relief and Beneficiary Association at the Osburn House, Wednesday evening, May 12th. A meeting of the Central Council will be held at the rooms of Council 68, St. Boniface church, next Wednesday evening.

Mgr. Hittmair, Bishop of Lins, Austria, while visiting the Australian soldiers in prison camp in Serbia, contracted typhus fever, of which he died.

Sergeant Father Harbot, of the French Army, was decorated at Toulon by Admiral Morailles recently publicly for heroic service.

In far-off Honolulu, Pacific Ocean there was a Military Mass on February 23d, during the visit there of a French warship.

Occasionally, when weather permits, the Holy Father spends a short time in the early afternoon in the Vatican Gardens.

"Lights out at nightfall" is the command and the rule from end to end on the coasts of the British Isles and the Government directs that as few crops as possible be planted near the sea.

The missionary, Father Lacombe, O. M. I., has labored among the Indians in Northwest Canada now for 70 years. He is 93 years old and is blind.

A little speck of radium extracted from Colorado ore by the United States Bureau of Mines in Denver, Colo., was given to Dr. Howard A. Kelly of the National Radium Institute. It was the first prepared in the United States.

Bread For The Soul and For the Body.

Bishop Francis C. M. Viscy, Apostolic of West Che. Kiang, recommends to the charity of the faithful, one of his missionaries, a native Chinese priest, Fr. Fou.

This zealous apostle is in charge of a district which is now in the throes of famine caused by drought. For two years the rice harvest has been destroyed and the poor people are besieging the missionary for help. He would like to have some sort of a shelter wherein they could be gathered and receive not only such food as he is able to distribute, but nourishment for the soul as well.

Times of distress in China are always fruitful in conversions. The charity received at the hands of a compassionate Father cannot but leave an impression upon the minds of the pagans, and they rarely hesitate to embrace a religion that shows such practical results.

Catholic News Notes

Last year there was added to the ranks of the priesthood in the United States at an average one priest every 23 hours; to the number of churches one every 30 hours.

St. Francis Xavier's Sodality, New York, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the reception of Cardinal Farley into the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Cardinal was present at the solemn vespers.

The greater part of the valuable Bancroft collection of books from which he wrote his history, and which is valued at least \$100,000, is Catholic.

In Chicago there is now an organization under the name "Ladies of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul." It is that Society's Women's Auxiliary. Archbishop Quigley suggested their name. It has now 78 active members.

The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament have opened a new monastery in Yonkers, N. Y.

At the dedication of the University, twenty-five years ago, Cardinal Gibbons, President Harrison, Secretary Blaine, Archbishop Ireland, Elder and Williams and many others of the illustrious hierarchy and distinguished laity were present.

The last will of Agnes A. Connell, of New York, makes the Apostle Mission House in Washington a beneficiary to the amount of about \$50,000.

In the diocese of Bismarck 51 new parishes were established in five years.

The Most Rev. Father General Monza, of the Franciscan Order, in an encyclical, has called a General Chapter of the Order of St. Anthony's College, for the Vigil of Pentecost, May 22nd. The Provincials of all Franciscan Provinces throughout the world will attend it.

The official Parliamentary report gives 29,978 as the number of persons killed outright by the earthquake in Italy. Those who died from injuries received are not included in this number. The number of towns damaged is 372.

A Belgian African missionary, Fr. Eelen, who contracted the sleeping sickness in the Congo, has come to London to be treated for the disease. It is reported, however, that the malady has reached the fatal stage and that the Father is now in the coma state, from which nothing can rouse him.

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New England

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David Walsh has been appointed accountant at the Central branch of the Massachusetts State Bank, on promotion.

The body of a woman named Mrs. Margaret Dwyer was recovered from the River near Ballyheary on March 18. She had been returned from Australia, had been in the employ of John Connell, Limerick.

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The new town hall, Springfield, owned by James Dunlop, architect; Michael Ford, J. P., and John Galvin, J. P., was dedicated on March 25 by a pastor and society company.

Hugh Hogan, member of the John Calver, was appointed to the position of chaplain in the Massachusetts State Prison.

Two children of a family of "typical" mental quality were accidentally burned to death in their tent near Dunlop's State Bridge a short time ago.

The Galway rural Council have unanimously elected E. O'Malley, Galway, engineer to that body. John Holland, B. E. B. Sc., Ballinacorney, was also a candidate in the position.

The late James E. Palmer, J. P., Gleno Abbey, Galway, left personal estate valued at \$25,000.

A. O. H., Division 1020, Newbridge, passed a resolution of sympathy with the mother and relatives of the late Brother John Dowling.

Miss K. Brennan, Mass., has been appointed assistant infirmarian of the Kilmeague and Newbridge dispensary district.

Charles E. Cleary has been unanimously elected assistant chaplain of the Kilmeague Board of Guardians and Rural Council. There were two other candidates but they withdrew.

Very Rev. T. Canon McGee, P. P., V. F., has been appointed chairman of a committee organizing a testimonial to P. E. White, manager of the Hibernian bank, Granard, on his promotion to Swinford.

The Longford Urban Council passed a vote of condolence to the Rev. Father Reynolds, Adm., on the death of his mother.

Patrick O'Connor, solicitor, Swinford, has been unanimously elected coroner for East Mayo by the Mayo County Council.

Martin Quigley, son of John Quigley, Ballina, was killed in action with the British army.