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The Charities' Investigation of New York.

Statement By Mgr. Dunn, Chancellor.

Ante the controversy before the public of New York and which has reached into all quarters of the country, it is well to remember the following in weighing the entire charity question:

First—Catholic institutions have always been in a position to submit to the most rigorous investigation. It has been stated over and over again during the past four months that the Sisters have always welcomed an investigation conducted along the ordinary lines of fairness and justice.

Second—There has never been any time, directly or indirectly, opposition to the administration of Mr. Mitchell on the part of Catholics. The charge made is baseless.

Third—Monsignor Dunn never gave a dollar to anyone to evade a process of the law. The question of money was mentioned in a single sentence over the telephone as a trap to show that the wires were being tapped. It was shown conclusively that it was a trap by the proceedings before the Strong Commission. Father Farrell proved before the Kings County Grand Jury that the conversations imputed to him were false. As a result Commissioner Kingsbury and his attorney, Mr. Hotchkiss, were indicted by that body and are now awaiting trial.

Fourth—Mayor Mitchell, by his actions proved that he was in league with the Charity trust to "take God out of the hearts of the children in private institutions," by attempting to secularize all charities. He used the disproved charges contained in the Moore pamphlet to stampede the community, but without success. He knew or should have known, if he were honest, that the dreadful accusations against the child-caring institutions—Catholic, Protestant and Jewish—were without the slightest foundation, as was proved before the Strong Commission.

Fifth—Mr. Mitchell showed his animus as early as 1910, when he demanded that an examination of books of the Catholic institutions be made, to show that the city's money was not properly expended. The firm of Patterson, Teele & Dennis was engaged by the Catholic institutions to examine their books and after months of patient research these expert accountants could not find a single penny that had been misused or misappropriated. The archdiocese of New York paid this firm \$59,908.94 and the institutions of Brooklyn paid \$23,273, making a total of \$83,182.94. The present Strong investigation is the second attempt to prove that the city's money has not been honestly expended by our Sisters, but it has failed as the first failed. Yet Mr. Mitchell insists that there is something wrong, despite the fact that he employed all the machinery of the administration to prove his charge and the Catholic institutions engaged the most prominent firm of expert accountants to disprove his malicious assertions. He knows these facts. This is sufficient to demonstrate the hollow mockery of "reform" which he represents.

The investigation of the charities of New York has attracted attention all over the country. There is a great deal of misunderstanding of the question. Some are under impressions that are fully arranged series of conversations, which were supposed to thought that the Catholic Church have been taken from the wires is on trial; that Catholic authorities of three private citizens who were ities opposed the investigation of accused of being inimical to the their institutions; that politically they were antagonistic to the present administration and so on through a long list of wrong theories. The whole question may be summed up in a few sentences, which need a lengthy explanation to give the proper perspective.

The State Board of Charities visits and inspects through its agents the various charitable institutions and reports the results of its findings. To discredit the work of this board and to show that it was not doing its duty or doing it in a negligent manner, the Department of Charity of New York City undertook to visit the institutions with the avowed purpose of "making a case."

Its inspectors and investigators started on their dark work, with the results that their reports were made up of half truths, innuendos, misstatements and deliberate falsehoods.

On the strength of their alleged findings of ill treatment and abhorrent conditions, the New York City Commissioner of Charities, Mr. Kingsbury, complained to the Mayor, who in turn lodged a complaint with the Governor, who appointed a commission to examine into conditions and report at the end of the so-called investigation.

The entire proceeding was well staged and not a detail was omitted to "make the case" they aimed at. A paid publicity agent was engaged, who gave to the papers the most horrible accusations, but failed designedly to state in every instance the disproof of the charges made.

The whole proceeding dragged along its slimy length until March 23, when an anonymous sixteen page pamphlet appeared containing misleading headlines.

This publication aroused a storm of protest against the malice that was now apparent. It must be remembered that the testimony of the inspectors and the so called "experts" consisted simply of charges, which were shown to be absolutely groundless.

On Monday, Feb. 23, the Moore pamphlet was in circulation and a copy of it reached the Chancery Office of the Archdiocese of New York.

Then the wire-tapping commenced ordered by Mayor Mitchell, to discover and uncover the so-called conspiracy. Conversations were taken down, some of them correctly reported when it served the purpose, and others made out of whole cloth to make a convincing story. The Thompson Committee, which was investigating public utilities, insisted on an inquiry.

The Grand Jury of Brooklyn examined in the case for more than three weeks and to its liberations summoned the Mayor, Charity Commissioner Kingsbury, Mr. Hotchkiss, his attorney, Father Farrell and Doctor Potter, and after listening to the story of each handed down an indictment against Mr. Kingsbury and Mr. Hotchkiss on two counts. They are now awaiting trial in a criminal court.

Mr. Mitchell brought to the hearing a mass of detail, prominently placed the doctored phonograms before them and gave a lurid story of supposed crime, obstruction of justice, interference with the conduct of orderly government, conspiracy on the part of the Catholic Church and other cunningly conceived testimony. Despite his vehement presentation the Grand Jury indicted his two associates, and he himself escaped indictment by one vote.

It was thought advisable not to bring odium on the community by indicting the Chief Executive. Had Mr. Mitchell held any other position than that of Mayor, he would now be pilloried before the nation as a man who held his high office and used his power to break laws which he had sworn to uphold.

The presentment of the Grand Jury declares: "If as does appear, they (Mr. Mitchell and Police Commissioner Woods) approved of the conduct of those who were in the wire question for no other purpose than to furnish counsel in personal and private litigation with information, and to gratify curiosity, and not for the detection or prevention of crime, the conduct of the Mayor and the Police Commissioner merits the most severe condemnation."

So ends a sordid story of intrigue and malicious attack on the private denominational institutions of New York, and in which Mr. Mitchell played a leading part. He has been outwitted in his plan to deliver over to the custody of interests that are bent on secularizing the child-caring homes, the bodies and souls of 25,000 children, Catholic, Protestant and Jewish, giving in defense of his attempted betrayal, that in looking after their physical well being he is preparing "better hearts in which the seeds of godliness may be planted."

It has simply come to this. Those meek and silent Sisters of ours cannot be shouted at, mocked and insulted in open court, simply for doing their duty. Their splendid record of unselfish devotion to the homeless and friendless must not be stained by the slanders and "experts" of any corporation, whose purpose is now too evident, and whose wishes even so-called Catholics in its employ cannot carry out, without a vigorous and lasting protest from those who know and love them for the work they are doing.

The Catholic Church has never submitted and will never submit to any system masquerading under the guise of the "higher good," whose only purpose is to take away the faith of its little ones. It has always taught that there is only one place in the wide world where the unfortunate, the suffering and the helpless orphan will find a ready and safe refuge, and that is in the hearts of those who give gladly and freely endless time, money and effort for their welfare, spiritual and physical. Where there is faith there is real charity.

It is reported that Julius Mueller, manager of the great publishing house of Benziger Brothers, at Einsiedeln, Switzerland, who died last December, was familiar with twenty languages.

The Catholic University in Chile is one of the most magnificent buildings in South America. It was founded by Archbishop Casaneva in 1888.

Several new dioceses have been erected in the Republic of Honduras, Central America.

To-day the birth-rate in France is less than the death rate, 19.6 per thousand.

Was Shakespeare a Catholic?

It is of interest to note some of the circumstances which leave an impression that Shakespeare was a Catholic.

During the earlier years of the Elizabethan persecutions Stratford, like the rest of Warwickshire and the other midland and Welsh-frontier counties—all nearly as Celtic as Wales itself—remained loyally, though secretly, Catholic. John Shakespeare, the poet's father, conformed outwardly for so brief a time that his name soon appeared upon the list of suspected Papists—"recusants," but protected by the local burgesses, none of whom appears to have been anti-Catholic, the elder Shakespeare was not penalized for non-attendance at the Anglican chapel.

The poet's mother, Mary Arden of the Asbies, was a gentlewoman of an ancient Catholic family which had never wavered in its allegiance to the Mother Church. When her gifted son was but nineteen years old his cousin Robert Arden, suffered for his faith on the gallows at Tyburn, with all the post-mortem indignities of diabolism.

In not one of his works did Shakespeare openly or covertly profess himself a Protestant, nor did he glorify the then dominating State church and the "virgin-queen," its head, as was the manner of contemporaneous Protestant poets. "Spencer in particular. What Shakespeare has said about justification and grace, freedom and tradition, purgatory and the veneration of saints, prayer, penance and religious vows is in harmony with Catholic doctrine, whilst on the other hand it is directly opposed to the teachings of Luther, Calvin and the Anglican church.

Macaulay seems to find evidence that Shakespeare was a Catholic in "his well known partiality towards monks," and the fact that the Ghost of Hamlet complains of having died without Extreme Unction and in spite of the Protestant Article condemning the doctrine of Purgatory, that Shakespeare makes the Ghost say that he was "confined to fast in fires till the foul crimes, done in his days of nature, are burnt and purged away." (Hamlet I, 5.)

Carlyle has this paragraph: "This glorious Elizabethan era with its Shakespeare is itself attributable to the Catholicism of the Middle Ages. The Christian faith, which was the theme of Dante's song, had produced this practical life which Shakespeare was to sing. For religion then, as it now and always is, was the soul of practice; the primary vital fact in man's life. Middle-age Catholicism was abolished, so far as acts of parliament could abolish it, before Shakespeare, the noblest product of it, made his appearance. He did make his appearance nevertheless. Nature at her own time, with Catholicism or what else might be necessary, sent him forth, taking small thought of acts of parliament." ("The Hero as Poet.")

The Davies MS. preserved at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, relating to Shakespeare, concludes thus: "From an actor of plays he became a composer. He died April 23, 1616, aged fifty-three years, probably at Stratford; for there he is buried and hath a monument, on which he lays a heavy curse upon any who shall remove his bones. He died a Papist."

Knights of Columbus Elect. Buffalo, June 7.—The state convention of the Knights of Columbus ended Wednesday with the election of these officers: State Deputy, James E. Finegan, of New York; secretary, James A. Dowd, New York; advocate, Arthur J. W. Hilly, New York; treasurer, Frank S. Shields, Auburn; warden, Philip Hammes, Utica.

At Thurles, Ireland, the Christian Brothers recently celebrated the centenary of their establishment there.

Foreign Mission News

Special correspondence by The Propagation of the Faith Society, 343 Lexington Ave., New York City.

His Holiness has made the following recent appointments: Rev. Daniel Foley, to be Bishop of Ballarat, Australia. Rev. Jean Damascene, O. M. Cap., to be Bishop of Port Victoria, Seychelles Islands. Right Rev. John Baptiste Marie de Guebriant, P. F. M., to be Vicar Apostolic of Canton, China, transferred from the Vicariate of Kien-tohang.

Right Rev. Evangeliste, O. M. Cap., to be Vicar Apostolic of Arabia. Sister Agnes, a nun laboring among the destitute children of China, tells a touching story in a few words:

"We and our little ones at the orphanage are contented with very little. As for the Sisters, well, everything we want we are very pleased to do without, while our babies are as happy as possible for hours at a time playing with an old piece of newspaper or an empty cotton reel in a tin can."

Madagascar Has The Work of the Propagation of the Faith. Madagascar is a mission district especially marked by poverty and presenting many difficulties to the apostles, but in spite of these facts, our Society has been founded there. Bishop A. Forineau, Vicar Apostolic of Diego Suarez says:

"Notwithstanding the Misery of the country, we are trying to establish the work of the Propagation of the Faith in all sections, confident that Our Divine Master will reward our efforts."

Motor Boats And Autos The Dream of the Missionaries. If the time ever comes when our missionaries reach a point resembling affluence, their first purchase will be a gasoline boat, or an automobile, according to the district they evangelize.

The time, labor and traveling expense saved would make these articles not such a luxury as they appear, and would enable one priest to accomplish two or three times his present amount of work. Bishop Breyhat, O. M. I., of the Mackenzie Vicariate, Alaska, is one of those to whom a motor boat strongly appeals. He could make his summer visitations in half the time and transport the priests and nuns from their missions to the central post. More than this he could bring children to the schools and sick people to the hospital. Once gathered in these institutions, the Government is willing to aid in supporting them, but will not pay for their transportation.

Mgr. Fenton, the Bishop-Auxiliary to Cardinal Bourne, of Westminster, celebrates this year his golden jubilee of ordination.

In 1914 the Gregorian University in Rome had about 1,400 students; this year the number is only about 400.

The Irish nuns of Yores will be domiciled in Macmine, County Wexford, Ireland. A home for them has been acquired by public subscription.

The Holy Hour Confraternity of St. Martin's Church, Baltimore, has a ciborium ornamented with nearly 1,500 pieces of jewelry contributed by 2,000 members. It has 160 precious stones, eight amethysts and a sunburst of diamonds.

The death of Henry Duffy, ex-N. T. Kells, has been announced, which sad event occurred after prolonged illness, at the age of 55 years.

A motor driven by Francis J. Dolan of Castlerock was charged with having driven a motor car without a license in Strokestown.

The Countess Markevitz, at present serving sentence in Ireland, is the eldest daughter of the late Sir Henry William Gore Booth, Baronet, of Lissadell, County Sligo.

James Keane, Drumfin, has been appointed a magistrate for County Sligo. A grand concert and variety entertainment was held in St. Patrick's hall, Gurteen, on May 7. There was a record crowd, and fine music, under the leadership of P. Ryan, bandmaster.

News From Ireland

Special correspondence by The Propagation of the Faith Society, 343 Lexington Ave., New York City.

The police of Belfast made nine arrests of persons connected with the Sinn Fein movement, including a schoolmaster, who was taken in his classroom. Larne has been added to the list of ports from which passengers may leave Ireland.

There were no magistrates at Tullow at last petty sessions court, and no cases had been entered for hearing. The death of Thomas Reilly, Drumcrow, Killeshandra, is much regretted in the district. The funeral was largely attended.

The County Donegal Teachers' association passed a vote of condolence with the relatives of the late P. O'Doherty, Ballintra N.S. Richard O'Carroll, T. C., secretary of the Ancient Guild of Incorporated Brick and Stonemasons' Trade Union, has died as the result of gunshot wounds.

No evening newspaper was produced in Dublin from Easter Saturday, April 22, to Tuesday, May 2. No morning paper was issued from Thursday, April 27, to Monday, May 1.

Miss Sexton, who lived close to the residence of a notable Volunteer leader, died of fright on the South Circular road while his house was being attacked. Mr. Kennedy, county surveyor for Galway East Riding, has been appointed to the surveyorship of the West Riding, vacant by the death of Mr. Moran.

C. Hourihane has been selected to represent Kildare at the national school teachers' convention. Councilor Mathew McInerney has died lately at Limerick.

On his translation to Williams-town, the parishioners and friends at Castlebar, where he ministered for eleven years, wished to present the Rev. P. J. Madden, P. P., with a testimonial and address. While reciprocating the kindly feelings of his former parishioners, he declined to accept the proposed gifts.

The Rev. James P. Prendergast, C. S. C., has been appointed by the Most Rev. Dr. Higgins, spiritual director of the Total Abstinence association. Died—At Castle street, Castlebar, Thomas D'Arcy.

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The death is announced of Sister Martha Leahy, at the Presentation convent, Crosshaven. Deceased had been thirty-two years a nun, and was in her fifty-ninth year. She was a native of Tipperary.

Edward Boyle, stationmaster Dromore road (Tyrone), has died suddenly. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Hackett is Bishop-elect of the diocese of Dromore, Ireland.