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Startling!

It is unnecessary to go to South America, Mexico or any other country in the world to secure startling evidence of lack of interest in Religion. According to a recent statement in the Episcopal "Gospel Messenger" right in Madison county in our own New York state there are as many downright heathens as in the Isles of the Sea.

This statement follows:
 There has recently been completed a religious survey of Madison county, which furnishes some startling figures about rural religion.

The county has a population of 43,000, of whom there are (officially reported) 1,600 Roman Catholics. Our own church has seven parishes and missions, with 802 communicants and a total number of souls of about 1,400. This leaves 37,000 who would be classed as Protestants.

Of these 37,000 (in round numbers) reported that they had no religious preferences whatever, and were absolutely unattached to any church and uninterested in any religious organization. That is, 21 per cent of the population in a county in the very center of the Empire State are practical pagans. The figures in reality are even larger, for those who gave religious preferences many have a connection merely nominal.

According to Dr. Parsons of Cazenovia there is one valley in Madison county which for twenty years did not number a single attached Christian believer. Not far from the village of Hamilton there were found people living without a regard to the marriage relation and so ignorant of Christian religion that, after a funeral recently, one man, in a seriousness, asked the preacher "who this Christ was" of whom he had been speaking. In one of the schools last April a class was asked why Easter was kept and the only answer forthcoming was that it was Grant's birthday.

They Are Insane.

That bigots are really insane persons is the deliberate opinion of "Reedy's Mirror" expressed in the following editorial paragraph:-

Some few fanatic's may believe that a Catholic cannot possibly be a good and true citizen of the United States, but how any sane man who has Catholics for neighbors, who works along side of Catholics in office, factory or store, who buys from or sells to Catholics can cherish such distrust and enmity passes the comprehension of any one not able to qualify as an "insanity expert." The religious bigot in politics is a promoter of social discord and anarchy, and to the extent that promotion of disturbance of peace is a criminal, such a disseminationist is a real criminal.

Election

Before another edition of the Catholic Journal goes to press the presidential election of 1916 will have been decided and he will be chosen who will preside over the destinies of this great Republic and its 90,000,000 of inhabitants for four years after March 4, 1917.

While the campaign of 1916 has been waged with intense virility and virulence no one need be alarmed that the country will go to the demnition bow-wows if Woodrow Wilson is elected or Charles E. Hughes is defeated. Both are men of rare intellect, superbly equipped for executive and administrative work, possessed of high purpose and character and of unswerving and unequivocal Americanism. The destinies of the country will be safe in either hands. While the spell-binder would have you believe that his candidate is "the best and only one", the discerning man estimates the stump speaker as a clever salesman intent upon selling his wares, and so after listening carefully to the presentation of the merits of the wares offered for sale, he makes his own decision.

Whatever the verdict Americans will accept the result in good humor. The people at large acquiesce in the will of the majority. As was said by a noted statesman in one of the momentous periods in the history of our country, "God reigns and the Government at Washington still lives."

Month of All Souls.

November is the month especially devoted by Holy Mother Church to the Poor Souls in Purgatory. We should not forget those of our own friends and loved ones who have gone to their last reward. They need our prayers that they may be loosed from the suffering necessary to purify them incident to entrance into that perfect state where there is no more sin or suffering. It is a wholesome custom to pray for the dead. We not only are helping out those poor souls but we are benefitting ourselves. We are anticipating our own need of prayers after we too have been summoned hence. In praying for others we are ourselves reminded that we too must die and that after death comes the judgment. When death is called to our attention, naturally we are prepared to face our Maker. If we are not, it is a natural sequence to ty years did not number a single attached Christian believer. Not far from the village of Hamilton there were found people living without a regard to the marriage relation and so ignorant of Christian religion that, after a funeral recently, one man, in a seriousness, asked the preacher "who this Christ was" of whom he had been speaking. In one of the schools last April a class was asked why Easter was kept and the only answer forthcoming was that it was Grant's birthday.

Not True!

And now it is the Catholic Federation which is wrongly accused! One, Erving Winslow, secretary of the "Anti-Imperialist League" is writing about the country that the action of the Democrats in the House of Representatives who voted against the so-called Clarke amendment to the Philippine bill was "in obedience to a mandate issued by the representative of the American Federation of Catholic Societies that the amendment should be defeated." In a reply in the New York "Sun", Congressman John J. Fitzgerald - whose character for veracity is to well-known to need specification, says Mr. Winslow's statement is a repetition of untruth that even the exigencies of a campaign do not justify.

Mr. Fitzgerald continues: I was one of those who led the fight against the Clarke amendment in the house of representatives. My objections to the amendment were stated at some length, and

inserted in the Congressional Record the address which I had made as chairman of the Lake Mohonk conference on the Indians and other dependent peoples in October, 1914, on the Jones bill, which had passed the house of representatives by a vote of about five to one a few weeks prior to that address.

The Clarke amendment was not in the bill as it passed the house of representatives during the Sixty-third Congress. Its provisions, however, were discussed by me in the address to which I have referred. That address was delivered long before the American Federation of Catholic Societies had discussed the question.

If Mr. Winslow had any doubt of the correctness of his statement, Richard Olney 2d of Massachusetts, who voted as did other Democrats against the Clarke amendment and with whom Mr. Winslow is well acquainted, could tell of the best easily have removed his suspicions, the discerning man estimates the stump speaker as a clever salesman intent upon selling his wares, and so after listening carefully to the presentation of the merits of the wares offered for sale, he makes his own decision.

November is the month dedicated to the Poor Souls.

Now let us have internal peace!

Whenever the bigots make a statement do not accept it without verification. A sheet in New Jersey called "The Good Citizen" tells of a Father Anselmus who left St. Elizabeth's Monastery in Denver to become a Protestant. The records show there never was a Father Anselmus there. There was and is a Father Anselm Kennedy and he is still a Catholic priest and rector of St. Patrick's church in Buffalo, N. Y.

Congratulations to St. Joseph's parishioners and the good Redeemerist Fathers on the approaching diamond jubilee of the parish.

The bigots who prate about uneducated Spaniards are respectfully invited to peruse the epitome of the educational attainments of Dr. Barrera recently promoted from Bishop of Madrid to be Archbishop of Valencia as narrated in the current issue of "America."

A Madam Reiss attributed certain statements to Cardinal Secretary of State Gasparri. These being denied she retorted that she obtained them from M. Edward Heisey, representative of the Paris "Journal" M. Heisey telegrams that he not only never made these statements to Madame Reiss but that he does not know her, never saw her!

Reading John Redmond's recent speech in the House of Commons one cannot withhold the opinion that Mr. Asquith's ministry does not intend to keep its promise of Home Rule for Ireland.

Catholics would do well to inquire carefully into political conditions before they cast their ballots next Tuesday.

A correspondent of "America" styles Mormonism as "conceived in fakery, continued by humbug and fraud, a living lie."

Had Thomas M. Osborne thundered his charges at Governor Whitman at any other time than in the turmoil of a political campaign they would have had more effect.

Dr. Austin O'Malley defines an Episcopalian as "an English-speaking adult, badly educated in religion, who believes anything provided it isn't so."

Confirmation Given by Bishop.

Last Sunday afternoon Bishop Hickey confirmed a large class at the church of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Ontario street, and in the evening at Immaculate Conception Church, of which Rev. A. M. O'Neill, M. R., is rector.

St. Mary's Church.

The members of the Rosary Society will receive Holy Communion in a body at the 7 o'clock mass on Sunday.

On Wednesday and Thursday evenings of next week a play entitled "The Trainer's Romance" will be presented by members of the Young Men's Association and the Confraternity of Mary, at the church hall on South St. Frequent rehearsals have been held so that the various parts could be studied carefully and indications are that every one taking part will have his or her part down to perfection. The proceeds of this entertainment will be given to the Sisters of Mercy. As the admission is only 25 cents crowded houses on both nights should greet the players. The school children of St. Mary's are also entitled to great credit for the noble work they have been doing disposing of tickets for the entertainment.

The play is being rehearsed by Miss Katherine Burns and is cast in composed of some of the best amateur artists in the city, namely - Messrs. Rupert Maloney, William Schlueter, Joseph Shale, Herbert Bohrer, Leo Fleming, Joseph Boland, James Sullivan, Harold Moore, Donald McChesney, George Spillane, John McParlin, Clarence West, Joseph Lucy, John Sullivan and John Dwyer, Misses May Martin, Dorothy Marakle, Mabel McCourt, May Cronin, Loretta Connor, Helen FitzSimons, Lorinda Duff, Mildred Sheldon, Mabel Farrell and Violet Attridge.

St. Francis Xavier.

The Children of Mary held a Halloween party on Monday evening.

Wednesday evening, Rev. Dr. Nolan delivered a very interesting and instructive illustrated lecture on "The Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes."

The St. Francis Cadets met at a social on Friday evening. Sunday the young men and school boys will attend communion.

Blessed Sacrament.

The funeral of Henry P. MacGoughran took place at 9:30 o'clock Thursday morning from the home, No. 86 Plymouth Ave., and at 10 o'clock from this church. Solemn high requiem mass was celebrated by Rev. T. F. Connors, rector of the church, assisted by Rev. Dennis V. Lane as deacon and Rev. Leo Smith as subdeacon. The mass was sung by the church choir. Burial was at Holy Sepulchre cemetery.

The marriage of Miss Kathleen Doyle to Leonard L. Armstrong took place on Wednesday afternoon at 4 o'clock at this church. Rev. Thomas F. Connors officiated. The attendants were Miss Margaret A. Leyden, cousin of the bride, and William P. McAnulty.

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