

Late News of Ireland

Co-opted to Antrim Council, R. C. Martin, Ballymoney. Ballymena Rural Council strongly condemned the outrage committed at Cullybackey Catholic Church on 24th April, when four statues were maliciously destroyed.

Captain T. B. Vinycomb, son of J. Vinycomb, M. R. I. A., formerly of Belfast, has been awarded the Military Cross.

The death has occurred of T. Nixon, rate collector, County Carlow.

Died—May 10, at Dublin, Mary, youngest daughter of John Byrne, Grangeferd, Monalow, Tullow.

R. Courtney has been co-opted on Portadown Town Council in the room of the late G. A. Locke.

Rev. T. Boyle, B. A., son of W. H. Boyle, Gifford, and brother to Sister M. Aloysius, Mercy Convent, Belfast, Lurgan, has been ordained to the priesthood of Maynooth College.

The death has occurred at the Convent of St. Marie's of the Isles, Cork, of Mother M. Alphonse Horgan. Sister M. Clare McCormack, who has died at the Presentation Convent, Carrick-on-Suir, was a native of Killenale.

Most Rev. Dr. Cohan, at Cork, raised the following to the priesthood: Revs. Michael O'Shea, Kieran O'Callaghan, Gabriel Harrington, Aidan O'Reilly, Stephen Murtagh, Urban O'Riordan, Capuchin Order and Rev. F. Long, M. S. C.

Venerable Archdeacon Walker, P. P., V. F., at St. Patrick's Church, Donegal, said the conscription law was unjust and inhuman and would meet with the strongest opposition, if any attempt were made to enforce it.

Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell attended the funeral of T. Collins, an esteemed Letterkenny P. O. official.

Stranorlar D. C. passed a vote of sympathy with Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell, and the clergy, on the death of Mgr. McGlynn, P. P., Dean of Raphoe.

Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell, at St. Eunan's Cathedral, conferred sub-deaconship on Rev. W. Lynagh and Rev. A. Mullan, both past students of St. Eunan's College, Letterkenny.

Newcastle Urban Council will expend the proceeds of a penny rate in advertising the town in Irish and cross-channel newspapers.

P. Cronin, father of the Town Clerk of Newry, has, owing to advancing years, resigned the presidency of Newry Conference, St. Vincent de Paul Society.

The following professions have taken place at Convents of Mercy: Loughrea (Most Rev. Dr. Gilmartin presiding), Sister Mary Emmanuel Tracey, Belclare, Tuam; Sister M. Teresa Quin, daughter of F. Quin, Temple street, Dublin; Sister M. Baptist Hughes, Ahascragh, Ballinasloe.

Rev. P. Murphy, P. P., preached at a meeting in Fearglass, at which about 1,000 people signed the anti-conscription pledge.

Rev. F. A. Lynott, son of James Lynott, D. C., Manorhamilton, has been ordained priest in Maynooth.

The marriage has taken place in Limerick of Seumas O'Sullivan, who was sentenced to death in connection with the 1916 Rising, and Miss Laura Daly, niece of the late John Daly, former Mayor of Limerick, and sister of Commandant E. Daly, executed on May 4, 1916.

Married—At the Church of St. Laurence O'Toole's, Dublin, by the Rev. F. Flood, Matthew Heery, The Cottage, Rathbrannogue, Co. Meath, to Alice, 4th daughter of the late Felix Kelly, Forkhill, Dundalk.

Catholic Federation Hits Burlesque Theaters.

The Catholic Federation of the United States has entered upon a crusade of public morality. This crusade is set also against the burlesque shows. Why? Here are the reasons:

The mothers of our American boys who are in the camps are anxiously concerned about the morals of the soldiers. Camp life is full of dangers. The mother's heart that bled at the departure of her dear boy, forsores with still greater fear the blight that may come to her son through abandoned women. This fear the mothers wish to allay. They have the sympathy of the national administration—they earnestly hope that they can expect the most efficient co-operation of all the military authorities. The President himself listens to the just demands of the mothers of the entire nation, to keep our American manhood clean in body and soul. We all hope and pray that this cry of our American mothers be heeded sincerely and seriously.

But, are the mothers of our American soldiers—the fathers of all our American boys, aware that this same dreaded danger threatens their dear sons in every large American city, every day of the year? Moral ruin, the ruin of the nation is prepared for them in houses of ill-repute and in the burlesque shows which are, in many instances, the ante-room to the bawdy house.

Reports obtained by Federation from judicious men in several cities reveal an abyss of shamelessness, vulgarity, imprudence, filth in action, talk, song, dress exposure that no decent American man or woman would consider such depravity possible. These low theatricals are the grave of all morality. Young men and men, often even mere boys, against the law of the state or city, nay, even women—attend these shows in large numbers. Many of our promising young men in the United States uniforms are seen there and take in the poisonous microbes which eat themselves into the very blood and soul of our people.

American mothers, these cesspools are in your very cities—they are baiting the young men every afternoon and evening. Don't flatter yourselves that your boys, whether drafted or not drafted, do not visit these low places. If they do, they would be ashamed to admit it to you. You cannot imagine how their imaginations and their passions are fired, how their talk becomes slimy and to what disgraceful actions they may feel driven.

These haunts of vice are almost invariably protected in some way or other by politicians. Proprietors and managers of these houses are not infrequently influential politicians of the party in power. For this reason it seems so difficult, at times even impossible, to get action in most flagrant cases. The complaint is sent to the mayor, the safety director is police commissioner. The report is gratefully accepted. An investigation committee is sent out. This committee will report that the performance was clean—clean either because the investigators have no judgment of immoral things, or the performance was somewhat cleaned up for the occasion.

At other times the complainants are assured that the evil has been remedied. Experience teaches that many of these assurances are only a bluff to keep the "reformers," as they call them, quiet. Sometimes the managers of the houses will assail the informants with ridicule. Fathers and mothers, the evil is there. The burlesque is a Moloch that devours the morality of your sons. He who runs can see by the suggestive pictures in front of the houses, by objectionable electric signs and offensive bill posters, what kind of alluring bait is held out to the frequenters of the show houses.

Who is to blame for this horrible evil? Recently the dramatic critic of an influential paper scored the burlesque theatres in lan-

guage exceedingly strong, but fully deserved. He laid the blame for the evil exclusively at the door of the public, or at least that section of the public which encourages these performances. Is this true? The public, the good, decent American public does not want these dens of seduction. The great decent American public does not seem to know anything about the existence of these holes of iniquity. At any rate, the public at large is too decent to notice them. It is indeed the dregs of the public, that like a dirty, lazy morass drifts into the burlesque. But, let it not be forgotten, many young men are led by their companions. Vice is decked out in alluring colors and seductive music in these lowest of theatrials. Who is to blame?—It is the proprietors, the managers, the producers, the actors and the actresses—in one word, the so-called industry as organized in wheels and circuits or possibly "independents," and touring all the large cities of America, that are to blame in the first place. These human vultures have nothing else in mind than to coin money out of the wicked and weak passions of men. The saloon is generally close by. In some burlesque houses in this country, drinks are sold during the performance. Objectionable pictures are handed out. Drunkenness is added to immorality. The attempt of these circuits to censor themselves as theatrical papers would make us believe, are only a device to throw dust into the eyes of the people. The same bluff was practiced by the National Board of Censors regarding the moving pictures. We know now, but rather at a late date, that this National Board of Censors was a joke.

In the second place the city and state administrations are much to blame. There is no excuse for the existence of these theatrical dens of vice. Frequent these places have a license. In some cities courageous citizens by extraordinary perseverance have succeeded in awakening the authorities to their sense of duty. But this business is bent upon its prey. In one city the mayor witnessed the burlesque show and insisted that either the objectionable parts be eliminated, or that the house be closed. The manager, greedy for his filthy, lucre, preferred to quit his business. Is it not degrading and disgraceful for an American citizen to think that these whom he elected to office should so often be in league with these numerous enemies of morality and decency? It is high time for the American public, especially the fathers and mothers, to produce with undaunted effort and perseverance such a strong public opinion that the ban of scorn and contempt is put upon the burlesque shows. Public opinion must lay the axe to the root. It must despise and hate this industry like leprosy, and force the officials to rid America of this abominable cancer. To do so is a patriotic deed.

The shell that struck the fine Paris Church of the Middle Ages during the Good Friday morning service, fell on its north side and on the congregation sixty feet below the vaulting, killing 54 women—in all, 75—killed and 90 wounded, the majority of whom were women and children.

The Church of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, in Naples, has been erected into a minor basilica. It contains a miraculous picture of the Blessed Virgin.

The great Gothic Cathedral of Amiens, France, is in imminent danger. It is a magnificent edifice, 426 feet deep, 141 feet height of nave, begun in 1120, and completed in 1592. Its spire is 426 feet.

In a recent pastoral, Cardinal Mercier says human society is suffering the chastisement of God for the religious indifference of Governments. Go to Calvary, says he, and worship God and His Christ.

The Sacred Heart Orphanage in Denver will now come into possession of the John J. Lambert devise of \$125,000.

Peace, Be Still!

BY E. M. MCCARTHY

[Continued from last week]

But we were interrupted. Some times I feel those lads will go to the war; of course, it's their duty to go and fight for the cause, and I will say "Heaven bless you," but oh! what a cross to bear." Then with a prayer for strength she prepared for a much needed rest, as it was now striking one.

Raymond said after breakfast, "Aunt Clare, will you come in the library? I wish to have a little talk with you." The very sound of his voice seemed to tell her, "we have enlisted." She said "yes, Raymond; I will be with you in a moment." As she entered the room, Raymond and Thomas looked so sad. "Well, boys, what is the matter? Why, you look as serious as if you were at a colored man's funeral. Now, what is this secret? I am your pal as ever." Thomas turned his head away so she could not see the tears which he could not control. Raymond was standing by the fireplace looking into the bright flames as they danced up and around, he felt so bad to make her feel this sorrow. After a few moments he sat down beside her and said, "Aunt Clare, we have enlisted." He could not go on because her sudden paleness alarmed him. "Oh, Auntie, don't feel so bad. It's our duty, and you know, you have always said, 'Duty to God and to country is the most sacred duty of every man and woman.' Just see what you and Madeline have been doing, knitting and doing all kinds of good works for our boys. You would not want us to be cowards, would you dear? By this time Thomas came over and took her hand. She pressed his curly head to her breast as she did many times when he was a child. Her tears fell fast now and when she did recover from the shock her words were what both boys knew they would be.

"Yes, go, boys, and fight for protection and for freedom. Hold up our great President's hands and never let our glorious flag trail in the dust, even though your last drop of blood is given." She had risen and stood up in her enthusiasm with her hands on each of their bowed heads. "And may Heaven bless you." Then joining her hands, she continued, "do this great work for God and never fail to ask his blessing and help and guidance. Never forget your morning and night prayers and receive Holy Communion as often as you can. Give a good example to others. Remember many would be good if they had the good training you have had."

Raymond said, "Dear Aunt Clare, you have made us good soldiers at home; that training will always lead us in the right."

Just then Madeline called, "why, Auntie, I have been looking all over for you." She gazed at them all and said, "why, what is the matter?"

Raymond caught her in his arms and whirled her around as if she were a boy, then putting her down in a chair that she might catch her breath he said, "now, honey, Auntie will tell you," and with a good-bye, "we will be home early to lunch," they were gone.

When she looked up at her aunt her face was sad again, "why, Aunt Clare, what is all this about?" Her aunt told her in a few words, saying, "now dear, we must pray as we never did before that God may grant peace, and may our cause, which is just, conquer." Madeline seemed numbed, the shock was so sudden. Then she thought of her father. "Why, Auntie, father will feel dreadful. Yet he cannot stop them, although Thomas is not twenty."

"Well, dear, I must tell him, and he must not interfere with them now."

Just as the boys were going out, they met Bernard Donnelly. "Jump in, boys," he said, "I'm going down town." When they were seated in his car, Raymond said, "we were going to walk, for our heads and hearts are heavy. We have just told Aunt Clare and Madeline."

Well, you have been braver than I, but I must tell Mother to-day. Why can't you dine with us to-night? And I will tell her at lunch. We will all be so jolly to-night she won't have time to worry, at least for a time. I will send a note to your aunt and Madeline, your father being away. And besides father is going to bring a friend home to-night whom he is very much interested in, and he would like you to meet him." They thought this idea a fine one, as the sad news would just be gilded over a bit for all.

Immediately Raymond sent Madeline and her aunt a note asking them for the pleasure of their company, saying also, his little sister was home from school, and it would give him so much pleasure to have them meet her.

Estelle, his sister, was a beautiful girl of seventeen years who was attending boarding school at the Sacred Heart Convent and was home for her vacation. Such a merry, merry time as they all had that evening, one would think to see them that no shadow was in their skies! But life is made up of sunlight and shadow, sorrow must come, for "as gold is purified by fire, so is the heart by suffering."

[To be continued]

Catholic News From Far and Near.

The number of priests in the Church in the United States last year showed an increase over the previous year of 494.

At the Catholic University, Washington, on the pinnacle of McMahon Hall, there is to be erected a great statue of Christ, the Light of the World. It is to be illuminated nightly, and will be seen by the whole District of Columbia.

Mr. M. J. Dwyer, of Albany, N. Y., aged 57 years, and student at the Noble Ecclesiastics Academy, in Rome, was recently ordained priest.

The Bishop of Denver confirmed at Pueblo a "giant class" of 1,320, and of which 660 were Italians and 660 were Mexicans.

Our Theological seminaries last year showed an increase of 340 students.

Forty-five of the priests of the Diocese of Omaha have subscribed for their new Cathedral, now in rapid course of erection, one thousand dollars each.

The Supreme Council of the Ladies' Catholic Benevolent Association, in session at Washington, subscribed for \$100,000 Third Liberty Loan.

Rev. Francis X. Busch, S. J., a brother of Bishop Busch, of St. Cloud, Minn., has been appointed rector of St. John's University, Toledo, Ohio.

If the people of Milwaukee and Wisconsin raise \$666,000 by July 1, Andrew Carnegie will add \$333,000 for the Marquette Medical School. Accordingly a campaign for the amount is now in progress.

The regulations of the Food Administration requiring the use of substitutes in the baking of bread do not apply to altar breads.

It is officially stated that over four hundred persons perished in the parish of St. Joseph when the munition ship exploded at Halifax.

The provinces of Leinster, Munster and Connaught, have contributed to the Red Cross Society through the Irish Times \$350,000.

The press says nothing can restore to the world the galleries at Louvain University. There is no way to replace the 250,000 manuscripts which went up in smoke and ashes on August 27, 1914.

Foreign Mission News

The Propagation of the Faith Society, 318 Lexington Ave., New York City

The Value Of A Small Act Of Kindness.

Bishop Reynaud, who has been making appeals for the people of his district, relates an interesting incident connected with the famine:

"The Chinese Red Cross and several other charitable committees have sent me telegrams, several times, asking me to do for the North what I did formerly for Shao-hing. But alas! I could only reply that the great war now waging had changed circumstances too much and had ruined too many countries to permit of such a step with any chance of success. Nevertheless, forgetting the poverty of the mission and the stress of the times, I addressed an appeal to the Catholics of the Vicariate, and their aims formed a sum which, though small, profoundly touched the representatives of the various committees.

"One of the most influential and generous of the representatives came to Ning-po to thank me. When he depicted for me the black misery of the 'five millions' of victims that remain to be aided until the next harvest, with scarcely any more money left, I would have wished to have treasures to give them. But having no money, I gave him an overcoat lined with fur, which was worth about twelve or fifteen gold dollars. It was a souvenir of my Episcopal jubilee. This act, so simple that I scarcely dared attempt it, affected profoundly M. Soan, and, with him, the pagan press of the great ports and of the interior. Articles appear every day in the newspapers giving to my simple act praise which it does not merit. Even persons highly placed have thanked me by telegram, which makes me all the more confused.

"Evidently what touched those influential pagans was not the value of the gift, but the sentiments which accompanied it. They are even more than touched, for beneath the shadow of this new flag they are organizing a campaign of charity. 'If,' say their newspapers, 'a foreign Catholic bishop goes so far as to deprive himself of his clothes for our poor, we, Chinese, their compatriots, should we not blush at doing so little for them.' Thus the poor victims of the floods in the North of China are going to profit by all this, and it is what consoles me."

And What Have You Done For The Missions?

A contemporary asks a series of pertinent questions to which we make an addition.

You who have perfect health, what return have you made to God or to your sick, poor or heavily burdened neighbor?

You who are rich in the world's goods, what return have you made to those in poverty and distress?

You who are free from all disease, inherited or acquired, what return have you made for your sound constitution and physical vigor?

You who have children of your own for whom you tenderly care, what return have you made for their security and well being to the little ones, the helpless, the homeless, the parentless?

What have you done anyway for the poor, the sick, the infirm, for the destitute Old Folks and the Young?

And what have you done to spread the Faith of which you are so proud?

The Holy See has again placed the religious work of the Orient under the French Protectorate, and the various communities in Jerusalem ask aid in helping the wretched people they see everywhere about them. Nineteen orders of men and women are represented in the city, and with means at their disposal could do much for the suffering native population.