

Episcopal Bishops Annulled Marriage Secretly In 1891

New York, Nov. 30.—Discussion of Bishop Manning's attack on the Mariborough-Vanderbilt annulment by the Catholic Church has brought forth the fact, that some years ago four bishops of the Protestant Episcopal Church granted an annulment of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Almet F. Jenks, of New York, the circumstances with respect to the lapse of time between the marriage and annulment being similar. The recipient of the earlier annulment, Mrs. Almet F. Jenks, by coincidence, was a daughter of the late Bishop Abram Newkirk Littlejohn of the Diocese of Long Island, who performed the wedding ceremony for the Duke of Marlborough and Consuelo Vanderbilt in 1895.

Miss Maud E. Littlejohn was married on December 5, 1878 to Almet F. Jenks, a young attorney, who later became Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division in Brooklyn. The wedding took place in Grace Protestant Episcopal Church, Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, with Bishop John Williams of Connecticut officiating. It was a notable social event. Walker Blaine, son of James G. Blaine, was the best man.

The couple had no children. In March, 1891, after nearly thirteen years of married life, Mrs. Jenks who had lived apart from her husband for three years, obtained a divorce at Newport, R. I., on the ground of abandonment and non-support. Her father testified that Mr. Jenks had neglected to support her. Mr. Jenks did not defend the suit.

The divorce caused much comment in Episcopal Church circles, because abandonment and non-support were not, as they are now, grounds for divorce in New York, and because they were not recognized by the Protestant Episcopal Church as sufficient to void a marriage contract.

Bishop Littlejohn was the target for much criticism, it was reported, the claim being made that his daughter's divorce lacked the sanction of the Episcopal Church. In order to obtain this sanction, he called together four Bishops of the Protestant Episcopal Church, to whom he submitted certain evidence at meetings in the Diocesan House, 29 Lafayette Place, New York City, during the weeks subsequent to the divorce.

On April 13, 1891, the four Bishops signed a decree annulling the Jenks-Littlejohn marriage. The decree was signed by Bishop Williams of Connecticut, who had performed the wedding ceremony; Bishop John Scarborough of New Jersey, Bishop Starley of Newark, N. J., and Bishop Henry C. Potter of New York predecessor of Bishop Manning.

The testimony on which the marriage was annulled did not become public; in fact the news of the annulment itself was kept secret, and did not leak out until six weeks after the decree was signed.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Jenks married again.

Catholic Directs Indianapolis Choir At Great Concert

Indianapolis, Nov. 29.—Three thousand persons, including the most prominent patrons and lovers of music in the city, gathered at the new armory here Thanksgiving Eve to hear the Mendelssohn Choir of 150 members in a repertory of patriotic and operatic numbers. The choir was led by Elmer Andrew Stephen, who also is director of the choir of St. Peter and Paul Cathedral here. The occasion was the Mendelssohn Choir's tenth annual concert.

Mr. Stephen is regarded as one of the notable choir leaders of the Middle West. Several years ago he took the Schola Cantorum of the cathedral choir to Washington, where it sang for President Harding at the White House. The Mendelssohn organization has in its membership singers from all the several choirs of Indianapolis, Protestant as well as Catholic.

It is Mr. Stephen's practice to open every concert with the singing of "The Star Spangled Banner."

Dominican College, San Rafael, Given Important Rating

San Rafael, Calif., November 29.—The president and faculty of the Dominican College at San Rafael announced today that their institution has been placed on the list of the Association of Universities.

This recognition is the final seal of approval set on Dominican College as an educational institution. It is recognition granted only after a searching examination of what a college stands for in its equipment, its faculty and its ideal; and in the test of work done by its graduates over a period of at least five successive years.

It assures the graduates of the Dominican College an unquestioned place among the alumnae of the best colleges in the country, and it is a recognition not only national but international.

The Dominican College of San Rafael is the second college for women on the Pacific coast to receive this distinction.

Denizens Of Slums Often Pious, Says Bishop Of Salford

London, Nov. 29.—The theory that environment and heredity breed sin, and that slum dwellers are necessarily a vicious class, was scotched by Bishop Henshaw, of Salford, when he reopened the church at Angel Meadow, a Manchester slum district which was at one time notorious.

He praised the virtue of the slum dwellers and said that piety flourished in the most unpromising surroundings. The Bishop recalled that as young priest he had once "supplied" in the parish in which, at that time, poor working men and their families were huddled together in houses that were not fit for human habitation.

Even when things were at their worst, the Bishop said, he was edified by the virtue of the people—virtue of which many in higher positions might have been proud.

There were theorists, continued Bishop Henshaw, who spoke of such things as environment and the influence of heredity, who tried to make make out that sin and wrongdoing came from such surroundings and that the people were powerless to overcome these difficulties because of their innate tendencies. But if they had the experience of the Catholic priest they would be very careful about insisting too much upon theories of this kind.

Archbishop Keating, of Liverpool, has also been criticizing the sentimentalists who seek to find an excuse for crime in the lower walks of life.

"It is true," he says, writing in his diocesan organ, "that while crime is common in all classes, the police court cases are almost entirely confined to the lowest, the most illiterate, and the most poverty-stricken class. But it is equally true that, among Catholics at least, poverty and illiteracy are compatible with the highest virtue; and no Catholic, however poor and illiterate, falls into bad ways until he or she has willfully given up religious practices, and deliberately chosen bad company."

Roger Bacon, Monk, Had Formula Just Proved Scientific

Philadelphia, Dec. 1.—Unused for more than 600 years the secret formula for the production of salts of copper, found in the alchemical works of Roger Bacon, the Franciscan friar and chemist, has been proved effective by University of Pennsylvania chemists. This was revealed tonight at a memorial meeting for the late Dr. William Romaine Newbold, professor of intellectual and moral philosophy at the university, and gave verification of Dr. Newbold's translation of the difficult cipher in which the thirteenth century monk wrote his works.

Five years ago, when explaining his success in translating the famous manuscript of Bacon, which is owned by Dr. Wilfred M. Voynich, of New York, Dr. Newbold said that when he found the formula he took it to Dr. Edgar F. Smith, distinguished chemist and former provost of the University of Pennsylvania, and requested him to test it, in the hope of verifying the accuracy of his translations.

The formula being unknown to Dr. Smith, he turned it over to Dr. Miriam S. Lukens, professor of chemistry, and the latter's experiment proved it to be accurate.

Bishop Jos. Hurth, Returning to U. S., Taken Ill On Ship

New York, Nov. 30.—The Rt. Rev. Peter Joseph Hurth, C. S. C., resigned Bishop of Nueva Segovia, Philippine Islands, who was returning here from Rome to take up a permanent residence at St. Edward's University, Texas, collapsed aboard the liner President Wilson Saturday while attempting to take his daily constitutional during a storm. When the liner docked here yesterday Bishop Hurth was removed in an ambulance to St. Francis Hospital.

The President Wilson, which was en route here from Trieste and Naples ran into a four-hour gale Saturday and while the waves were mountain high at this time it was the only bad weather encountered. Bishop Hurth was reported to have been the only passenger who ventured on deck during the storm.

The Bishop, who is nearly 70 years old, has spent most of the last 16 years of his life in the Philippines. He told the reporters that he was so accustomed to hot climates that the frigid air he inhaled when he ventured on deck must have been too much for his heart.

Fr. Fortier Given Medal For 'Hecuba'

Philadelphia, Nov. 27.—A gold medal, which was awarded to the students of Holy Cross College for the excellence of their presentation last September of the Greek tragedy "Hecuba" of Euripedes at the Sesqui-Centennial Exposition, has been given to Rev. Matthew L. Fortier, S. J., representing the college.

Bronze reproductions of the medal will be struck off and presented to each member of the undergraduate class. More than 60,000 persons saw the play at the Exposition.

Bishop P. J. Hurth Missioner 34 Years Resigned From See,

Austin, Texas, Dec. 1.—The Rt. Rev. Peter J. Hurth, C. S. C., whose resignation as Bishop of Nueva Segovia, Philippine Islands, has been announced and who will come to St. Edward's University here some time this winter to live, has been a missionary bishop for 34 years. As Father Hurth he was also president of St. Edward's University.

Father Hurth was at St. Edward's when appointed to the See of Dacca, India. He remained there until 1910 when ill health forced him to leave. He was then appointed Bishop of Nueva Segovia and held that post until the middle of this year. He is at present in Rome but it has been arranged that he will come here to live.

Bishop Hurth was born in Nittel-on-Moselle, Germany, on March 30, 1857. He came to this country in 1874 and completed his college and seminary work at the University of Notre Dame. He was ordained in 1880, when 23 years old. In 1881 he was made rector of St. Joseph's College, Cincinnati, a position he held until coming to St. Edward's as president in 1885.

Philadelphia Man In Will Benefits Catholic Purposes

Philadelphia, Dec. 1.—By the terms of the will of Edward Keenan, prominent Philadelphian who died here in November, several Catholic churches and institutions are to receive substantial bequests.

Included in the property left by the testator, which is valued at \$225,000, are two farms, in County Donegal, Ireland, which are bequeathed to the Catholic chapel at that place.

The will gives to St. Joseph's College, Philadelphia, \$50,000, in memory of a sister, Mary O'Donnell; to St. Joseph's Hospital, Philadelphia, \$34,000, in memory of the testator; to Woodstock College, Woodstock, Md., \$10,000 as a memorial to the sister and decedent; to St. Joseph's hospital, \$1,000, and to the Little Sisters of the Poor, \$1,000.

Mr. Keenan also left \$25,000 to a cousin, Mary Gallagher, the principal of which, upon her death is to revert to St. Joseph's and Woodstock Colleges. The will, after a few private bequests, directs that the residue of the estate be paid in equal shares to the two colleges.

Blessed Sacrament Carried In Public London Procession

London, Nov. 29.—The Blessed Sacrament was borne through the streets this evening, escorted by a torchlight procession, when the new St. Catherine's church was opened at Sheffield. The Sacred Host was taken from the tabernacle of the old church and enthroned in the new edifice as the formal act of opening. Torches were borne by the Catholic men of the city.

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Bishop Manning's Utterance Called Appeal To Ku Klux

New York, Dec. 1.—Bishop Manning's attack upon the Church for its decision in the Mariborough-Vanderbilt annulment case is answered briefly and simply in a statement made to the N.C.W.C. News Service by the Rev. Wilfrid Parsons, S. J., editor of America. Father Parsons' statement is as follows:

"Bishop Manning's charges, stripped of their violent language, can be reduced to two. He claims an impertinent intrusion by the Church into the jurisdiction of the Episcopal Church and into American civil rights, and he charges that the decision itself is not in accord with the known facts.

"The impertinence is certainly not on the part of the Church, but on the part of Bishop Manning. A member of Bishop Manning's own communion asked the Church what it thought of her marriage in the light of the facts she and others presented to it under oath. Being asked this question, the Church replied that according to her laws that marriage was invalid. There was no assumption whatever of jurisdiction, warranted or unwarranted, religious or civil. There was no decree of dissolution, but a mere decree of nullity. Bishop Manning appears to betray ignorance of the real facts, and his spread-eagle appeal to Ku Klux sentiment was unworthy of him. He will have to rest assured that, impertinent or not, the Catholic Church is right and he is wrong. The Church did not pass on the form of the marriage ceremony, religious or civil, nor did it presume to dissolve an American Episcopalian marriage. It simply declared that according to its own laws the marriage contract itself, as made by the two parties, was void from the beginning, and it did this only when appealed to for its opinion by the former Duchess. Bishop Manning seems to think the Church started this, not the former Duchess.

"As regards his other charge, that the decision is contradicted by the known facts, this is an accusation not against the Church but against the witnesses. It is a direct charge against them of perjury, since the decision was made only upon their sworn testimony, and in such cases it is not the court which has to answer but the witnesses themselves. Mrs. Belmont, the mother who admitted the coercion, will undoubtedly know how to answer this serious charge, as will the other witnesses also.

"There is nothing in all this to worry Catholics. The publication of the testimony before the Rota sets the matter at rest definitely. Before God and before man the decision stands, there was no true marriage between Consuelo Vanderbilt and the Duke of Marlborough, and the Church can only say: 'God help me, this is the truth, and I cannot do otherwise.'

SCIENTIST SAYS LIFE'S MYSTERY IS UNSOLVED

"Do not believe," says Dr. Gatenby, president of the Dublin University Experimental Science Association, expresses striking views on the relation between science and religion. "Do not believe," says Dr. Gatenby, "that science has answered even one of the eternal questions of life. Do not believe that the scientist has anything to replace religion. The scoffer should remember that religion treats of the most valuable things that have abounded in mankind—kindness, mercy, charity and forgiveness, straightness in all things, those are the cornerstones of religion."

Dr. Gatenby, whose studies in the structure and functioning of animal and vegetable cells have placed him in the front rank of European scientists, adds: "I can assert that with all the wonderful advances in the science of cytology we are no nearer the solution of the mystery of life than were the Greeks 500 years before Christ."

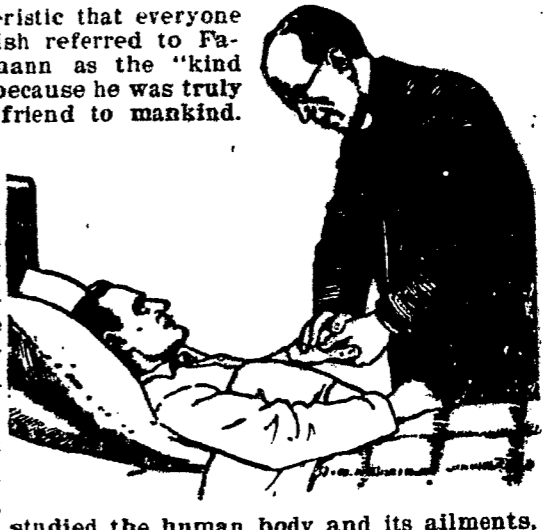
Help In Restoring Old Santa Clara Mission Promised

Santa Clara, Calif. Dec. 1.—Speakers at the meeting of the Native Sons of the Golden West, on the occasion of their visit here a few days ago, made it plain that it was the duty of their organization to preserve and restore when necessary the California Missions. The officials present said it was the unanimous wish of the members that Santa Clara Mission, recently destroyed by fire, be restored along the architectural lines of the original and not of the latest buildings.

Rev. Cornelius J. McCoy, S. J., president of Santa Clara, said that in spite of many rumors to the contrary, all the relics and art treasures of the Mission were saved. He explained also that the Mission recently destroyed was the third Santa Clara Mission. The first collapsed through unstable foundations, the second was destroyed by an earthquake and the third, recently burned, was built in 1822. The officials of the Native Sons resolved to take steps to provide for restoration.

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