

UNITED STATES—Sermons in Many Languages

At the recent blessing of the corner stone of the Cathedral of St. Boniface, Winnipeg, Manitoba, sermons were delivered to the assembled people in English, French, Polish, German, and Ruthenian.

In the Cause of Charity

At the laying of the corner stone of the Hospital de Santa Maria, in Roswell, New Mexico, the other day, the Governor of the territory, Mr. Hagerman, was present and paid a fine tribute, in his address, to the work of the Church in the field of charity. He said that this charitable endeavor of the Church is a perennial source of admiration to the Protestant world.

Parochial Schools in Chicago

The growing popularity of parochial schools in Chicago is one of the most striking signs of the times (says the 'New World'). The people seem to be awakening from the cataleptic trance into which they were cast by the alluring fantasy of State education. The biennial school census presented by Secretary Larson to the Board of Education is a document of the greatest significance and value. 'Since 1904 the attendance in the public schools has only increased by 2770, while the attendance in the private, which practically mean the Catholic schools, has increased by 9895. Thus, to quote the analysis of the 'Chicago Record-Herald': 'The public school attendance has increased but little more than one per cent. in the last two years, while the private schools have increased more than 12 per cent.' The total number of pupils attending the public schools last June was 248,503, while the number attending the private schools was 81,612. There are, therefore, almost one-third as many pupils in the parochial as in the public schools.

Charitable Bequests

The will of Patrick J. Sullivan, which was filed for probate in Boston recently, contained bequests amounting to £14,000 to different Catholic institutions. He left £1000 each to the Catholic University, Washington, the trustees of Boston College, St. John's Seminary, Brighton district, the Boston Public Library, the Little Sisters of the Poor, the House of the Good Shepherd, the St. Mary's Infant Asylum, the Carney Hospital, and the Free Home for Consumptives. His gift to the Public Library was for the purchase of standard Catholic books.

The Old Irish Parliament House

The old Irish Parliament House, which, according to rumor (says the London 'Daily Chronicle'), may be occupied by a National Council under a devolution scheme ere long, is one of the architectural glories of Dublin. In its exterior aspect it remains the same as it was when in possession of the Lords and Commons of Ireland, but internally it has been knocked about to meet the requirements of the Bank of Ireland, into whose hands it passed after the Act of Union.

The legislative hall of the Commons, which once resounded with the eloquence of Grattan, Curran, Plunket, and Flood, has been practically destroyed, and the present public banking chamber occupies part of its site. But the House of Lords remains intact, just as it was at the time of the Union, and is the most interesting and attractive part of the building to visitors.

Curran, who was a determined opponent of the Union, was one day passing the old Parliament House in the company of a member who had voted for it. That member displayed signs of irritation, and expressed a wish to see the building removed. "I am not surprised," said Curran, "there never yet was a murderer who was not afraid of a ghost."

The Irish House of Commons sat for the last time on June 10, 1800. It was the duty of Lord Castle-reagh to move the third reading of the Union Bill, and he discharged the duty with the utmost apparent equanimity. Other members were not so composed, and to conceal their emotion hurriedly left the room. The Speaker, who hated the measure, rose to put the fateful question. He held up the Bill for a moment in silence, and looked, according to a spectator's account of the scene, steadily round on the last agony of the expiring Parliament. He at length repeated in an emphatic tone, "As many as are of opinion that this Bill do pass say Aye; the contrary say No." The affirmative was languid but indisputable. Another momentary pause ensued. Again his lips seemed to decline their office. At length, with an eye averted from the object which he hated, he proclaimed with a subdued voice, "The Ayes have it." The fatal sentence was now pronounced—for an instant he stood statue-like, then indignantly, and with disgust, flung the Bill upon the table and sank into his chair with an exhausted spirit.

Domestic

By 'Maureen'

Digestion and Geniality at Meals.

One of the strongest pleas in favor of dinner parties, large or small, public or private, is the fact of social intercourse at, and after, dinner being favorable health. It is pronounced by high authority that solitary meals are decidedly difficult of digestion, and that there is no situation in which digestion goes on so favorably as during the social or family circle. The merrier the assembly the better the digestion. The Spartans used to have a little statue of the god of Laughter in their dining halls, probably for the purpose of provoking mirth at meal times. Laughter, says a famous doctor, is one of the greatest helps to digestion with which I am acquainted; and the custom prevalent among our ancestors of exciting it at table by jesters and buffoons was founded on true medical principles. What nourishment one receives amidst mirth and jollity will certainly produce good and light blood.

To Clean Water Bottles.

Put a teaspoonful of tea leaves and a tablespoonful of vinegar into the bottle, and then fill with cold water. Shake, then let the bottle stand a while, after which empty it out, rinse in clear water, and it will be bright and clean.

To Stop a Leak in a Pipe.

A temporary stopping of a leak in a water or gas pipe is easily effected with a paste made of yellow soap and whiting. This, of course, should not prevent one's sending immediately for the plumber, but it will make waiting for him less trying if he is somewhat slow in coming.

To Clean a Mackintosh.

Spread the cloak out on a deal table, and go over it carefully with a small scrubbing brush and some soap moistened with rain-water. Rinse in plenty of clear cold water and hang out in the shade to dry. Stains which will not yield to soap and water will probably be easily removed by rubbing them with a little ammonia.

The Care of Oil Lamps.

Plenty of oil should be kept in the lamps, but never fill them quite up to the burner. Should you fill them too full by mistake it will be better to go to the trouble of pouring some of the oil out rather than to run the risk of repentance when it is too late. A space should be left for air, and as oil expands when it becomes warm, you will readily see the danger of filling a lamp too full.

Burners that have become blackened and clogged after long use may be cleansed by boiling them in strong soapsuds for three or four hours. I clean my burners in this way once in a while, and they reward me by coming out as good as new. A little soda in the water is a good addition, and helps to clean the burners. The oft-repeated precautions against filling lighted lamps, filling near a gas jet, carelessness with the can after filling, etc., seem unnecessary, but the young are sometimes thoughtless, and a casual reminder where edged tools are used does no harm. Do not use a large lamp with a standard to carry around from one room to another. The small lamps with handles and broad bases are made especially for carrying, and are safe and convenient as well. There is no danger in blowing out an ordinary lamp if the wick is first turned very low. Burners with round wicks should be turned low and allowed to go out, but never blow out a blaze in a lamp having one of these burners. Some lamps have extinguishers attached, but I have not seen any that were entirely satisfactory.

To Smooth Flat-irons.

If from any cause your iron is rough and refuses to go, take a slice of common salt side bacon, such as is found on every farm, rub your hot iron quickly over it, and immediately after over several thicknesses of paper, being careful to clean the edges thoroughly, and you will be surprised to find how slick your iron is. If it should be very rough, or a little rusty, it may take a second or third rubbing, but, if persisted in, will surely clean the most stubborn iron. In case you have to rub it over the bacon several times, do not iron fine white clothes right afterwards, but use a coarse or colored garment, so that a slight smut will not damage.

Maureen