

gious processions. Attempts have been made by non-Catholics to proselytise them, but these have been generally unsuccessful. Drunkenness is unknown amongst them. The objection to the friars arose from the fact that the Natives considered that they represented Spanish law and order, and as they hated the Spaniards who sometimes treated them cruelly, this was their reason for expelling the friars.

With regard to the Spanish-American war, the American Government have come to see that they were in the wrong, and that it was a most unjust war. It was really the outcome of representations made by the army and navy, and President McKinley was very loth indeed to sign the declaration. He did not want to go to war, but the situation was forced upon him. There was no doubt but that Japan had its eye upon the Philippines. The Japanese want to be masters of the Pacific and are watching the Pacific very closely. They are an infidel people and would stamp out any religion in the Philippines if they became masters. It was the lecturer's opinion that they will engage in war with America sooner or later. It is a lesson for English-speaking races not to trust the Japanese, who are prepared for war, whilst the Americans are not, and the former care for nobody but themselves.

Needless to say the audience listened with rapt attention to one of the most instructive and interesting lectures it has ever been their good fortune to listen to.

Mr. McKeon in moving a vote of thanks to Monsignor Fowler said the lecture had been most interesting and instructive, and of a very high order.

Mr. P. McNamara seconded the motion.

His Lordship Bishop Grimes said they had had an intellectual treat, a graphic description of the people of the Philippines, which he had listened to with the greatest interest and profit.

The motion was put and carried with applause.

Monsignor Fowler briefly thanked the meeting for its expression of gratitude.

During the evening Mrs. Arthur Mead, Miss Hayward, Messrs. A. Bunz, R. Beveridge, and C. Fottrell contributed to a musical programme.

Conservatism (says the *Catholic Times*) is losing ground in Ireland. It has had special means of gaining and winning support. Those who made profession of that political faith were fairly sure of loaves and fishes. Any well-paid posts which were sinecures were, as far as possible, reserved for them. If they were in business they had a monopoly of the custom of the members of the party in the neighborhood. In fact, recruits were won by the certainty held out to them of improving their worldly prospects. But all the advantages Irish Conservatism enjoys in political warfare are more than counterbalanced by its anti-Irish sentiment. Its cry at every election has been 'Do not trust the Irish people.' That is an appeal which is bound to fail. Even in the breasts of Irish Conservative electors there are sparks of patriotism, and unquestionably there has been a lack of enthusiasm in their ranks during the contests which have just come to a close. Mid-Tyrone has been recovered by the Nationalists, and in South County Dublin Alderman Cotton, a Nationalist, replaces Captain Bryan Cooper, a Conservative. South of the Boyne, save at Dublin University, a clean sweep has been made of Conservatism, whilst in Ulster the Nationalists and Mr. Redmond Barry, a Liberal, who represents North Tyrone, hold sixteen out of thirty-three seats.

In the course of its report of the laying of the foundation stone of the new Cathedral at Armidale, the *Catholic Press* says:—There are 22 Catholic Cathedrals in Australia, and they are tributes to the courage of the people, past and present, who have carried them more or less to completion. To estimate the total expenditure on these edifices would not be easy, but its vastness may be imagined when St. Mary's, Sydney, has already consumed £275,000, and £125,000 more is about to be spent on its completion. St. Patrick's, Melbourne, too, is a costly structure; while St. Stephen's, Brisbane, ran into £60,000. In this State there are five cathedrals at Lismore, Bathurst, Goulburn, and Broken Hill, and Maitland has St. John's, an older edifice, but very devotional. But Armidale's new cathedral, when finished, will be amongst the finest examples of ecclesiastical architecture in Australia. The building alone is to cost £21,880.

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