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THE CATHOLICS IN AMERICA.

The session of the Catholic congress at Chicago yesterday, as told in our dispatches, is an event of which the people of the United States should make a note. Papal Delegate Satolli was present and delivered his first public address since his appointment to his high office. He greeted the American Republic in the name of the pope and called on the Catholics to go forward with the "book of Christian truth" in one hand and the Constitution of the country in the other. The scene is described as most dramatic and affecting. "the representative of the Roman pontiff literally shaking under the stress of the excitement of the occasion."

The thing to be noted is that in this address the pope, through his mouthpiece Satolli, speaks directly to the people of the United States, lifting his hands in benediction upon the Republic, as if the people of this nation were already his loyal and devoted subjects, acknowledging his supremacy and eager to accept his blessings. That this is premature need not be argued, since millions of American citizens are entirely indifferent to such benefits and millions more are decidedly opposed to them. And that Satolli keenly felt the awkwardness of his position may be inferred from the nervous excitement he displayed while speaking in the name of Leo.

It cannot be considered a secret that the head of the Roman church is laboring for supremacy in this country as well as in other parts of the earth. Nor can it be denied that his representatives are most skillful in employing a variety of means for the gaining of this end. Educational institutes, the pulpit, the political machinery of the commonwealth and diplomatic agencies are all made use of, *ad majorem Dei gloriam*. And as far as our country is concerned they have a perfect right to do all they can in this direction. As long as the Catholics keep within the law, nobody can properly interfere with their propaganda. Even if they should succeed, finally, in gaining the control of every state in the Union and of Congress and convert free America into a Catholic domain, they would have accomplished only what, under the Constitution, they are at liberty to endeavor.

At the same time non-Catholics have just as much right to resist, with all lawful means, the propaganda having such a result in view. And opposition it will surely meet. One of the fundamental principles of this government, and one which is recognized as vital for the integrity of American institutions, is that ecclesiastical and political affairs shall be kept separate. This is thought almost impossible where the Catholic is the ruling church, since the chief pontiff claims to be the vicegerent of God on earth, the instrument through which all power, including that of kings, emperors, presidents and parliaments, is imparted. It may be true that the progress of the age has divested the Roman church of much of her mediaeval notions and claims. Yet, it was only in 1877, less than twenty years ago, that Pius IX from his seat in Rome issued an edict condemning certain laws in Germany, where he had no jurisdiction whatever, as null and void, virtually releasing the Catholics of that country from their obligations and causing a series of rebellious struggles against the government. With this example and such possibilities in view, opposition must follow.

That the Catholics are preparing for a bold, far-reaching policy in this country seems to be more evident than ever, and further developments will be watched with much interest.

THE STORM'S WORK.

The aerial leveler was abroad in the land on Thursday last, but seemed to act with some discrimination, as in places no unusual commotion was observed, while in others damage running well up into the thousands was done. Ogden seems to have been a heavy sufferer, nearly all the large trees in Lester Park and some few elsewhere having been either prostrated or so bent over that they are not likely to survive, while many houses were unroofed and miscellaneous mischief generally prevailed. In this city the breeze was pretty stiff and the joints of frame houses in places creaked ominously every now and then, but no actual disasters are reported, and best of all there was no loss of life or injury to person anywhere so far as heard.

The appearance of the park spoken of is an object lesson showing what power there is in the elements when once lashed into a fury. And as if to add to the mystery of the situation the wind came directly from the overhanging mountains almost perpendicular and at least a mile high just east of the city. These natural defenses have certainly suffered a serious impairment in their reputation by reason of Thursday's performance, it being shown that under certain (but unknown) circumstances the shield may become a sword and without previous warning. It seems to be well settled that even moderate eminences close at hand forbid the advent of cyclones or other storms in which aridity is a feature; but whatever be their height, if serrated or caverned they will brew windstorms which are visited violently upon the people below.

Our winds have not harmed us much; we question if all the harm they have done added up even approaches in quantity the good that has been done through their agency. Still air and still water stagnate, and if they do not engender they certainly receive and retain infections and microbes which a brisk movement might rend or carry away. And when we read of that awful tragedy or series of tragedies enacted by Aeolus on the Atlantic coast last week and contrast them with the worst storms we ever had, something approaching an estimate of our favored condition can be formed. The wind is always a terrorizing agency, but surely all the terror created hereabout is a trifling matter and scarcely worthy of consideration in the presence of eastern devastations.

DON'T GO.

The NEWS has a very emphatic but mildly intended "don't" for those of our people who have in contemplation the acquisition of a homestead in the Cherokee strip. That part of the public domain is highly favored in some respects, but its drawbacks and dangers more than offset all the good qualities and the settler, if he lived, would soon find this out. The general topography of the country is unfavorable to drainage, and thus vast swamps abound, breed malaria and keep the air poisoned throughout the warm season at least; fever and ague are the natural and almost universal result, and to add to the discomforts of the situation pestiferous and dangerous insects abound.

The soil is represented as being very productive in places, corn and many other staples and most of the fruits growing luxuriantly. Doubtless there are other natural advantages, but as before suggested these are overcome and negatived by the hardships to which the settler is subjected. A gentleman of this city who spent three days there in the month of September three years ago advises us that the thermometer during the daytime indicated a temperature of 122 to 125 degrees! Surely those who have been either born and reared or acclimated here could not long stand such awful heat as that, and it is a reasonable conclusion that the summer months would be even worse. In addition to all this, the country is overrun with murderers, horsethieves and desperadoes, adding greatly to the risks to be run.

Let our young men and others who have Oklahoma or its approaches in contemplation take these things into consideration and then give themselves the benefit of a sober second thought. It is always easier to get to a new place than to get away from it, and the chance of wanting to get away should always be a feature in arriving at a conclusion.

THE DEADLY RAILROAD BRIDGE.

A few years ago railway disasters were of such frequent occurrence that telegraph editors got to heading news of that kind with the two words "the daily," these conveying the meaning as fully as a more elaborate caption could have done. It looked as though carelessness had become the rule and carefulness the obscure exception, until the public became so irritated and threatening that better safeguards were provided, more attention was given to tracks, bridges and employes, and for a year or so great calamities have been reduced to the minimum. The tragedy at Chester, Mass., however, opens anew the chapter of horrors and again places the popular mind in a state of nervous apprehension.

It seems that no less than thirteen persons were killed outright and twenty more or less seriously injured. The manager of the road on being questioned gave this reply: "According to the best information we have received, pending the legal investigation, the accident was due to the carelessness of the bridge repairers." We are thus shown that the terrible responsibility for the killing, wounding and maiming, and for jeopardizing the lives of a whole train load of traveling passengers, is placed in [illegible] words by the Boston & Albany railroad company through its authorized representative in the person of the general manager. They will as readily say they are unsatisfactory.

It has become an old but not always a heeded lesson that there is need to [illegible] the control of railroads. In the case of the Boston & Albany company it seems to have been utterly ignored. It is shown that the bridge was not strong enough to support a locomotive as heavy as that which was drawing the ill-fated train; but was it not somebody's duty to know this and knowing, to act on this knowledge? If an engine were to explode through an over-pressure of steam, it would scarcely satisfy the public to say that the boiler could only carry so much and more than that was generated; yet of such is the return in the Chester case.

The Boston *Herald* says the attention of the corporation appears to have been called to this, and efforts were in progress to strengthen the bridges, but in the meantime too much reliance was placed by the engineer who ran the train upon the bridge at Chester. A fearful result followed. The corporation has paid the penalty of its own confidence in the loss of probably a half million dollars; but the sacrifice of life is immeasurably more important. Nothing can atone for this, or cure the anguish of those who have been bereaved by it. The Boston & Albany railroad is said to be one of the most carefully managed railroads in the country, but it is shown by this accident that all its precautions were still insufficient, which alone forfeits its good reputation, since it is not enough that vigilance be exercised for five, ten or fifteen years and then relaxed, whereby a frightful tragedy is actually invited. Too often is it the case that such invitations are accepted.

Utah has been measurably free from railway catastrophes and long may she so continue; but one could be precipitated here on the same terms that they are brought about elsewhere. Vigilance does not always avert them, but it is the best defense the companies can have to be able to show that the circumstances were altogether beyond their control.

THE ROPE AGE.

The frequency of lynchings in various parts of the country but chiefly in the South has given rise to a great deal of unfavorable comment regarding the people of those sections. While understanding that it is altogether improbable that such things could be without provocation and that generally of the gravest character, the tendency toward an epidemic of unlawful punishments is still something that threatens us unless the evil is checked, and from the former condition we earnestly seek to be exempt. An eastern paper facetiously refers to the situation as the "rope age," and proceeds to show that if scientists are to be believed, the present civilization was evolved from such early conditions as the stone age and the age of bronze. It is also an accepted tenet of science that we find instances of these prehistoric stages of human development among certain tribes and peoples of today.

"But," says the paper quoted, "here is a stage of semi-civilization today which was unknown to early savages and barbarians. It was seen in California during the reign of the Vigilantes. It is occasionally seen in American cities in the wee sma' hours of the night and sometimes in broad daylight, when jails are broken into and helpless prisoners are done to death by the [illegible] lynching party. At present it is the prevailing form of government in the province of Santa Fe, Argentina. It has become the custom in parts of Santa Fe to recruit the provincial military and even the municipal police from the banditti, outlaws and murderers who are confined in prison. These men serve a few weeks and then turn themselves loose on the people."

This is rather a ghastly condition of things sure enough, even though, as claimed, it is a measure of protection. Lynch law being thoroughly organized in Santa Fe and the "rope age" in full blast, the Argentine government with a war with its discontented subjects on its hands and the rope of course figuring freely, cause it to appear that the temperature, or the Latin with reference to the southern end of the western hemisphere has something to do with it.

ANARCHY ILLUSTRATED.

A syndicate serial is being published in some of the papers which is entitled "Hartmann the Anarchist." He constructs a monstrous airship called the Attila, stores it with dynamite bombs, tanks of petroleum and other destructive agencies and then sallies forth on his errand of equalizing mankind by striking down all existing institutions, destroying all laws and establishing a condition of things in which common consent shall be the only rule of conduct. This Utopian performance begins with the destruction of an unoffending British war vessel with all on board, after which London is attacked, its great buildings are blown to fragments, the streets filled with burning petroleum and people by the thousands slain and tortured. A more infernal recital it would be difficult to imagine, let alone set out. "We must paralyze the heart of the financial world," says Hartmann, "and then the whole system gives way." More of this sort of reasoning is contained in the following:

[illegible]

As an illustration of how argument may be brought to the aid of the vilest cause the foregoing is equal to anything we know of. The worst of it is that such sentiments are not merely the creation of a novelist's active intellect but are known to be a part of at least some of the anarchists' creed. This being the case, that organization must be kept within limits and its members not allowed to say and do things that are forbidden to people of less sanguinary tendencies.

THE SEPTEMBER number of Dr. Foote's *Health Monthly*, published in New York, gives the leading editorial place to extracts from and comments upon a recent editorial in the NEWS, entitled "A Word on Purity." The *Health Monthly* finds our remarks "very sensible" and the conclusions such as it can "entirely agree with."

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