

TWO INTERESTING PAPERS.

PUBLIC MEETING OF THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Many men prominent in the Roman Catholic Church attended the public meeting of the United States Catholic Historical Society at La Salle Institute, in West Fifty-ninth Street, last night. Archbishop Corrigan was there, as also were Mgr. Farley, the Rev. David A. Merrick, S. J., President of St. Francis Xavier's College; Judge Morgan J. O'Brien, Dr. John Gilmary Shea, Judge Joseph F. Daly, the Rev. Father Ducey, the Rev. John J. Scully, S. J., President of St. John's College at Fordham; the Rev. Father Kelly of Brooklyn, Col. John A. McAnerney, the Rev. Father P. Corrigan of Hoboken, the Rev. Dr. R. L. Burtsell, Dr. Charles G. Herbermann, Major John D. Kelley, Mr. Patrick Farelly, the Rev. Dr. Charles A. O'Keefe, the Rev. Dr. P. McSweeney, Brother James, director of La Salle Institute; the Rev. James H. McGean, Brothers Anthony and Azarias, P. J. Kennedy, the Rev. Father Vissani, and William J. Fanning, President of the St. Patrick's Club.

Dr. John Gilmary Shea, the recently-elected President of the society, was invited to preside by Judge O'Brien, the retiring President. Dr. Shea informed the assemblage that Cardinal Gibbons, although prevented by suddenly-imposed duties from attending the meeting, had sent an interesting paper, embodying some personal reminiscences of religious work in North Carolina. The paper was read by the Rev. James J. Dougherty, director of the Drumgoole Home in this city. Cardinal Gibbons was the first Vicar Apostolic of North Carolina, and the period of his labors as such began just after the close of the war. At that time it was estimated that there were not more than 800 Roman Catholics in the State, and they were widely scattered among a population of about 1,400,000 Protestants.

Speaking of his arrival and reception in Wilmington, Cardinal Gibbons says: "I remember witnessing from the porch of Col. Kerchner's residence a political torchlight procession of colored people. I learned that this element was the leading political factor in the State, as it was at the time in the South generally. While right-thinking men are ready to accord to the colored citizen all to which he is fairly entitled, yet to give him control over a highly intellectual and intricate civilization, in creating which he had borne no essential part, and for conducting which his antecedents had manifestly unfitted him, would be hurtful to the country as well as to himself."

A paper on the last hours of Mrs. Surratt, written by the Rev. Jacob A. Walter of St. Patrick's Church in Washington, was read by Mr. Charles W. Sloane, a lawyer of this city. Father Walter was Mrs. Surratt's spiritual adviser before and after her conviction as an accomplice in the murder of Abraham Lincoln. He has always believed that she was innocent, and in his paper read last night he reiterated that belief. He declared that had he been able to have obtained a ten days' reprieve for Mrs. Surratt on the eve of her execution, he would have furnished convincing proofs of her innocence. But President Johnson would not see him.

HIS PEN IN PLACE OF TIN.

AN ORDER FOR AMERICAN TIN ELICITS AN OFFER TO WRITE AN ARTICLE.

Mr. F. G. Niedringhaus, the St. Louis gentleman who furnished the tin menus for the recent McKinley dinner in this city from his tin-plate kindergarten, wants to write an article on the manufacture of American tin plates for the *New-York Evening Post*, in lieu of filling an offer publicly made by that journal for 6,000 boxes of American tin to be delivered to a firm in this city. The *Evening Post* telegraphed to Mr. Niedringhaus yesterday that an article from his pen not exceeding 2,000 words would be printed, provided he would fill the order for 6,000 boxes of American tin.

"We will print another article of similar length from your pen," continued the *Post's* telegram, "if you will accept the other order, which we hold, for your whole product of American tin for the year 1891, mentioning, of course, what the probable amount will be."

The *Evening Post* has the following editorial comment:

"An amusing telegraphic correspondence with Mr. Niedringhaus, the St. Louis tin-plate man, will be found in another column. Mr. Niedringhaus's answer shows that, however weak he may be as a tin-plate manufacturer, as a 'journalist' he is very strong. Nothing could be more 'journalistic' than meeting an order for 6,000 boxes of tin plate by an offer to write an article on the working of the McKinley bill. He could not have done better if he had graduated in two 'schools of journalism.' It will be seen that we have offered him an opportunity to display his talent in both fields of industry. If he agrees, as a tin-plate manufacturer, to fill the order of Mr. Cort, we will allow him, as a journalist, to 'make copy' for us sufficient to fill two columns on his favorite theme. But from the account we see of his tin 'works' in THE NEW-YORK TIMES we fear we shall get the article long before Mr. Cort gets his tin. This base Mugwump journal, instead of respecting the privacy which is so dear to all American tin-plate men, says that the Niedringhaus 'tin factory' is a structure 10 feet by 15, standing in the midst of the Granite Ironware Works. Most of the tin-plate works we have been able to hear of are of this description. They stand in the midst of some other works, somewhat like the 'secret chamber,' which was at one time said to exist in the office of one of our morning contemporaries, and was occupied by the gentleman who 'swore to the circulation.'"

BERTHS FOR TAMMANY MEN.

Tammany, through the medium of the Board of Police Justices, gave another of its leaders a job last night. This time the fortunate man is ex-Assemblyman Philip Wissig, the new leader of the Eighth Assembly District. The board met at Jefferson Market last night and appointed him to a three-thousand-dollar police court clerkship to succeed Col. John Tracy, the appointment to take effect June 1. Col. Tracy was clerk in the Morrisania or Sixth District Court, but Wissig was assigned to the Fifth District or Harlem Court, and George W. Cregler, clerk, now in the latter court, goes to Morrisania June 1.

The board also made Michael Dolan, a Tammany man in the Sixteenth Assembly District, an assistant clerk at \$2,000 a year, and assigned him to the Tombs. He takes the place of John G. Huhn, deceased. Dolan was formerly an assistant clerk, but lost his place for opposing Judge Gildersleeve in the campaign of 1889.

HIS HOLINESS IS CURIOUS.

The Italian Vice Consul, Mr. Guilio Lecca, was asked yesterday, in the absence of the Consul, if there could be any truth in the report from Rome printed in the *Paris Figaro* Saturday that the Pope had written to Cardinal Gibbons to furnish him with the details of the New-Orleans lynching and to use his influence to secure an equitable solution of the questions raised.

Mr. Lecca replied that he could not say anything officially on the subject, but he thought that "his Holiness might have sought the information to satisfy his own curiosity." He felt certain that if the Pope had made any request of Cardinal Gibbons it had no political significance so far as the Italian Government is concerned.