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A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER.

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CATHOLICS FOR SPAIN.

Such Is the Claim Set Up
By the Spanish Consul
In Chicago, Ill.

Catholic Priests in United States, Spain,
Spanish Colonies and Latin America
to Pray in Concert for Peace.
A Significant Statement.

Based on his action by statements made to him by two Roman Catholic priests, the Spanish Consul in Chicago, Senor Fernando Staud y Gimnez, has written a letter to Novadades a Spanish weekly newspaper published in New York, in which he goes so far as to assert that "Catholic element of this part of the country" is affected with "good desires" towards Spain, "now under the shadow of war," says the Chicago Tribune.

The consul's letter also reveals the fact that two Roman Catholic priests—The Rev. Thomas F. Cashman, pastor of St. Jarlath's Church, Jackson Boulevard and Wood street, and the Rev. E. J. Vattman, a United States Army Chaplain stationed at Fort Sheridan—have been carrying into effect a plan whereby the Catholic priests in the United States, Spain, the Spanish colonies, and Latin America shall offer up in concert at some time to be agreed upon a mass for peace. These priests suggested the matter to the Spanish Consul here, who put the plan into action by making it public through the Novadades.

The editor of that paper in publishing the Consul's letter, says:

"A distinguished compatriot and friend residing in Chicago has sent us a letter in which he shows the kindly spirit which animates two priests in this republic, and which spirit is, no doubt, to be found in many others. The letter in question states that these two priests have suggested that it might be productive of much good if all the priests in the two countries would celebrate a mass for peace and implore the most high to remove the cloud of war which now hovers across the horizon and threatens to bring to a disastrous end the friendly relations which have always existed between the United States and Spain."

The editor goes on to state that the Novadades is in hearty sympathy with the idea.

The following is the Consul's letter to the editor of the Novadades:

To the Editor—Dear Sir and Distinguished Friend: Counting on the support which your paper has given and gives, to all that which tends to benefit our beloved Spain, I hasten to acquaint you with a request which the Rev. Fathers E. J. Vattman and Thomas F. Cashman direct to all the priests of Spain, her colonies, and Latin America, a request which it is as laudable as it is great.

I repeat literally the words of the above mentioned two priests: "It is not possible," they say, "nor just to forget in these trying moments the favors and benefits which Spain has continuously and liberally given to this country, counting amongst others the material support given during the revolution, which ultimately gave this country its independence, and the moral support during the civil war; and it would be therefore very painful to see a disastrous termination on both sides to the present unfortunate differences between the two countries. Counting already upon a large number of priests who will celebrate a mass for peace in the United States, we strongly desire, and take this means of asking, that there should unite with the American priests the largest number possible of the priests of Spain, her colonies, and Latin America, so that as nearly as possible on the same day the sublime prayer—'Give us peace'—may be heard

and responded to by many millions of Catholics in all the world."

Knowing thoroughly the spirit of your paper, please accord to me for the time being the courtesy of your columns for the service of this patriotic and praiseworthy object. As Fathers Cashman and Vattman do not speak our language, I have placed myself unconditionally at their orders for any service they may request in connection with their proposition.

His Excellency, the Minister of Spain in Washington will be advised in the ordinary manner of the good desire which the Catholic element of this part of the country have towards our country, now under the shadow of war. A copy of this request will also be sent to the Duke of Satomayr, to be by him transmitted to her Majesty the Queen Regent, in order that it may be deemed worthy that the chaplain of their majesties may be one of those who will intone the "dona nobis pace" on behalf of our tried and beloved Spain.

With thanks in anticipation to those already mentioned priests, I remain, yours, etc.,

FERNANDO STAUD Y GIMENZ.

Father Dent's New Suit.

The Rev. Francis Dent has begun a new suit for damages to the amount of \$100,000 in the Supreme Court against the Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York, Michael A. Corrigan; Joseph L. Keane, William T. Schley, a lawyer; Anacletus de Angelis, head of the Order of Friars Minor, and against the Order itself. Father Dent has been suing the Order for a number of years, and has become quite a familiar figure in the courts, where he is greatly respected. He acts in all cases as his own lawyer, and it would be difficult for him to find an abler one.

In the April number of The Converted Catholic of last year a resume of the legal proceedings begun by him in 1893 was given. It may be remembered that his suit was for reinstatement in his rights and privileges as a member of the Franciscan Order, as well as indemnity for their breach of contract, and the years of hardship it entailed upon him. Whilst this case was in progress the defendants procured his arrest and imprisonment on

a charge of perjury about the twenty-third of October, 1893. He was released on heavy bail, and the indictment before the grand jury was dropped.

On December 18, 1896, the defendants paid Father Dent the sum of \$10,000 on the condition that he withdraw his suit against them for breach of contract and unlawfully expelling him from the Order. In order to pay him this sum the Franciscans had to mortgage their property. They offered him at first a certified cheque for the amount, but he was unwilling to accept it, fearing further legal difficulties might arise before he could collect it. At last they complied with his demand and paid him down in currency. This was the end of the original suit, which was accompanied by some notable circumstances, chief among them being the rebuke administered by Judge Bartlett to Archbishop Corrigan for his arrogant behavior towards Father Dent.

The suit for \$100,000 which Father Dent now brings against the defendants above mentioned had its origin in the first one, which was only for \$50,000. Whilst the trial was in progress the defendants brought two ecclesiastical dignitaries from Rome to prove that a rescript which Father Dent had presented in court was a forgery. On their testimony he was indicted by the Grand Jury for perjury, and was imprisoned for twenty-seven hours. Mr. John Glass, of 426 West Twenty-third street, New York, became his bondsman. The charge, however, was not pressed, and in the course of the trial Father Dent had ample opportunity to prove that his rescript was genuine.

Now that the original suit is settled Father Dent has determined also to obtain redress for the arrest and imprisonment which the defendants unjustly caused him. He alleges and believes that they contrived to do so maliciously, that they procured the indictment against him merely to injure and impoverish him, and that they procured the attendance of witnesses for the same purpose. He also says that the defendants knew then, and at all times since, that the charge of perjury brought against him was wholly false and untrue.

Father Dent also complains that the facts and circumstances of the indictment for perjury, his unjust arrest and prosecution, were extensively published in several newspapers; that it caused the delay of his original action, extending over a period of three years; that he endured great mental anguish on account of the indignities heaped upon him, as a Roman Catholic priest, by reason of the indictment, arrest and prosecution, and that he was under the care of a physician for three years owing to the mental and bodily suffering entailed by that indictment, arrest, imprisonment and prosecution, and that he was forced to seek legal advice and to engage the services of an attorney on account of the alleged malicious prosecution.

All the parties named in the suit as defendants have been on the witness stand, and some of them on several occasions, when, as a newspaper mildly and charitably states it, they exhibited great confusion of mind and of memory of most important topics. The original trial from beginning to end was most sensational, and as the same parties are to figure in this one it will no doubt be as interesting and exciting. It is, at all events, a novelty for high ecclesiastics to be brought before the civil courts, from which they have considered themselves exempt in the past. They are accustomed to assume superiority and to exact despotic sway in their ecclesiastical sphere, but in the civil courts they are nothing more than private citizens, not as good as others.—The Converted Catholic.

Excommunication of Locusts, Caterpillars.

No doubt the first thought of the reader will be that no such a thing as a solemn excommunication of locusts and caterpillars could ever take place, excepting in a lunatic asylum. Well, certainly it does seem strange that a body of priests with brains left in their heads, could ever be guilty of such an act of folly, or that they should be asked to exercise such powers by anybody of human beings possessed of reason. Yet truth is often stranger than fiction. The thing has been done, but, of course, it was in those Dark Ages when the people were kept by the

priests in darkness and ignorance. The fact is that where the Word of God is unknown people will believe almost anything, however foolish it may be. Under the heading of "Formula of Excommunication of Animals," the Department of History in the University of Pennsylvania, have just published the following document, for which the authority is given as follows:—"Found in Du Cange Glossarium, s. v. Excommunicatio."

In the name of the Lord, Amen. Complaint having been made in court by the inhabitants of Villenoe, in the diocese of Troyes, against the locusts and caterpillars and other such animals, called in the vulgar Hurebees, that have laid waste the vineyards of that place for several years, and continue to do so, as is asserted on the testimony of credible witnesses and by public rumour, to the great detriment of the inhabitants of that and neighbouring regions; and their request having been considered that the aforesaid animals should be warned by us and compelled by threats of ecclesiastical punishment to depart from that territory of said town, &c. We, by the authority that we exercise, warn the aforesaid locusts, caterpillars, and other animals, under whatsoever name known by these presents, under threats of curses and excommunication, to depart from the vineyards and land of the said town of Villenoe by virtue of this sentence within six days from the publication of this warning, and to do no further injury either there or elsewhere in the diocese of Troyes. But, if the above-mentioned animals do not implicitly obey this our warning within the specified time, then at the expiration of the six days by virtue of our said authority we excommunicate them through this document and curse them by the same."

To Queen Victoria has recently been sent a memorial signed by 336,350 women, setting forth the fact that since her reign began 800 convents have been established in England, with 20,000 women now in them, and praying that the government will take speedy measures to inspect their condition, management, etc.

BLANCO SENDS CHEERING NEWS

Informing Spain that He Has Four Thousand Former American Sailors Enlisted.

MADRID, April 20.—An official dispatch from Havana says General Blanco has chartered vessels to bring over 4,000 Spanish sailors "WHO HAVE HERETOFORE SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY, BUT WHO ARE NOW DESIROUS OF DEFENDING THEIR OWN COUNTRY." The dispatch adds that the Cuban Insurgent leader Betancourt has published a proclamation agreeing to a suspension of hostilities. In conclusion the official dispatch says: "The inhabitants of Santiago de Cuba, even those most hostile to Spain, are resolved to fight on the side of the Spaniards and some influential rebel leaders have the same intention."—Omaha Bee.

[THE AMERICAN has always held that adopted Roman Catholic citizens of any Protestant country cannot be loyal in case of war with a Roman Catholic country, and the above dispatch proves our assertion to be correct. This government can expect other similar incidents.—Ed.]

SHE HAS ORANGE BLOOD.

Birthday of William of Orange Fittingly Observed
By Holland Society

His Descendant, Queen Lavinia I, Special Guest of the Society at Its Banquet Last Monday.

The third annual banquet of the Holland society of Chicago was given last night at Kinsley's in commemoration of the birth of William, Prince of Orange. It was more pretentious than the other annual celebrations of this exclusive society, whose membership is confined to descendants of the independent and sturdy race of heroes of the low country. The occasion was graced by the presence of the head of the Holland society of New York, Miss Lavinia Van Westerveld H. Dempsey, who holds the title of Lavinia I, queen of the Holland dames.

Queen Lavinia I. was the guest of honor and she was greeted on her entrance with cries of "Hulde Aan den Koningen! Leve den Koningen!" Although the family name of Queen Lavinia I. is Irish, she is descended from the first hero of Holland, the anniversary of whose birth was celebrated last evening with pretty ceremony.

All of the decorations of the banquet hall were suggestive of the "veld en den staden van het vaderland." The walls of the room were covered with great panorama paintings of the leaning gables and narrow grachts of Delft, where William met his untimely end. On the tables were strewn tulips and the candle lights were shaded with tulip-shaped decorations, and long-stemmed pipes were beside the plates for the burghers to smoke when they had finished the dinner.

Queen Lavinia I. was dressed in a gorgeous green gown of the pattern of the court costume of the period of the Prince of Orange. The great green sleeves of the gown were slashed to show the colors of the principality of Orange, and in the corsage were festoons of gleaming diamonds.

Vice President Van Schaack, who presided in the absence of President Van Benthuyzen, paid a tribute to the guest of honor and called for George Birkhoff to make the speech of welcome to the queen, which he did in a brief address. Queen Lavinia I. responded. She spoke at some length and with more eloquence than might have been expected from a queen. She paid a tribute to the heroism of the Cuban patriots, who are struggling for liberty and freedom from the Spanish yoke, she said, as did her ancestors. Her speech was generously applauded.

Henry D. Lloyd was then introduced as the toastmaster. He reviewed the life of William, Prince of Orange, whom he characterized as the greatest hero of the Netherlands and the one who did most to free his native land of Spanish oppression. The other speeches were:

"A Heroic Period," responded to by General John C. Black; "Dutch Art," by Rev. John Henry Barrows; "The Golden Days of the Dutch Republic," Rev. Charles J. Little; "The Pilgrim Fathers of the West," Professor Henry E. Dosker, Holland, Mich.; "The Day We Celebrate," John Venema.—Chicago Chronicle, April 19.

The Methodist Episcopal Church maintains in the United States fifty-three colleges and universities, twenty-five theological schools, sixty-four classical seminaries and four Bible training schools, aggregating in value including buildings and endowments, \$29,193,314. The attendance upon these institutions aggregates nearly 40,000. Many of the theological schools are departments in universities.—Omaha Advocate.