

CONSECRATION AT ST. MARY'S.

Interesting and Impressive Service.—The first to be celebrated in this Diocese and the fifth in New England—immense throng—Brief History of Catholicism in Newport—Description of the Church Consecrated, Etc.

The consecration of St. Mary's (R. C.) church occurred yesterday morning, the beginning being announced by the sounding of the church bell at the early hour of half-past four o'clock. At half-past five the Right Rev. Bishop Hendricksen, assisted by Rev. Father Thomas P. Grace and Rev. Father Thomas F. Doran, began the impressive ceremony of blessing the exterior walls. A procession, comprising the Right Rev. Bishop and his assistants, followed by St. Mary's Society St. Matthew's T. A. B. Society, and the society of the Holy Name—the three male societies connected with the church—the whole preceded by acolytes bearing the Episcopal cross and crozier, marched three times around the church on the outside, making a half circuit each way, then counter-marching to make the other half. This beautiful scene, witnessed by large gatherings from adjoining streets, occupied about half an hour, at the end of which time the Bishop knocked at the door of the church for admittance. The door was opened by the Deacon, the only occupant of the church. The procession then proceeded to the altar and blessed the marble slab (erected during the past week), in the centre of which was a cavity containing holy relics. The next to be blessed were the marble tablets erected around the church, representing the Apostles. At the close of this imposing ceremony, the ladies of the Altar Society proceeded to decorate the main altar and the altars of the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph, with a profusion of beautiful flowers, preparatory to the Pontifical High Mass which was said at 8 o'clock by the Right Rev. Consecrator. The attendance at this service was one of the largest ever known, the church being filled to overflowing, and many being unable to gain admittance.

The last mass of the day was celebrated at 11 o'clock, Rev. Father Robert Sullivan, of Providence, celebrant; Rev. Father C. Hays, of Providence, Deacon; Rev. Father Thomas Briscoe, of Fall River, sub Deacon; Rev. Father James Finnigan, of Providence, Master of Ceremonies; Rev. Fathers Thomas P. Grace, William Kiernan, James Roach, and Chas. Dauray, Chanters of the Mass; and Rev. Father McKenna, O. P., of New York city, preacher. The music was a beautiful feature of this mass, the choir being accompanied by the U. S. S. New Hampshire orchestra. Among the dignitaries present were Most Rev. John Joseph Williams, Arch Bishop of Boston and Metropolitan of New England; Right Rev. T. F. Hendricksen, of Providence, Bishop of the diocese; Right Rev. Bishop Conroy; Rev. Father Clarke, of Staverville; Rev. Fathers Clarke, Fyoe, McCabe, Kiernan, Brady, Cassidy, Murphy, Kelley and O'Hare, of Fall River; Rev. Fathers McDunnough, Murphy, Harty, Clane, Conboy, Wallace, D. D., Walsh and Flynn of Providence; Rev. Father D. Murphy, Dover, N. H.; Rev. Father G. Healey, New York city; Rev. Father Hines, Greenwich, R. I.; Rev. Father McCullion, Warren, R. I.; Rev. Father Corrigan, Bristol, R. I.; Rev. Fathers G. Mahoney and Fitzgerald, Central Falls; Rev. Fathers Burrans and Robbe, Fairhaven, Mass.; Rev. Father O'Donnell, Attleboro, Mass.; Rev. Father Kinnersy, Pawtucket, R. I., and Rev. Father Boylan, Attleboro, Mass. Tickets being issued for this service, the attendance was limited to the number of seats in the church. The exercises will close this evening with vespers at half-past seven. The day was perfect and the interesting and impressive ceremonies were successfully conducted.

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though exceedingly diminitive, it was the first Roman Catholic Church blessed in Rhode Island. In October of the same year the Bishop visited Newport in person, and preached, said Mass, and administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to eleven persons in this church, and encouraged the purchase of additional land at a future day.

Father Woodley was succeeded in 1830 by Rev. John Corry who as soon as the flock had increased sufficiently to warrant the undertaking, purchased land on Mount Vernon street, and erected thereon a frame building of sufficient size to accommodate between seven and eight hundred worshippers. This little church, known as St. Joseph, was blessed August 20, 1837. The successors to Father Corry were, 1837 to 1838, Rev. C. Lee, and in 1839 to 1842, Rev. James O'Reilly. At this time the absence of employment for either mechanics or laborers so reduced the congregation that the receipts were insufficient for the support of the priest and contingent expenses, and Father O'Reilly was transferred to New Bedford.

THE FIRST DONATION.

At the arrival of Rt. Rev. Dr. Tyler at Providence, in 1844, the missionary was permitted to look after the spiritual needs of the faithful at Woonsocket, Pawtucket and Newport, until, other laborers being admitted into the diocese, Newport was selected as his residence. At this time the frame building on Mount Vernon street had become unsafe, or so considered, and Mrs. Catherine Harper, and her daughter, Miss Emily Harper, of Baltimore, Md., relatives of the first Bishop of America, and summer residents of Newport, being the owners of what is now the Bryce villa on Bellevue avenue, encouraged the erection of a more substantial edifice that would be a credit to their beloved religion. They donated four thousand dollars for the lot on which the present handsome church stands and which is bounded as follows: West, on Spring street 123½ feet; North on Levin street 158½ feet; East on other lands 132 feet, and South on William street 159½ feet. With this and other substantial aid from these ladies, together with their annual subscription, and the generous help of the congregation according to their means, the present church of "Our Lady of the Isle" was erected.

The following was engraved on the plate and written on the parchment deposited in the corner-stone: The plate read, "To the greater honor and glory of Almighty God, and under the patronage of the Ever Blessed Virgin, conceived without sin, this corner-stone of the church of the holy name of Mary, was laid June XIV., A. D. MDCCCLXIX."

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with two, and the grand chancel window into five compartments, are all filled, as are the circular and quarter-falls in the gables and east end of aisles, with stained glass of varied designs. The south porch, with its high-pitched roof, is an ornamental as well as useful appendage to the church, as it is here, agreeably with the rubric, that the religious ceremonies of Baptism, the office in Holy Week, etc., are commenced, and where the benediction, or holy water font, is usually placed in the first compartment from the west end. The plan is square, the interior is lighted by small windows, the walls are of stone, while the roof shows the framework and the timbers; and the high-pointed gable, on which is engraven, on a prominent star, "Sancta Maria, ora pro nobis," is surmounted by a floriated stone cross. The sacristy is built on the south side of the chancel, and is covered with a sloping roof, which falls just below the circular window at the east end of the aisle. It is lighted by small coupled lancet windows, widely displayed in the interior, and is connected by a side doorway through the wall of the chancel which opens to the rear of the altar. The church was dedicated in 1853, under the patronage of the Holy Name of Mary, our Lady of the Isle.

UNDER WHOM THE WORK WAS ACCOMPLISHED.

The plans for the new church were received and the work of building begun under the pastorate of the late Rev. James Flinton, but the work was necessarily slow and before its completion this accomplished gentleman and scholar was called to the charge of a parish in East Boston. This left the flock with an unfinished church and a heavy debt on their hands, without a Father to guide them, but it was not for long, as the late lamented Bishop O'Reilly soon appointed his brother, the late Very Rev. William O'Reilly, to carry out the work which his predecessor had so bravely begun. Father O'Reilly took possession of his new charge in August, 1855, and not only carried out the work of completing the church, but made many other improvements, conspicuous among which was the erection of the handsome school building described below, at a cost of about \$65,000. This latter undertaking, of course, greatly increased the church's indebtedness, to meet which must have taxed the reverend gentleman's financial ability to the utmost. He would undoubtedly have mastered it, however, had his life been spared, but God, in his infinite wisdom, evidently wishing other devotees of the faith to perform a part in the completion of this great work, called him away quite suddenly on the 23d of December, 1863, leaving a heavy debt and a bereaved parish for his successor. Rev. Father O'Connor was appointed to fill the vacancy thus unexpectedly made, until September, 1869, when, through the appointment of the late Bishop McFarland,

REV. PHILIP GRACE, P. D., the present incumbent, assumed charge of the temporal and spiritual affairs of the parish. To an ordinary man, the charge of a parish of this size, with a debt of nearly or quite \$60,000, would not have been a very pleasant task, but with Father Grace we believe it was a pleasure, not that he did not realize the responsibility of the undertaking and the hard work which lay before him—for he did—but, being a gentleman of indefatigable energy and unusual ability, he looked beyond all this and saw the grand results which to-day have been consummated. And then, too, raising money for church work was no new task to him. He had just come from a parish in New London, where, after paying for the land and much of the material, and laying the corner-stone, for a new church, he had left \$3000 in the treasury. A gentleman sincerely loved and respected, by Protestant as well as Catholic, Father Grace is one of the most prominent of Newport citizens to-day, and his advice and help are sought and received by people of all classes.

Thoroughly educated in Montreal, Father Grace was ordained in 1862, after which he

Previous to the erection of this building, the male children of the parish received their instructions in an old wooden building (since known as Wiggenshauser's Hall) on the north side of Levin street, presided over by the late William K. Delaney, while the female school was in the old convent.

The number of scholars in regular attendance at this school during the past year was between six and seven hundred. The only persons employed in teaching this large number of pupils are the sisters from the convent, and their anniversary exercises at the close of the spring term have long been a marked feature of Newport's educational interests.

THE PARISHIONERS.

The parish numbers between four and five thousand souls, with the exception of during the season, when this number is considerably increased by the presence of summer residents whose servants are largely of the Catholic faith. There are also quite a number of the summer residents themselves who attend this church. Among the most prominent of these are, Gov. Carroll and family of Maryland; Mrs. Havemeyer and family, Mrs. Gilbert, Mrs. Isaac Bell, Mrs. Oelrichs and Mrs. W. B. Travers and daughter of New York; Miss Lyman of Boston; Col. J. N. Bismarck and family, Mrs. Acosta and Mrs. O'Donnell, of Baltimore.

Father Grace at present has two assistants, Father Thos. P. Grace, his brother, and Father Thos. F. Doran. The officers of the church are, Messrs. Michael McCormick and Thomas Galvin, Trustees; and Andrew Quinn, Thomas E. Shea and Patrick Connelly, Collectors.

The parochial residence is an attractive two-story cottage, located on the William street side, toward the rear. At the time the property was purchased this building stood near the front of the lot and was the residence of the late Dr. David King.

THE CEMETERY.

The cemetery belonging to this parish is located on Spruce and Warner streets, just above the Island Cemetery, and comprises between three and four acres. The only grave within the enclosure reserved for the remains of deceased priests, is that of the late Very Rev. William O'Reilly, which is marked by a handsome monument. The entire grounds are well cared for, and costly stones and monuments designate the resting places of many who, in life, aided materially in bringing about to-day's results.

CITY BRIEF.

Notings of Newport and Newporters.

The Canonics is carrying large numbers of passengers to Block Island.

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Charles Longfellow, son of the poet, is here, in the guest of Commodore Bennett.

The last day for paying city taxes is August 30th. A word to the wise is sufficient.

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The Father Matthew T. A. B. Society propose making another excursion to Rocky Point on the 26th instant.

The event of the season at the Casino was a brilliant ball given by Prof. and Mrs. William Gamwell of Providence, Wednesday evening.



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#### CATHOLICISM IN NEWPORT.

In connection with this holy and exceedingly impressive service, a sketch of the church and its origin, together with a brief history of Roman Catholicism in this city may be interesting to many. Newport, as is well known to all familiar with the advent of the faith in America, figured conspicuously as one of the first American towns in which the Holy Sacrament was administered. In fact, it may have been the very first, as the Old Stone Mill, that "ancient *tholus* in Newport which," says the Royal Society of Antiquarians, "appears to be coeval with the time of Bishop Eric, belonged to a Scandinavian Church or monastery, where, in alternation with Latin masses, the old Danish tongue was heard seven hundred years ago." Coming down to a more recent date, the next intelligence we have of the presence of the Catholic clergy and of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass being offered at Newport, was during the war of American Independence, when France so generously came to our aid in battling for freedom. At that time the State House the same building which now bears that honored title, in this capital of Rhode Island, was used as a hospital and chapel combined. Here the surgeon and priest worked side by side, the one attending to the physical needs of the wounded and the other administering the consolations of religion. An altar was erected in the south room, where holy Sacrifice was offered by the chaplains who accompanied Count D'Estaing and his gallant band to the American shore in 1778.

A few Catholics must have resided at Newport after the departure of the French, as in the first Baptismal Register of the Cathedral of Holy Cross in Boston are found the names of three admitted to the Sacrament of Baptism at Newport, the first two by Rev. John Thayer, one in 1791 and one in 1798, and the third by Bishop Carroll in 1803.

#### THE BEGINNING.

In February, 1827, Rev. Patrick Byrne of Boston visited the Catholics employed at Fort Adams and those laboring in the coal mines in Portsmouth, the latter place about six miles distant from Newport, and administered Holy Communion to over 150 men. On receiving this encouraging report, Rt. Rev. Bishop Fenwick authorized Rev. Robert D. Woodley, whom he had appointed to the charge of Providence, Pawtucket and Tannan, to attend Newport. This he did and in April, 1828, purchased a small building which had been used as a school house, on Barney street. This was supplied with an altar and fitted up as a church, and, al-

subscription, and the generous help of the congregation according to their means, the present church of "Our Lady of the Isle" was erected.

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#### THE NEW EDIFICE.

The church, as it was consecrated to-day, is one of the handsomest edifices to be found on this continent. It is of the second period of Gothic architecture; has a clerestory, and comprises a well defined chancel, a nave and aisles, a tower, porch and sacristy. It is from out to out of walls, north and south, sixty feet; from east to west one hundred feet; with a chancel of twenty-four by thirty feet. The aisle walls are twenty-four feet, the clerestory walls forty-eight feet, and from the floor to the ridge-moulding seventy feet.—The chancel walls are thirty-three feet, and to the peak of roof forty-eight feet. To the cornice of tower, where the spire springs, is about sixty-five feet. It is built of sized brown-stone with window and door jambs, table mouldings, sills, corbel tables, gable offsets, etc., neatly cut.

The front, which is to the west, is supported by massive buttresses, placed diagonally at the corners of the edifice, with deep bases, drip-stones and offsets. The tower, which is at the northwest corner, is supported by still more massive buttresses, with bases of bold projection, and is lighted by six richly-wrought windows in the first and second stories, while the upper, which is really ornate in its character, is pierced on every side by belfry windows, whose openings are filled with louver boarding. High over the doorway is seen conspicuously the monogram of the Blessed Mother, under whose fostering care the first stone of the building was laid. At the angles of the tower, upon which rests the spire, stand the four Evangelists, beautifully carved, who, as when first commissioned, appear to be announcing the glad tidings of salvation to the four quarters of the world. The spire, "pointing in silence heavenward," surmounted with its spial and cross, presents a graceful and characteristic feature in the outline of the edifice. The nave and aisle walls are supported by buttresses divided into two or more stages, with offsets and finished with corbel table. The door of the west entrance, the tower and south porch doors, are set in deeply splayed jambs and graceful mouldings. The large west window, divided by mullions into three, the clerestory and aisle

was the erection of the handsome school building described below, at a cost of about \$65,000. This latter undertaking, of course, greatly increased the church's indebtedness, to meet which must have taxed the reverend gentleman's financial ability to the utmost. He would undoubtedly have mastered it, however, had his life been spared, but God, in his infinite wisdom, evidently wishing other devotees of the faith to perform a part in the completion of this great work, called him away quite suddenly on the 23d of December, 1868, leaving a heavy debt and a bereaved parish for his successor. Rev. Father O'Connor was appointed to fill the vacancy thus unexpectedly made, until September, 1869, when, through the appointment of the late Bishop McFarland,

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Thoroughly educated in Montreal, Father Grace was ordained in 1862, after which he served in Hartford, Providence, Cranston and New London, before coming to Newport. He was one of the first to receive the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Pope Leo, it being conferred upon him in 1878.

In Father Grace's anxiety to remove the great debt from the church, though it has been accomplished in the short time of fifteen years by subscriptions of from one dollar to one thousand dollars, none of the church property has been allowed to run down for the want of trifling outlays, but on the contrary many improvements have been made. About five years ago the church was thoroughly renovated from bottom to top, the floor of cement replaced by one of tile, and steam heat introduced into the church and all the buildings belonging to it, and a new convent erected at a cost of about \$10,000.

#### THE CONVENT.

At the time the site for the church was purchased, the estate opposite, fronting east on Spring street 64 feet, north on Fair street 106 feet and south on Gilday street 107 feet, was purchased for a convent and used for such until 1880, when the building, being old and inadequate, was moved to Lee avenue, where it is now owned by M. J. Dealey as a private residence. Immediately upon the removal of the old building, a new one was begun on the same site, which resulted in the spring of 1881 in the completion of the present structure, a large square frame building, three stories in height, and supplied with all the modern improvements and conveniences for the purposes for which it was intended. Sister M. Borromeo is the mother of the convent, and at present has eight sisters under her care. In connection with this convent is an academy where the higher branches are taught by the sisters to day scholars only.

#### THE SCHOOL BUILDING PROPER.

is a large, three-story granite block, situated on an additional purchase of land, at the immediate rear of the church, fronting on Layton street at the north and on William street at the south, with the main entrance on the former street. The building was erected in 1885 under Rev. Father William O'Reilly, and is undoubtedly one of the best school structures in New England. On the west side of the building, next the church, appears the following tablet:

"Erected by the Catholics of Newport, R. I., A. D. 1885, Very Rev. Wm. O'Reilly, V. G., Pastor."

remains of deceased priests, is that of the late Very Rev. William O'Reilly, which is marked by a handsome monument. The entire grounds are well cared for, and costly stones and monuments designate the resting places of many who, in life, aided materially in bringing about to-day's results.

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There have been polo contests at the Westchester Club grounds this week, Monday and Wednesday afternoons, and a third is arranged for to-night.

Nine innings of base ball, played at Wickford Saturday between the Newporters and the Locust Points, resulted in a score of 17 to 16 in favor of the former nine.

Hon. Carter H. Harrison, Mayor of Chicago and Democratic candidate for Governor of Illinois, and family, spent last Sunday at the Ocean House.

Mr. Dan Sully, the comedian, has been in town this week. He will present "The Corner Grocery" at Ford's Grand Opera House, Baltimore, next week.

Messrs. James Simmons and Henry W. Wilson, of this city, left town Tuesday night for an extended tour through the Western states.

A "cold wave" flag will be exhibited from post offices hereafter, the same as the present storm signal. It will be white with a black square in the centre.

Rev. James Freeman Clarke has been in town this week, the guest of W. G. Weld, of Boston. He preached at the Channing Memorial church last Sunday, as also did Julia Ward Howe.

The city election comes on the anniversary of the Battle of Lake Erie, the 10th of September, three weeks from next Wednesday. No excitement is as yet manifest in regard to the event.

Commodore Bennett of the New York Yacht fleet succeeded in holding the fleet together and keeping them in these waters longer than any other commodore ever did, and that too in spite of the worst weather on record.

All ladies in want of garments of any kind, dresses, jerseys, tall jackets, wraps, or in fact anything in the line of ladies wear, will do well to attend Mrs. Calvin's sale, opening at No. 4 Deynins's Block, Bellevue avenue. Read her advertisement in another column.

The Perry Mill Company propose to sell a large portion of their valuable property at auction, Wednesday next. Their advertisement in another column will tell what they have for sale. This is a rare chance for investment for those having capital.

For additional items see 4th page.