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FLAG EXERCISES

At St. Mary's School, a Feature of Decoration Day.

TWO NOTABLE ADDRESSES MADE

BY BISHOP DONAHUE AND MR. JOHN A. HOWARD, RESENTING THE IMPUTATION THAT CATHOLICS ARE NOT ALWAYS LOYAL. A CREDITABLE STREET PARADE PRECEDING THE CEREMONIES. FLAG PRESENTATION ADDRESS BY CHARLES H. RAY.

One of the features of Decoration Day in Wheeling was the flag presentation ceremonies at St. Mary's parochial school, in the Eighth ward, yesterday afternoon, and it was the success its promoters hoped for. The exercises were held from the vestibule entrance to the Church of the Immaculate Conception, and were witnessed by a large crowd, which stood in front, on Thirtieth street. The addresses were made by Bishop Donahue and ex-Prosecuting Attorney John A. Howard.

Preceding the flag presentation a creditable parade of several of the Catholic societies was made from the Cathedral high school, over the principal streets, to the Church of the Immaculate Conception. The parade moved off at 2 o'clock and the exercises began at 3 o'clock. The organizations participating in the parade were as follows:

- Meister's Band.
- Mullen Division, A. O. H.
- Parke Division, A. O. H.
- Benwood Division, A. O. H.
- Cariage containing speakers.
- Cathedral Cadets with drum corps.
- Polish Society.
- St. Alphonsus Society.

The Cathedral Cadets made a fine appearance, and excited favorable comment all along the line of march. The programme at the disbanding point, opened with the patriotic selection, "Rally Round the Flag," by Meister's band, after which Bishop Donahue made his address from the vestibule. Within it sat, besides the bishop, Fathers Mullen, Paquin, Harri, Altmeyer, Moye and McBride; ex-Sheriff W. C. Handlan, John A. Howard, Charles H. Ray, James Flanagan and Gus Hasenauer.

Bishop Donahue's address was chiefly a refutation of the imputation that Catholics were not loyal to their country, and in support of his argument to the contrary he spoke with vigor and eloquence. He branded the charge as utterly false, and quoted extensively to show that Catholics had always been ready to take up arms for the stars and stripes. He referred to the distinguished part Catholics bore in the Revolution, against British oppression, reciting the deeds of Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, and went into more details concerning their part on the Union side in the civil war. In the latter war he instanced the names of General Rosserans, General Meagher, with his Irish Brigade, General O. C. Ord, General James A. Mulligan and General Phil Sheridan.

Catholics, said the bishop, "we fought and bled for the flag, as history will show, and he asked those who say Catholics are not loyal to read the history of the United States. He brought cheers from his audience when he said that what Catholics did in the war of the Revolution and in the civil war, they were prepared now to do in this war with Spain. Speaking in a humorous vein, Bishop Donahue said that on the dead men's list would be found the names of Kelly and Burke and Shea. Gunner Pat Mallon fired the first gun from the gunboat Nashville, in this war with Spain, and it was a Reagan who was laid prostrate on the deck of the Marblehead the other day.

The Anglo-Saxon race had trouble with Spain before, and when the Invincible Armada threatened England, which then didn't boast of the navy she possesses to-day, the Protestant queen, Elizabeth, put in command of her repelling force the Catholic, Lord Howard, of Effingham. "And," wittily remarked the bishop, turning to one side and laying his hands on Mr. Howard's shoulders, "I know this Howard stands ready to shed his blood in full, free and unqualified allegiance, for there is nothing in his faith that prohibits him; and I have knowledge of the Catholic faith and do solemnly proclaim that no tenet, principle or maxim is there in it which prohibits a Catholic, be he Irish, German, Pole or Hun, from standing up—as he ought to do—for this flag we raise here to-day."

Continuing, the bishop said there were Catholic boys from the Eighth ward in the West Virginia regiment at Chickamauga, and he said the flag would be placed over the Eighth ward Catholic school with the knowledge that no doctrine would be taught against loyalty to the starry banner they loved. It would be raised without mental reservation, but with a high resolve to fight for the flag through thick and thin. Incidentally in his address Bishop Donahue paid his respects to the old Know-Nothing party, and its principles as advocated in the present day he remarking that many of those claiming the Catholic faith to be un-American were themselves not connected with any church, and never darkened the door of any church.

Mr. Howard, the next speaker, made an excellent address, and the latter part of it had a patriotic ring that caught the crowd. He began by saying that hereafter there need be no question where Catholics ought to stand in this war with Spain. All Catholics had occasion to resent the imputation that they were not always loyal to their flag, hence there was no room for doubt after Bishop Donahue's speech and in advance, the head of the church in West Virginia had said: "Take up arms for your country's flag." Mr. Howard said he saw no reason why his fellow countrymen of different faiths thought they had a right to monopolize the flag. "It is as much ours," he said, "as theirs, and theirs as well as ours."

For the first time in the history of our country, said Mr. Howard, we see the flag followed unanimously. When the flag was first designed there were Tories to hoot at it, but now a united country, with no north or south, but all in one, walk beneath the starry folds against a common foe. "The Spaniards call us

Yankee pigs," said he. "Well, we'll teach them that the Yankee pig will root out of Cuban soil every germ of Spanish cruelty and oppression, and leave the Cuban patriots under conditions we are proud to possess—a democratic republic, for that's what our flag means, civil and religious liberty. And not under the sun is another flag guaranteeing such broad measures of liberty as the American flag, and we're proud to raise it over this school house.

"It's the fairest and proudest flag of all. The fairest in design, pleasing alternations of red and white, and its stars on a field of blue, a miniature of the starry firmament, all a pleasing combination to the eye. It's the proudest because it guarantees the most liberty and freedom, and no record of a war is there in which the American flag came out defeated. It is unconquered, and I believe, unconquerable." (Cheers.)

Mr. Howard opposed any foreign alliances, though he said we should be thankful to England for its moral support in this war. Neither did he believe in taking the Philippines, for it might lead to entanglements. What was wanted was to give liberty to all the people of the western hemisphere, and give them political liberty, equal civil rights, and to every man the right to worship his God as his conscience dictated.

It should not be necessary, the speaker continued, for the head of their church to tell Catholics they should fight for the flag. Why should they not be loyal? They had even a greater right than their Protestant friends, and they will go just as near the cannon's mouth in defense of the country.

Mr. Howard could not recall a single utterance in his church training, in his catechism, or in his education at a church school, which contained disloyalty. He knew there wasn't in the ranks of the Cathedral Cadets a heart that wasn't in full sympathy with his declaration that Catholics were ready to face the cannon's mouth for their country. This being the case, why should he devote so much time to discussion of the subject?

Decoration Day, he said, was set apart for decorating the graves of heroes, no matter where their birthplace, no matter at what shrine they worshipped. Next year there will be new graves filled by those who fall from Spanish fire. This thought led the speaker to discuss the causes which led up to the war, and he grew very eloquent. The war was for the cause of humanity, and not, he believed, to "Remember the Maine." The Maine incident precipitated the inevitable. But when we say "Remember the Maine," we teach the world that when men are murdered under the American flag, Uncle Sam will punish. The remainder of Mr. Howard's speech was along this line, and he was warmly applauded when he closed.

The school children next sang a selection. Then in behalf of the donor, Mr. Lawrence Ray, the flag was presented by his nephew, Charles H. Ray, in a neat speech. Mr. Gus Hasenauer accepted the flag with a few remarks. The "Te Deum" by the children and band concluded the programme.

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