

THE ARCHBISHOP'S LETTER

DEFIANT TALK AT THE ANTI-POVERTY MEETING.

COOPER UNION CROWDED BY AN AUDIENCE WHICH APPLAUDED DR. MCGLYNN'S REJOINDER.

The latest pastoral letter of Archbishop Corrigan setting forth that it was a mortal sin for Catholics to attend the meeting of the Anti-Poverty Society and prohibiting the members of his flock from associating with Dr. McGlynn's adherents under penalty of "reserved case" action in the matter of absolution proved a magnificent advertisement for the Cooper Union meeting last evening. The result was that, notwithstanding the stormy weather, the attendance at the Anti-Poverty Society meeting was the largest in its history. People began clamoring for admission to the big hall at 7 o'clock. The seats were all occupied half an hour later, and at 7:45 the ticket office was closed, the aisles had become choked with men and women, and out in the corridors late comers were struggling for standing room. Finally the doors had to be closed as matter of safety, and hundreds of persons went away disappointed of the chance to hear an excommunicated priest discourse upon the pastoral letter forbidding so many of those present from attending.

An extraordinary feature of the vast audience was the fact that the great majority were Catholics, who listened to the excommunicated priest and laughed and applauded him by turn for almost three and a half hours. Conspicuous at the monster meeting were many persons who embrace other religious denominations. Not only was St. Stephen's parish represented, but at least half a dozen others of equal prominence in the Archbishop's diocese. Among those recognized in the crowd were Dr. Coughlin, Cornelius Donovan, Dr. A. S. Houghton, Dr. W. T. Gotthell, Frank Farrell, John R. Feeny, George Dunne, Sylvester Malone, Jr., John Scott, John J. Bealin, Robert McGuire, Felix McAuliffe, John McConnell, Col. John Farrell, P. H. Spellman, Michael Clarke, John McMackin, and the Rev. Charles T. McCarthy.

The American colors were plentifully displayed as an intimation that the spirit of independence pervaded the society. The Stars and Stripes were unfurled under the clock at the back of the platform, the reading desk was draped, and some of the fair members of the society in the front row of seats wore miniature flags as substitutes for corsage bouquets. At the front of the platform was a mammoth floral standard and banner, in which was woven "Soggarth Aroon." This was translated into English as "Dear Priest." A report went through the hall early that the mother of Charles Stewart Parnell was in the audience, but none of the officers of the society would confirm it and the face of the venerable lady could not be discovered.

The audience was remarkable for its social characteristics. There was a noisy hum of conversation which rose above the musical strains of McAuley's orchestra, stationed at one end of the platform.

The reception accorded to Dr. McGlynn when he came into view at the rear of the platform at 8:26 was as near an ovation as anything could be. The men and women rose en masse, applauded, cheered, and waved handkerchiefs. The tumult would die away and be renewed. This was repeated until the outburst of acclamation had lasted five minutes. Dr. McGlynn bowed again and again, and his face beamed with feelings of gratification and triumph. Somebody in the back part of the hall shouted: "We are with you to stay!" A lady went forward, and, beckoning to one of the officers on the platform, said: "There is a gentleman here from Westchester County who wishes to become a member." The reply was that he must have patience. In a little while blank applications were distributed, and before the meeting closed, which occurred after midnight, hundreds of them came back filled with the names of new members.

Secretary Clarke called the meeting to order when he got an opportunity and made a speech attuned to the occasion. His reference to the fact that there must be, in the opinion of the Archbishop, many "reserved cases" in the hall excited the audience to the wildest demonstrations. He said that the reception was the first note of the society's shout of defiance to Michael Augustin.

A voice retorted: "Excommunication has no terror for us." Another voice was heard to cry: "Hit him again; he is in the soup."

The Secretary met a tumultuous response when he declared: "We refuse to take our politics from the church; we are just as earnest in our mission to-day to emancipate the poor industrial classes as we were two years ago. Let us stand firm by the cross of the new crusade and that noble man," pointing to Dr. McGlynn.

Archbishop Corrigan's circular making attendance at the meetings of the Anti-Poverty Society a reserved case was read yesterday in the Roman Catholic churches, and on the surface caused little comment. In the churches at which it was supposed to have been particularly aimed—St. Leo's and the Church of the Epiphany—it was read at all the masses, and none of the worshippers appeared to be at all disturbed at it. Father Ducey of the former and Father Burtzell of the latter church, both refused to discuss the matter at all, and acted as if they thought obedience to the Archbishop's mandate and silence as to their own private feelings by far the wiser course.

At St. Stephen's Church there were many present when the circular was read, who were most deeply interested in its contents. They more fully than ever recognized the fact that any following of Dr. McGlynn and the Anti-Poverty Society was not to escape the notice of the heads of the church, and no doubt many made up their minds that, it having come to the exact point where they must decide between loyalty to their former Pastor and to their church, it would be best to be true to the latter. Others of Dr. McGlynn's supporters declared that they would stick to him no matter what might come from it.

After the usual collection Dr. McGlynn began his address and spoke until after midnight. His subject was nominally "The Church and State," but the burden of his remarks were in the form of comment and criticism on the letter of the Archbishop. He ridiculed the Archbishop and the ecclesiastical machine from the Pope to the Vicar-General and the "obsequious priests." He advised his Catholic sympathizers to pay no attention to the letter, because it was a gross misrepresentation of fact. He denied the specific allegation that he had reviled the Holy See, and said he regarded the letter of the Archbishop as a piece of impertinent interference. He denied that the Anti-Poverty Society had any quarrel with the Catholic Church or that he ever called the Pope "a rotten old bag of bones." The audience was en rapport with the speaker throughout.