

The Catholic Journal

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THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH

No, well-informed man will deny that the Catholic Church has been a potent factor in the history of America. The news of discovery had scarce been brought to Spain than priests were dispatched to the new-found land, and thus the See of Seville acquired the first episcopal jurisdiction in this country; closely following Cabot's expedition came ministers of the Catholic Church from the land of St. Anselm; Champlain and Cartier's explorations were shared by priests with faculties from the Bishop of St. Malo.

As Spain, France and England were interlinked in the early development of America, so the history of the Church on this continent is interwoven with that of the three countries named—a proof of her Universality, assimilating and holding in the ranks of her communicants citizens of these three dissimilar countries under widely different methods of procedure.

Under the Roman regime, man had no individuality and was but a drop in the ocean of being; man was no better than the beast of the field, and his life was of even less value. To the Romans succeeded the barbarians, the dominant principle of whose life was that every man is a sufficient law unto himself. Christianity is opposed to both and declares that man is more than a social being, that he is an individual, that his soul is more than the entire created universe, and shall endure when it has passed away.

Today we are in the throes of Individualism, and are fast moving toward Socialism or State Supremacy. This is attested by compulsory education laws in the western states, usurping to the State the God-given rights of the parent, by leaving it optional with school boards, who may or may not have any religious convictions, not only to dominate the state school and mould it as their own belief may dictate, but to compel all to send their children to such schools. Henry George and his other "sons" that are up, furnish proofs of this

tendency toward state supremacy to the abrogation of individuality. As we stated before, the Catholic Church is the only force that can stem the avalanche of Socialism. Her firm, unwavering stand in years past furnishes proof that she will be a potent element in the future and one that cannot be ignored.

Having stated all this, how should we, as Catholics, proceed to intrench ourselves in our positions? There seems to be two means most potent. The first is: Christian education; the second, union of our young people.

No one will deny the need of Christian education. On it hinges the future of the child, and on our children will fall the brunt of the battle when we have departed the way of all flesh. It then behooves us to see to it that our children receive a Christian education. Where can they receive it? Not in the state schools as at present conducted, for in them Christianity is ignored. No; we must educate them in Christian schools, and we must supplement the school by Christian education, both by precept and example, at home.

As to the union of young people: We think this also a matter of vital importance. The christianizing work is not ended in the schools; a boy or girl is in just as much danger after leaving school and more so. It is when they go into the world and earn their own living that they meet non-Catholic fellow-workmen who will sneer at their faith and endeavor to break it down. What a help, then, if there be a young men's society in the neighborhood to whose rooms they can go in the evening and in intercourse with other young men who are practical Catholics, find their own faith strengthened, and gain courage to withstand jibes, sneers and temptations. We hope the day will soon come when every parish throughout the land will have its Christian school and parish hall, where the young people can congregate and meet fellow-Catholics, and not be compelled to associate exclusively with non-Catholics, which intercourse often leads to mixed marriages, and mixed marriages are the great bane of our young people.

WORK OF MEN'S HANDS

The general assembly of the Presbyterian church at Saratoga has adjourned. The much-noted question of creed revision was referred back to the several presbyteries. All the discussion, however, tended to show that a large majority of the delegates desired the Westminster Confession changed in some manner, as it contains "thoroughly unworthy and impossible conceptions of God." This leads the Syracuse Journal to remark: "It is true, one of two conclusions—both more or less repugnant and not without difficulty—is inevitable. Either the usefulness of the Bible as the source of religious truth is much impaired by the necessity of interpreting it through finite, fallible agents, or there is something wrong in the commonly accepted ideas as to the origin of that book."

The Rochester Democrat adds: "Another point liable to arise in the minds of good and faithful Presbyterians is this: Has the Church, for the past 250 years, been mistaken concerning the purposes of God and His dealings with man, and have the members been professing to believe things which are not true? If so, what assurance is there that any new statement of doctrine will embody an accurate formulation of the Divine plan? Will such formulation have any deeper foundation than mere human opinion? What is the source and extent of the authority which a revised Confession will possess?"

The Journal's best premise is, without doubt, the right one, but it does not go far enough, for the usefulness of the Bible as the source of religious truth is wholly destroyed by the means indicated. Scarcely two men interpret a passage of Scripture alike and, indeed, in Protestant de-

nominal tenets, one man's opinion counts just as much as another's. Regarding the Democrat's point, it is an indisputable fact that Presbyterians have always professed to believe the Pope Anti-Christ, and Catholics, the members of the Church which preserved to the world the Bible, which transmitted through ages Christ's word and teachings, without whose existence neither Presbyterianism nor Protestantism itself would be in existence—heathens! As a matter of fact, precious few Presbyterians believe the two doctrines referred to—those who do are capable of believing the world flat—yet they subscribe to the Westminster Confession. There is no new statement of doctrine that will embody an accurate formulation of the Divine plan. That plan was delivered to the Apostles, the companions and successors of Christ, who spoke thus of the Church He founded: "Lo, I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world." This Church must be in existence now, else Christ lied. It does exist and it is not the Presbyterian Church as that institution can show a title to existence of only about 250 years. Nothing that body can formulate can possibly have any deeper foundation than mere human opinion. The source of a revised Presbyterian creed would be simply human, the fashioning of men's brains; its extent only what its framers chose to make it and the members of that denomination choose to accept; it would probably soon have to be revised again to the popular fashion, and be re-revised ad infinitum until the members of the Presbyterian Church either become disgusted and return to Catholicism or progress to absolute individualism.

DECORATION DAY

Yesterday was Decoration Day—the day on which all good, true and loyal citizens honor the memory of the brave heroes of the war of the Rebellion. This beautiful custom needs no words from our pen. The recollection of the noble work done by the boys in blue is so indelibly graven in the minds of American patriots to necessitate any reminder from us. The Journal, in common with all others who revere the memory of the soldiers who sleep beneath the sod, suspended operations yesterday. For this reason, some items of interest may have been omitted from this week's issue. In excuse for this, we must plead its cause and we are sure our readers will forgive us.

Last week's JOURNAL contained a notice of the death of Mrs. Annette Hendrick Hughes, of Auburn, in New York city. The following tribute is taken from the Auburn Bulletin:

"The deceased was of amiable disposition, strong character and lovable qualities, which endeared her to all with whom she came in contact. She was a woman of superior attainments and was particularly well versed in English and French literature, having made several valuable translations from the French. She was engaged on the translation of the records of the Jesuit missionaries among the Iroquois Indians when failing health compelled her to relinquish her work."

We regret to announce the death of Rt. Rev. James O'Connor, of the diocese of Omaha, Neb., which sad event occurred at his episcopal residence, Tuesday. The Bishop has been ill some time past and but recently returned from a southern trip in quest of recuperated health. It was not God's will, however, and the good Bishop passed quietly and peacefully to his last reward. R. T. P.

A valuable addition to our exchange list is the London Record, edited by Rev. E. R. Northcotes, author of "Mistakes of Modern Infidels," and Rev. William Flannery, of St. Thomas, Ont., a relative of Thomas Flannery of this city.

Bishop McQuaid will administer confirmation to a class of adults at St. Mary's church at 8:30 o'clock to-morrow morning.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION.

Powerful Sermon Reminding Parents of their Duty in this Regard.

Rev. P. B. Dunphy preached a powerful sermon on "Christian Education" at St. Mary's last Sunday morning. Following is a brief synopsis.

"Christian fathers and mothers are second to God Himself. In the matter of education of children they hold a power above that of the autocrat or emperor, as generations past can attest, and the parents' influence shall only fail with the cessation of time and the end of all creation. There is little or no respect for parental authority now; it is even termed an imperference; correction is cruelty, authority interference. This morning I will point out a few duties parents owe their children. As children have souls, they deserve and should receive from their parents such treatment as will conduce to the good of their bodies and of their souls. Thus there are two great and important duties due children by their parents. Of course the children must receive housing and clothing until they arrive at an age that they can provide for themselves. This is done even by the beasts of the field; and yet there are to be found some parents who not only do not properly provide for their children's bodies, but do much toward damning their souls. In many instances the cause is selfishness on the part of the parents. They, perhaps, drink away their children's wages, their hearts grown hard as adamant, they can see their children in rags without a quiver of remorse. This is bad enough, but what shall we say of those who destroy their infants even before they see the light of day? They are more unfeeling than the tiger in the jungle, more cruel than Herod. St. Augustine paints a terrible picture of they who destroy their offspring by anticipation. Fathers and mothers, you should have some care for your offspring before it is born. It is only by the mercy of God that some of us are here. You parents must care for your children's souls, for if you do not there is a strong probability that they will lose their immortal souls for all eternity. Parents are bound to provide for the proper education of their children, not only to fit them for heaven, but also to fill those positions which society may call upon them to assume in the world. Parents cannot be too strongly urged to do this. To what other than Christian education are we indebted for the bone and sinew, not only of our own country, but of all Christendom? To what else do we owe the strength of the social edifice than to Christian education, leading up to God? What has Christian education not accomplished for law and order in society? Christian instruction is the most powerful social lever in existence, elevating social customs to the refinement of the Christian standard. The balance of the sermon was devoted to impressing upon parents the necessity of instructing their children in divine things while young and of setting a good example before their little ones.

A Former Rochesterian Honored.

The Chicago Catholic Home of May 24 contained the following in its editorial column: "We are always pleased when we note our Catholic young men stepping to the front. For this reason we feel gratified at the honor being paid in scientific circles to Mr. John B. O'Hara, associate editor of the Western Electrician of this city. We congratulate Mr. O'Hara and wish him further triumphs in the noble profession in which he has already won a reputable name." In the local columns of the same paper we find the following: "John B. O'Hara was one of the speakers at the formal opening of the Wisconsin Electric Club rooms last week. The banquet was an elaborate one and the company included many prominent scientists. Introducing Mr. O'Hara, President Rogers said: 'We are honored this evening by the presence of a gentleman whom we all know by reputation, one who is engaged in spreading knowledge through the medium of the press. We are all familiar with his work, and we are now

proud to make his acquaintance personally. I take pleasure in introducing Mr. John B. O'Hara, of the staff of the Western Electrician.' Mr. O'Hara spoke on the 'Electrical Press.' Mr. O'Hara is an old Rochester boy and formerly a prominent member of the Rochester Newspaper Guild, of which organization he was treasurer at the time of his departure for the metropolis of the west. Mr. O'Hara was engaged in reporter work upon the Morning Herald and Post-Express, and made quite a name for himself before deserting the Flower City. The Journal wishes him still greater success in his chosen line of editorial work.

DIOCESAN NEWS.

Miss McGuinnis of Mumfords has been visiting friends in LeRoy.

Miss M. J. O'Brien of Clifton Springs, has bought a house and lot on Kendall street from Frank Van Dyne for \$1,200.

The funeral of Mrs. Anastasia Egan, wife of John Egan, was held at St. Rose's church, Lima, Wednesday morning. Mrs. Egan leaves besides her husband six children, Jas. of Rochester, John, Jr., Michael, Sarah and Ella Egan of Lima, and Mrs. Thomas Collins, of Nunda.

Auburn.

Last Tuesday afternoon our reporter visited the Holy Family school. He was shown through the building by Sister Evangelist. There are about 500 children in the school, and they are very bright and scholarly. After the bell rang and prayers had been said, they performed quite a number of difficult movements with the dumb bells, which showed careful training. After this they sang two songs, one of which was dedicated to our Holy Mother for the month of May. The school is taught by the Sisters of Mercy.

Sister Patricia has been elected third assistant mother of the Convent of Mercy in Rochester.

Martin A. Hanlon is our only agent in Auburn. He is authorized to solicit subscriptions and receive pay for the Catholic Journal, the only Catholic paper published in English in this diocese. Send in your subscriptions to him. Only \$1 per year.

Geneseo.

Ed. Delhanty and John O'Brien were home on Sunday last.

Misses Mary Biggins and Lizzie O'Grady spent Sunday in Avon with friends.

Anna, the two year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Toole, died quite suddenly Friday evening of last week. She was taken with convulsions and died about two hours afterwards. The funeral took place from St. Mary's church Sunday at 3 p.m., Rev. Father O'Neil officiating. The parents have the sympathy of the entire community in their sad bereavement.

John A., son of Michael Donovan, of this village, died in Buffalo on Wednesday of last week at the age of 33. The body was brought here and the funeral took place from St. Mary's church Saturday at 10 a.m. About a year ago deceased received injuries from being thrown from a horse and never recovered.

Miss Anna Costigan, who has been suffering from lung trouble, brought on by a gripe, for the past four months, died Tuesday at the age of 22. The funeral took place from St. Mary's church Thursday at 10 a.m., Rev. Father O'Neil officiating.

Scottsville.

Fathers A. M. O'Neil of Geneseo, James O'Connor of Rochester, Gregory J. Eister of Caledonia, Godfrey of Port, Hughes of Bloomfield, Casey of Palmyra, Hendricks of Avon, Day of Dansville, and Fitzsimons of Lima, assisted Father Lambert in the Forty Hours' Devotion this week.

Weekly Church Calendar.

Son. June 1—Trinity Sunday. Gospel: St. Matt. xxviii. 18-20. St. Justin. Mon. 2—St. Pothinus, Bp. and Martyr. Tues. 3—St. Clothilda, Queen. Wed. 4—St. Francis Caraccio, Conf. Thurs. 5—Corpus Christi. Fri. 6—St. Norbert, Archbp. and Conf. Sat. 7—St. Robert, Abbot.