

The Catholic Journal

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AN AGE OF CRANKS.

The age of chivalry is dead, we are told, though we know there are some chivalrous people to be found today.

We tremble to think of how the present age would be held up to ridicule were there a Cervantes to do the task for us without doubt passing through an age of eccentricity.

We are truly living in an age of cranks. They surround us everywhere. We have the individual crank and organized bodies of cranks.

The organized cranks combine to carry out some fanatical idea that has taken possession of them.

Of a more malignant nature are the cranks who have banded together for the purpose of saving the country from the imaginary evils of Romanism.

A further proof of the modern tendency toward crankism is being furnished the country at the present moment by the movement toward our National Capital of large bodies of men who, were they truly sane, would make that they can accomplish nothing by such a pilgrimage.

The wonderful spread of the Populist party in the West and South, and the peculiar schemes for running the Government, is another instance of movements of a cranky nature.

alone whenever started. We believe it may safely be said that these cranky ideas receive little support from Catholics.

Has religion, then, a bearing upon this dangerous modern tendency to eccentricity? It has, most assuredly. The same danger hovers over Europe, only in a worse form.

"Doubt as to the general sanity of modern Europe is put forward, not in any freak of caricature, but in sober, scientific earnest by the opening article in the Quarterly Review.

The earliest activities to waver in a diseased organism are the moral habits. Degeneracy shows itself in "moral insanity."

These furnish the elements, or the prime stuff, out of which anarchy is produced. They must needs be revolutionary, since, in the social order, they can neither find nor make a place for themselves.

"It is only physicians—and especially alienists—who remark the weakness of will and the chaos of thought, which in our society are masked by conventional manners or carried off as fashionable frivolity."

Proceeding to classify his anarchist authors, Max Nordau divides them into two principal groups—"the Mystics, among whom he reckons the Præraphaëlists, the Symbolists and the Occultists; and second, the Egotists, to whom belong the Permissives, the Satanic school, the Decadents and the Realists.

Since "what is lacking to the Anarchist in politics, in literature and in life is creative power," the reviewer asks, "What can be done to cure him?"

Societies might be established to put down the worst kinds of literature, which are now now broadcast over Europe.

a bad book the author is as much guilty, and ought to be as amenable to punishment, as if he had incited to crime or rebellion."

"Such is the plan of salvation which a Positivist man of science offers to a continent daily growing more insane. The reviewer adds his own convictions: "These forces are too mighty for science to handle them alone, or subdue them as a sovereign mistress."

"Man is so made that he must believe in the Invisible and adore the Supreme; if his God be taken from him, then to idols, witches, and the like he will have recourse, huddling up a deity out of rage and stage-properties, rather than be left alone in the universe."

Some animated discussion has recently taken place through the columns of the Auburn newspapers. It springs, of course, from the attacks of the Apostats and their sympathizers upon Catholics.

Archbishop Corrigan is again being made the subject of malicious newspaper gossip, the old story of his being in disfavor with the Holy See having been revived.

The New York Herald's story of Archbishop Corrigan's being in disfavor with the Apostolic Delegate and the Holy See, and the rest of the world outside of the sanctum of the New York Herald.

The efforts being made to close the "stall" saloons which still exist in our city deserve to be crowned with success. The extent of the harm done by these disreputable places is not fully realized by the general public.

Rev. Thos. A. Hendrick, in the April Oak Leaf, pays a merited tribute to Rev. James Dennis (Episcopalian) for the good work accomplished by the latter in behalf of the anti-neury bill.

Poor Old McGarran! After years of battling for his own, he died with the object which he sought unaccomplished. His is a pathetic story of wrong and injustice.

Our esteemed contemporary, the Herald, of this city, is receiving many compliments on its improved appearance and general excellence.

Sunset Cox, Bishop Coxe and General Coxe. The addition of a letter or two doesn't improve the man.

A compulsory education bill is now before the Legislature. Bills of this nature will usually bear watching, though this one does not seem to have very objectionable features.

Party and Weddings invitations a specialty at this office.

THE GOSPELS.

GOSPEL: St John xvi 23-26. At that time, Jesus said to His disciples: "Amen, amen, I say to you; if you ask the Father anything in My name, He will give it you."

"Christ promised that if anything was asked in His name it would be granted. It often happens that prayers are unanswered."

THE COUNTRY IS SAFE.

Rev. Fr. Netzel Explains the Position of the Catholic Church.

I was very glad the Rev. Patterson accepted my invitation extended to him to have an opportunity of making a statement in this Rev. gentleman's name.

It is assumed by those who wish grounds of accusation against the church, that inasmuch as Catholics recognize the authority of the pope of Rome, we cannot be good citizens of these United States.

In order to prove this I shall find a case for you to solve. When our blessed Lord taught in Judea, He was the supreme head of God's church.

We are most obedient papists—we believe the pope is Christ's vicar, supreme visible head of the church throughout the world, and lawful successor to St. Peter, prince of the apostles.

We will resist any encroachment of one upon the rights of the other. I can therefore be faithful to the pope and to the government under which I live.

Sibley, Lindsay & Curr

an easy statement to make, but facts bear it out.

Look at these pure silk and wool mixtures, not a thread of cotton in them, in tans, grays, greens, etc., at 50c a yard.

We doubt if they can be matched for a dollar.

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We have had the largest trade in paper covered books during the last week in the history of the store.

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This edition was also published by the U. S. Book Co., which recently failed.

There was never a season when a dollar went as far at our Dress Goods counter as this. That is

SIBLEY, LINDSAY & CURR.

Has the Era of Hard Times

Passed?

Indications are that restoration of better times are dawning upon us. Will the stringency of the past year prove a future blessing? At any rate it has freed us from hundreds of imposters in business, and the public were their prey.

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