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LARRY GODKIN'S SNEERS

Benziger Brothers, of New York, is one of the best known publishing houses in the United States. Not long ago, with a view to letting the non-Catholics know that there are Catholic novelists, the Benziger's compiled "A Round Table of the Representative American Catholic Novelists," and sent it to the leading secular dailies, together with an article by Chas. O'Malley on "The New School of Catholic Fiction," reprinted from the November "Catholic Book News." In addition it sent new novels by Christian Reid, Walter Lecky and Anthony Yorke.

With the exception of the New York "Sun," which devoted but a few lines to one of the new novels, and the "Evening Post," not a New York daily noticed either novels, or "Round Table." With the customary big story of "Larry" Godkin, the "Post" published a sneering attack on all Catholic novelists, from which we reprint the following extracts:

"The schools of fiction multiply and vary so rapidly that it is hard for an ordinary memory to retain even their names. For such an attempt we are indebted to a recent publication, 'A Round Table of the Representative American Catholic Novelists' (Benziger Brothers), together with which we received an article by Mr. Charles J. O'Malley, on 'The New School of Catholic Fiction,' reprinted from the November Catholic Book News:

It seems that the American School of Catholic Fiction was "in its infancy" ten years ago. "Its first movements," says Mr. O'Malley, "were watched with some suspicion." This would be justified, we think, in the case of any new school of fiction. And the worst fears seemed to be realized when it was found that what the new movement appeared to be developing into was a Controversial School.

"Gradually the Controversial School gave way to the Catholic Realists. Mr. O'Malley does not seem to us very clear about the exact order of evolution. He affirms that Cardinal Newman's 'Apologia' discouraged the writers of 'stories of conversion,' but the 'Apologia' was published in 1864, and the Controversial School was nevertheless flourishing twenty years later. Anyhow, it was not of us, and within the last few years a new school of Catholic fiction has arisen. It is essentially Catholic in tone, but it attempts greater approach to art and strives to be more natural. It still aims to convert, but goes about the work more craftily. The reader may get as far as chap. iv. before discovering that what he has in hand is a tract, not a novel. Yet Mr. O'Malley is confident that the new school will, in time, overcome its present limitations, and be in the future 'a giant force.' This seems to imply, though we may be mistaken about this, that Catholic fiction is to be a great force by ceasing to be Catholic, or by developing into that peculiar thing which Hardy called 'Catholicism without Christianity.'

"We are not surprised at anything when we see that 'Larry' writes or says, because he is so contrary, that he hates himself at times. But the extracts quoted furnish reasons why Catholic writers prefer to write for non-Catholic publishers. Their works are more appreciated than if they bore the imprint of a Catholic publishing house. If a Catholic will buy the books

issued by Catholic publishers, the latter will be able to issue what we daily need for the reading of our young people—many more works of fiction by Catholic Authors. We are glad to see that Benziger Brothers have taken a step in this direction. Books of devotion are all right in their place, but our young people who like to read are not satisfied with works of theology.

MISGUIDED PARSON

Rev. Robert S. MacArthur of New York is a misguided parson. A few Sundays ago he preached on "Revivalism and Romanism." In the course of his harangue he made a number of remarks that he would not if he had been better informed. As a matter of fact, he would not have preached the sermon at all had he been mentally balanced. Among other things he said:

"In the Roman Catholic church there have always been preaching Friars, many of whom are really revivalists. The missions, as they are called in the Roman church, are nothing more than what used to be called 'protracted meetings,' and which are now especially known as revivals. The same term is employed for revivals in the Protestant Episcopal church. The Roman Catholic church has lately adopted many of the religious methods of work which used to be especially Protestant. The church feels the need of aggressive measures in order to hold her own. She loses heavily among the children born in America, and if the stream of immigration were checked she probably could not hold her own. The Jesuits have been expelled from Ecuador, which is a Catholic country."

Mr. MacArthur is either ignorant or bigoted. Non-Catholics borrowed their "revival" from the Catholic "missions." We never copied from the non-Catholics. We have no need for "aggressive measures in order to hold our own." We only adopt "aggressive measures" against the common enemy—Satan. Is it a crime for Catholic priests to preach the Gospel? It is a peculiar and significant fact that Catholic priests lead the way in preaching the gospel to the heathen—non-Catholics follow after the way is blazoned.

Continuing, Mr. MacArthur said: "The recent presidential election in the United States was virtually a defeat for the Roman church. With one single exception all the Roman church papers favored the defeated candidate."

The Catholic church has not been in politics and was not in the last national campaign. It, therefore, sustained no defeat. As for Catholic papers, they do not represent the church. They sometimes represent the personal views of the Catholics in the locality in which they are published, that is all. Dr. MacArthur must be sadly ignorant of the wide scope of the Catholic press, if he maintains that with one exception it favored Bryan. We can name many more than that who either supported McKinley or took no side at all.

Here is some more of MacArthur's outburst:

"The Church has also been defeated in the school question in Manitoba, and recently in the West Troy school case, in our own state. Superintendent Skinner decided that the leasing of a parochial school building for public school purposes is illegal. He has also decided that Sisters of a religious order employed as school teachers shall not wear their peculiar garb in school."

The Church was not defeated in the Manitoba school case. It is true that some of the rights secured to Catholics by the confederation act of 1867 were summarily thrust aside by the argument that "might makes right," but that the Church has suffered defeat is mis-stating the facts. So far from suffering defeat in the West Troy case, the church really gained a victory, because Superintendent Skinner was forced to go on record in a matter that he fain would have avoided. It is the opinion of competent lawyers, however, that Skinner's decision in reference to the teachers' garb would not be sustained by the courts if tested there. A similar decision in Pennsylvania was reversed by the courts of the Keystone state.

If MacArthur is behind Senator Lodge's bill it should fail of passage by congress.

A "Black" republican will sit in the executive chair in Albany after January 1st.

THE OLD YEAR

The year of 1896 will have passed into eternity ere the next issue of the JOURNAL reaches its readers. It has been a year fraught with many important events. There has been the Cuban war that is fast approaching a crisis. The Venezuelan question bids fair to be peaceably settled by arbitration, and its settlement may lead to the adoption of a general arbitration treaty between the United States and Great Britain. The Italians have been signally defeated in Abyssinia. Cecil Rhodes has been forced from his position as dictator of South Africa and the Boers frustrated his scheme to annex the Transvaal to the South African British colonies. The European powers have been forced to take cognizance of the crimes of the Turk and to notify him that he must cease his atrocities. The Rosebery ministry has been swept from power in England and a Tory regime inaugurated. In Canada the Tories have been driven from power and the Liberals installed. Here in the United States we have passed through a most exciting national election in which momentous financial and political revolutions were threatened. In a few months a new political party will hold the reins of government at Washington.

In ecclesiastical circles 1896 has made changes. Archbishop Satolli has been elevated to the cardinalate and recalled to Rome. Archbishop Sebastian Martinelli has been named as apostolic delegate to succeed him. Bishop Keane has resigned as rector of the Catholic University at Washington and Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Conroy of Worcester, Mass., has succeeded him. The bishops of Buffalo, Sioux City and St. Cloud have passed away. Bishop Curtis has resigned the see of Wilmington, Del. There have been other important changes.

THE JOURNAL hopes 1896 has brought to all its readers Heaven's choicest blessings and that 1897 will be freighted with more joys than sorrows. In conclusion we wish all our friends a Happy New Year.

The Boston "Republic" says: "One of the most gratifying defeats of Apollon to take place in the recent municipal elections held in this state was the frustration of the contemptible efforts put forth by a ministerial intrigant out at Pittsfield to encompass the rejection of Rev. C. A. Boylan, the worthy rector of the leading Catholic church in that city, who was a candidate for the school board. Father Boylan was triumphant by a big majority, and a Springfield daily says that if the A. P. A. preacher had only begun his attacks upon the priest earlier his majority would have been even larger than it was. This year has been a very bad one for the professional patriots and illiterate defenders of the 'little red school house.'"

There are some funny preachers among our non-Catholic friends. The latest of these pulpit freaks is a Methodist preacher in Kansas who, in lieu of Sunday evening sermons, is reading to his congregation a continued story by himself. If this were not so sacrilegious it would be laughable.

The proposed immigration bill is really unnecessary but it should be made consistent. No exception should be made. Not even the Cubans. When English-speaking persons cannot enter the United States unless able to read or write, then the denizens of other countries should not be allowed to enter either. It might also be remarked that if Congress can prescribe an educational test for immigrants it can also prescribe a religious test.

The United States District Court of Appeals at Washington has decided that a telegraph company is liable for the mistakes of its employees. This is common sense, and we should say it was good law. We have never thought the rule imposed by telegraph companies that it will not be liable for errors in transmission of messages unless the message is repeated, the sender to pay for the repeating, should not hold good if tested in the courts.

It will be Speaker James M. E. O'Grady pretty soon.

THE GOSPELS

CHRISTMAS DAY.

GOSPEL: St. Luke, ii. 1-14. — "And it came to pass that in those days there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that the whole world should be enrolled. This enrolling was first made by Cyrenus, the governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, everyone into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee out of the city of Nazareth into Judaea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his espoused wife, who was with child. And it came to pass that when they were there her days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her first-born Son, and wrapped Him up in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds watching, and keeping the night-watches over their flock. And behold an angel of the Lord stood by them, and the brightness of God shone round about them, and they feared with a great fear. And the angel said to them: Fear not; for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, that shall be to all the people. For this day is born to you a Saviour, Who is Christ the Lord, in the city of David. And this shall be a sign unto you: You shall find the Infant wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly army, praising God, and saying: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will."

What lesson should we learn from Jesus in the manger?

A thousand things, but principally contempt for riches and the pomps and honors of the world. Jesus, the Master of the Universe, born poor and in a stable. Jesus, the most innocent of beings to suffer a His very birth. Jesus, the Adored of Angels, humbling Himself in a manger at the feet of the living. With such an example before us, who would prefer the riches, the pleasures, and the pomps of this world to the eternal joys promised by the Son of God?

Weekly Church Calendar: Sunday, Dec. 27—St. John Apostle and Evangelist. Less. Ezech. xl. 1-6. Gospel: John xxi. 19-24. Monday, 28—The Holy Innocents. Tuesday, 29—St. Thomas of Canterbury, Bishop and Martyr. Wednesday, 30—Of the Octave. Thursday, 31—St. Sylvester, Pope and Confessor. Friday, January 1—Commemoration of Our Lord, Holyday of Obligation. Epistle: Luth. ii. 1-15. Gospel: Luke ii. 21. Saturday, 2—Gause of St. Stephen.

Indigestion and Rheumatism

BROOKLYN, N. Y., Dec. 7, 1896. "I have been troubled with indigestion for some time. A friend advised me to try Hood's Sarsaparilla, and it relieved me. My wife has been cured of rheumatism by Hood's Sarsaparilla, and we both take pleasure in recommending it."—Henry May-trott, 87 Harmon street.

Hood's Pills cure all liver ills.

Men's Dress Suit Cases: Our \$5 case makes an ideal gift for a young gentleman. Likly's, 155 East Main and 96 State.

New City Map Free for Christmas: At Millspaugh & Green's coal office, 136 Powers block. C. S. Kellogg, manager.

Furniture Movers: Furniture moved, packed and stored by Sam Gottry Carriage Co. Orders taken at Erie office, 12 Exchange street, or house, 8 Thompson street. Telephone 1058 or 643.

New City Map Free for Christmas: At Millspaugh & Green's coal office, 136 Powers block. C. S. Kellogg, manager.

That Wonderful Fifty-cent Table: At Likly's contains gifts that you would never imagine so small a sum as half a dollar could buy. The table at No. 155 East Main street is a twin—the other is at the old State street store.

Wanted at Once: Homes for children in Catholic families; board \$1.60 per week. Enquire "Children's Aid Society," 90 Sophia street, Rochester.

Christmas Cakes: If you want a nice delicious cake to put on the table Christmas day, go to the Culross Bakery, No. 30 State street. They keep all kinds of cakes, pies, etc., and can supply you at a reasonable price.

Ringings noises in the ears, snapping, buzzing, roaring, caused by catarrh, all disappearing with the use of Hood's Sarsaparilla.

New City Map Free for Christmas: At Millspaugh & Green's coal office, 136 Powers block. C. S. Kellogg, manager.

First Mass in America.

The Holy sacrifice of the Mass was offered for the first time on the shores of America by Father Juan Perez, who accompanied Columbus on his second voyage to the New World. Selecting an elevated spot an altar was erected beneath a rude canopy, and there amidst the beauties of nature was laid the foundation of Catholicity in the Western World. Around this solitary altar and at its first Sacrifice, Columbus and his mariners knelt in humble adoration and poured forth fervent prayers. At a distance, grouped upon the ground, the rude natives gazed upon the scene in mute astonishment. At the conclusion of the Holy Sacrifice the minister of God turned to impart a solemn benediction to the venerable Columbus and his companions who knelt before him. Columbus had the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass offered up in all the prominent places he discovered. At Havana one of the original chapels still exists on the spot where the astonished natives witnessed the group and imposing ceremony. At Isabella, in Hayti, the ruins of the first church still remain.

Last Sunday witnessed the completion of a week's mission for our St. Augustine's Church, the Hundred and Sixty-ninth street and Franklin avenue, New York. Mr. Martinelli celebrated High Mass and preached the sermon.

Riparis Tabules cure headache. Riparis Tabules cure constipation.

A calculation made by the Prince-Bishop of Seckau shows that Leo XIII has already completed the greater part of his third average period of pontificate; for that average is only of seven years, and next February will bring the nineteenth anniversary of His Holiness' election. From the death of our Lord to that of Pius IX. 1845 years elapsed, which period was covered by the reign of 262 Popes and a number of more or less brief interregnums, sede vacante. Including these latter, the average length of the pontificates is found 7 years 12 days; but subtracting them from the actual reigns, the average falls a little under 7 years. Again, dividing the Church's history into three periods, the results are: Ancient times, St. Peter to Leo III, 98 Popes in 762 years; Middle Ages, Leo III to Julius II, 117 Popes in 718 years; modern times, Leo X. to Leo XIII, 50 Popes in 340 years. Thus in the first period the average pontificate was 7.9 years; in the Middle Ages, 6.1 years; and in modern times, 7.6 years. It is surprising to find the longest pontificates exactly in the earlier ages of the Church, A. D. 33 to 795, but Dr. Zwenger explains that it is due to the very short interregnums.

From Paris comes word that a lady who had hitherto belonged to the Ritualistic section of the Anglican Church was recently received into the Catholic Church at St. Joseph's, No. 50, Avenue Hoche, by one of the Passionist Fathers.

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