

The Catholic Journal

The Only Catholic Newspaper Published in the Diocese.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY AT
324 1/2 East Main Street, Rochester, N. Y.
BY THE
CATHOLIC JOURNAL PUBLISHING COMPANY

If paper is not received Saturday notify the office report without delay any change of address giving both old and new.
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Discontinuance.—The JOURNAL will be sent to every subscriber until ordered stopped and all arrears are paid up. The only legal method of stopping a paper is by paying up all dues.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
For Year, in Advance.....\$1.00
Entered as second class mail matter.
SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1897
TELEPHONE 1366.

City News Agents.

The CATHOLIC JOURNAL is sold by the following newsdealers, and can be obtained of them Saturday mornings:
L. Merk, 955 East Main Street.
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Yarman & Heisler, 170 E. Main St.
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BADLY NEEDED

There is one officer that this country needs badly, and that is some one to revise the books printed and published that pretend to be authorities on historical and other subjects. In saying this we do not mean to assume a position in favor of any restraint of the liberty of the press or the liberty of man to write and publish his thoughts. But we feel constrained to suggest some sort of remedy for the frequent impositions that are perpetrated upon the American public by ignorant or malicious scribblers.

A case in point is a recent volume by "Rev." Charles Little (of what denomination it is not stated), entitled "Historical Lights," and given by a certain firm as a premium in connection with their "Literary Digest." The title is high-sounding but grossly misleading, as the book contains so many inaccurate statements as to render it valueless for reference purposes, and that is all any such works are good for. The author's authorities are fifth and sixth rate historians, such as J. S. C. Abbott, Joel T. Headley, John C. Ridpath, Alexander F. Tyler and a host of others of even lesser note. It is not necessary to say more to prove what we have said about the valuelessness of the work.

The references to the Catholic church are absurd and do not redound to the author's credit for accuracy, or else they stamp him as a bigot. We do not think that the latter is true, because there are some very complimentary allusions to the church and her work.

On page 2 he gives this extract from Tyler's "Universal" history, repeating a threadbare slander about absolutism in advance: "We understand from Burcard that it was at this time (that of the elevation of Pope Julius II.,) an established custom for every pope, immediately after his election, and as the first act of his apostolic function to give a full absolution to all the cardinals of the crimes they might thereafter commit of whatever nature and degree." On pages 355-6 he gives no less than sixteen references to the Jesuits, the majority of which are unfavorable, accusing them of assassinating Henry IV. of France and William of Orange, and giving credence to other slanders circulated against them, especially those in vogue at the time of their suppression by Pope Clement XIV. "Popery" figures most offensively, and the papacy is referred to only to slander it.

Would not the reading public be benefited and protected if some government officer—say an attache of the congressional librarian's office, were detailed to examine such works as we have quoted and give them some sort of a certificate of accuracy?

On the battleship Texas nine of the sixteen officers of the line, including Lieutenant Commander Kelly, and nearly half the crew, are Catholics. In the event of a riot in the Texas it gives a good account of herself.

DUTIES OF WEALTH

THE JOURNAL is not to be classed with the papers that are raising a senseless clamor against the possessors of wealth, but there is such a world of truth in the following editorial from the San Francisco "Monitor" that we cannot forbear quoting it in full.

"The history of the world and the history of our own city show that Christ's words are true. Wealth is a responsibility few can carry; it is a temptation few can withstand. Its rights stand in the way of its duties, and its duties undone merit damnation. Perhaps in no country in the world does wealth perform as few of its public duties as in America. Our educational institutions, our municipal improvements, our charitable works, are all carried on by the pennies of the poor. There are some, it is true, who realize the duties of wealth as well as its rights, but they are so few as only to prove the rule laid down by Christ.

"In olden times the improvement of the city was looked upon as the special privilege of rich men. In Greece and Rome wealthy citizens were honored by having this charge laid upon them. Now, what does San Francisco, what does any big city in this country owe to the millionaires? A dilapidated fountain, a rookery with a lot of rocks in it, a place for buying a cheap wash and a few other odds and ends we have because the people have taxed themselves to procure it. If any of our millionaires offered to do for San Francisco what men not half so wealthy did in the Middle Ages for Florence and Milan, or in pagan times for Athens or Rome, we believe his relatives would take out at once a commission de lunatico inquirendo. And because of this neglect of its duties by wealth do we hear mutterings and grumbings and all-permeating discontent. It is a rule that if men do not do their duty nature or humanity steps in sooner or later, forceful, vengeful, and does it for them."

PRACTICAL CATHOLICS

The "Catholic Calendar" of Galveston, Texas, administers a merited rebuke to the "Catholics for revenue" as follows.

"There are more inquiring minds in our day than in any other, but unfortunately a great many of these truth-seekers are turned from their quest by the lives of Catholics so utterly at variance with their professed belief. What we need in our age is practical Catholics. A practical Catholic is not one who is continually shouting the fact, who is ever ready to enter his physical force in trouncing the man who is not, but the quiet, easy-going, well-informed man, who is faithful to his religious duties, whose character is permeated with truth, justice and mercy, who so lives that everybody knows he is a Catholic. It is hard to believe that the religion a man professes is any better than the life he leads."

We all number among our acquaintances persons who are very pugnacious when non-Catholics make some smearing allusion to Catholics, and who go about with the historic "chip on their shoulder," so to speak. They are constantly inviting a controversy on theological questions which they are oftentimes illy-informed upon. Worst of all, their own lives are not such as to infuse a feeling of admiration or respect for the religion he affects to profess.

TRUTH WILL CONQUER

The motto of the "American Catholic Quarterly Review" is taken from St. Augustine, and is so good that it is worth while to copy it and translate it here:

"Bonum est homini ut eum veritas vincat volentem, quia malum est homini ut eum veritas vincat involentem. Nam ipsa vincat necesse est, sive negantem sive confidentem."

[It is a good thing for a man that truth should conquer him with his consent, since it is a bad thing for a man that truth should conquer him without his consent. For that truth conquer is necessary, whether he will or no.]

The New York "Sun" the other day used in its headlines the offensive word "Romanism" over a dispatch from the Eternal City. It is not often that the "Sun" offends in this manner.

In every mid-March are celebrated the feasts of two of the greatest of all saints, Joseph, foster father of Jesus and patron of the Universal Church; Patrick, apostle of the Isle of Saints. Young Crusaders should be especially devoted to their chosen saint during the month of March. St. Joseph was a model of sanctity and prudence. His holy silence shielded the Blessed Mother; his loving care guided the steps of the Divine Child. He was the earthly representative of the Holy Ghost. As a Catholic writer says: "If St. Joseph suffered, it was to save the life of Jesus; if he labored it was to sustain the life of Jesus; if he spoke, it was to Jesus. It was Joseph's privilege to be always with God, to converse, to labor, to repose in the presence of God." Many have become saints merely by meditating upon the virtues of the saintly Joseph. St. Teresa is especially known as "St. Joseph's saint."

The "Yellow Journalism," as the "Post Express" of this city fitly characterizes the style of newspaper work represented by the New York "World" and "Journal," is receiving a good many hard knocks these days. Both papers have been excluded from not a few of the public libraries, and many respectable clubs have also driven them out. That is the only way to teach the proprietors of these papers that the American public is not wholly given over to the love of the indecent and obscene; that prying into the affairs of private life when such work is not in the interest of the public good but solely to sell the paper in question, will not be tolerated longer, and that there is such a thing as "license, not liberty of the press."

The "Northwest Review" tells this anecdote: "A woman who had left the Catholic church through weakness and professed to be a Protestant, was about to undergo a dangerous operation. During the wanderings produced by chloroform she suddenly grasped the hand of the Protestant surgeon who was administering it, and cried, with accents of heartrending appeal: 'For God's sake, don't let me die a Protestant!' The Protestant doctor got a sensation. She is not the first, nor will she be the last renegade to shriek for the priest when about to confront the God of truth!"

Says the "Catholic Standard and Times": "What is left of the A. P. A. is becoming considerable, not to say tame. When it found that it was powerless to prevent the confirmation of Judge McKenna as Attorney General of the United States, it gave out that it would not oppose Catholics simply because they are Catholics. It evidently has a little more more wisdom left than had the cow that tried to stop a locomotive."

An exchange says: "A 'Constant Reader,' giving the initials 'M. A. B.' has asked us 'whether a man, having been married, shortly after he has buried his wife, can become a priest.' He can, provided his qualifications are otherwise satisfactory. There are many such cases on record, from St. Peter down to our own day, and some of them even in this country, Catholics 'to the manner born,' like a Jesuit Father deceased some time ago, as well as the elder Father Barber, who, like his son also, was a convert and a Jesuit. We know of a case, indeed, in which the father of a Protestant minister is a priest."

In the latest issue of the "St. Vincent de Paul Quarterly" a valuable suggestion is made which should be heeded not only by the members of the conferences, but by every Catholic as well. It is that when one finds a person dangerously injured he should at once ascertain whether that person is a Catholic, and at once provide spiritual ministrations. This is an excellent idea, and ought to be heeded and acted upon by all. So that no one, if possible, should be left unprepared for death.

The Dansville Express says: "The enterprising Catholic Journal of Rochester publishes weekly six columns of news from old Ireland."

Queen Victoria's wealth is estimated at something like \$10,000,000, although there are persons who place her fortune at a considerably higher figure. If that be the correct figure, however, as the queen's children, grand children and great grand children number 64 at the present writing, she will have no difficulty in disposing of her wealth without making any of her relatives inordinately rich.

If the legislature really expects to adjourn by the 15th of April it should begin to do business pretty soon.

THE GOSPELS

GOSPEL: St. Luke, xi. 14-28.
At that time: "Jesus was casting out a devil, and the same was dumb. And when He had cast out the devil the dumb spoke; and the multitudes were in admiration at it. But some of them said: He casteth out devils by Beelzebub, the prince of devils. And others tempting asked of Him a sign from heaven. But He seeing their thoughts said to them:—Every kingdom divided against itself shall be brought to desolation, and house upon a house shall fall. And if Satan also be divided against himself, how shall his kingdom stand? because you say that through Beelzebub I cast out devils. Now if I cast out devils by Beelzebub, by whom do your children cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges. But if I by the finger of God cast out devils, doubtless the kingdom of God is come upon you. When a strong man armed keepeth his court, those things are in peace which he possesseth. But if a stronger than he come upon him and overcome him, he will take away all his armor wherein he trusted, and will distribute his spoils. He that is not with Me is against Me, and he that gathered not with Me scattereth. When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man he walketh through places without water, seeking rest; and not finding, he saith: I will return into my house whence I came out. And when he is come he findeth it swept and garnished. Then he goeth and taketh with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and entering in they dwell there. And the last state of that man becometh worse than the first. And it came to pass as He spoke these things, a certain woman from the crowd lifting up her voice said to Him: Blessed is the womb that bore Thee and the paps that gave Thee suck. But He said: Yea, rather blessed are they who hear the word of God and keep it."

What is to be said of this dumb man possessed by the devil?
From the context of the other Gospels we learn that this unfortunate man was not only dumb but also blind, and that his condition was not the result of sickness, but the work of the devil, by whom he was possessed. St. Jerome, speaking of this man's recovery, says that three miracles were worked in him. The blind was made to see, the dumb to speak, and the possessed delivered from the power of the devil.

Weekly Church Calendar.
Sunday, March 21—Third Sunday in Lent. Epist. Ephes. v. 1-9. Gosp. Luke xi. 14-28.
Monday, 22—Most Holy Lance and Nails. (March 19)
Tuesday, 23—St. Benedict, Abbott (March 21)
Wednesday, 24—Feria.
Thursday, 25—Annunciation of the B. V. M.
Friday, 26—The Five Wounds of Our Lord.
Saturday, 27—St. John Damascene, Confessor and Doctor of the Church.

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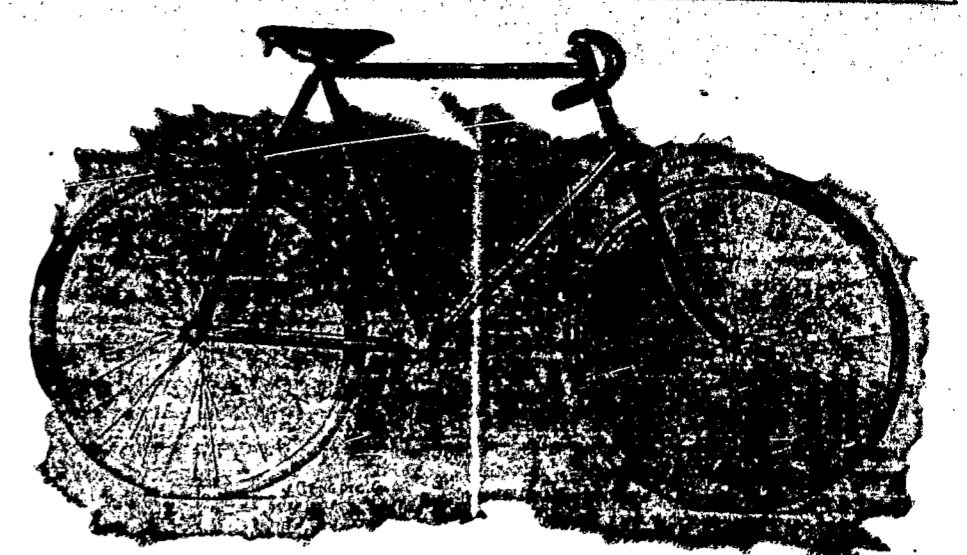
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