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SATURDAY, AUG. 18, 1904.

Non-Catholic Approval.
Rev. P. Holm, pastor of a Methodist Church in Philadelphia, recently preached on "Marriage and Divorce" in the course of which he took high ground squarely in condemnation of the present divorce system. He said that it tore down the sanctity of the marriage relation and to uproot the American home. He warned his hearers that if divorces continue to be obtained as easily as they are at present it will not be long before the American home will be a thing of the past—and when the home is gone the nation has nothing to build upon.

Mr. Holm paid a glowing tribute to the Catholic church for the high and irreproachable stand it takes regarding the indissolubility of the marriage tie. This approval has moved a contemporary to recall the fact that Napoleon, the great conqueror, met his first Waterloo in an unsuccessful attempt to force Pius VII to divorce the emperor's brother from his Protestant wife. The Pontiff concluded his letter as follows:
"Were we to usurp power that we do not possess, we should render ourselves guilty of the most abominable abuse of our sacred ministry before the tribunal of God and before the whole Church. Your majesty even, in his justice, would not desire us to pronounce a judgment contrary to the testimony of our conscience, and the invariable principles of the Church. Hence we earnestly hope that your Majesty will be satisfied that the desire which animates us of seconding your wishes, as far as depends on us * * * is in this case rendered ineffectual by want of power."

Political Humbug
In the platform of one of the great political parties this year appears this plank:
"We believe that one of the best methods of procuring economy and honesty in the public service is to have public officials, from the occupant of the White House down to the lowest of them, returned as nearly as may be to Jeffersonian simplicity of living."
How did Jefferson live, pray? His was the life of an educated, studious, intelligent and well-to-do gentleman of his day. He inherited a handsome estate from his father which yielded a good income for those days and he increased it by a large law practise and by marrying, in 1770, a rich widow. He liked the luxuries of life and indulged in them. His home at Monticello, the most distinguished seat of private hospitality in America, was equipped with all the conveniences obtainable at the time he flourished.

That is to say he lived as was expected of a gentleman of means. It is probable that he lived in even better style than the "Sage of Wolfert's Roost" who is credited with authorship of the platform containing the quoted plank.
Politicians should not try to make Jefferson other than he was although we suppose they will not heed this well meant advice. Political platforms are made to catch votes. They're not intended to be expressions of fact.

The Catholic Federation's platform of 1904 is certainly couched in terse, vigorous English.
The architect of the Liverpool Protestant Cathedral, the corner stone of which was laid a few weeks ago by King Edward VII, is a Catholic.

A Wrong View.
It is a matter of surprise to Catholics that their non-Catholic neighbors misunderstand so many points in our religion. In many cases the non-Catholic really cannot understand the points upon which he is ignorant. His early training is in a contrary direction. Many, many times their Catholic associates either do not know how to enlighten them or keep silent through fear of offense.

But was there any excuse for Emerson writing this rubbish in his essay on "History": "When we have gone through this process (building a Gothic Cathedral in our minds) and added thereto the Catholic Church, its cross, its music, its processions, its saint's days and its image worship?"
If Emerson either could not or would not understand that Catholics do not worship images, then his writings and ideas are not safe for Catholics to read or absorb.

A Retort Courteous.
A certain pastor Avet, of Brussels, speaking at a recent Presbyterian synod in Liverpool, preferred a charge of bigotry against the Catholics of Belgium. Whereupon a contemporary turns the tables neatly as follows:
"It well became him to do so. The vast bulk of the population of Belgium are Catholics, yet the Protestant clergy are paid by State without a word of condemnation or objection from the Catholic majority. Nor did the Belgian Catholic majority refuse to accept and support a Protestant King—Leopold I. Was a Presbyterian or Protestant majority ever known in a country to exhibit religious toleration of this kind?"

Vigilance Necessary.
It is not sufficient that a book possess a Catholic title or that its author bear what might be supposed to be a Catholic patronymic. The Catholic parent should read over all books which he intends to put into his children's hands.
In a book just published in London entitled "Father Clancy"—that name sounds all right, does it not?—a girl asked by a priest what she wore around her neck is made to answer:
"Oh, its a scapular I have, yer reverence; there's the Blessed Eucharist in it."

Do not question an answer, settle the question of the author's fitness to write anything about priests or Catholicity?

Outrageous Work.
How long will the French people continue to uphold Premier Combes in his plan of spoliation and confiscation? The latest measure evolved by his government is to prohibit the convents and monasteries from receiving any more novices and closing all schools conducted by members of religious orders whether they be supported by private or public contributions.
This is depriving the citizens of liberty with a vengeance. Confiscation of property is bad enough but when to this is added a prohibition to the citizen of the right to retire into a retreat and spend the rest of his or her life in the worship of Almighty God then the situation resolves itself into servitude of the citizen and the absolute supremacy of the state.

The situation in France should be a warning to American Catholics. It behooves them to resist to the last ditch the encroachment by the state on the liberties of the individual. The poison of absolute state control is at work in our body politics. So-called "reformers" are insidious in their advocacy of the right of the state to interfere in and to regulate practically every detail of household life until we are fast approaching a state of surrender of all our private rights to a centralized bureau of advice and control.

If this idea continues to grow it would not be a great step to the condition now prevailing in the French republic.

The London Board of Education has voted to discontinue the use of slates in the schools under its control. What are slates? Dollars to doughnuts no pupil in Rochester ever used such an article.
Archbishop Quigley's high honors do not preclude respect for his aged mother.

Significant.
The proverb has it "By their fruits you shall know them."
Nowhere is this moral more pointed than in Great Britain.
In Scotland the percentage of children born out of wedlock is 73 per 1,000; in England it is 42 per 1,000; in Catholic Ireland it is only 25 per 1,000.

The rate in Ireland, low as it is in comparison, would be still lower were it not for the high rate in the four strongly Protestant Ulster counties—in Antrim, 52 per 1,000; Down, 51; Londonderry, 46, and Tyrone, 41.
Just compare these with figures in districts where Catholics preponderate overwhelmingly and striking contrasts are presented as follows: Clare 15 per 1,000; Kerry, 15; Galway, 10; Sligo, 9 and Mayo, 5.
Is it necessary to say more?

How much pains the average news paper writer takes to inform himself upon the subjects he proposes to write about may be inferred from an editorial statement made a few days ago by one of the leading newspapers of Greater New York that Pope Pius X had succeeded in undoing all those "projects of peace" which Leo XIII had brought near to completion. That writer did not know the first thing about the relations between the Vatican and President Loubet, what the concordat provided, nor could he comprehend the Holy Father's foreign policy.

And now the "campaign grafter" the organizer and promoter of fake clubs will begin to visit political headquarters and tell what an influential fellow he is.

The splendid way the street car company handled the Glen Haven carnival proves that the corporation can do things when it wants to.

How quickly the English diplomats discover that international law is unjust in equity when John Bull's horns are pinched.

It would seem as though the press of the state were well nigh a unit in the demand that the judiciary be eliminated from political turmoil this year. It should be so every year.

Forty Hours Devotion.
The devotion of the "Forty Hours" will be held in the churches of the diocese of Rochester as follows:
August 21. Chh. Groton Romulus.

Weekly Church Calendar.
Sunday August 14—Gospel, St. Luke x. 23-27. St. Eusebius, confessor.
Monday 15. Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
Tuesday 16. St. Hyacinth, confessor.
Wednesday 17. St. Liberatus, abbot.
Thursday 18. St. Clare of Montefalco, virgin.
Friday 19. St. Louis, bishop and confessor.
Saturday 20. St. Bernard, abbot.

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