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Behind the Scenes

In a recent address before the Methodist preachers of New York "Bishop Harris of southern Asia" gave what may be a plausible reason for the intense interest manifested in certain circles of the United States lest Japan be defeated in the war now waging with Russia. Said the bishop: "Japan is strong because she has America with her; because, too, Great Britain has taken up her cause. It is well that the American people made the decision in regard to Japan that they did. Had they not, there would have been little use for her to have tried, hereafter, to put Christian missionaries at work there. Had America looked askance at Japan in her fight, Japan would have felt that the Christian religion stands for little."

So the Japs have worked upon the American missionary societies for substantial sympathy and help in prosecuting their war. If the American people aid the Japs, the non-Catholic missionaries will be permitted to ply their vocations in the Orient? Do the American Methodists expect the promise to be kept? The war correspondents can testify that the Japs are long on promises, short on fulfillment. Or do the Japs realize that the non-Catholic, spineless form of Christianity, is so nearly akin to their own mysticism that no great harm will result from the influx of non-Catholic propagandists? Catholic missions have flourished in Japan for several centuries, unaided by promise of help in war times.

In concluding his address Bishop Harris uncovered the proverbial African. He declared that as Japan is to be the schoolmaster of the East, American Christianity has a duty in sending intelligent missionaries there, and asked for a fund from American Methodists to relieve suffering in Japan brought on by the war. The families of the 750,000 Japanese soldiers in the field must be supported by the people, he said, as the soldiers received but a mere pittance.

"This is not charity," he remarked "Japan would not beg."
Really, there's much method in the madness of the Japs and they seem to have taken the Methodists in very easily.

Why Not?

It is announced through the press despatches that Pope Pius X has let it be known that if the Hague peace tribunal is to be reconvened because of the Baltic Sea episode, he would like the Vatican to be represented. It will be recalled that the late Pope Leo XIII made a similar request which was refused.

Why should the Vatican not be represented in any congress which has for its object the promotion of peace in the civilized world?

Is there any force so potent for peace or any other project for the benefit of humanity as the Catholic church, the spiritual home of two hundred millions of persons? And who should speak for these two hundred millions but the Pope or his specially deputed representative?

It is to be hoped that Pope Pius X's request will be granted. The peace conference will be productive of more real lasting results.

Well, Port Arthur did not fall on the Mikado's birthday.

Filial Ingratitude

In County Court the other day a peculiarly sad condition of affairs was revealed. Five young men named Kedian had refused to contribute to the support of their aged mother and the overseer of the poor of Spencerport was forced to ask the county judge to compel them to do so.

Is this not a sad reflection on American humanity? Full grown stalwart men refusing to support her who gave them birth! What manner of men are these?

Surely they cannot hold themselves to be followers of Christ? Nor can they claim to be practicing the Golden Rule that cardinal principle of the much vaunted "Brotherhood of Man" that panacea for all social ills.

It is not to be hoped that the stern hand of the law will instill proper filial feeling in the hearts of these call-used men but it should be laid heavily upon them in order to teach them that American society will not tolerate such heartlessness.

Not Progressing

It was a gloomy picture painted a few days ago by the British poet laureate, Alfred Austin, speaking on "What is True Progress?"

He charged that the British youth was deteriorating so far as love of good literature was concerned. Mr. Austin alleged that the young people of to-day neglected not only the higher poetry, but that the higher prose literature was being neglected for works of a glaringly inferior character. Not only do the young English people read inferior literature but both sexes confess to an acquaintance with novels of the most revolting character.

Mr. Austin's opinion on the English stage was not more complimentary. "A pugling and indelicate promiscuity" constituted the bulk of the plays now seen and liked, apparently. English journalism is also deteriorating, says Mr. Austin. Truly not an inspiring picture!

Private Judgement

Partly right and partly wrong are the views expressed in the following communication to the New York newspaper.

"The nervousness of the governing bodies of some of our orthodox Churches to-day at a threatened trial for heresy of an overbold minister is, it seems to me, a thoroughly wholesome sign. There can hardly be a deadlier foe to progress than unreasoning reverence for tradition.

"The writer would not repress reverence; he would scrutinize the things revered."

"Belief is not voluntary; it is compulsory. We must believe our creeds not merely 'accept' them. The man is dishonoring himself who trifles in his religious faith. It is his duty to sift it and throw out what common sense condemns, however hoary. The Churches must face this test or go under. Neither the Archbishop of Canterbury nor the Pope of Rome himself can change the situation."

It may be conceded that a man has a right to "sift and throw out" but if he wishes to continue in communion with a religious denomination which has a defined set of principles he must subscribe to these or withdraw from membership or else confess to himself that he is a hypocrite. There is no middle ground, at least, so far as the Catholic church is concerned. He who is not with me is against me is as true to-day as when it was uttered two thousand years ago. The Catholic church does not change its creed to suit its membership, individual or collective. That is why it has lived so long.

What will the newspapers fill their columns with now that election is over?

Richard Canfield, the prince of gamblers, the other day remarked that no clerk was tempted to rob his employer to play in his gambling palace, but that pool rooms and race tracks had done just that. Probably Mr. Canfield is right. Reformers are too apt to go after the big offenders and to forget the minor ones who really do the more harm to the body politic.

Will the busybodies, within and without our lines, cease talking and writing about "the Catholic vote?"

The New York "Times" has discovered that most persons think they could run a newspaper better than the editors and proprietors, if only they were given an opportunity. The Journal made that discovery years ago.

Tuesday was a bad day for Democrats

Excursion to New York

New York's great horse show will be held this year during the week of Nov. 14th, at Madison Square Garden. To enable its patrons to participate in this great social event the New York Central will on Tuesday, Nov. 15th, sell excursion tickets for \$8.70, good ten days for the return trip. See the horse show and take a ride in the new subway the crowning achievement of the twentieth century. Remember the date and rate Tuesday, Nov. 15th, \$8.70 round trip.

CITY NEWS AGENTS.

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- Flannelette Night Gowns—blue and white and pink and white stripes—plain colored circular yoke finished with five rows of fancy feather stitching—ruffle on neck and cuffs finished with silk stitching. . . . \$1
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The fact that we have placed very attractive prices on these fine carpets will enhance the interest of this exhibit in the eyes of economical buyers.

HOWE & ROGERS CO.

It's about two weeks to Thanksgiving Day

If you are expecting the family to dinner you had better look over your table cutlery and see if you have enough to go round and whether its good enough. Look at your Carving knife particularly. If that's not right we can sell you one that is, with the fork from \$1.50 up.

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