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## GERMAN CATHOLICS.

THEY ARE A POWER IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE FATHERLAND.

How the Central Party and the Catholic Press Foster the Faith The Congressional Schools and the Work of the Congresses.

Although there are only 17,000,000 Catholics against some 27,000,000 Protestants in Germany the Catholics have a political and social cohesion which makes the party a very strong one, and the influence of the movement is continually exercised in private life in the schools and in parliament. It is certainly not an ill advised statement to make that the day is not far distant when the Catholics will have a preponderant influence. In Germany religion penetrates into every department of daily activity, into the home into the office into the factory. The priest has not a life apart his costume scarcely distinguishes him from the layman but he is to be seen everywhere at receptions, in cafes and in public meetings. In the church the priest speaks as the master. He does not seek to spare his hearers but scourges and commands, putting no delicate cushions under the susceptibility of his fold. In the confession the priest is equally severe. There is no attempt to excuse the fault of the offender and the judgments given at the confessional are very harsh.

In refusing authorization to the priests for the purpose of opening primary schools and in forcing in the program of schools a clause which provides for instruction by a teacher who represents the religion of the district the German government has done more for the political expansion of the Catholic religion than any institution of a purely ideal nature could possibly have done. The teachers in the schools give themselves body and soul to the work with a zeal which is rarely seen in the departments of religious work. An indication of the growing strength of the Catholic vote is the fact that the Association of Catholic Students has increased its membership from 100,000 to 1,000,000 in the last few years. In the same way the Catholic youth leagues have increased their membership from 100,000 to 1,000,000 in the same period. These statistics show that the Catholic youth are not only increasing in number but are also becoming more active in their religious and political life.

It is not surprising that the Catholic youth are becoming more and more active in their religious and political life. The Catholic youth leagues have increased their membership from 100,000 to 1,000,000 in the last few years. In the same way the Catholic youth leagues have increased their membership from 100,000 to 1,000,000 in the same period. These statistics show that the Catholic youth are not only increasing in number but are also becoming more active in their religious and political life.

On the other hand the Catholic youth are also becoming more and more active in their religious and political life. The Catholic youth leagues have increased their membership from 100,000 to 1,000,000 in the last few years. In the same way the Catholic youth leagues have increased their membership from 100,000 to 1,000,000 in the same period. These statistics show that the Catholic youth are not only increasing in number but are also becoming more active in their religious and political life.

**Power of Catholic Societies**  
In course of time the American Federation of Catholic Societies, which has now a membership of 1,000,000 throughout the country, will number 15,000,000 members. The statement of the Rev. James A. McLaughlin, D. D., bishop of the diocese of Trenton, at the recent annual banquet of the alumni of Niagara university. About 100 clergy men gathered at the Hotel Rindorf and Bishop McLaughlin, who is one of the prime movers in the movement, responded to the toast "Federation." And when that time comes, the federation, "there is no nation on the face of the earth that will dare refuse to listen to the voice of Catholics when raised on national questions or issues in which they are vitally interested."

**Every Night.**  
Let us put ourselves lovingly at His feet at night and give Him the weaknesses, cowardices and basenesses which trouble imperceptibly from our very soul, and thank Him we have them to give Him. One day of humble acceptance of failure of generous sustained struggle in spite of defeats and in the midst of constant falls, is better than one month of triumphant victory.

**Thank God.**  
How many think of thanking God during the day when you receive some signal blessing? You may be very fond of praying to Him for favors, but how often do you thank Him for favors received? And yet you know you cannot move a finger without His help; you cannot perform a single act which merits for eternity unless He gives you the grace necessary.

## RATHER BIASED.

The Jury That Is to Decide the Helena Gould Bible Competition.

The Bible Teachers' Training school, which has been instituted by Miss Gould with the management of the competition for the best essay on the comparative merits of the revised version of the Bible and the Douay version, has just announced the names of the judges.

They are stated in the Bible Record, published by the training school, to be "seven men whose names are a sufficient guarantee of fairness and fidelity."

No one will question this statement, but it is not a little unfortunate that in a competition on the merits of the Catholic and Protestant versions of the Bible every one of the judges should be a Protestant.

The names of the judges are: The Rev. Henry M. MacCracken, D. D., chancellor of New York university; The Rev. Robert William Rogers, D. D., professor of Hebrew and Old Testament exegesis, Drew Theological Seminary; The Rev. Francis Landy Patton, D. D., president of the Princeton Theological Seminary.

The Rev. Melancthon Williams Jacobus, D. D., professor of New Testament exegesis and criticism of the Hartford Theological Seminary; The Hon. Whitelaw Reid, editor of the New York Tribune; The Hon. Joseph Williams, an editorial staff of the Philadelphia Press; The Rev. Walter Grosvenor, D. D., president of Ohio State university, Springfield, N. Y.

**Children and Their Prayers**  
The children of their prayers are the most precious gift that God can give to a parent. They are the joy of a parent's life and the hope of the future. It is the duty of every parent to teach their children to pray and to lead them in prayer.

Children should be taught to pray from an early age. They should be taught to pray with sincerity and devotion. They should be taught to pray for themselves and for others. They should be taught to pray for the needs of the world and for the needs of the church.

Prayer is a powerful force. It can change the heart and the mind. It can bring peace and comfort to the soul. It can give strength and courage to the body. It can lead to a closer relationship with God and a more meaningful life.

**Almost a Religious Duty**  
The duty of prayer is almost a religious duty. It is a duty that every person should fulfill. It is a duty that should be practiced every day. It is a duty that should be practiced with sincerity and devotion.

Prayer is a powerful force. It can change the heart and the mind. It can bring peace and comfort to the soul. It can give strength and courage to the body. It can lead to a closer relationship with God and a more meaningful life.

**Night Thoughts.**  
All the saints have loved the night prayer. There is no hour so dear to them as the matin hour, which is deepest darkness, as it precedes the dawn. And is it not proverbial that scholars love the time of night thoughts, and that "burning the midnight oil" has passed into a metaphor for lonely studies at the deepest part of the night? Yes, we want solitude to think deeply, and "night uttereth knowledge to night" in other senses than the psalmist meant.

**Look to Today.**  
Be not anxious about tomorrow. Do today's task. Fight today's temptation, and do not weaken and distract yourself by looking forward to things you cannot see and could not understand if you saw them. Enough for you that God is just and merciful and will reward every man according to his work.

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