

# THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY AT  
39 Cortland Street, Rochester, N. Y.  
BY THE  
CATHOLIC JOURNAL PUBLISHING  
COMPANY

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES  
Per Year, in advance, \$1.00  
Entered as second class mail matter.

ROCHESTER TELEPHONE 2353.  
SATURDAY, SEPT. 2, 1905.

## "Religion Without Creed"

In the "New Ireland Review" for August, Rev. P. A. Sheehan sounds a timely key-note. He points out that the latter day trend is toward a conflict, not between non-Catholic and Catholic, but between Catholicity and bald infidelity; between allegiance to the code of morality laid down and preached by the Catholic Church and a sort of unmorality based on the plea that Nature intended no barriers to the intermingling of the sexes.

Father Sheehan calls the new Gospel a religion minus creed, but alleges that its apostles, realizing that some plan of ethics is necessary to organization have adopted formulas like the following:

"A religious life is compatible with disbelief in dogmas."

"Religion, but no Churches or Creeds."

"Ethics, but no doctrine."

"Christianity without Christ."

"The decay of sectarian dogma is the revival of the Christian life."

"The decline in church attendance is a sign of greater religious vitality."

"Christianity— not belief in Christ's divinity, but living according to Christ's maxims."

Those of our readers who follow the Sunday sermons in the Monday morning papers can realize without much brain effort how well Father Sheehan has epitomized the latter-day ideas of most of the non-Catholic preachers. Everything which the theological teacher of the olden days held sacred is being put aside in order that the rich and immoral and dishonest parishioner may not be offended. The pulpit is utilized to exhortate venal politicians, made so by these dishonest and immoral parishioners, while the real offenders go on in their careers of despoiling the poor and debauching innocence, unrebuked by the so-called "Men of God."

The magazine literature and the latter-day fiction is too much in the same vein. Authors who submit tales and novels, in which the truth is sought to be upheld, are told that what is wanted is something which will "amuse," something that has "action," something that has "spice" of the suggestive sort. And the erotic literature that is sent broadcast has not even the saving salt of the salacious literature of ancient days. Its wit is vapid, its thrusts are clumsy and the reader is treated to a mess of filth. Thus the popular taste is polluted and molded to the new idea.

There is no shadow of doubt, that the Catholic Church will have to be the bulwark against the loose in morality, the filthy in literature, the oppression of capital and the sanctity of the home relations, as well as the guardian of dogma and creed.

## Deserved Rebuke.

Mrs. Clarence Mackay, who sprang into notoriety by election as school trustee in Roslyn, Long Island, is not a Catholic although her husband is said to be.

Rev. Thomas S. Duhigg, rector of St. John's church in Brooklyn is collecting funds for a new parochial school. One of the plans proposed is that tablets be placed in each of the rooms, giving the name of the donors of \$200 or more to the building fund. One of the collectors, knowing Mr. Mackay to be a generous

man, supposed his wife of like disposition. Accordingly, she addressed a letter to her asking for a contribution. This letter in reply was received by Father Duhigg:  
To Miss B. A. McNamara.  
Madam:—Yours of the 15th has been forwarded me here, and in reply I wish to tell you that I absolutely disapprove of parochial schools of the Romanist faith and consider them a grave menace to our country. Needless to say, I am not a Romanist and will not help you.

Yours truly,  
Aug 17. Katherine Mackay.  
Father Duhigg, evidently, is a man of courage as well as action because he despatched this letter at once:  
Mrs. Katherine Mackay.

Madam:—Rather astonished, I assure you, by a note received from you this morning. I was not aware of the fact that any one in this parish had written to you in relation to our new school, and regret that you were disturbed about the matter. The information you volunteer, viz., that you absolutely disapprove of parochial schools of the Romanist faith and that you consider them a menace to our country, simply reveals a condition of mind. The opinion is characteristic. In the schools you dislike so much we teach our children the ordinary courtesies of life. As an example, we would tell them that the use of the word "Romanist" betrays bad form, and that nice intelligent people would not be guilty of such a blunder.

Faithfully yours, Thomas S. Duhigg  
Rector of St. John's.

To a reporter for the New York "Times" Father Duhigg added that "Mrs. Mackay needed a lesson on politeness." We agree with him.

It is plain that Mrs. Mackay's efforts as school trustee in Roslyn will be in the direction of warfare upon the Catholic schools. This is not new. We have experienced akin to such animosity in Rochester. But the Catholic schools are here to stay.

Incidentally, it might be asked: Are the Mackay children being educated as Catholics? Are there any?

## What Next?

What are our courts coming to? According to press despatches from Cincinnati Judge Hosea in September, 1904 granted an injunction restraining, striking union molders from interfering with men who had taken their places.

Such injunctions are understood, generally, as forbidding personal violence on the part of those enjoined. It appears that the president and business agent of the union induced two of the strikers to relinquish their jobs and accept employment with a union firm in Cleveland.

Although no violence was alleged or proved Judge Hosea this week fined the president and business agent \$100 "for contempt of court."

Trusts may ruin their competitors business by boycott, by illegal restraint, but working men may not find better jobs for their fellows! This looks like travesty upon justice.

There's more back of "The House That Foley Moved" than appears on the surface. The slimy trail of the serpent, Bigotry, can be traced along every step in the whole transaction.

Governor Hoch, Thomas W. Lawson, Governor LaFollette and William Travers Jerome are living examples of the fact that virile epigrammatic English is not a lost art, despite the criticisms of the beloved Henry James.

Exposures of graft may be read in every newspaper and magazine, but the suggestions for remedying the conditions pointed out are few and far between.

If President Roosevelt's favorite policy of "publicity" were in general practice there would not have been so many amazing exposures of the weird and wonderful ideas of "Meum et tuum" held by some men who were ranked as philanthropists and patriots. "Behind closed doors" is a mighty convenient hiding place for an elastic conscience.

The public knows very well, now, that the big insurance companies have not been managed in the best interests of the policyholders. They now look to the legislative committee, headed by Senator Armstrong, of this city, to devise such changes in existing laws that the policyholders—the men for whose interests insurance companies are supposed to be organized, primarily, — will receive all that is coming to them.

Latter-day apostles of frenzied finance, no doubt, would like to have their code of morals made a part of the college curriculum, likewise a constituent part of the code of commercial law.

Statistics—and we are reminded constantly that figures cannot lie—show that by far the largest proportion of criminals come from native American stock and are the output of our much-vaunted state schools.

The priests of the diocese of Rochester go on their annual spiritual retreat in St. Bernard's Seminary on Monday evening. Our readers should unite their prayers that Almighty God will bless this season.

Again we say to parents: Catholic schools in Rochester are the peer of any educational institutions in this city. You make no mistake, even from the standpoint of secular education, in sending your boy or girl to a Catholic school. And think of the advantage, from a religious standpoint.

The congratulations of the entire world are due to President Roosevelt for the happy ending of the peace conference.

## To The Beautiful 1000 Islands

The New York Central will run another excursion to the Venice of America, the Thousand Islands, on Labor Day, Sept. 4th. This is the most popular excursion out of Rochester on any railroad, in fact no other railroad in the world offers patrons so much for their money. The excursion tickets sold for the round trip include not only the ride on the cars to Clayton and return, but the 50 mile tour, known as the Island Ramble, on steamer about the islands affording one an opportunity to see the many pretty isles with their beautiful summer homes surrounded with gardens and foliage. In fact one obtains a better idea of the beauty of the Thousand Islands on one of these trips than can be obtained any other way unless one can remain for a week or two. A fast train of comfortable coaches will leave from State St. Station at 8:30 a. m.; and two minutes later from Brinker Place Station. The fare for the round trip is only two dollars for adults and one dollar for children 5 years of age and under 12. To avoid the rush at the station, it is a good idea to purchase tickets in advance at the City Office, No. 20 State St. If it rains or anything happens to prevent one going, the money paid for the tickets will be refunded.

## Excursion to Olcott Beach.

Olcott Beach is conceded to be one of the prettiest resorts along the shore of Lake Ontario. There is a good hotel there and one of the most beautiful groves anywhere to be found. To meet popular demand of its patrons, arrangements have been made by the New York Central to run special excursions Sunday, Aug. 27th and on Sept. 3rd. Train will leave State St. station at 8:10 a. m., and two minutes later from Brinker Place. Patrons should purchase round trip tickets to Burt Station for one dollar. Upon arrival at Burt, excursionists are met by trolley cars which convey them to the Beach at an expense of 10 cents. It is worth ones while to make a trip to this popular resort. Everybody returns enthusiastic and delighted with the place. The return train arrives in the city at 9:45 p. m. Excursionists have between seven and eight hours at Olcott Beach.

Lowest round trip rates to Pacific coast points via the Nickel Plate Road.  
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Who the Loser?  
No, my friend, do not try to excuse yourself for not practicing your religion, for you yourself, and only you, are the loser. When you quit the Church for any reason you are hurting yourself immensely and hurting others by your bad example, but are not hurting the Church. If you mean it as revenge, you are taking revenge not against the priest, bishop or people, but against God Himself, for it is He who requires you to live up to the Church. "He that despiseth you (the Church) despiseth Me" are the words of God Himself. Let every one assure himself that, though his parish, if small, might miss him a little financially, the Catholic Church can do without him and a few millions of others and be the grandest institution on earth. She has done it. When Henry VIII. of England threatened to leave the Church and take millions with him should the Pope not grant him a divorce, the Pope answered, "For your own sake I hope you will not leave the Church, but if you do the Church will live on without you."

The Mission of the Church.  
There is no valid reason for any human soul to leave the Catholic Church, for she indeed has been endowed by her Saviour with means to draw and subdue to Him men and women of all kinds and conditions. Her history for more than nineteen centuries proves this. But of course the Church cannot save people against their will.—Sared Heart Review.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST.

It is stated that the Pope is about to issue an encyclical as a guide to the action of French Catholics under the separation law.

Mrs. Launt Thompson, sister of Henry Codman Potter, Episcopal bishop of New York, widow of the celebrated sculptor, has become a Catholic.

Rumors are afloat in Vatican circles that Mr. Denis J. O'Connell, rector of Washington university, is soon to receive promotion to the episcopate.

Joseph L. Hornsby, former president of the city council, was elected president of the St. Vincent de Paul society of St. Louis at the recent annual meeting of the organization.

The archbishop of Palermo, in Sicily, at the direct request of the Pope, is organizing a seminary for the training of Sicilian priests, who are to dedicate themselves to work among their own countrymen in the United States.

## Cook Opera House

On next Monday afternoon (Labor Day), the Cook Opera House will open its regular season of vaudeville. The opening bill will be made up of acts all of which have never before been given in Rochester. One of the attractions announced will be the act of the Zancigs. These promise an interesting exhibition of the style of magic practised by the native necromancers of India. Willy Zimmermann will give impersonations of famous musicians. The rest of the bill will include: Mr. and Mrs. Howard Truesdell, in a one act comedy, "Aunt Louisa's Advice"; The Five Mowatts, club swingers; Louis Wesley, comedian; the Ellis Nowlan Trio, eccentric acrobats and dancers; James Francis Dooley, comedian; and the kinetograph, showing in moving pictures the principal members of the Japanese-Russian peace conference. Matinees will be given every day.

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