

# The Catholic Journal

Published every Saturday at  
32 Cortland Street, Rochester, N. Y.

CATHOLIC JOURNAL PUBLISHING COMPANY

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**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**  
Per Year, In Advance..... \$1.00  
Entered at second class mail matter.  
ROCHESTER TELEPHONE 2828  
Saturday March 17, 1906.

## Crafts

Says the "Catholic Standard and Times":

Mr. Cortelyou, the Postmaster General, has ratified the decision that Dr. Wilbur F. Crafts has been wrongfully using the mail service for the dissemination of the literature which his bureau headed "Patriotic Studies." We could earnestly wish that the postal department would deal in an equally satisfactory way with the unprincipled publishers who use the mail service for the dissemination of foul and disgusting libels on the Catholic Church and Catholic people.

At present, Dr. Crafts is in Albany leading the battle of the pool-rooms against the bookmakers. The former want to prohibit pool-selling on the race tracks, where those who gamble must necessarily be possessed of means to afford it, so that the poor, the middle class and the unsophisticated may be enticed to the pool-rooms, where they are fleeced out of their hard-earned dollars with neatness and despatch.

Verily, the professional politician who said that the "clerical lobby" pays the best of all, may not have been so far astray.

## Ministry Falls

Let us hope that the downfall of the Rouvier Ministry in France marks a return to sane thought on the part of the French people. According to the press despatches, the major ministry's defeat was on a question of the religious law under which such disgraceful scenes have been witnessed during the last few months.

The Government succeeded in holding only 284 votes, while the various elements in opposition polled 267 votes, thus placing the Ministry in a minority of 35.

Various orators severely criticised the Government's course, asserting that it threatened to precipitate a religious warfare.

"The Government has the duty to apply the law," Premier Rouvier responded. "It will apply it without weakness, but also with the prudence, tact and wisdom consistent with public tranquility. I ask the adoption of a resolution approving these declarations of the Government."

The resolution was thereupon put to a vote and defeated.

God moves in a mysterious way. He has allowed the Church in France to be tried for His own good purpose and in His own good time all will be made plain.

Publishers would do well to take to heart this advice from the "Ave Maria": "It is not 'good business' for a company or an individual to invest thousands of dollars in spreading broadcast laudatory statements concerning a new work, only to have that work denounced by some millions of prospective purchasers by the united Catholic press of the country. It is becoming recognized nowadays that it is a great deal better to conclude from the work at the outset matter clearly obnoxious to by far the largest body of Christians in the Republic; or, when that is not done, to expurgate the offensive matter from a new edition."

Under the leadership of Bishop of the New Jersey Catholics

## Rev. Dr. Crapsey

We will soon know whether the Protestant Episcopal Church has the courage of its convictions, also whether its clergymen are to be permitted to teach contrary to the established creed and teachings of the Fathers from whom the heads of the Church proudly boast they are descended.

No matter how much one may esteem Dr. Crapsey, personally, no matter how much one may feel that he has only exemplified the cardinal principle of Protestantism—that of private judgment—nevertheless, the Episcopal Church cannot afford to let Dr. Crapsey's case pass without confessing its helplessness to enforce its discipline.

That Dr. Crapsey means to put up a stiff defense is evidenced by his retention of Congressman James Breck Perkins, one of the most eminent members of the Rochester bar, as his counsel.

We must confess that we cannot conceive how a professedly Christian clergyman can consistently continue to occupy the pulpit of even an Episcopalian church, when he denies the inspiration of Scripture, the authenticity of miracles, and other tenets which older Christians have held dear these many years.

Higher criticism is playing havoc with old time beliefs. Witness Rev. Dr. Taylor of the Brick Church who last Sunday told his hearers that educated persons were discarding many old beliefs as absurd. He also maintained that no one of any intellectual pretensions to-day believed in hell, much less mentioned the word in public.

Perhaps some of these unbelievers in hell will find out their mistake in this world. Certainly, they will in the next.

## Insurance

No one will deny that the Armstrong committee conducted its investigation with patience, skill and with a desire to get at the root of the insurance evils, if such existed. Its report is a great document, worthy a place with the great public papers of the country.

But, this is no reflection on the committee's earnestness of purpose, its recommendations are not sacred. They are and open to, and should be given as full and thorough discussion as any other bills which may come before the legislature of 1906. The members of the committee are not trained insurance men, they are not insurance agents. It may be that all the measures which they have recommended should be made part of the statute law of the state. But there is no sense in the position that some papers take that not a line, not a dot, not a comma of the bills can be changed by the legislators lest they lay themselves open to the charge of having been corruptly influenced.

We should say that if the agents state the case correctly, unless the insurance bills are amended, their incomes will be cut in two and many of them will be driven to seek other means of livelihood. This is a serious question, if correct, and should be considered in a serious vein. There are 18,000 licensed life insurance agents in the State of New York. If half of these were thrown upon the labor market, they would be thrown into competition with men in other walks of life and this, in itself, would tend to unsettle conditions.

It is plain that the Armstrong committee bills should not be railroaded on to the statute books, no matter how fiercely public clamor rages. Let the discussion proceed in a calm, deliberate manner.

St. Louis Catholics must not take kindly to Catholic papers. This is the plaint of "Church Progress": "What a pity that some Catholics do not impose upon themselves the penance of reading a Catholic paper!"

Says the "Sacred Heart Review": "No matter what the exponents of higher criticism may say about the Bible, the loyal Catholic, relying on the authority of the Church, will never waver in his belief that the Sacred Scriptures are divinely inspired and have God for their author."

Has there been a change in the editorial management of the New York "Sun"? It is publishing a lot of absurd cable despatches about the Pope and divorce.

Buffalo officials are to be commended entering upon a commendable task in trying to close up the dens of vice in the city.

Rochester lawyers are to be commended upon their efforts to raise the standard of the judiciary.

It is reported that the national convention of the Knights of Columbus is to be a great gathering.

Says Edward A. Moffett in the "Columbian": "It is better to be a word artist bricklayer than a brick-layer artist."

## Five Minute Sermon

**Jesus Casts out a Devil**  
From the context of the other Gospels we learn that this unfortunate man of to-day's Gospel 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.

This dumb man is a figure of the human race, which, being a victim of the demon, like a blind man cannot see its own misery nor the infamy of its morals, nor the light of truth, nor its duties, nor God. And like a dumb man, it cannot utter a word in praise of the divine majesty nor a word in behalf of its own welfare. In a more particular sense the dumb man was a figure of those sinners who, blinded by their passions, cannot see things pertaining to God or to their own souls; and, being mute in matters of religion, they open not their lips to confess their sins, to praise God, or to implore His mercy. Let us pray God that He may not permit us to become blind and dumb like so many unfortunate brethren.

By the words related in the Gospel Christ proved that it was impossible for the demon to contend against himself; that he could not be put to flight except by the power of God, and that if He, Christ, could cast out devils, then the time foretold by the prophets had come—the time when God would reign in men's hearts by His grace.

## Weekly Church Calendar

Sunday March 18—Gospel, St. Luke, xl, 14-23—St. Gabriel, Archangel.  
Monday 19—St. Joseph, Patron of the Church.  
Tuesday 20—St. Cuthbert, bishop and confessor.  
Wednesday 21—St. Benedict, abbot. Fast.  
Thursday 22—St. Catharine, virgin.  
Friday 23—The Five Wounds of Our Lord.  
Saturday 24—St. Simon, martyr.

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- Gray and White Scotch Plaid Box Coats—34 inches long—double-breasted style with green or red velvet buttons that button through—green or red velvet collar and tabs on cuffs..... \$7.50
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