

# The Catholic Journal

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Questions Answered.

Editor Catholic Journal:  
Will you please answer through the columns of your paper, why the Catholic Church condemns the Masonic Lodge and who was the author of 'Maryland, My Maryland'? Was he a Catholic? K.

Sedalia, Mo., May 18, 1906.  
The Catholic Church condemns Free Masonry because in Italy and in France the order is opposed, not only to the Catholic faith but also to religion in any form whatever. The outrages in France at present are the work of an infidel, religion-hating cabal made up of Masons (Catholic officers in Army and Navy, who practice their religion, are debarred promotion. This is no speculation. It is a matter of record, testified to in a recent investigation by officials of "the Grand Orient," the governing body of the "Ceremonial Rite," by which distinctive name the French Masons are known.

Moreover, the Church objects to the Masons, as she does to every oath-bound organization which binds its members to place lodge above Church. When a penitent holds back part of his confession in the tribunal of penance, how can the priest guide him and advise him? The Masons have a ritual of their own, in effect another religion. Coupled with the hostility of the European Masons, at least, the Church could not do otherwise than say to her sons that if they wish to be Catholics they must resign connection with the Masonic or any order of similar character. Probably, the Masons in this country are not bigoted, as a class. Neither do they hold their order as more than a social club. But if the ban were removed in this country, it could not, consistently be kept on in Europe.

James R. Randall, the author of 'Maryland, My Maryland,' is a Catholic. We believe he is editing a Catholic paper in New Orleans.

A Contrast.

In this day and age when the press seems to think it incumbent upon itself to applaud every play put forward by the New York Syndicate which controls the drama of the present, no matter whether the play be good or vile, it is refreshing to find one paper which does not hesitate to speak right out in meekness.

The past week Miss Olga Nethersole came to Rochester and played "Sapho." This is the way the dramatic critic of the Post Express, a Catholic by the way, dissected the play and the player:

"Miss Nethersole's cardinal error—the cause of her decline from grace—is a belief that the world can be made better by the contemplation of picturesque immorality. Her Sapho is no isolated figure, this morally repulsive creature is only one indescribable being in a whole gallery of degenerates. The impersonation of such characters is destructive of art in the actress and corrupting to the beholder. It may be that pathology has a name for the disagreeable phases of passion portrayed in 'Sapho,' but many people would prefer not to know what it is. If Miss Nethersole wants to be a teacher, let her portray the great, good women of the drama, if, indeed, her career has not unfitted her for the task. Let her play Jeanne d'Arc, Desdemona, Juliet. There is more knowledge of human nature in 'Othello,' more truth for men to live by than in all the reek and filth of the decadent drama.

While the Post Express was mercilessly flaying the decadent drama and the unthinking actors, our hired agents in the Department of Education were presenting, with all the accessories so far as possible, a reproduction of a Roman banquet. This was put on at the East High school, one of the faculty leading the procession.

Intimate association. According to the Rochester Herald "before the banquet was served, an elaborate and ceremonious offering was made to all the gods and Diana in particular. An altar had been arranged under a sort of porch at one end of the room and the Pontifex Maximus and assistants offered libations to the penates of the hosts and other gods, ending by reciting in Latin and interpreting the flame in the altar. The first course was then served. After it was disposed of a curtain at the other end of the room was drawn, disclosing three female slaves who went through the graceful movements of an ancient dance.

Another feature of the entertainment was the dance of two wild Gauls, who had been captured by Julius Caesar in a recent Gallic campaign. It was an evidence of Caesar's popularity with his countrymen that his name was cheered by the banqueters even before the barbarians did a wild dance that closely resembled some of the Arabian stunts that may be seen in vaudeville. At another time two prisoners wrestled on the stage between courses.

One might comment that if such an incident had happened under the old School Board the papers would have denounced it without stint as a piece of unnecessary extravagance. We will not go so far as that but we do feel as though persons who sneer at Catholics as idolaters would do well to recall the old proverb about glass houses.

A Change.

What a change has come over the "noon" When Theodore Roosevelt became president every paper in the country was filled with laudation of the man. His every move, public and private, was chronicled and commented upon favorably. Of late discordant notes are heard here and there. The Post Express of this city, a leading republican paper the other day conceded that William Jennings Bryan might have a chance of election in 1908 if President Roosevelt did not stop antagonizing certain interests.

A nameless author in the "Saturday Evening Post," under the caption of "The Tennis Board" pokes fun at the President and those whom he trusts and advises with. The President is jeered at because he is taking on too much aviatorship and so has resorted to tennis and pedestrianism as an anti-fat remedy. James R. Garfield, commissioner of corporations, is ridiculed as "a man with a mind like a card index, a constitutional classifier, a personified system, spends a good deal of his time in chasing fly specks always borne down with the weight of his opinions on the public service."

Gifford Pinchot, chief forester in the Department of Agriculture, wears good clothes but they look as if he let the tailor dress him and put them on perfunctorily. Walks as if he was thinking great thoughts. Looks like a man with what those disrespectful people of the unrarified strata call a bug.

Lawrence Murray, of the Department of Commerce, is a short, stocky person, with a round chubby face and an effusive style of address that makes you think you have met an Indiana politician. Murray has theories of government, too.

United States Civil Commissioner Cooley, is pictured as "a trifle over-educated or, to put it another way, as conscious of a disconcerting degree of his education. He has serious intentions in life."

Of course it cannot be possible that the President's stand in the railway rate bill and his attack upon Standard Oil has wrought this change in newspaper sentiment. Perish the thought! But if there be any semblance of fact to this suspicion, those back of would do well to proceed slowly. The people are with "Teddy," right or wrong, and ridicule will only strengthen their affection.

Another Victory.

By a law passed through the Legislature of 1906 and approved by Governor Higgins, the employees and Catholic inmates of the Ogdensburg State Hospital will have an opportunity to hear and assist at mass without being compelled to go three miles or so to the city of Ogdensburg—which it was impossible for all to do every Sunday.

The law in question permits the erection of a Catholic chapel on the hospital grounds and the employment of a Catholic chaplain. We understand that the big-hearted vicar-general of the diocese of Ogdensburg, the Very Rev. Monsignor Joseph H. Conroy, has collected the necessary funds to insure the erection of the chapel without expense to the State.

One by one the State institutions are being equipped with Catholic chapels and chaplains. Since the day when William Purcell and other milit-

tant Christians won out in the battle for a Catholic chaplain at the State Industrial School in Rochester the heaven has worked until nearly all are in similar condition. The Board of Managers at Elmira Reformatory still hold out but we trust that, ere long, they will relent gracefully and concede the constitutional right of the inmates of that institution to the spiritual consolation they seek. If the managers do not yield, undoubtedly means will be found to convince them of the error of their ways.

To Bishop McQuaid and the other members of the hierarchy in the Province of New York great credit is due for their persistent efforts to bring about this needed reform.

Sad Confession.

Is it possible that an exchange tells the truth in the following editorial?

"We don't hear much these days of doing away with college football. Since the close of the season there have been 'conferences' and an exchange of compliments in the public press. Each university has waited to see what the others were going to do. Even Columbia, it is reported, has reconsidered her ban upon the sport. Pressure has been brought to bear upon the faculties—pressure from the graduates, to whom football means college life, pressure from the students who threaten to blacklist the institution that dares to prohibit football; pressure from the sporting public that loves the game.

There is talk about a 'ten yard rule,' about doing away with the training table. The professional coach the worst influence in the game is to be retained. Some of the Western universities think they will 'gradually eliminate the game' by shortening the season.

The truth is that the college faculties are afraid of the effect any radical action might have on the fortunes of their institutions. A large majority of their members are opposed to continuing the game in anything like its present form. But they are afraid of losing students. Competition among universities is as keen as in any business. And whatever else learning may do for men it doesn't seem to give them courage. College professors are usually timid."

Father Yorke declares that bigotry has been displayed in distributing the donated supplies to the earthquake sufferers in San Francisco. If such a spirit could crop out in the face of such a calamity those responsible should starve. All that can be said now is that they will regret it if not in this world, then in the next.

Dr Douglas Hyde had reason to be proud of his reception in Rochester. His auditors were pleased with him. That is, all except those of English descent. The Doctor is too intently Irish to please a stalwart Briton.

Dr Crapsey is not the only non-Catholic clergyman who is drifting away from old Protestant moorings. Rev. Samuel Carter, a Presbyterian, comes forward with an admission that he does "not believe the Westminster Confession to be the truth of God, but an idol of man's invention as truly as any worshipped in Delhi, Peking or Africa."

Funerals of relatives or, if one has no near relatives, the funerals of one's wife's relatives are now in order. The baseball season has begun.

The "Catholic Union and Times" has this to say about a recent appointment of by Governor Higgins: "In naming Mr. P. H. Cochrane as a member of the directorate of the State Industrial School at Rochester, Governor Higgins has selected an able and honest man who will bring to the discharge of his duties ripe business experience and great zeal. Mr. Cochrane is one of Buffalo's representative Catholics and has thousands of friends who will applaud his appointment."

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Why? Because we are acting as distributing agents for a domestic mill that was caught with a surplus, hence in a position to offer the newest productions in popular patterns and standard grades at prices that could only be matched by reckless indifference to cost or value. For example:

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This offering gives choice of Kilarney Silk Checks, beautiful yarn mercerized fabrics that look like silk, black, white, old rose, helio, reseda, light gray, etc. — 19c instead of 35c.

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Another case of Searsucker Ginghams in blue and pink stripes and checks, mill ends ranging from 10 to 20 yard lengths, which will be cut to suit—the kind for which you usually pay 12 1-2c at this sale 8c.

In the rear of "Annex" we'll offer an exceptionally attractive value, viz: One case of Malvern Batistes in dot, stripe and floral patterns all at exactly half real worth, viz.: 4c yard instead of 8c.

# McCurdy & Norwell Company

The secret is out why men capable of earning three times as much in bigger positions are willing and eager to retain minor positions with the Pennsylvania Railway Company. They were given stock in the coal companies controlled by the railway company before the Inter-State Commerce Commission a minor official testified that for \$500 he purchased 600 shares in a coal company which pay dividends of \$30,000 a year. Guess we'll have to change that song to "How Would You Like to be the Coal Man?"

Governor Higgins is a candidate for renomination. Well, who can suggest a better republican candidate?

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