

# The Catholic Journal

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

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES  
Per Year, in Advance \$1.00  
Entered at second class mail matter.  
ROCHESTER TELEPHONE 2363  
Friday June 29, 1906.

## Good Work

It would not seem necessary to call attention to the good work that is being done in the parochial schools of Rochester.

We know that our schools do as good work as the public schools.

For all we are permitted to know they do better.

Our public schools have carefully eliminated every possible means by which the relative merits of the two systems may be tested or compared.

They have thrown out the Regents examinations—the tests formulated by the State Department of Education, the body which has charge of the union schools in all the State except in the big cities where favored interests have been able to secure from the Legislature special legislation whereby the city schools are exempt from the regulations laid down for the rest of the Commonwealth.

We must except the parochial schools in the cities. They are not afraid of the state tests and they refuse to graduate a pupil unless he or she is able to pass the Regents' examinations in geography, spelling, history, arithmetic and grammar.

That they are able to pass the test, is shown by the class averages in the several schools. For instance, St. Mary's school, with a graduating class of forty passed them all with an average percentage of 98.

One young lady stood 100—a perfect examination. Two of St. Bridget's pupils—a boy and girl—stood 100, and a young lady of St. Francis Xavier's did as well!

If the Sisters in charge of our schools were not equally as good instructors as those in the public schools and did not take as keen an interest in the advancement of their pupils such results would not be possible.

And who can say that a large percentage of the teachers in the public schools do not owe much of their ability to the good Sisters for whom they were not trained by them?

## Just A Word.

A Catholic paper cannot be accused of prejudice against the Regents if it ventures upon a word of protest against what it deems to be a rare piece of short sightedness on the part of the managers of the department—usually so shrewd and far seeing.

Just at present the Regents are trying to induce the city school departments either to put back the Regents' tests where they have been thrown out or to put them in where they never have been tried. We think all schools should be under a uniform system, so that standards of scholarship may be equalized and that pupils may not be advanced or retarded by the caprice or whim of a grade teacher.

But we must warn the Regents that if they persist in allowing examiners to frame up question papers which are more complicated than a Chinese puzzle and which would take a college graduate hours longer to answer than the time allotted to boys and girls in their class, it will not surprise our Albany friends if they do not extend the scope of their influence.

No one objects to difficult questions when the examination is

limitations of the young brains to which it is submitted, then patience ceases to be a virtue. Evidently some of the young scribes at Albany who make out examination papers need a good dressing down from their superiors.

## Sound Reasoning

Even if he does not agree with us in theology, one cannot withhold a feeling of respect at the brave stand taken by Rev. Dr. O. C. Poland in his address before the Methodist ministers the other day on "A Religious Awakening."

Taking the recent exposures of "Graft" in the business and financial world, Dr. Poland told his colleagues that:

"Something has happened outside the religious world. The ideal of Christ's righteousness has not been permitted to perish from off the earth. The moral law is making itself felt in the affairs of men."

Dr. Poland gives instances: "It has long been a mystery," he says, "how public officials with no salaries, with salaries which are not equal to the expense of living, could be so very prosperous. We have been led to wonder, 'Upon what meat hath this my Caesar fed that he hath grown so fat and sleek?' The people have wrought as people never worked before. Unlimited resources have yielded to them the greatest of harvests. The harvest has been tithed again, but it has been impossible to keep up with the expense account. One happy day the fleeced public awoke to righteousness and sent an honest man to audit the accounts and examine the vouchers. Then the mystery was explained. And now the question arises whether we will not find it necessary to have a new appropriation to build prisons to hold the rascals who have been stealing from the poor?"

Having struck these telling blows Dr. Poland pays his respects to the clergymen who have gone out of their way to defend the financial magnates who have been guilty of queer methods like the Rockefellers and the Rogeres:

"This ethical revival is to be the basis of a great religious awakening. We want righteousness first, then faith. It may be a surprise to some of us that that is the original Christian order.

"Utter moral confusion characterizes the mass in the realm of living moral issues. Yonder one stands up to defend the Baptist brotherhood from the aspersions cast upon one of its members who stands convicted before the bar of public opinion as being guilty, as the head of a great corporation of numberless crimes proven against it. There is another who attacks the President and makes himself notorious in defense of an iniquitous institution. Winking at sin, condoning wrongdoing, the indirect benefit we derive from the prosperity of the wicked, have blurred the moral vision of the multitude."

These are brave words and let us hope they will strike an answering chord in the public heart.

## Pair of A Kind

There are two persons who have managed to make a fine living out of propagating a cult. One is loud mouthed, brutal and swaggering in demeanor. The other is smooth, suave, feline in her gentleness. But each has acquired a large following. There the comparison stops.

Elijah Dowie has grown old and his voice has lost its harsh, commanding quality. His "Zion Colony" is disintegrating. Mother Eddy, aged as to years, still possesses power to hold the followers her cult has attracted.

Wherein lies the difference? In our opinion, Mother Eddy was and is the shrewder reader of current human nature. Dowie fitly represented the type of blustering, plunging personage who has swayed the business and financial destinies of the United States for the last few years. On the other hand, Mother Eddy, in her cult, has furnished the restful sort of intellectual fodder which appeals by vivid contrast to the whirl and bustle of the average American everyday life.

Christian Science, with its platitudes and generalities, held forth by trained teachers, skilled in the art of appealing adroitly to those who are wearied of the incessant turmoil and clutter of existence as Americans would have it, has been welcomed as a sort of "rest cure." So it has attracted thousands of devotees—and Mother Eddy and her partners have reaped corresponding financial benefits.

When sane business, recreation and society come into vogue, in our opinion, Mother Eddy's cult will not present so vivid a contrast to everyday doings and hence it will not attract nearly so many persons, even viewed as a purely intellectual diversion. For that is all it is when pursued to a conclusion. There is nothing in it to console or cheer or content beyond the grave.

Now that the children are out of school, they are not absolved from the obligation to attend mass. It is Sunday in vacation, just as much as in the school season.

A confessed murderer at twenty-three! What a sad ending to what might have been a prosperous and happy career. Sometimes, parents have reason to thank God when He takes their children to Himself before they are contaminated by the sin and vice of the world.

Whether it is better to invite competition in lighting which will reduce the price for a while until the present combination absorbs the new company and makes the public pay for the competition in advanced prices or to endure the ills we know of is the problem which is engaging the attention of the Rochester administration just now.

"Catholic Education the Armor of Catholic Life" is the way the St. Louis "Church Progress" puts it.

The bigots have made another effort to prevent the Indians from spending their own money as they want. If they had elected to have their children educated in schools not conducted under Catholic auspices there would have been no trouble.

Jersey City Catholics would better get busy. In that place pupils of the public schools are admitted to the high schools without passing an entrance examination. Just to show the difference, pupils of the parochial schools are put through a stiff examination. Rochester Catholics could give their Jersey City fellows a few valuable pointers.

We thought there was something suspicious about the half hearted commendation of James P. Clarke, recently elected to represent Arkansas in the Senate of the United States. It turns out that Senator Clarke is Catholic of Irish-American parentage.

According to Father Krose, S. J., there are 264,505,992 Catholics in the world; 166,267,109 Protestants (all denominations) and 111,920,643 adherents of the Greek communion which later certainly cannot be classed as Protestants.

Summer Excursion Fares to Western Points.

The New York Central lines have placed on sale summer excursion tickets at low rates to Banff, Laggan and Lethbridge, Alb.; Butte and Helena, Mont.; Deadwood and Lead, S. D.; Denver, Colorado Springs and Pueblo, Col.; Eldorado Springs, Mo.; Eureka Springs, Ark.; Hot Springs, Ark.; Hot Springs, S. D.; Mexico City, Mex.; Milwaukee, Wis.; Ogden and Salt Lake City, Utah; Phoenix, Prescott and Grand Canyon, Ariz.; San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego, Cal.; Portland, Ore.; Seattle and Tacoma, Wash.; and Vancouver and Victoria, B. C.; St. Paul, Minneapolis and Duluth, Minn.; Spokane, Wash.; and Nelson, B. C.; Sitka, Alaska; Springs, Ark.; Trinidad, Col.; Winnipeg, Man.

The above tickets are limited to return to October 31st, except those to Mammoth Hot Springs, which are limited to 90 days. The California tickets can be purchased reading good going via one line and returning another route, and which applies also to tickets to Colorado points, and also to Mammoth Hot Springs. The rates at which these tickets are offered are so low that if one has any idea of making the trip, they should inquire for further particulars, as the offer is a very advantageous one. Apply ticket office, New York Central station or at New York Central City office, 20 State Street.

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## SUPPORT OF MISSIONS

THE MONEY THAT IS SPENT IN PROPAGATING THE FAITH.

How the Various Countries Contributed Last Year to This Necessary and Worthwhile Work—France Led, and the United States Came Next.

We have before us the report of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith for the year 1905, and it contains much to interest Catholics everywhere.

As of yore, France stands at the head of our missionary countries, she having contributed more than half the money devoted by the Church to the conversion of the heathen, the exact figures being: Grand total for all countries, \$1,299,539.40; France, \$658,998.86. And this is the Catholic country that a certain class of Catholic papers call "decadent" and relapsing into paganism.

We are next interested in the contributions from the United States. It is next to France, but still all too small. The amount we contributed to foreign missions in the year 1905 was \$157,067.08, and of this sum Boston and New York gave \$85,137.23. This leaves for the rest of the other ninety dioceses \$71,929.75. This showing is very shameful and in it are included hundreds of life memberships and bequests. We turn to St. Louis and find this great rich diocese credited with just \$1,304.96, from which sum must be deducted a deduction of \$300 and three perpetual memberships of \$120, leaving to the credit of our zeal and charity \$884.96. Now, are we not a great Catholic people?

That other "decadent" nation, Italy, contributed to the propagation of the faith \$53,707.92, Turin giving \$10,447.40, Milan \$4,928.02 and Naples \$4,247.68.

The Argentine Republic contributed \$34,698.94, of which amount Buenos Ayres gave \$11,047.31. Little Belgium raised \$74,594.81 for the cause, while Austria gave only \$11,384.70, Switzerland \$18,920.23 and all Germany \$69,857.70. The two provinces of Alsace and Lorraine contributed almost as much as the whole United States, leaving out the two dioceses of New York and Boston, the exact sum being \$73,263.28.

In presenting the balance sheet of the society for 1905 the American director says: "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith was founded on May 3, 1822. Founded in France, the society was soon introduced in the United States and all parts of Europe, until today it receives alms from the faithful of every country in the world. The amount of alms collected through the society and distributed by it to Catholic missions from its foundation until 1905 is over \$70,000,000. From 1822 up to 1905 the society gave to the Church in the United States nearly \$4,000,000.—Western Watchman.

## Cardinal Logue is Possibilistic

Unlike the great majority of his countrymen, Cardinal Logue, the archbishop of Armagh, is somewhat possibilistic. He does not share the impression that seems to be general in the country at the present day that there are brighter and better times in store for Ireland. "Hope," says the cardinal, "may be a good tonic, but it is mighty thin diet. Whether Whigs or Tories are in office the number of Irishmen who are permitted to rise to any post of trust or emolument or honor are as few as the ripe grapes after a well gleaned vintage. Liberals, like Tories, take care to withhold the university foundation which should qualify Irishmen for the competitive age in which we live. I do not think there will ever be prosperity either in industries or in commerce or in any other things that contribute to the material prosperity of the country without a good, sound, practical, higher education for the young people capable of receiving it." Cardinal Logue will have nothing to do with commissions to inquire into or report upon the higher educational problem in Ireland.

## History of the Jesuits

The new history of the Society of Jesus is to be published. A dozen brilliant Jesuits have been at work on it for many years. The Jesuit world has been divided into six parts and two fathers have been delegated for each; Fathers Pollen and Hughes are looking after the English speaking countries and will write their part in English, the French Jesuits will complete in French, the Spanish in Spanish, and so on, and when the six parts are severally finished the general history of the society will be written and published in Latin. The work will be thoroughly scientific and critical and will be based on the original documents, just as though no attempt had ever been hitherto made to compose the history of the society.

## Father Eugene Ryan Dead

Recent mails have brought to the monasteries of the Passionist Order news of the death of Father Eugene Ryan in Argentina on June 3, after an illness of four years. Born in Staten Island in 1853, Father Ryan was ordained to the priesthood while a young man, exercising his ministry in this country until he was thirty years old, when he was sent to Argentina. He was several times chosen superior and in 1902 was made head of the Passionist Order in South America. He was buried in a little village cemetery near Buenos Ayres.

## A Happy Life

The best way to praise God is to live a happy life. A happy man or woman is a compliment to God. It reflects great credit on earthly parents to have happy children. The same is true of God. The man who lives right and finds pleasure in correct living is praising God in the most effective manner possible.

## Thackeray's Regrets

Sir Francis Burnand in the London Catholic Times says that Thackeray in later life regretted the vituperative vein in which, both in Punch and "The Irish Sketch Book," he had attacked the Church. In connection with the statement that Dicky Doyle left the staff of Punch mainly because of such vituperation Sir Francis says, "Afterward Thackeray, who, with Jacob O'Mulinn (Higgins) had attended Faber's lectures and was said to be within an ace of following his tall friend Higgins into the Catholic Church, grieved sorely over the tone he had at this time adopted which had caused so irreparable a loss to Punch." This explains the remark made by the novelist during his American tour in the early 'fifties, when, pointing to the Catholic cathedral of Philadelphia, he said to a friend, "After all, that is the only thing that can be called a church."

## Catholic Knights and Ladies

The biennial convention of the Catholic Knights and Ladies of America at Detroit elected the following officers: Supreme spiritual director, Rev. Father Ruffo, Louisville; supreme president, Dennis E. Kelley, Memphis; supreme vice president, N. M. Forman, Detroit; supreme secretary, Henry F. Hayes, Chicago; supreme treasurer, Miss May Sheridan, Louisville; supreme trustee (six years), Miss Mary Lynch, Chicago; supreme medical director, Dr. D. D. Gorman, St. Louis.

## Indifferent Catholics

The reverend clergy who are giving missions to non-Catholics claim that the greatest obstacle they encounter is the bad example of indifferent Catholics. One can see how true this is, as a example speaks louder than words. A good example is a practical test of our religious convictions and will attract non-Catholics more than arguments.—Church Calendar of West Virginia.

## The Aid of Mary

From the holy virgin martyr who in the first ages of the Church invoked the aid of Mary against the demon of impurity to the youth who kneels today before her shrine imploring the preservation of his innocence or the restoration of lost virtue it has never been heard that any one who fled to her protection, implored her assistance or asked her prayers was left unaided.