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Books to Read

Just at present the Catholic press is devoting considerable space to the question of what Catholics shall read. First of all, as might be expected, advice is given to subscribe and read a Catholic paper and magazine. No better way can be found to keep abreast of Catholic thought and Catholic progress.

The "New World" gives this advice to educated Catholics who feel they have not a thorough insight into the spirit of the Catholic religion.

Our purpose in writing this editorial is to direct the attention of educated Catholics to certain works that may be easily procured in which the philosophy of the Catholic religion is admirably and clearly set forth. Cardinal Newman's Apologia Pro Vita Sua, besides being one of the most fascinating books in the English language, is one of the most convincing dissertations on the Catholic religion ever written. Father Dalgairns, who, like Newman, was a distinguished convert, is the author of a word on "Holy Communion," which is a marvelously clear study of the great doctrine of the Real Presence in the light of the various systems of philosophy. The Essays of Domus Cortes are too well known in this country to need any commendation, but the apologetic works of Mr. Wilfrid Ward, the present editor of The Dublin Review, are not so generally read by educated Catholics in this country as they deserve. One of his books, "Problems and Persons," should be in every Catholic library. We are confident that any intelligent Catholic who familiarizes himself with the books we have mentioned will have a thorough insight into the spirit of the Catholic Church.

There is another phase of the reading question. Catholics pay their share of the expense of equipping, maintaining and operating a public library and they have a right to expect to find Catholic books on the shelves if they ask for them. Often the complaint is made that this is not the case. The editor of the "Catholic Sun" believes there is another side to the controversy. "The other day," he says, "in a city of two and one-half millions of people, one million two hundred thousand of whom are of our faith, the writer asked the officials of three great libraries if they had much demand for distinctly Catholic books, works by Newman, Cardinal Gibbons, Father Gerard, Don Gasquet and such like. He happened to be a Catholic himself, but he mournfully replied that most of the calls came from non-Catholics. 'We subscribed to Father Rickaby's translation of St. Thomas Aquinas,'" he said, "and it has been here nearly a year but not one Catholic has called for it—though many Protestants have."

And this is the answer usually given. The current "Catholic Record" of London, Canada, has some sensible words along this line: "Publishers," it says in speaking of the Booklovers' Library, "are not in business for sentimental reasons. They may be non-or-anti-Catholic, versed in all religion, but they wish to satisfy the public. Let our correspondent call for Catholic books and reports. It may ease the publisher's responsibility in this

matter to declaim against bigotry, but we know, or ought to know, that driving a nail into our rights is not the course taken by men who know their rights and how to get and guard them. (Grievances are largely of our own making.)

There are Catholic books and magazines in most of our public libraries. Let our zealous people see to it that they get them and read them and urge their children to do in like manner.

Praise From Outside

Every little while a non-Catholic, secular newspaper concedes that the Catholic Church and individual Catholics stand for conservation of all that goes to make up a staple, strong government.

An instance of this appreciation is to hand from the Charleston "News-Courier." In commenting upon the recent divorce decision of the United States Supreme Court which has spread havoc in the "high-roller set" in Newport and elsewhere our Southern contemporary says—

"The United States Supreme Court is composed of a chief justice and eight associate justices, and at the present time two of the latter are members of the Roman Catholic communion. Under our constitution the religious affiliations of office holders are, and ought to be, of no consequence.

"Nevertheless, when one remembers the firm stand of the Roman Catholic Church against divorce, one cannot but recall that Justice Edward D. White, a former senator of Louisiana, whom Mr. Cleveland appointed to the bench, and who recently handed down the opinion in Haddock vs. Haddock, is a member of that Church. It will further be recalled that a few sharp criticisms were aimed at President Cleveland on that account when the appointment was announced.

"The name of Justice McKenna, of California, the other Catholic justice, it will be observed, does not appear as one of the four who dissent from Justice White's opinion, an opinion which in future will compel both the man and woman to reside in the same state in order to obtain such an annulment of marriage as will be recognized in other states. The decision of the court is a long step toward reforming and checking the reckless multiplication of divorces which has become in late years in the United States a national cause for shame.

"The two Catholic justices reached their conclusions, as did the other members of the court, on purely legal grounds. They could not do otherwise without forswearing themselves. At the same time we doubt if the human mind is capable of contemplating the marriage contract wholly apart from the idea that the institution is divine. Among Christian churches it is not to be disputed that the Roman Catholic Church, judged by its practices, attaches a larger degree of sanctity to the marriage vows than do most other churches. It is fair to infer that these Catholic jurists could not be influenced by the ideas and the training upon this matter that they had received from childhood."

Reverence

Of all the old-fashioned qualities—and one which never should have grown old-fashioned—which has well-nigh disappeared from our American society is that of reverence.

Time was when a young person spoke respectfully to those older than himself or herself. The young persons replied with "Yes, sir," and "Yes, Ma'am" when an older person addressed them. To-day they content themselves with "Yes" and "No," not often spoken in a tone of respect.

Much of this is due to the entire absence of good breeding, as it used to be spoken of, in our social circles. Who but the "beggars on horseback" would take the position that "Sir" and "Ma'am" were responses fitted only to be made by servants to superiors—beg pardon, to those possessed of more filthy lucre—and demand that their children must be so taught in the public schools.

Such is the fact, however, and it is to be lamented. These "replacers" as Owen Wister well calls them, are breeding up a race of lusty, young pagans who have respect neither for God, Man nor the Devil.

Under such prevailing conditions, it is a real pleasure to read the following words in the Ohio "State Journal" on Father Cotter's reception of Manhattan's doctorate of letters:

"Father Cotter is well known in this city, and is one of the most brilliant orators in the State. His subject was: Reverence, a lost virtue, almost, in these days, and yet in its nature a preserver of all virtues.

"What a fine subject—a respect for sacred things, for honor, for religion! It is the necessary ingredient of courtesy and an essential element in self-respect. How weak a part it plays these days, and how sadly the lack of it effects all the activities of life. If there were more reverence in the world—more respect for what is good and true and beautiful, society, politics, business, education, religion would all be improved. In fact, it would go far to solving the problems that the country faces.

"The reverend orator naturally claims for his own church the leading service in behalf of reverence, but however that may be, his eloquent portrayal of the need and grandeur of reverence in our training, our conduct and our thought, should awaken attention and command generous approval.

Rebuke to Yellows

This is an age when we seem to run to yellow."

New York papers contribute to this yellow tendency by their sensational stories of every day happenings, their unwarrantable invasion of the privacy of home, business and social circles and their intense devotion to accounts of crime, scandal and the under world, rather than accounts of anything which tends to uplift and educate.

The colleges and up-to-date universities seem bent on breaking down old and established traditions. In order to win a smile of approbation from the aforesaid yellow journals, professors have descended to vile Lincoln and Washington, to belittle the achievements of the heroes of the Revolutionary and Civil wars, to laud Science ridiculously at the expense of Truth and Religion, to scoff at accepted historical facts which neither they nor their stupid students possess patience to search out.

Business may be accused of devotion to the Yellow when they throw aside olden and proven methods and install questionable methods because they seem to promise larger and more immediate returns. They coast out the old and tried employees to make place for the bustling youngsters who put on a huge bluff but who need the ballast which can only be acquired by age and experience.

Then there are the "yellow scholars." "Because they cannot learn to spell and write correctly, then the whole accepted portion of the educational fabric relating to that subject must be simplified and revised to suit their imperfectly developed bump of comprehension. It is a real pleasure to read the following rebuke from the "Fortnightly Review" to the latter class:—

"Like I did" and "whom he said was his brother" are now frequently to be met in the press; indeed, the latter solecism is almost universal. We constantly read in novels of "a non-committed shake of the head."

We are shaky about our "shalls" and "wills". A precocious child well known to the writer, recently in saying the Lord's Prayer at his mother's knee surprised her by the phrase, "Thy shall be done." Being corrected, he defended his version in the words: "No, only servants says 'will'; paps always says 'shall'; and now I will not say any prayers at all."

The best route to all points in the Catskill Mountains is by the West Shore Railroad and its connections. Write or call for descriptive advertising matter at ticket office of New York Central lines, 20 State Street.

Subscribe for the Journal.

CANANDAIGUA.

The Rosary Ladies will entertain their friends on the new church lawn this evening with a lawn fete.

The Sodality will receive their monthly communion next Sunday and the usual monthly school collection will be taken up.

Little William Murphy, the tenth child of Mr and Mrs. Daniel Murphy, born July 4th, was baptized last Sunday.

The old church will be turned into a dining hall on the occasion of the firemen's convention, August 2nd, and the ladies of the parish will help to feed the hungry multitude.

The Carnival in Center street last Friday evening was a success socially and artistically and netted \$122.18. The decorations and illuminations gave the street a festive appearance and fully 1,000 people came to enjoy the refreshments and meet their friends in the shady bowers under the branches and flags.

The monthly subscription reports were distributed last Sunday showing \$483.25 for July.

Mr J. L. McLaughlin has since added \$100 to this sum. Many names appear on the list without credit for 1906. All should have a share in "reducing the debt."

Father Clark preached Sunday on the "Observance of the Sabbath" and expressed regret that it should be used by many as a day of mere rest, visiting and recreation instead of keeping it holy by assisting at the divine service.

AUBURN, N. Y.

The members of St. Mary's congregation have been welcoming their beloved pastor, Rev. Father Mulhern, back to his church. The first reception last week was well attended and prominent members of the congregation delivered short addresses welcoming Father Mulhern, who gave a short talk on his travels and pointing out to the listeners the benefits of being a Catholic. After the speaking was over a general hand shaking was indulged in.

There was a meeting of the lawn festival committee of St. Mary's church on Thursday night, when arrangements were completed for the festival to be held next Saturday night on the church lot, State St. From five until seven a supper will be served in the church basement by the young ladies of the parish. It is hoped that the weather will be fine and a large crowd will be out to attend this annual affair.

The Alumni Association of St. Mary's church will hold a meeting to-night, Friday, in the church hall in Greene St. to decide on a date for the Alumni picnic, which will be held at ten mile point on Skaneateles Lake.

The funeral of the infant daughter of Mr and Mrs. Walter Miles of Hoffman St. was held on Thursday afternoon from the house. Burial was at St. Joseph's cemetery.

LIMA

Sunday the prayers of the congregation were requested for Mrs. Wm. Sullivan of Rochester, who died during the week.

During the remainder of the summer there will be no veapers on Sunday but at 4.30 there will be rosary and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Arrangements are under way for a picnic during the month of August.

Miss Leah Carney of Rochester is spending her vacation in town.

Mrs. Mary Grace, who spent the past week with her mother has returned to her home in Rochester.

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