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The Rosary

To the Rosary is dedicated the month of October. This devotion in honor of the Mother of God has brought peace and comfort to many a tired and troubled soul. In fact, it may well be said that the Beads is the most popular devotion among American Catholics, especially those of Irish extraction.

Sons of Erin's Isle have ever been sturdy in their devotion to the Blessed Mother of God and no Irishman with the aroma of the "ould sod" still in his nostrils ever is ashamed to be seen telling his beads. Is he not sufficiently educated to read his prayer book, he says his prayers with the aid of his beads and instances are not wanting where the illiterate workman is far more fervent and steadfast in his faith than is his better educated brother.

It has been said that the Rosary runs the whole gamut of our faith. Certainly, it spells out our Saviour's life on earth, his ascension into heaven and the subsequent assumption of the Blessed Virgin into Heaven.

So, during this month of October, the end of the harvest season, when earth has yielded up her stores for our earthly benefit, let us recite fervently this series of prayers to our Blessed Lady.

Our souls will be watered and the spiritual harvest will be a surprise to even ourselves.

In Our Favor

No one will accuse the New York "World" of being over friendly to the Catholic Church and its idea of religious education, nevertheless that paper, in a recent issue, presented the case for the Catholic parochial schools in a convincing way as could one of its most ardent advocates and with far greater effectiveness than the non-Catholics.

According to the "World" there are 15,000 well-paying positions open in the metropolis to young men and women of from 15 to 20 years of age and no prospect of filling them satisfactorily to the employers. This does not mean that there is no applicants. There are. But they do not fill the bill albeit they have graduated from grammar and often from high school. Superintendents of big department stores told the reporter that these public school pupils could not spell, could not figure accurately, had no idea of business methods, wrote illegible hands.

On the contrary, said this superintendent, parochial school pupils were well enough equipped. If there were enough parochial school pupils to go around the public school pupils would have a difficult task securing positions of any description. But the parochial school graduates have places booked before they are graduated and the demand exceeds the supply.

We know not whether the "fad system" has invaded the public schools of Los Angeles. We should infer the contrary from this assertion in the current Los Angeles "Times".

Our Catholic schools are built and equipped for the sole purpose of giving to our children the knowledge and training which is necessary

In Rochester and New York the Catholic schools are the only ones in which our children are able to obtain a practical, useful education, as well as to glean a knowledge of their faith.

Bigots

Perusal of the following press despatch will serve to confirm what the Journal has told its readers frequently—that members of certain churches are barred from officeholding in the Y. M. C. A. and its kindred organization, the Y. W. C. A.:

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27.—Through the application of Miss Nellie Butterfield of Washington to the Young Women's Christian Association of this city it has been made known that this organization excludes members of certain religious faiths from voting or holding office.

Miss Butterfield is a Unitarian and learned that for that reason she could never vote or hold office. The same conditions prevail in the case of Universalists, Catholics and Hebrews.

The purpose of the organization here to keep the matter from gaining publicity, lies in the fact that next December a convention will be held in New York to consider a consolidation of the Women's Christian Association and the Young Women's Christian Association, and the members are afraid that if the older organization hears of the ban against certain religions the purpose of the coming convention may not be realized.

Too Bad

It was to be hoped that the present state campaign would proceed without mudslinging and bitter personalities.

But, it appears this is not to be. Supposedly high minded newspapers are indulging in billingsgate vituperation and low flings worthy of "Town Topics" and the unsavory "Police Gazette."

Men who have posed as gentlemen are flinging coarse personalities at one another, charging their opponents with all sorts of offenses against the laws of God and man.

Even the clergy have been drawn into the unseemly controversy. From their pulpits they are talking politics instead of preaching the Gospel. We are pleased, though, that no Catholic priest has put himself in this class.

Cannot papers and preachers learn that injudicious, intemperate abuse often defeats the object sought after? In great measure, this very intemperance in spoken and written speech defeated James G. Blaine and elected Grover Cleveland in 1884.

Every such episode weakens, proportionately, the influence of press and pulpit.

It should ever be borne in mind that vituperation and billingsgate do not constitute effective or dignified argument.

Correct

It is a pleasure to find one secular paper with courage enough to give credit to the Catholic Church as something more than "the conservator of an old and unchangeable creed."

In matters educational, the Church is usually set down as the conservator of ignorance when the reverse is the truth.

Were it not for the Catholic Church Art and Learning of the Middle Ages would be unknown to the world to-day, despite the discoveries of the sensational staff of the sensational University of Chicago.

Commenting on Pope Pius' efforts to restore the ancient and accepted form of church music, the New York "Sun" paid a high compliment to the Holy Father and then said:—

"The Roman Catholic Church was the mother of modern music."

Those who do not know this or are inclined to carp would do well to read Ranke's "History of the Popes." Although himself a Protestant, Ranke could not withhold from the Church her meed of credit. Writing on Palestrina's compositions, as performed before Pope Pius IV after the papal commission on music had instructed him with the

task of demonstrating whether music could be produced compatible with the sacred character of Church services, Ranke said:—

"By this one great example the question was set at rest for ever, and a course was opened, in which have been produced the most beautiful works, the most touching, too, even to those who do not own the Romish faith. Who can listen to them and do not feel his spirit stir within him? It is though Nature became undowered with tone and voice, as though the elements spoke, and the sounds of universal life mingled in spontaneous harmony to hallow and adore, now undulating like the sea, now soaring heavenward in exulting bursts of jubilee. The soul is borne aloft to the regions of religious ecstasy, on the wings of universal sympathy."

What Ranke says of the Church's protectorate of Music, he repeats with reference to Science and Art. There are many non-Catholic traducers of the Church, and a few carping critics of our own faith, who could read Ranke with advantage.

Reaction Setting In

Signs are not wanting that reaction is setting in in France against the Combes policy of destruction of the Catholic church.

In the first place, now that the Holy Father has come out flatfooted in his denunciation of the "Oppression Law," some of its most ardent advocates who had figured that the Vatican would yield without a protest, have changed front and are now talking compromise.

In the second place, the extent of the "Graft" derived from the confiscation of the church property is just reaching the public. It is said that millions of dollars worth of churches and convents have been bid in by "insiders" for a comparative song. The taxpayers were told that the confiscation of church property would add thousands of millions of dollars to the public property. Instead, hardly a million dollars will be added while the taxpayers will be mulcted for the support of the hundreds of schools, asylums and other charitable institutions where the religious orders took care of the destitute and dependent, in great measure, upon the voluntary contributions of the charitably disposed to maintain these institutions.

It is not to be doubted that the majority of the French people are Catholic at heart even if the spectacle of a subsidized clergy has blunted regard for their priests and bishops. When they see their pastors evicted from their parishes and unbelievers placed in charge of the churches, it would be a matter of surprise if a revulsion of feeling does not take place and militant Catholicism sweeps the infidel spoilers into political oblivion.

Perhaps a fear of some such uprising inspired the following protest from the Socialist deputy for Aube, M. Paul Meunier, one of the men who helped to place the Combes law on the statute books:—

"The law of December 11, 1905, is not a law of separation between the churches and the State. It is a law that has the outrageous pretension to reorganize the churches in France. It is a civil constitution of the clergy. It is a bad law."

"The Pope is justified. He will not have the associations for public worship. That is his business. He is the absolute head of the Catholic church. He organizes his church as he thinks fit. That is none of our business, and I do not approve of the French legislator substituting himself for the Pope and the Bishops for the organization and government of the Catholic Church in France."

Grown men paraded the streets of Rochester the past week clad in grotesque costumes. On their headgear were words and emblems suggestive of pagan days. And yet when the Catholic priest puts on his sacred robes to celebrate the holy sacrifice of the Mass these same gentlemen call him an idolater and sneer at those who worship with him as heathen!

One evening last week while the mission for men was in progress in the church, of the Immaculate Conception, a group of women, evidently non-Catholics, were standing outside the church listening to the men singing. Said one woman:—"I guess they have quite a congregation here." What would she and others of her set have said if they knew that the "congregation" she referred to represented not one-half of the communicants in the parish? Again: What would non-Catholic clergymen not do to be able to gather at his Sunday services a congregation one-half as large as the mission week-day services called out?

Time will tell how much of the unrest in Cuba was fomented by the Protestant missionaries who were unable, under the Palma administration, to force their ideas upon the Cubans as they were able, under American rule, to do in the Philippines.

President Roosevelt should warn General Funston that looting of Catholic churches is not part of a military governor's duties in Cuba. Catholics have a vivid recollection of the doughty general's record in the Philippines.

The "Intermountain Catholic" has this naive drive at the bigots:—

"Does it ever occur to those who are condemning the Catholic church in season and out of season that they are living under and obeying some of her laws? For instance, the Catholic Church made the first day of the week to be observed instead of the seventh."

Secretary of the Navy Charles J. Bonaparte has been chosen president of the Harvard University alumni. Is this not the first time that a Catholic has been chosen to lead a Harvard graduate organization?

It is an encouraging sign that a widely circulated popular weekly is poking fun at the idiocy of the modern college fraternity.

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