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Names, Please.

Rev. Charles C. Albertson is held to be an eminent preacher in the Presbyterian church. It is said he was a lawyer before he entered the Protestant ministry.

If that be true he should know the futility of attempting to go in to court with a case half prepared.

Of course, when one has no case, it is difficult to make a good showing. There are lawyers who would ask to have the case adjourned or would withdraw from it.

Apparently, Dr. Albertson believes that when the case is weak it is not a bad plan to try and beg the jury. In order to offset the non-Catholic mission at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, he preached on "Why I am a Protestant." After retailing the stock reasons of private judgment and liberty of conscience the divine alleged that he had other reasons but that he preferred to reserve these until a later date.

Relapsing into generalities, Dr. Albertson said that one hopeful sign of the times, according to the speaker's ideas of things, was the increasing number of Catholic priests who are throwing off the yoke of Rome.

Will not Dr. Albertson please specify? According to our recollection, there are many more non-Catholic clergymen coming over to the Roman Catholic church than there are those of our own communion who have left, not always of their own volition.

For every Catholic priest who is to be found in the non-Catholic camp we can cite to Dr. Albertson a dozen converts from Protestantism during the last decade. And these converts represent the flower of intellect of the non-Catholic clergy.

This is not written in bragging spirit but when a leading clergyman makes such sweeping assertions he should be specific not general when he neglects to specify, he need not wonder if his assertions are received with, at least, a shadow of doubt.

Rank Bigotry

A few weeks ago we told of the bigots in Williamstown, Pa., demanding that all the Catholic teachers in the public schools of that city be dismissed and that the School Board was so under the thumb of the Apaiats that it consented to this act of persecution!

But this is not the worst of the story. A Pennsylvania judge has ruled that the Protestant Bible may be read in the schools and that Catholic parents children must participate in this religious exercise sectarian though it clearly is.

Let the Rev. T. F. Dougherty tell the rest of this hideous story. In a letter to the "Observer" of Pittsburgh, he writes:—

"Under these circumstances or conditions Catholic parents refused to permit their children to attend the public schools. For this they have been arrested, and only to-day three men returned from the Harrisburg jail, where they have been since Saturday, because they would not pay fines for refusing to let their children attend what are Protestant exercises.

"Seeing no amicable or just settlement in sight, I have started a parochial school under what reminds

us of pioneer difficulties. Some of the children are in the parlor of my own house, others in the church, pending the fitting up of the church basement. And now the bigots threaten that they will force the health authorities to condemn the basement for school purposes."

Think of this! In the state of William Penn, men have been imprisoned because they have dared to stand up for liberty of conscience and religious liberty!

And to think that these bigots have the nerve to try and close up a parochial school! What sort of spineless Catholics have there been in Williamstown? If they were organized as they should be, their persecutors would not dare to try any such game.

Catholic Federationists would do well to hold several meetings in Williamstown and tell these bigots something of the laws of the United States, likewise the politicians. Until this wrong is righted, every Catholic in Pennsylvania should vote against the political party responsible for the Apaiat School Board in Williamstown.

Seeking Truth

Non-Catholic clergymen, who bewail lack of attendance upon their services might have learned something as to the reason if they were at the mission given during the past two weeks, at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, for non-Catholics by Rev. Bertram Conway of the Paulist order.

While Father Conway never refused to answer any and all questions asked of him pertaining to the Catholic religion and the history of the Catholic church he did not revile or attack the religious belief of any of his hearers. His mission was to prove that the Catholic church was the true Church, founded by Jesus Christ and to that he addressed his words.

To the writer a few days before the mission began, a non-Catholic friend said:—"I am to attend Father Conway's mission next week. I suppose I will hear all manner of attacks upon my faith." At the close of the first week the friend remarked that he never supposed Catholic priests were so fair to other religious beliefs. "I am glad I went, because I know now what Catholics believe and will not be misled in the future."

Catholic priests do not seek out weird texts or grotesque subjects to attract crowds. They preach the Gospel and they believe what they hearers are impressed and listen.

Non-Catholics of Rochester have agreed that the mission given by Father Conway was a remarkable one. It is no uncommon thing to see large attendance upon regular missions or upon non-Catholic "revival services." Members of these churches turn out. But to have from 600 to 1,000 non-Catholics present every evening, not attracted by fine music or singing, but only to listen to a preacher of opposite faith to their own expounding a creed which they hear attacked in their own churches unmercifully, passes comprehension.

It must mean that there are many souls in Rochester hungering and thirsting for a knowledge of the faith which has stood for centuries and which stands unchanged in this age of change and iconoclasm.

Who can say what the seed thus sown may bring forth?

Pray for Him.

It is sad indeed to note how far Conan Doyle has strayed in his wanderings spiritually. Not only has he traveled far from the Church in which, we understand, he was reared but, apparently, he has lost faith of all sort.

In one of his recent special articles Sir Conan attacks savagely all dogmatic faith, heaps abuse upon Inquisition, Huguenots, Albigenes, Luther, Cromwell, anything, anyone and any set of men who ever brought discredit upon Religion or upon its following.

In place of "dogmatic faith", as Sir Conan has it, he would substitute a medley of Universal Brotherhood, Mohammedanism, Buddhism, Theo-

sophy and all the other isms and dogmas which have for their basic principle whatever tends to bring pleasure or comfort in this world. He is condescending enough to admit that it does no harm if tender-hearted or feeble-minded persons find consolation in holding the Pope as the representative on earth of the God they worship but, really, these persons would be happier if they could comprehend the beauties of the Conandoye cult!

Let us hope this gifted man may be brought, by God's mercy, back to the faith of his childhood.

Consistency.

Our daily papers are filled every day with blood-curdling tales of horrible atrocities in far-away Russia. Columns are devoted to laudation of our civilizing work in the far-off Philippine Islands. Now the papers are full of attacks upon the Cubans for their alleged incapacity for self-government.

It may be that all the tales of atrocities in Russia are true. But if the Russian cables are not more veracious than those from Rome about the Pope and the Vatican, it may be charged that one-half the stuff is manufactured in New York and never came over the wires.

But even if they are, they are not one whit worse than the horrible indignities perpetrated in the South upon the poor people whom the politicians made free citizens. And these indignities are not perpetrated by those of a lower order of civilization, as they would have us believe of the Russians, but by the very persons who laud American civilization and weep because it has not been introduced the world over.

Until we are able and do suppress lynchings in the South; until we have suppressed child-labor in our factories; until we have wiped out the slums; until we can curb and hold in check the great aggregations of capital which assume they own and control the Government itself; then, and not until then, have we any right to criticize other nations or to set ourselves up as the civilizers of the world.

An Episcopal bishop out in Michigan declare that, in his private opinion, the Bible is not the word of God. Whereupon the "Catholic Union and Times" rather brutally remarks:—"With equal emphasis it may be said that the bishop is no bishop at all."

An exchange thinks that the yellow press is responsible for the "fine tooth comb raking" to which candidates for political office are subjected nowadays. We think not altogether. Yellow journalism as we understand it to-day was unknown in the Cleveland-Blaine campaign of 1884 and that was one of the dirtiest political campaigns in recent years.

School Commissioner Forbes ran up against the real thing when he tackled the officials of the State Department of Education.

The chap who will were a rabbit's foot next to his heart and shy at "13" at the table will sneer at holy water and the rosary as superstition!

One Italian Catholic Church dedicated and another in process of formation shows that the Italian population of Rochester is not flocking to that Protestant church that made such a bold bid for their attendance when a cross was placed in position on its steeple.

Political candidates should pray to be delivered from fool friends. One may well imagine Charles E. Hughes did not relish the advertisement that Professor John H. Mason gave him on Tuesday when he told his Bible class that "the next governor of New York state would be a Baptist." Why drag religion into a campaign? A preacher named Burchard did that in 1884 and the man he was trying to help was defeated.

Will it not be a relief when this campaign is over and the newspapers return to publishing "safe and sane" news?

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