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November

It is but fitting that our lives be not all one round of pleasure, else how could we prepare for the happiness of eternity?

Sorrow but the more keenly emphasizes previous and subsequent happiness. He who has never experienced pain cannot appreciate truly the blessing of perfect health. He who has not shed tears cannot understand real happiness when it does come.

So it is fitting that November should succeed the balmy September and the leave-turning October. In the trees, stripped of foilage, we may read a warning that so we, too, must face approaching age. In the bleak skies, we may recall that He who makes the bloom can also wither it.

Wisely, the Church has dedicated the month of November to the suffering souls in purgatory. In the chillness of approaching winter what more appropriate prayer than an appeal to Almighty God to be merciful to the souls of the faithful departed?

If we have loved ones gone on before let us pray for their souls during this month of November. If we have no loved ones of our own pray for the souls of all the faithful departed. You pray for them and in the hour of direst need they will not forget you.

Too True

The "Catholic Union and Times" strikes a key-note when it says:—"The people who let their boys and girls read whatever pleases the untrained and immature minds will some time awaken to their folly."

The CatholicJournal has tried for the last eighteen years to impress this fact upon the parents of Catholic children.

Children who are of a reading disposition cannot be blamed if they keep on reading trash left lying around carelessly or if they form a liking for the shallow, the sensational and the frothy.

But upon the parents who read such stuff themselves and then permit it to fall into the hands of their children will rest the blame.

The same is true of the parent who does not know what his children are reading. It is the duty of parents to read books or papers before they are permitted in the reach of children. Even the daily papers should be read over carefully before the children are allowed to read them. We can cite instances where children are not permitted to read the daily papers for weeks at a time because of the disgusting things and details which are printed openly in their columns. And the parents who do this are but doing their duty.

In view of this, Catholic parents should not fail to supply their children with at least one Catholic paper—and a Catholic magazine or two would not be amiss and would not cost any more than is paid out each Sunday for the sensational sheets which are not needed in any household.

After next week, at least by the week after, the daily papers will be fit to place in the hands of women and children once more. At least let us hope so. For the last six weeks lack of charity, lack of candor, superfluity of invective, superlative of vituperation, surplus of mudslinging and billingsgate have been the distinguishing characteristics of the daily press of this city.

Election

Next Tuesday is election day. The offices to be voted for are:—governor and other state offices, senators and assemblymen, representatives in Congress.

Polls will open at six o'clock in the morning and close at five o'clock in the afternoon.

It is the duty of every good citizen to vote and signify who should govern him in state and nation. Catholics are good citizens, therefore they should not neglect this duty.

Do not be mislead by specious pleas that the election of this candidate will ruin the country or that the defeat of that candidate will delay the millennium. Sift the chaff from the wheat in the speeches of the campaign orators and from the bitter editorials of the partisan press. Make up your mind who, in your judgment, will best administer affairs of state and nation, taking into account the platforms and records of the parties under whose standard these candidates are traveling.

Do not cast your ballot in a spirit of revenge for some fancied slight on the part of candidates, or because some friend asks you to "vote for Blank, he's a jolly good fellow." Make up your own mind!

But do not neglect to vote. If you go fishing on election day, you have but a poor conception of the majesty of American citizenship. Suppose some one introduced a law depriving you of your right to vote? You would denounce it as a high-handed outrage! Then avail yourselves of the franchise. If you do not, you deserve to lose it.

Higher Education

A distinct service has been rendered to the cause of Catholic education by the "Catholic Union and Times" in its article last week demonstrating that higher education of our people in Catholic colleges has received a mighty impetus during the last five years.

Says our contempory:

"In spite of the fact that Catholic colleges are being opened every year all over the country, the older institutions of learning report decided increase in numbers. The outlook for the current scholastic year is most promising Many of the prominent eastern and western colleges report the numbers in attendance as nearly double that of only five years ago. From no college comes the report of a decrease in the number of students. On the contrary, most of them are so crowded as to be in a position readily to reject the application of any student that seems in any way unsuitable.

"It is needless to say that the Catholic population in this country has not taken a sudden jump during the last half decade, nor can it be averred that the Catholic colleges are teaching differently from what they did five years ago. The change has come not because of anything in our Catholic population nor in our Catholic colleges, but because of a distinct reversal of opinion with regard to what constitutes the most suitable basis for education in the minds of educators all over the country.

"This is the reason why Catholic colleges have increased so much in the numbers in attendance during the last five years. It represents the tribute to the old methods which they have preserved and which they are now so much readier than others to put into effect because they have been in constant touch with them.

"Catholic parents who doubt the efficiency of Catholic colleges should be brought to a realization of these facts by their pastors and friends.

and then the present movement in favor of Catholic education will become even more marked than it has been"

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Fits Situation

Those who are bent upon smashing this or that book of the Bible when it does not fit their own ideas, who would break down this or that tradition, this or that accepted for generations as articles of faith might well read and ponder the following old story retold by the Baltimore "Sun":—

One day a member of a certain church who had listened attentively for five years to the preaching of his pastor, took to the divine his Bible, which was truly a sight to behold, with whole books clipped out here or a passage gone there. Indeed, between the covers there was little else left but a few shreds of paper. The pastor was horrified, and rebuked his parishioner for using the Bible so shockingly. To this rebuke the parishioner made the following meek retort: "It is all the result of your preaching. When I went home from church each Sunday I cut out of the Bible that which you had criticized in your sermon of that day. That verse on the Trinity was an interpolation; so out went the strong verse. Then the canonicity of this book and that was doubtful; so out went this book and that John did not write the Gospel of John, so out went what was called the Gospel of John. This bit of history was not history, only allegory; so out went that false and deceiving thing. Positively, sir, I have been faithful with my shears, and this is all the Bible I have left—two covers and a few tatters!"

Striking Words.

State Commissioner of Public Instruction, Andrew S. Draper, is classed as a staunch Protestant For this reason his striking advice to the Lake Mohonk conference is entitled to more than passing weight. Contrasting the mission work done in the Phillippines by the Roman Catholic church with that of other denominations, Dr. Draper frankly told the distinguished statesmen, educators and philanthropists who were present at the Conference of Friends and Other Dependent Peoples that the system of the various Protestant religions, while magnificent in appearance, was deficient in spiritual and educational results for good.

"Its work," said Commissioner Draper, referring to the Catholic Church," is so aggressive and so much better than any other that is there that it quickly receives the affection and devotion of a people to whom its solemn ceremonies, its beliefs and its administrative methods are especially adapted

"Our Protestant denominations are assuming to contest the ground but in comparsion with the work of the Roman Catholic Church, their as to avoid conflicts with one another so far as may be, but there is no possibility of avoiding rivalry with the Church of Rome in any part of our insular territory. I cannot help wondering if it is worth while.

"I am in favor of Protestantism wherever it can be self-sustained, but I do not fear to express my misgivings about the wisdom of the policy which taxes weak churches in America to support weak churches in our Island possessions, with no prospect of those churches becoming self-supporting, so long as one strong church is on the ground, is occuping it forcefully, and evidently is adapted to the situation."

Ten years ago Sam. Jones adopted the "yellow" style of pulpit preaching. He attracted large audiences by his mountebank exhibitions in evangelistic work. When he died a few days ago the younger generation asked:—"Who was Jones?" Was it because everybody, even the men in high places in the nation, have adopted "yellow" methods in dealing with great questions—Self glorification, the frequent use of "I" in writing and speaking and other clever methods of self-advertisement, are so common nowadays that they attract only passing attention.

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