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Friday, December 7, 1906.

It Is Mixed, Too.

The latest of the ten cent magazines, the "Times" is almost as badly mixed over the Catholic situation in France as are its contemporaries of the daily secular press.

The "Times" recognizes that the Clemenceau government is forcing the fighting, because it expresses a doubt whether "the secular party in France has been wise in forcing an open rupture with the entire Roman Catholic religious organization."

But the "Times" errs in its further deductions. It assumes that the "cultural associations" France would put the Church on an identical footing with the Church in this country except that the trustees must be laymen while in America the law permits the priests to serve in such capacity.

In the United States both priests and laymen serve as trustees. More over, in New York at least, this Church property is vested in the Diocese.

In France, the State has confiscated the property of the Church, including the sacred vessels and proposes to lease it back to associations composed of laymen who shall have the full power to select the priest, leaving to the bishop no power of discipline, no power of initiation of the parish. Moreover, the minister of public worship—a personage unknown to American procedure—is to pass upon the doctrines of the priest to teach. From the minister's decision appeal may be had to a house of deputies; composed of laymen who may be unbelievers entirely.

If that is not extending the control of the State over the Church instead of operating as a separation of Church and State we do not know what else it is.

Possibly a Good Plan.

If ever the boycott were justifiable surely it would be if employed in the following manner, suggested by the "Register," a Knights of Columbus Journal published in Greater New York:

"The way to bring France to a realization of the truth that when she struck at Catholicism in France she touched the hearts and sympathies of the millions of Catholics outside of France as well as in it, is to strike France through her purse."

"Let every Catholic man and woman resolve to stop entirely and absolutely the purchase or use of French goods of all descriptions and see how soon the French government will feel the blow."

"The Knights of Columbus now wield a tremendous power. In numbers nearly 170,000, they are composed of grown men, nearly every man of whom is a wage-earner of some standing, or a property-holder. They are men of standing in their community or parish. They can influence their own families and immediate circles of friends."

"With a splendid organization, they can take up this question of material support of the Catholic Church's attitude towards the French government, and be the leaders in the boycott of French goods and manufactures. Every Knight of Columbus can assist in getting the members of his own Council in this movement. He can at once stop the use of every article of French manufacture in his household. He can refuse French materials or French goods everywhere and demand that those of other manufacture be substituted."

"Here is work for the Knights of Columbus that will show mettle. Let them be the leaders in this movement. Let them gladly lead the fight. Let it be a source of credit to every Knight that he has done something to prevent the sale or use of French goods."

Almost anything is better in the way of garbage collection and disposal than the way it was attended to during the past summer.

The Race Problem.

Bishop Healy, of Natchez, Miss., lives in what is known as "The Black Belt." He has spent all his priestly life among the negroes.

It is said that the majority of the priests in the South share in the following views expressed by Bishop on the race problem.

"In answer to questions as to relations between whites and negroes, and what remedies I would suggest to prevent or cure the disorders arising from the violation of these relations, I beg to say:

"I believe many northern writers and speakers are responsible for these troubles; for if they only of the brutal authors of out-castes as fiercely as they do the publishers, there would be less of Negroes are never lynched unless outrage has been perpetrated, and unfortunately in the public eye. I am sometimes the wrong party. I am sometimes the victim of the most awful stunts upon and there will be no lynching.

"The great body of the blacks are gentle, harmless and tractable. It is only a few desperadoes among them that cause the trouble. Let their friends, but real enemies, in the North say and write nothing to encourage them, or at least to make them think they will escape punishment, and I believe there will be less of these horrible outrages."

"Those people have a false or greatly exaggerated or distorted idea of the native habits and condition of the negroes; let them come and live among them for a while and they will change or modify their opinion."

"Again, I believe the punishment ought to be left to the officers of the law, and the law ought to be executed promptly and impartially. Lynching is savage and barbarous, especially when it assumes the form of burning at the stake. The remedy is worse than the disease. As it hardly ever happens that a Catholic negro is involved in these outrages, I believe the best remedy of all would be to bring the negro under the rule of the law."

"The Catholic Church is only those unfortunates who have no idea, or only a false idea, of true Christianity, and who let themselves be swayed by the animal passions, that are guilty of such crimes and provoke such excommunication and punishment."

An Outside View.

Rev. Dr. William Henry Oxtoby, pastor of the Tabernacle Presbyterian church in Philadelphia, is another non-Catholic clergyman who sees much good in the Catholic decision.

Not long ago he preached a sermon on "The Catholic Church as Viewed by an Outsider." In the course of the sermon, Dr. Oxtoby said he believed confession to be beneficial and that the prayers of the Blessed Virgin had brought many women under religious influence. Catholic missionary activity had covered the earth. They have always been first in establishing hospitals and other charities.

Concluding, Dr. Oxtoby said:

"The Catholics are really more orthodox from our point of view than many denominations we affiliate with. Protestants and Catholics alike recite the Apostles' Creed. The definitions of the Councils of Nice and Chalcedon on the Trinity and on the person of Christ form part of the theology of both Catholics and Protestants. The personality of God, His providential dealings with man, revelation through Scripture, man a sinner and Christ a Saviour, all of these are held by all Christians alike. In their view of Christ and in their doctrine of future rewards and punishments the Catholics are more in harmony with Evangelical Protestants than some Protestant denominations are."

If there were any way of bringing the doctor to book for his utterances, we fear he would share the fate of Rev. Dr. Crapsey. If any such action were taken in Dr. Oxtoby's case, one would imagine that he would follow his evident convictions and come over to Catholicism.

Down in Louisiana the other day the Knights of Columbus and the Federation of Catholic Societies did valiant work in defeating a constitutional amendment which, if enacted, would have had the effect of taxing all Church property. Nevertheless, if such a law were passed in New York State it would bear far more heavily upon the non-Catholics than upon the Catholics. Not a few non-Catholic churches would be closed, we think.

Out in St. Louis a few days ago a Baptist convention solemnly declared that the President of the United States should be a Baptist. The "Western Watchman" naively remarks that Governor Folk, of Missouri, is a Baptist. According to Professor John H. Mason, of this city, Governor-elect Hughes is a Baptist.

An Awful Stain.

Even non-Catholics are compelled to pay tribute to the firm and determined stand against the divorce evil which the Catholic Church makes.

The Episcopalians have been working for years to reach an agreement, not to remarry divorced persons.

The Philadelphia "North American" comes out heartily in favor of the Catholic position in the following editorial:

"Divorce which has no warrant in Divine law or in equity, followed by a remarriage, stands for vice pure and simple, for the kind of vice which lives one of the sexes to the bottom of the most infamous and presents the most awful stains upon the garment of organized society."

"The Roman Catholic Church deserves immense commendation for its taking and resolutely standing by its view of the matter. Its judgment and that of the best individuals, is that marriage, as the unit of society and of the nation, is so sacred that the person who sins against it is guilty of an offense of the first magnitude, and should bear a heavy penalty."

The Other Americans.

Americans who reside in the United States are prone to imagine that Americans who reside in other countries on the American continent do not amount to much. They seem to carry the notion that Porto Ricans, citizens of the Argentine Republic, dwellers in the Central American states, in language are uneducated heathen.

This class of persons should read the following extract from an article by Hon. John Barbo, United States minister to Colombia, published in the "North American Review."

"How few North American scholars and men of culture or breeding realize the existence in the South American countries of excellent universities, advanced scientific and literary societies and groups of progressive thinkers, writers, poets, historians, editors, painters, sculptors, architects and professors, as highly gifted and as numerous in proportion to population as those of the United States and Europe."

In every capital of Latin-America there is a greater proportion of highly educated people, in the meaning of the term than in the average city of the United States, and it is astonishing to find the number of men and women who have been trained in the best schools of Europe. The high class Latin American women inspire admiration for their personal beauty and their devotion to their family. There is less domestic infidelity in all Latin-America than in the city of Chicago."

Editorial Notes.

It is to be hoped that the Common Council will not listen for a minute to any change in the city ordinances which might result in letting down the bars for the sale of milk not up to the standard. The men or men who say that the interests of any set of business individuals is paramount to the health and welfare of the 15,000 babies in Rochester ought not to be heeded. Perhaps, they would banish all children. Nay, may be they stand for race suicide.

Chief of Police John Hayden will win the commendation of all good citizens if he makes good his promise to rid Main Street of the things in men's clothes who leer at and stare at passing women. If a few of these fellows spend even one night in the cells they will be inclined to mind their business. And when the mashers are run out, chief, turn your attention to the persons who rent property for disorderly purposes.

According to the Newburg "News," Rev. Mr. Nelson, of the Congregational church there, in a recent sermon he related that several clergymen of his city, meeting on the street, discussed the subject. Finally they called a number of boys and asked how many of them knew the Ten Commandments. There was but one, and he a Catholic. Had that Catholic boy been a public school student he would have been as ignorant as his companions. Still, there are a few of our more cultured Catholics who prefer the religious plan.

The "Catholic Penny Booklet" puts it plainly in this way: How does socialism put it? "What is mine is mine." And how Christianity? "What is mine is mine." Note the difference.

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Just in the nick of time for gift buyers, we closed a deal with an importing and manufacturing jeweler, whereby we came into possession of a sample line of high class bracelets at 50 cents on the dollar. Of course, we shall distribute it on the same basis. Our prices will be exactly half retail values.

Men and brethren, if you have not yet settled upon that Xmas gift to wife, mother, daughter, sister or sweetheart, here's a pointer for you—give her a bracelet and get it here. There's nothing more fashionable at the moment and few things that would be more highly appreciated. Note range of values and prices:

French Bracelets at Half Price

Value—\$1.50, \$2, \$3.50, \$4, \$5.00, \$6, \$8, \$10, \$14, 16, \$18
Price—\$.75, \$1, \$1.75, \$2, \$2.50, \$3, \$4, \$5, \$7, \$8, \$9

Domestic Bracelets at Half Price

Value—50c, \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2, \$3.00, \$4, \$6, \$7.00, \$8.50, \$10, \$12
Price—25c, 50c, 75c, \$1, \$1.50, \$2, \$3, \$3.50, \$4.25, \$5, \$6

Collection comprises plain or chased or engraved gold filled bands in English, Roman or rose gold finish, plain gold filled bands with filigree work and settings of semi-precious stones, children's adjustable twisted wire bracelets in floral designs with signet for engraving, and children's gold filled plain band bracelets. Mark you, they are "house," as distinguished from "road" samples—in other words, in perfect condition.

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