

# The Catholic Journal

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Friday, March 15, 1907.

## St. Patrick

Since the politicians decided that it was a good thing—for political purposes—to make much of St. Patrick, the Protestant preachers, of the sensational type, have thought it their bounden duty to claim a part in that coat over Ireland's patron saint.

Of course, these Protestant dominions could not afford to give credit to an Irish Catholic saint. They might condescend to pay tribute to Scotch saint, to an American saint, or to an Irishman who was not a saint but that was as far as they could go.

As a consequence, some weird and wonderful claims on behalf of St. Patrick have been made. He has been claimed as a Presbyterian, as a Baptist, as a Methodist and as a Unitarian. The latest to claim him is the Episcopalians, of the stripe that claim themselves to be the only simon pure Catholics and far holier than the Pope.

And who makes the plea for them? No one but the Rev. Cyrus Townsend Brady, the clergyman who is noted as a rapid-fire writer of tales of the sea, of historical novels and of everything under this mundane sphere. Since the death of Archibald Clavering Gunter Dr. Brady stands pre-eminent among the scribes who can dash off a twenty-thousand word novelette inside of forty-eight hours by aid of typewriter and encyclopaedia.

Here is the way Dr. Brady, who is rector of Trinity Church in Toledo, claims St. Patrick as an Episcopalian.

St. Patrick belongs to our branch of the "Catholic Church of the world," and to prove his belief a full service will be held in Trinity church on St. Patrick's day. In announcing the service in his church publication he has this to say: "As you all know, the rector is of Irish descent, and the Emerald Isle, albeit his people have been away from it for some 200 years or more, is still dear to him. So also is the patron saint of Erin. We have too long allowed the Roman Catholic Church to monopolize St. Patrick, who indeed by right devolves to our branch of the Catholic church of the world. Therefore, the rector has determined to have the full services of the Church on next St. Patrick's day, with the full choir, and the hopes that all the congregation will be present thereat. Indeed, this movement is a general one, and I believe all the Episcopal churches, as well as other churches in the city, will have services on this day. The Irish are coming out on top not only politically but ecclesiastically."

Probably, Dr. Brady is about to dash off a story about St. Patrick and this is the way the enterprising press agent is getting in his work early.

## Is It Wise?

If only high-class men are appointed and their successors are men of equally high class, then there is every reason to hope that Governor Hughes' bill to create a public service commission, with plenary power of control over steam and electric corporations, gas and electric corporations, will go down the drain.

John Alexander Dowie is dead. Although he wielded enormous power at one time, this arch-fakir was deserted, practically, by all his followers and had lost nearly all of the millions he had wheedled out of his dupes. Such will be the ultimate end of all the fakirs for that is all those who try to substitute Christianity for Faith and Religion are.

But if only corporation lawyers and politicians are to fill these commissions, it is a question whether the people would be any better off than they are at present. To-day, if the people signify that they are offended with the politicians, the latter either mend their ways or the people vote them out of office.

But under Governor Hughes' plan, the governor appoints and removes at pleasure. If a corrupt governor is elected, then he can remove the commissioners and name men of his own stripe. Then, the new men, under the sweeping powers vested in the law, could hold up the corporations for their own benefit and tell the people to do their worst. There is no doubt that these public service corporations, by reason of the amount of money they are able to control, have debauched and lowered our public standards. Great care is needed lest they be not entrenched more firmly than ever.

Why would it not be a good plan to have the new commissioners elected directly by the people? Now that we are sure of a third political party, it need not be feared that the political bosses will be able to control all the nominations. Putting trust in the people is the best policy, in the long run.

## Declining?

A writer in the "Catholic Union and Times" disposes the French situation from a standpoint which the Catholic Journal has expressed itself as having more than a possible bearing.

We have asked the question as to whether a people, in a country where their clergy were supported out of the public treasury, ever had the proper love and respect for their priests, also whether the clergy had a deep sense of sympathy with their flocks.

The writer referred to claims that Catholicism in France has been on the decline and that thousands of so-called Catholic men only go to communion once or so in their lives; they do not obey the rule of the Church in approaching the sacraments once a year but that whether in deference to their woman folk, whether because it is the fashion or whether a spark of faith makes itself manifest at time of death, they demand to be carried to the church after death and also that their remains be laid in consecrated ground.

This may account for the non-resistance displayed in many quarters of France in the recent persecutions. It may also explain the almost frantic efforts of the Clemenceau-Combes adherents to prevent real separation of Church and State and to rivet more closely the clutch of the secular power has over the French hierarchy and priesthood.

The Journal has frequently expressed the opinion that Pope Pius X was well aware of the true situation and that he hoped by forcing the Clemenceau government to show its hand, so to speak, to arouse in French Catholics that dormant spark of loyalty to Mother Church and fan it into a flame which would sweep before it the infidel tribe which have been disgracing the Catholicity of France and the French people.

Judging from some recent occurrences, the Holy Father has acted wisely and there is ground for the hope that persecution by Combes, M. Clemenceau, M. Briand and the rest of the arch-bigots will react and that its only result will be to put France back in her proper place—first daughter of the Church.

San Francisco is having a hard time of it these days. Probably, that city is in no worse state than New York city but the papers have chosen to make it a shining mark for their muck rakes.

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## Only One Side.

Several weeks ago the Catholic Journal called attention to a syndicate column in the "Democrat and Chronicle" of this city and other papers entitled "Sunday Thoughts for Sunday Readers".

This column is supposed to contain news of the several religious denominations. No announcement has ever been made that the stuff was only designed for Protestant readers but rarely is anything seen in it of interest to Catholic readers. Whenever such an item is found, it reflects some discredit on the Catholic church or is written in such a way as to betray the unfamiliarity of the writer with Catholic belief, form of worship or anything Catholic.

As an instance in point, read this paragraph which appeared in last Sunday's "Democrat":

"In direct contrast to the expressions voiced by meetings of Catholics regarding the situation in France is the letter which has just been sent by the Alliance of Reformed Churches of America to the Reformed Churches in France. This letter was formulated at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Alliance, held a few days ago in Pittsburg. In part the letter states: "We welcome the news of the new condition of civil government with you and that the setting free of the church from the civil power has not with your approbation. We congratulate you on your cheerful and loyal obedience to the laws of France... Living, as we do, in a land where there is no union of church and state, and has not been, we welcome you to the enjoyment with us of religious freedom, which is God's gift, and most precious boon."

"The Reformed churches of France have about 100,000 members, with some 700,000 adherents. Equally with the Catholic churches were they affected by the law of separation, for the Protestant ministry, like the Catholic, had been supported by the French government, and the churches have now to support themselves."

This, either intentionally or unintentionally, misstates the case, both as regards the Catholic and non-Catholic status. Instead of separating Church and State, as is done in this country, the Clemenceau-Briand law places all churches and all Religion absolutely in the control of the State. Churches may not be used by any denomination if the inspectors of the minister of public worship report that the services conducted there do not conform to the brand of orthodoxy approved by the inspector, be he atheist or what not.

This is the status of the non-Catholics as well as of the Catholics. Does the Alliance wish to be branded as having joined hands with atheism? Minister Briand has announced publicly his intention to "root Jesus Christ out of the (French) nation!" Does the Alliance approve this stand?

We are inclined to agree with the "Democrat and Chronicle" when it says that while a pure milk supply is a fine thing for Rochester, Health Officer Goler should be able to accomplish it without helping to raise the price of milk. There is no reason why milk must advance in price if it is pure. For years it has been claimed that the milk in Rochester has been up to standard, thanks to the health department. What is the matter now? What dairy is to be boosted?

These chaps who want the tariff revised are hereby advised, if they do not know it now, that will come when Nelson W. Aldrich, of Rhode Island and Joseph W. Cannon, of Illinois, want it revised and not one minute before.

## Forty Hours Devotion

The devotion of the "Forty Hours" will be held in the churches of the diocese of Rochester as follows: March 17—Holy Apostles, Rochester; East Bloomfield; St. Stephen's, Geneva; Spencerport.

## Subscribe for the Journal.

# HOUSE CLEANING SALE

Yesterday's weather made one think of Spring. To the prudent housewife and to us it suggested house cleaning. We are going to start ours to-day. We will include articles that are used in every home, and will quote prices that will sell them on sight. All our goods are brand new—no old stock here.

Help us clean house now and thereby improve the result of your own labors later. You will require some new things. If rugs or lace curtains are needed, buy them now.



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## Five Minute Sermon

### The Jews Try to Stone Jesus.

That Jesus Christ affirmed His innocence and defied any one to convict Him of sin. This He did to convince the Jews of their injustice in refusing to believe His words and His doctrine. When a teacher combines profound learning with a spotless life he has a right to the confidence of those who hear him, for as a learned man there is no probability of his being deceived, and as an honest man no one should suspect that he would deceive. Let us also learn to live up to our teaching, our advice, and our corrections; so that when we reproach others, they cannot reproach us with inconsistency.

Insulted and calumniated as a schismatic, an apostate, and one possessed by a devil, Christ could, like Elias, have called fire from heaven to destroy His enemies, but He preferred to give us an example of divine patience and meekness, and refrained from saying any more to them than what the glory of God required. The charity of Jesus toward His enemies was seen on this occasion in all its greatness, and it teaches us how we should act when assailed by calumny and abuse.

The Divine Master, who had worked so many miracles, could in a moment have felled the impious Jews to the ground as He afterward did the crowd in the Garden of Gethsemani, or could He not have treated them worse? Yet He preferred to hide Himself, and by so doing He taught us to be meek and not to resist the powers, even when we are sure of victory, in order not to still more irritate them and to cause them to do us greater harm when opportunity offers, which they surely will not let escape them.

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### An Event of No Small Importance is Our Millinery Reception

Each season our Millinery Exhibit surpasses its predecessor. This season's eclipses them all. Not least among its noteworthy features is the fact that sales have been greater than is usual on such occasions. Millinery Openings are not propitious for big business. As a rule there's more looking than buying. Some out of curiosity; others for pointers that will prove helpful when choosing time comes. This season's reception, however, was remarkable for number and volume of sales. So irresistible were the conceptions that few who inspected them, and saw what exactly suited, dared risk a postponement of selection. And they bought with an alacrity that was highly complimentary.

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