

# The Catholic Journal

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### Can This Be So?

Attention is called by the "Catholic Union and Times" to a condition which should not be permitted to exist. We have not heard that such a condition exists in Rochester, but if similar orders should ever be issued in this city the Catholic "Journal" would say to Catholics affected, "Refuse to obey, pay the fine under protest if one were imposed and then appeal to the highest courts if necessary for a decision."

It is stated by our contemporary that regimental services for the Buffalo militiamen are held annually in Protestant churches and that the colonel last year fined \$2.50 each the Catholic guardsmen who did not attend the service. They submitted and paid up, thinking the money penalty preferable to taking part in a religious service against which conscience rebelled.

Judge Advocate General Davis of the United States regular army has given a decision on a case in point which, one would think, would apply equally well to state militia. A sergeant refused to attend services with his regiment, when held in a Catholic church. Judge Davis was asked for an opinion. In it he called attention to the constitutional prohibition against establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. He then declared that "officers and enlisted men of the army never have been required to attend religious services."

Judge Davis goes on: "I must therefore conclude that, while as post commander may lawfully sue such orders as he may deem necessary to secure a proper observance of the Sabbath, it is not competent for him to require officers and enlisted men to attend divine services, or to promulgate instructions in respect to the observance of the day which are in excess of or contrary to the requirements of the fifty-second article of war."

"As an incident of his authority as post commander, however, he may require those who attend divine services to form at a designated time and place and to march to and from the place where services are to be held in a proper military manner."

The "Union and Times" comments concisely and pertinently: "Being constitutional, this decision of Judge Advocate Davis no doubt applies outside the regular army. It would do no harm to test it. It is emphatically wrong to compel a soldier to attend a service against which he has conscientious scruples, be it Catholic or Protestant."

### Catholic Editor.

In his address in connection with the conferring of the Laetare medal upon Miss Katherine E. Conway of the Boston "Pilot," Archbishop O'Connell said this respecting the Catholic editor:  
"The Catholic editor is a lay evangelist, and his office is a sacred responsibility. He must possess not merely rhetoric, but reverence, if by what he writes, even in matters less grave, he is to produce in his readers the edification which helps, and to avoid needless measures, which is the pitfall and the ruin of his true usefulness. He must be a chronicler, not a critic, of ecclesiastical superiors. And he must be ever watchful to be a help and not a hindrance to them in furthering the Church's interests. From all this it is plain that the Catholic editor must have extraordinary qualities of heart and mind, of intelligence and faith, of docility as well as dignity.  
"His attitude, to be potent and efficient, must be that of one certain of his ground, sure of his position, for he speaks not for himself, but for truth. And that security and sureness come only to him who has toiled for years in acquiring them. A false step, a hasty word,

a weak phrase may bring not only discredit to his pen, but distrust and perhaps dishonor to his Church. He has few of the liberties of other editors, whose flippancy and facility may often pass for brilliancy. The editorial 'we' of the Catholic paper is taken infinitely more seriously than that impersonal word in other columns, and its weight is correspondingly graver and its import infinitely more responsible."

To this the "Catholic Standard and Times" adds:

"To this summary we might be permitted to add that the idealized Catholic editor should be as self-respecting as he is respectful of authority. He should be no party property in Columbus was charged with a word as to clerical Catholic Catholic Church was the greatest editors? In their practical institution of public charity that munity from criticism they occa- ever has existed, or that the world ionally drive their quills in a man- has ever seen.

mer verging close to the uncharit- able and take liberties which the case to the higher court which has mere layman would not dare to im- decided that church property, that late even in controversial answer is houses for public worship with the property attached, and not used with a view to profit are exempt

### Secret Societies.

Archbishop Messmer has made an interesting contribution to the discussion of the attitude of the Catholic Church toward the so-called "secret societies." He points out that many of these organizations, because of their refusal to furnish any information as to their workings have denied themselves to blame if the Church has frowned upon them. He adds:

"I am of opinion that the leaders of many fraternal orders begin to understand this attitude of the Church and no longer see an un-just and foreign interference in the quest of the Church over them- selves; but that recognizing the Church's authority over her own members, they submit to her de- mands in order that Catholics may be allowed to swell the membership and revenues of the order. It is simple business proposition. No one calls it unjust or foreign inter-ference when the German govern-ment, for the protection of its own citizens, demands of the New York Life Insurance Company, for ex-ample, an American corporation and as such subject only to Ameri- can law, full information regarding its standing and operations before it will give that concern permission to gather in the men and women of the Vaterland." The case between the Church and fraternal organiza- tions is quite similar. She claims on celebrating his silver jubilee as

the world as her territory, and her a priest spiritual jurisdiction reaches Cath- olics wherever found. If fraternal societies desire Catholics to join their ranks, they must necessarily give due consideration to the laws of the Church, by which Catholics are always and everywhere bound. garb he wears.

### Flays Divorce.

It is refreshing and encouraging to note that even the non-Catholics of the Catholic Church on divorce is the only logical and sensible one, viewed solely from the maternal standpoint.

In a recent sermon, Rev. W. H. Head of the Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church made this fierce onslaught upon ministers who officiate at the marriage of divorced persons:  
"Notwithstanding that Utah is the only commonwealth, and the Mormon Church the only church that ever openly recognized polygamy," he said, "we are fast becoming a polygamous nation. Some one has said successive polygamy is no better than contemporaneous polygamy. I think it is not as good, for the latter would seem to have had at one time the sanction of Holy Scripture, and it at least one household, while the other has no sanction anywhere."

"Protestantism has swung from the inviolability and sacramental view of marriage to the other pole, and has been moving rapidly to the point of recognizing marriage as a mere mutual contract between two parties to be annulled at the convenience of either.  
"It is well we have the Catholic Church to stand out as a continual protest against our laxity. All hail to the Catholic ecclesiastics, and the Episcopal bishop who would not allow the skirts of the church to be dragged in the Corey-Gilman mire, and all condemnation to the Congregational minister who be- smirched the fair name of his church with such slush.  
"There is a good parallel, in my mind, between this brother's and a certain Judas Iscariot who tried to cleanse his hands by returning the thirty pieces of silver.  
"Does any one imagine that our

brother would have performed that ceremony if there had been only \$5 in it instead of \$1,000? But he said he did not read the papers. Well, then, he has no right to occupy the pulpit of a metropolitan church if he is so out of touch with the times as not to read the daily press."

### Peculiar Decision.

What may be called a peculiar decision has been handed down by the Supreme Court of Ohio. The full decision may never be known as the court will not have it pub- lished.

During the A. P. A. excitement prior to 1868 the Catholic Church in Columbus was charged with a word as to clerical Catholic Catholic Church was the greatest editors? In their practical institution of public charity that munity from criticism they occa- ever has existed, or that the world ionally drive their quills in a man- has ever seen.

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from taxation; public school houses, public colleges, public academies, buildings connected with them and all lands connected with public institutions of learning, not leased or otherwise used for profit, are exempt from taxation. A par-sonage or priest's house or resi- dence, although built on ground that might otherwise be exempt as allotted to the church edifice, does not come within the exemption statute; the ground in such case is appropriated to a new and different use. All lands used exclusively as grounds for burying the dead, ex- cept such as are held for specula- tion, are exempt from taxation. May we not be excused in call- ing this a "hair-splitting decision?"

### Editorial Notes.

With Dr. Maurice Francis Egan, administrator to Denmark, James Jeffrey No Roche, a consul in Italy and Miss Katherine E. Conway receiving the Laetare medal. Who shall say that Catholic editors and litterateurs are not recognized?

Charles J. Phillips, of the Wash- ington "New Century" has succeed- ed Mr. Conolly as editor of the "Monitor."

The Catholic Journal extends congratulations to Rev. John Hiden, of St. Joseph's Cathedral, Buffalo, on celebrating his silver jubilee as pastor of the church. She claims on celebrating his silver jubilee as pastor of the church. She claims on celebrating his silver jubilee as pastor of the church. She claims on celebrating his silver jubilee as pastor of the church.

One good result of the Corey wedding is a vigorous protest against lax divorce laws and easy remarriage.

"The better Catholic you are the better citizen," said Archbishop Moeller in a sermon at St. Peter's Cathedral, Cincinnati, to the Catholic Knights of America. "The Catholic who abuses in any way his citizenship or his public trust, who appropriates the public money, or who is disloyal to the Stars and Stripes, causes the mother Church to weep."

Seventy-five years old, forty-seven of these years spent in one girls academy! Such was the record of Sister St. Mary, of the Gray Nuns, who died in Holy Angels' Academy, in Buffalo a few days ago.

The Irish do not seem to appreciate the makeshift Birrell bill, that sham "Home Rule measure." Says the "Catholic Sun," "Rev. Dr. Crapsey is going over to France this summer to study the relations of Church and State. As a matter of fact he needn't take trouble. His scripture studies on this side the water scarcely prove him an intelligent student."

"The naked facts of history," says the "Lamp" (Protestant Episcopal), "are that the English Church was cheated and brow- beaten out of her inheritance in the Chair of Peter by a cabal of un- scrupulous and wicked politicians."

"Under the law of separation the Catholic Church would have been freer than ever she was," is the as- sertion commonly made by Protest- ant writers. "Yes, indeed," com- ments the "Sacred Heart Review." "Free as a bird. Free as an out- law. Free to be the victim of every atheistic sportsman who felt like taking a shot at her."

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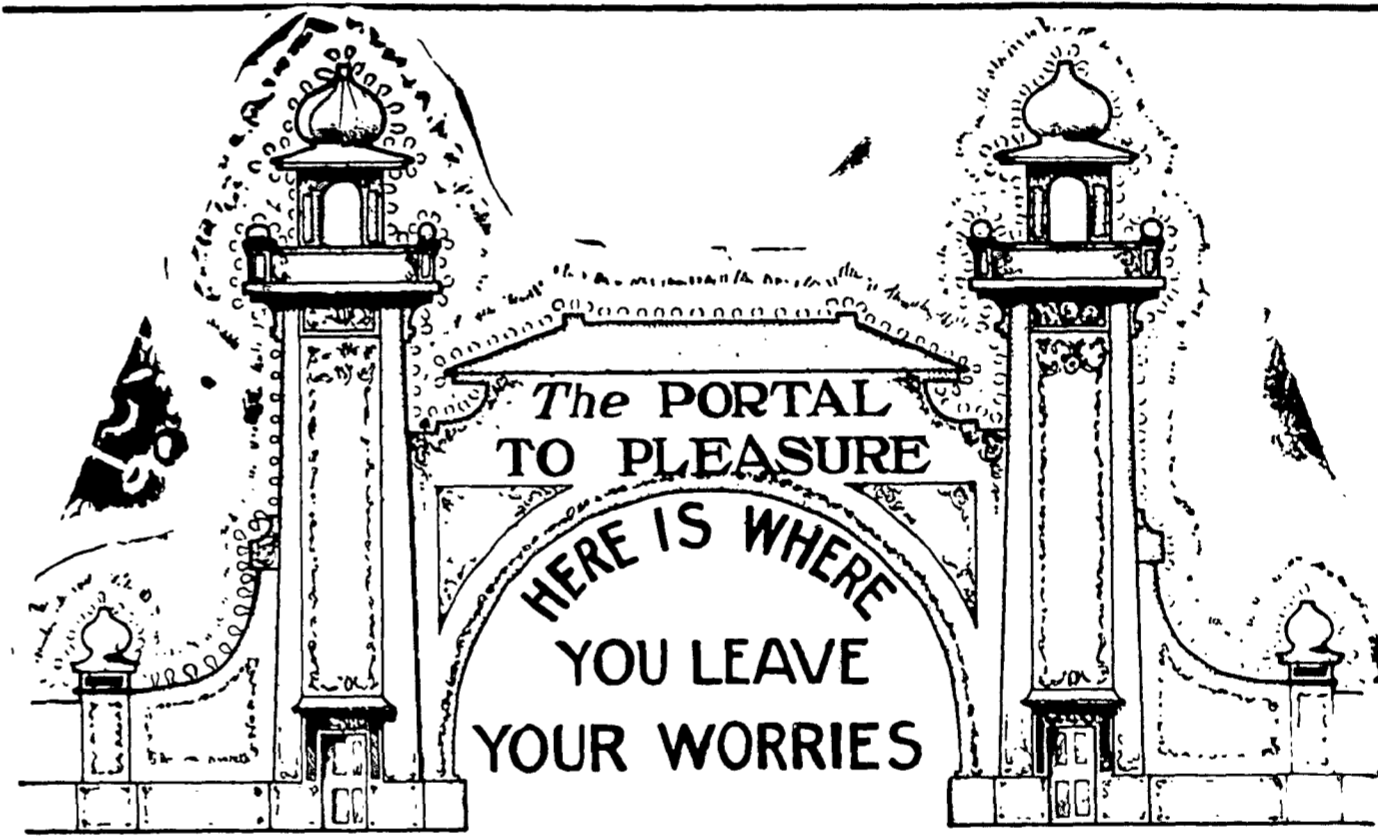
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