

# The Catholic Journal

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Friday, October 11, 1907.

## Not Opposed.

Pope Pius X's encyclical against "modernism," so-called, has provoked another outburst from the superficially equipped devotees of our superficial American school system to the effect that the Holy Father has taken a step to the rear, that he has undone much of the work of Pope Leo XIII, and that he represents the reactionaries in the Catholic Church who have opposed progress in science.

We used the word superficially perhaps, we should qualify that some of these writers are so superficial in education and ordinary knowledge that they believe what they write. Others know better but it serves their purpose better to be to the public mind and arouse antagonism toward Catholicity—to write as if they did not know better.

One would hardly credit Andrew D. White, ex-president of Cornell and ex-ambassador to Germany, with superficial knowledge of the Church and her position toward Education and Science. Yet, if one does not take that view he must credit Dr. White with a bigoted mind. In a recent work he tries to perpetuate the idea that the Church and Science are diametrically opposed. He makes the specific charge that a Papal bull forbids dissection. Dr. James J. Walsh, professor of medicine in Fordham University, one of the educated Catholics to whom we owe much material and ammunition with which to combat bigoted attacks upon the Church, refutes this assertion in a caustic letter to the New York "Evening Post." In his letter Dr. Walsh says:

"The bull Dr. White quotes does not forbid dissection, but prohibits a practice—that of cutting up the bodies of the dead, and boiling them in order to transport them long distances, which any modern sanitary authority would at once condemn. Four centuries and a half after the issuance of that bull, one of the Popes, Benedict XIV, was asked if it applied to dissection, and he pronounced that it did not. In the meantime there had been a Papal Medical School at Rome for over four centuries, and for two centuries of that time the greatest teachers in anatomy that ever lived did their work at this papal medical school. The list of professors of anatomy at Rome includes such names as Eustachius, Varolius, Columbus, Cesaipinus, Aranzi, Malpighi and Lancisi. With the exception of Versalvius and Harvey these are the greatest names in the history of anatomy. They did their work at Rome, yet President White says that "dissection was a sin against the Holy Ghost."

President White quotes a bull which is supposed to forbid chemistry. The text of the document shows that what it really forbade was the fraud of pretending to make gold and silver which was the gold brick industry of the middle ages. The Pope (John XXII) who issued this bull founded three medical schools, and required that the course in them should be seven years, three for preparatory study and four for professional work. The history of chemistry shows that there was no hindrance to chemical development by an ecclesiastical regulation and that the great names in the science that preceded modern chemistry are all ecclesiastics and many of them saints.

President White declares that because of an ecclesiastical decree forbidding surgery to monks and to ecclesiastics for over a thousand years surgery was considered dishonorable and the greatest monks were unable to procure an ordinary surgical operation." It was not until 1406, according to him, because of the decree of a Catholic emperor that surgery was considered dishonorable.

able. As a matter of fact, the two centuries preceding the year 1406, represent the greatest period in the history of surgery, except the nineteenth century, of which we have no record. The amount of progress made by surgeons at this time is simply marvellous. The father of modern surgery so-called, Guy de Chauliac, was a member of the papal household during this period. He is responsible for much more devoted attention to anatomy and especially to dissection than had been the case before.

## Conversion.

How often it is remarked by non-Catholics that only the ignorant and the uneducated could tolerate or submit to the Catholic Church. We have met Catholics who talked as if they believed that the majority of the members of our church were persons of that class. Generally, these Catholics belong to the set that thinks it a waste of money to subscribe for and a waste of time to read a Catholic paper. Others there are who are carried away by the latter day craze that amassing money is the true test of getting ahead in the world and that education, formation and development of character is a secondary consideration and a very meager consideration at that.

Both ignorant Catholics and non-Catholics, if they were disposed to investigate, would learn that not the ignorant but the educated non-Catholics are the Protestants who are embracing the Catholic Church. The flower of the Episcopalian and other branches of Protestantism are coming over to the old and true Church. In Europe, the titled nobility and the savants of the learned world are noticed among the converts of the Catholic Church.

Just read this extract from Richard Malcolm Johnston's conversion and then tell us if it reads like the writings of an unlearned person:

I continued to read Bishop Ives' "Trials of a Mind" made a deep impression. This was followed by Milner's "End of Controversy," and the masterly answer of Newman to Gladstone. The life of the Cure d'Arz produced a lasting effect. As an antidote I read the works of Land and Hooker. They were no longer convincing. I was filled with agony and depression. I could not banish from my mind the thought that "these Catholic writers have got the argument." While reading "Balmes" I was convinced that my wife had followed the true path. I remember well that day. I sat in my garden, beneath the shade of a chestnut. I had read only sixty lines of "Balmes" when a calmness came to my mind. The journey was almost done. I had come to the edge of the encircling gloom, and could see beyond the land of truth. I closed the book, and, walking into the house, greeted my wife, (Mrs. Johnston had previously become a Catholic) with the happiest salutation of my life. "I am going with you, my dear!" In July, 1875, on the feast of the Sacred Heart, I found that peace which I had so long sought and prayed for, in the bosom of the Catholic Church.

## Editorial Notes.

The "Catholic Union and Times" has this to say: "In a sermon preached in St. George's Episcopal Church, in Rochester, last Sunday night, the rector, Rev. George C. Richmond, declared that Bishop McQuaid was the leading citizen of Rochester and had done more for the city than any mayor had done. He said that the clergy should have places on the School Board as well as on the Park Board, and that Rochester would not have its beautiful parks if it had not been for Bishop McQuaid. Mr. Richmond's tribute is all the more generous in that it is unusual. One does not look to the Protestant pulpit for such unstinted praise of Catholic prelates."

The New York State Legislature of 1907 may yet pass down to fame because of its enactment of the Phillips law making a violation of the Seventh Commandment a criminal offense. Until now New York State had the reputation of a lax commonwealth, so far as morality and the statute books were concerned. Already men and women who gloried in their illicit relations are trembling in their shoes over possible arraignment in the prisoner's dock and proprietors of fashionable hotels and apartments are evicting questionable characters. This is an indication of the good which may result from the new law.

It is gratifying to note the large attendance at the Cathedral high school. Let us hope that before many years not only will we see a Catholic high school in Rochester but a Catholic college as well. Catholic boys should have a home college of their own.

## Five Minute Sermon

### The King's Account.

From this Gospel we should learn how great is the goodness of God, and how willingly He forgives him who sincerely confesses his sins and firmly resolves to amend his life. David and Magdalen are very eloquent examples of this.

The servant who refused to have pity on his fellow-servant is a figure of those Christians who refuse to forgive their neighbor, while they themselves dare hope to obtain, or have even previously obtained the forgiveness of their sins, which are far more grievous. Let us learn from this how angry the Lord will be with us if we exact satisfaction; knowing that He has strictly commanded us to forgive our neighbor from our heart, and that He has repeatedly assured us that we shall be treated by Him in the same manner as we have treated others.

The Divine Teacher said this in the parable to let us know that whosoever does not sincerely forgive his enemies will be sentenced to the torments of hell.

### Forty Hours Devotion

The devotion of the "Forty Hours" will be held in the churches of the dioceses of Rochester as follows:  
 October 13—St. Joseph's, Rochester; Newark; Dundee; Genesee; Union Springs; Coldwater; St. Alphonsus, Auburn; St. Patrick's, Corning.

### Weekly Church Calendar

Sunday October 13—Gospel, St. Matt. xviii 23-35—St. Edward, king and confessor.  
 Monday 14—St. Callistus, pope and martyr.  
 Tuesday 15—St. Teresa, virgin.  
 Wednesday 16—St. Gall, abbot and confessor.  
 Thursday 17—St. Hedwige, widow.  
 Friday 18—St. Luke, Evangelist.  
 Saturday 19—St. Peter of Alcantara, confessor.

### Cook Opera House.

Benjamin Chapin is to be the star in the bill of vaudeville to be presented next week at the Cook Opera House. This man has a wonderful stunt. He gives impersonations of Abraham Lincoln. These are not mere imitations. On next Saturday afternoon Mr. Chapin will present a bust of Lincoln to the Rochester school boy or girl who sends in, on or before Friday night, the best composition on Abraham Lincoln.

A big rollicking musical novelty will be found in Gus Edwards' "School Boys and Girls." The musical end of the act is very strong. Herman Timberg, a violin soloist who attracted comment from the great Ysaye, will play. The prima donna will be Miss Maude Earl, a young sister of the great Virginia Earl. Belle Blanche, described as a pretty young woman marvellously talented in the art of mimicry, will offer imitations of Anna Held, Ray Templeton, Eva Tanguay and other famous feminine stage lights. Urbani and son, German acrobats, promise a remarkable performance in which a lad 17 years old lifts and handles his father in balancing feats. His father is a big man weighing twice as much as his son. Bruno and Russell will have a comedy turn entitled "The Insurance Agent." Hoey and Lea will entertain with the Hebrew comedy, "The Melani Trio." Italian street musicians, will have an act consisting mostly of sing-courts. Kelly and Reno will show comedy acrobatics. The Kinograph will show new moving pictures.

### Personal

Messrs. White, Curry and Only spent Sunday at Niagara Falls.

### Richmond

Mrs. Wm. Ryan of Rochester, and Miss Anna Hendrick of Lima, visited at Mrs. Margaret Sullivan last week.

Murray Reed of Gold Field, Nevada, and Miss Gertrude Hicks are to be married October 9th. The young couple have the best wishes of their many friends.

Mr. Chas. J. Costello who has a fine position in Buffalo, spent a few days at his home recently. Mass will be offered for Honorable Lahey on Wednesday and Wm. Cleary on Friday.

Mrs. and Mr. C. J. Wilson of Elora, Canada, who visited his brother, Chas. Wilson, recently visited his daughter, Sister Primitiva, at Indianapolis before they returned to their home.

There will be no mass at St. Mary's Church next Sunday. Mass will be at 11 o'clock, October 20.

### George T. Boucher Florist

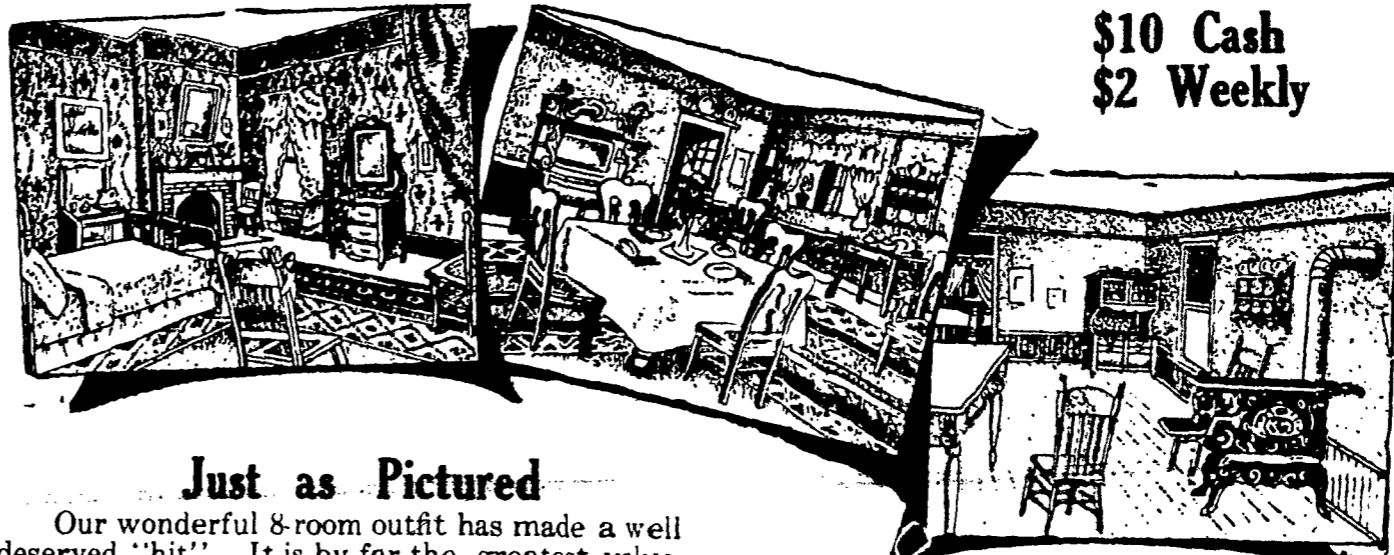
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Howard H. Widener

### Republican Candidate for District Attorney

Howard H. Widener, the Republican candidate for District Attorney, has served the county as First Assistant District Attorney for over 15 years. He asked for a promotion in office on account of long and faithful service, and as being in line for promotion. The convention unanimously accorded him the nomination.

Mr. Widener is well spoken of by all grand and trial jurors, who have had occasion to act in the courts where Mr. Widener appeared for the people. He is familiar with the procedure of the courts in all their detail from the Police Court to the Court of Appeals. His experience in the office would save the taxpayers thousands of dollars, by being able to promptly dispose of the hundreds of cases that annually come to that office. He is a criminal lawyer of good ability and has been successful in the argument of cases in the higher courts, as well as being a match for any attorney as a trial lawyer. His experience and deserved promotion certainly will appeal to every voter who has the interest of the people at heart and believes in promoting an old servant. Mr. Widener has acted as First Assistant under three successive District Attorneys, viz.: George A. Benton, (now Justice of the Supreme Court), George D. Forsyth and Stephen J. Warren. His continued retention by these several gentlemen whose legal ability is well known, is a sufficient guarantee of Mr. Widener's qualification for the office.

The people of this county will certainly make a mistake if they attempt to elect a District Attorney who has had no legal training along these lines, and has no qualifications whatsoever for the office. Mr. Widener states in accepting the nomination, that if elected, he would try and give the people of this county an honest, prompt and efficient administration. Mr. Widener is now 47 years of age, was born in this county, is a member of Rochester Lodge, No. 24, of Elks and other fraternal societies.



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