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Friday, December 13, 1907.

Hitters Bitten.
It is refreshing to read and listen
to the indignant protests which have
gone up from militant Protestants
over the proposition that Christmas
hymns and Christmas carols and
Christmas stories be omitted from the
public school exercises in New York
City during the closing days of De-
cember.

This suggestion comes from the
Jews who object to their children be-
ing compelled to take part in exer-
cises which belie the orthodox Jew-
ish faith.
"What, Christmas with Christ left
out?" shriek the aggrieved Protes-
tants. "Let these ignorant surves
from foreign lands return whence
they come if America does not suit
them."

Catholics, to be sure, do not ap-
prove of Christmas with Christ left
out. They do not approve of Godless
schools. To demonstrate the practi-
cality of that belief and their firm
adherence to it, they have built and
equipped and continue to maintain,
a separate school system in which
are educated from one-quarter to one-
third as many children as are edu-
cated in the public schools. This is
not all. Catholics contribute their
pro rata share to the support of the
public school system from which they
derive no benefit.

When the Catholics set out to es-
tablish the parochial school system,
great was the ado from the Protes-
tants. "What need of religion in
the schools? Cannot the children
learn all the religion necessary at
home and in the Sunday School?"
Catholics were branded as un-Amer-
ican and their clergy called worse.

It would appear from the out-
burst in New York that the Protes-
tants did not mean what they said
to Catholics. If all the religion nec-
essary can be imparted at home and
in the churches, what need of incul-
cating it, indirectly, by means of
Christmas exercises in the schools,
by means of Bible reading, by means
of religious pictures?

"But all these are merely literary
on their character. They cannot
possibly, affect the religion of the pu-
pils, as taught at home by their par-
ents. Talking and reading about
Christmas has no effect upon the be-
lief of the children of orthodox Jews
that the Messiah is yet to come."

Can that be true? To be sure it
cannot. It was alleged with great
vehemence and show of feeling that
the mere wearing of a nun's garb
by a school teacher was a direct ap-
peal to the pupils to enter "the
Church of Rome," and that the sight
of the cross upon the nun's rosary
carried conviction to the tender
hearts of the little children who were
apt to regard their teacher as the em-
bodiment of all good.

dent from a recent letter from an
Episcopalian: Writing to the "Liv-
ing Church," Rev. G. L. L. Gordon, of
Woodbine, Camden County, Ga., la-
ments the fact that in many of its
dioceses the Episcopal Church has no
denominational school or college. "I
send my children," he says, "to a
state college, so-called. The presi-
dent and nearly all the faculty are
either Methodists, Baptists or Pres-
byterian. My girls write: 'Last
Sunday we all went to the Baptist
Church; we heard a sermon that
caused us to feel as if we were almost
heathens, for the preacher said that
no one could be saved unless im-
mersed, and that by a Baptist preach-
er, duly called.' Now, if our young
people are to have such heresies as
that forced down their throats at
state schools, it would be far better
for them to have no education at all."

Real Reason.
Somehow or other the Protestants
are awakening to the fact that the
much-lauded public school system is
not what it might be. They used to
attribute all evils to lack of educa-
tion and were wont to assert that
when education was more general
then all evils would disappear.
More money is spent to-day in educa-
tion than ever before in our history.
Money pours in a well-nigh
endless stream from the public treas-
ury in support of schools. But crime
is on the increase, lack of reverence
for age and authority is more no-
ticeable every day, the average
American home is well-nigh childless,
the number of divorces increases and
attendance upon the Protestant
churches is on the wane.

The reason? Perhaps it may be
found in the following extract from
a recent editorial in "Church Prog-
ress":
"A Seattle minister complains that
his Sunday school work is hindered
by the agnostic attitude of the pub-
lic schools. We are inclined to be-
lieve that what he calls an agnostic
attitude is merely an attitude of in-
difference. The ordinary school
teacher differs little from the ordi-
nary American in general. The
teachers of the country are men and
women of character as a rule, and
the chances are that they are no
more irreligious than the bulk of
their countrymen. But the trouble
is that no stress is laid on religion
in the course of study. Teachers and
children are only human, and they
conclude that religion is an unim-
portant affair. So they give their
time to what is demanded of them
and become indifferent toward re-
ligion, and make it difficult for the
good man of Seattle to fill his Sun-
day School classes. It will continue
to be so as long as the present pro-
gressive system of education is per-
sisted in, a system which takes al-
most no note of the most important
element in education—moral train-
ing."

Good to Know.
Replying to this question, "Why
can a priest not say Mass without
an altar stone?" Rev. John Price says
in the Pittsburg "Observer":
"Did you know that a priest
is required to have an altar stone
at all? Did not our Lord use a din-
ing room table for the first Mass?
Did He say one word about the nec-
essity of a stone of any kind as a
condition for the exercise of the
priestly power conferred on the words,
'Do this in commemoration of Me?'
'The Apostles did not carry altar
stones with them on their missionary
journeys. They used the tables to
be found in the houses of the faith-
ful when they celebrated Mass. It
was in the catacombs that stone al-
tars were first used, and these stone
altars were the slabs that covered the
sarcophagus of some martyr or saint.
Judging from the altar in the crypt
of St. Cecilia in the catacombs of St.
Callixtus, Rome, the early altars
were exceedingly plain in construc-
tion and void of ornamentation.
It is said that St. Sixtus II. (A. D.
257-259) was the first to prescribe
that Mass should be celebrated on an
altar. St. Lucien (A. D. 312) whilst
in prison is said to have celebrated
Mass on his breast. And the Bishop
of Tyre, Theodore, consecrated the
Host on the hands of his deacons. I
read somewhere, or heard it when in
seminary, that some Polish priests
while in exile in Siberia were granted
permission to use their breasts for
altars; but I have found no one that
is authority for the statement.
To-day, when the altar is of stone
or marble, its top slab, called a table,
is consecrated. When the altar is
wooden, the top slab has a square
marble piece inserted in the middle,
and this stone is consecrated before-
hand by the Bishop and set in place
by the celebrant. It is supposed to
rest there permanently. But still
smaller stones are consecrated by the
Bishops and given to missionaries to
carry with them on their journeys.
'A priest is under strict obligation
to have an altar stone when he cele-
brates Mass, but this precept is ec-
clesiastical. It would be illicit to
say Mass without it, but in the case

that a priest was disobedient, the con-
secration would be valid though the
priest would be sacrilegiously cele-
brating.
"Therefore, the priest can say Mass
without an altar stone, but to do this
would be a very grievous sin. But
no priest does say Mass without an
altar stone."

Just Alike.
The King of Saxony wishes a di-
vorce from the wife who has run off
with some common fellow. A num-
ber of his subjects have signed a
manifesto reading in part as follows:
"If the Pope will not dissolve the
marriage which the courts have an-
nulled, make sacrifice for your coun-
try and people who are indissolubly
bound to you. Enter the Evangelical
Church for your country. All ob-
stacles will then disappear and you
will be able to give a Queen to your
people. Prince Augustus of Saxony
became a Catholic to obtain a crown,
so you now make a sacrifice—abandon
Rome and give you people a
mother."

Upon this the London "Catholic
Times" comments:
"Who like the language of Cran-
mer, who was chief instrument in
making the much-married King Henry the head of the Church of
England. Macaulay observes that he
was eminently fitted for the task,
jointly in his professions, unscrup-
ulous in his dealings, zealous for
nothing, bold in speculation, a coward
and a time-server in action, a plac-
able enemy and a lukewarm friend,
he was in every way qualified to ar-
range the terms of the coalition be-
tween the religious and the worldly
enemies of Popery." The authors of
the "open letter," the modern Cran-
mers, are equally qualified to ex-
pound the duties of the King of Sax-
ony. But the King of Saxony is not
another Henry. Frederick Augustus
is a dutiful son of the Catholic
Church, and as such does not believe
it is permissible to trifle with re-
ligious principle."

Approval.
The "Catholic News" does good
service in the following editorial:
A former Cabinet officer the other
day in a public address said that al-
though he was a strong Protestant
he believed in the confessional. He
is not the only one outside the
Church who recognizes the advan-
tages of confession. Frances E.
Willard, the great temperance work-
er, once said:

"I am a Protestant, but there is no
blinking this fact: The Catholics
are, in this country and in Ireland,
ahead of us in social purity. You
can take a Protestant family into a
London slum and put them into a
dirty room on the right-hand top of
the stairs, and then put a Catholic
family on the other side of the stairs,
and you will find after two, three or
four years half of the girls of the
Protestant family have gone to the
bad, and every member of the Catho-
lic family have retained their virtue.
'I was astonished when I went to
Ireland by the contrast between that
country and our own. I heard from
Protestant and Catholic, Unionist and
Home Ruler alike that, although
they may be packed together, you will
find that they are the most virtuous
peasantry in the world. How is this?
I tell you it is because the priests
have preached sedulously and incul-
cated in the confessional and in fam-
ilies the duties of parents to children
and the duty of young people to each
other. In this matter the result is,
I say frankly, a moral miracle before
which we Protestants have reason to
bow our heads in shame."

From the Philippines, says the
"Franciscan Annals," comes news of
a very useful discovery by a Fran-
ciscan friar, which is of considerable im-
portance to one of the principal in-
dustries of those islands. There is
there a peculiar species of banana
tree, from the bark of which cloth of
a very fine texture can be woven into
costly fabrics. Hitherto the process
of removing the rind from the soft,
white fibre has been both tedious and
difficult. But Father Matthew At-
ienza, a Spanish friar of the Francis-
can mission in the islands, has de-
vised a machine by which the rind is
easily and quickly removed, and in
so doing has conferred a great boon
upon the large weaving industry.
This, however, is only one of the
friar's achievements. He has con-
structed several bridges, among them
a suspension bridge, besides being
the architect of a very fine church.

Says the "True Voice:" The mot-
to, "In God We Trust," may not
have promoted piety in this country,
but certainly has not made any in-
fidels.
Harry W. Sherman told the "play
ground advocates" no more than the
truth when he said that children
really do not need to be taught how
to play. What is needed is to find
time for children to play. Too many
children are sent to work so young
that they never knew what it was to
play.

Editorial Notes.
"Law-abiding citizens," says the
"Catholic Universe," "are not sup-
posed to do or to co-operate in illegal
acts. Normal schools have no legal
standing in Ohio. Hence any city
which maintains one is performing
an illegal act. Cleveland is one of
the cities that is guilty of what we
might designate as a misappropria-
tion of public funds. Whose duty is
it to see that illegal acts are stopped?
A Normal school is not a 'common
school.' It is rather a college. Can
the public be taxed to give to some a
college education and to fit some for
professional life? No, not legally.
But it is done. Since the law by not
sanctioning this expenditure virtual-
ly forbids it, on what ground is it
done? Would there not be just as
much legal sanction for a medical
college or a law school as for a Nor-
mal school?"

Writing to the "Catholic Standard
and Times," our old friend Milton E.
Smith truly says: "Because Catho-
lics here have full and perfect liberty
and to-day enjoy all the rights of the
most favored citizens, is not a sure
guarantee of the future and no rea-
son why vigilance should be relaxed.
As Coleridge says: 'In to-day already
walks to-morrow.' So to-day we
should prepare for whatever the mor-
row may bring forth. There is no
more certain way of preserving in
America the present happy condition
of no interference in the affairs of
the Church by the state than to build
up our Catholic societies and our
Catholic press. Unfortunately, the
latter is too often neglected, as many
publishers and editors know to their
sorrow."

In the opinion of the "Catholic
Citizen" of Milwaukee: "There are
some fifty American cities with over
100,000 of population. The Catho-
lics of these cities are very often too
parochial in their sympathies. Wider
association and acquaintance among
the Catholics of all the parishes
would help the individual Catholic
and promote a better Catholic com-
munity spirit. This is the theory that
commends the central Catholic hall.
It becomes a rallying point for the
Catholicity of the town, a home for
Catholic societies, a temple for
Catholic intellectual life and a safe
center for the social activity of
Catholic young people."

The Boston "Pilot" puts it well:
"We find the following statement, as-
cribed to the 'Christian Advocate'
(Protestant): 'In countries where
Catholicism is in competition with
Protestantism it is said to be difficult
to secure boys from the more intelli-
gent families to study for the priest-
hood.' Who says it, and who will
attempt to prove the preposterous
claim? In the United States alone
the Catholic Church had at the be-
ginning of the present year 5,697
students for the priesthood, and nu-
merously from well-to-do families.
Intelligence is a prerequisite. Can
anything Protestant denomination show
figures or our quality?"

Will President Roosevelt's fun-
again? That is the question which
is agitating the politicians. Indica-
tions are that the puzzle will not be
solved right off.
"Are Roman Catholics Chris-
tians?" asks the Baptist "Watchman"
of Boston. Is there any tenet held
by a Baptist which is not held by the
Catholic, outside of the "private
judgment" fetish? If a Baptist be a
Christian, then is the Catholic ten-
fold more so.

Truly, says the "Catholic Standard
and Times:" "It is said that the re-
cipient of the Nobel prize for lit-
erary excellence this year is to be
Mr. Rudyard Kipling. If this be so,
we are tempted to wonder whether
the judges in such matters are drawn
by lot from names in a hat or elect-
ed by reason of their proper qual-
ifications for such an office. Mr. Kip-
ling is the jingo ballad writer for
England, while the Nobel prizes were
instituted for the purpose of helping
along the idea of peace among men
and nations. A sad misapplication
of the fund, surely, to let it go to the
glorifier of Tommy Atkins and the
machine gun."

In one of the dormitories of the
Irish College at Rome there is a
space on the wall left unpapered and
unpainted, whatever repairs the rest
of the room may undergo, for there,
carelessly scrawled, is the first rough
draft of Father Prout's "Bells of
Shandon."

The Toledo "Record" truly says:
"We hear much nowadays about the
'modernism' of errors condemned in
the latest papal syllabus. The only
thing that is modern in those waves
of error that have been dashing
against the rock of Peter during the
past nineteen hundred years is the
foam of human passions."

Sibley, Lindsay & Curr Co.

Women's Tailored Suits At Reduced Prices

May we just add a word of emphasis to our state-
ment of the other day that all of the women's tailored
suits, both black and colors, were reduced in price?
This is doing things for you on a generous scale.
"ALL"—that means that you have selection from the
stock.
At to-day's selling figures:
There are black suits from \$13.50 to \$39.75.
There are colored suits from \$10 to \$55.
There are velvet suits from \$19.75 to \$62.

Pictures as Gifts

Ever stop to think what an influence pictures
have on a home? Matters not how expensive the
carpets or how rich the wall hangings and furniture,
if a house has no pictures there is something lacking.
So the Picture store comes in at this season of
giving with a word on the "prince of gifts"—pictures.
Assortments are most complete now—from the least
expensive type to the richest water-color there is a
wonderful range of subject from which to choose. As
to price there is surely something which comes in the
limit which is planned to be invested. There are
framed pictures of every desirable class, including
photographs, color prints, pastels, oil paintings, and
water-colors, consisting of the best works of best
American artists, at prices from 25c to \$375.
Now a few will be glad to know that there is a
goodly assortment here of the much wanted Cupid
pictures—"Wide Awake" and "Fast Asleep," framed in
various styles, priced from 25c to \$2.25 each.

Sibley, Lindsay & Curr Co.

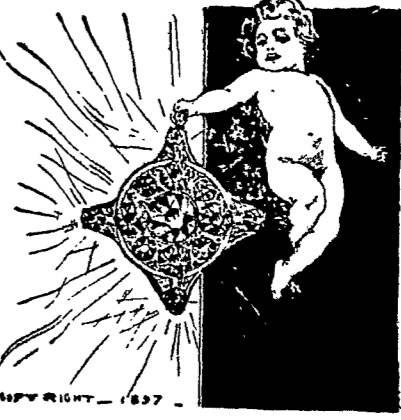
What Room Do You Want St. Nick to Visit?

Make this suggestion to your household Santa Claus
that he makes practical selections for the household this year.
He might begin at the kitchen with a McDougall Cabinet
to save you four-fifths of the steps you take to the pantry. One
day last week we sold nine, and seven of these were bought by
thoughtful husbands for Christmas presents.
A Chase leather Library Rocker, with full spring seat,
that is sold elsewhere for \$15, but which we sell as a special for
\$9, will appeal to every member of the family. We have much
cheaper ones too, but no better values.
Then, there are a couple of Mission Clocks,—one 14 inches
high at \$2.75, and the other 17 inches high at \$4.50—that keep
perfect time, and are very ornamental, and useful every day.
And then, there is Silverware—a Butter Knife at 50 cents,
a Salad Fork at 75 cents, a Stag Horn Carving Set in a silk lined
leather box at \$2.50 to \$3.75, etc. These are the merest sugges-
tions. A House Furnishing store is not always thought of as a
Christmas store, but "the Prince Store" is as much a Holiday
store as any in store in Rochester.
We have the best the market affords in every line of
household goods, and nothing expensive, value considered.

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