

The Catholic Journal

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Free Text Books.

In line with the socialistic and materialistic trend of the times, comes the persistent agitation for free text books. The socialistic trend is to have the public purse provide all manner of things, from free baths, free nursing and free dentistry to free books. The materialistic side is from the great book trust which hopes, if it can be brought about that text books are furnished free to all the pupils, that the patrons will not raise any great objection if books are changed frequently. Moreover, if text books are furnished at public expense, the germ fads that will be pressed into service and the cry will go up after books have been used a few weeks they are full of germs and a new supply must be handed out. This will net the book trust large profits, at the same time it will add largely to the taxes of the community, most of which are paid by the poorer classes. Catholics ought to oppose the free text book movement, but some of them do not appear to catch or grasp the full significance of it. We maintain our own schools for conscience's sake. We foot all the bills for our own schools, at the same time contributing our pro rata share for the maintenance of our expensive public school system. Free text books would mean that the pupils in the public schools, many of whose parents are far better able to buy books than are the parents of the Catholic children, would be supplied with free books—a great share of the expense being borne by the Catholic taxpayers, while we would have to continue supporting our own Catholic schools and paying for our own books. Such a plan is at once so unfair and paternalistic that every Catholic should rise up in arms and protest against it, in season and out of season.

To the Fore.

In a recent issue, the Boston "Republic" calls attention to the fact that in the United States, as well as in Great Britain, many of the most distinguished judges have been of Irish blood. It might well have added that these same judges were, for the most part, devout Catholics as well as being of Irish blood. Our contemporary cites these judges:
 "Among the nine justices who sit supreme over all American courts, two are Irish by descent—Judge Edward D. White and Judge Joseph McKenna. As yet, no one has compiled a list of the Irish judges in the various state supreme courts; but to take New York as an instance, we find five who are of unusual prominence—Martin J. Keogh, Morgan J. O'Brien, James Fitzgerald, George C. Barrett and Victor J. Downing. It should also be mentioned that the chief judge in the Philippine Islands—John T. McDonough, formerly of Albany—is Irish born." William J. Hynes, too, a lawyer of whom Chicago is justly proud, began life in County Clare.
 The "Republic" fails to mention Daniel A. Kenebeck, of Buffalo, a thoroughly loyal Irish American; a good Catholic and a prominent Knight of Columbus, who made a brilliant record on the Supreme Court bench in the Eighth Judicial District. Mention is also due Denis O'Brien, of Watertown, who recently retired from the Court of Appeals of New York state. And when the retired, there were many who ventured the assertion—and all of these were not of his faith, either—that the very brightest mind on the Appeals bench left it when Denis O'Brien went back to private life. To the discredit of the politicians and of New York state Catholics, too, no effort was made to send O'Brien's place in the Court of Appeals to William Randolph Hearst, was the only politician with whom it was enough to see the situation and be nominated on the Independent ticket. John T. McDonough, however, was on the

Philippines Supreme Court bench, and he polled 120,000 votes, running as the candidate of an independent movement!
 While there have been so-called Catholics in politics who reflected no great credit on their co-religionists, such cannot be said of the Catholic jurists who have been elevated to high judicial station.

Converts.

Scannell O'Neil has written a very interesting bibliography of "Converts to Rome."
 In all, three thousand names are given of persons who have relinquished false theology and turned to the true Faith. The specific instances of these are of most than passing interest.
 One was an Anglican bishop, 372 Protestant clergymen, three Jewish rabbis, 115 physicians, 126 lawyers, 125 United States army officers, 32 U. S. A. army officers, 23 United States navy officers, 45 United States senators and congressmen, 12 governors of states, eight mayors of cities, 21 members of the diplomatic corps, 28 educators and 206 authors, musicians and painters.
 Twenty-five members of Anglican religious orders, one of these a founder of an Anglican community, took their way to Rome. Twelve Anglican nuns entered the fold, and six of them established religious orders. The statistics also present the names of 260 nuns to whom the grace of conversion came.
 It is interesting to observe the late converts of these converts. Two hundred and two of them were admitted to the priesthood. One hundred and thirty-five, who had been preachers of the word in non-Catholic denominations, later brought the word of life to their new-found brethren in the Catholic pale. Four of them were raised to the purple, and four wore the pallium.

Example

How often one hears a Catholic excuse lapses from right conduct, such as eating meat on Friday, with comment like this: "Oh, well, no Catholic was present and the non-Catholics do not know the difference."
 They do not, eh?
 It might surprise these lax Catholics to know that non-Catholics are constantly on the watch to catch Catholics in breaches of their church regulations that they may sneeringly remark that Catholics are not very observant of their own tenets.
 Not infrequently, non-Catholics who are not entirely satisfied with their own way of living keep watch upon Catholics in order to see if they are strict observers of Catholic rules, thinking that they, too, might follow in the same line. Catholic young men and women do not know to what extent their example may lead others in the right path or turn them aside.
 We have no doubt that the tale told in the following paragraph has a counterpart in many a city and town in the country:
 "Recently there occurred in Washington, D. C., the conversion of Mr. Rolla T. Marshall, a ripe scholar and pronounced freethinker. He was occupied at the time in writing a book, the sole object of which was the defamation of the Catholic Church. When he was stricken with paralysis he had a priest summoned, and expressed his wish to be received into the Church. The fact that his roommate was a Catholic and that he boarded in a Catholic family may have had some relation to the change."
Germ Killing.
 If Mr. John C. Sparks, city water expert of Greater New York, is to be believed the persons whose lives are made burdensome by the ever-present germ of germs of this and the other sort will have one less source to worry about.
 It has been held for several years that ice was the best storehouse and breeder of germs and microbes of all sorts. Mr. Sparks says this is not true.
 Mr. Sparks's investigation shows that the self-purifying processes of ice bring about a complete destruction of the bacteria contained in it in from seven to twenty weeks.
 The experiments, the details of which are given in "Ice and Refrigeration," included the intestinal germ, scientifically the bacillus coli communis, usually fatal to guinea pigs in minute injections; the typhoid bacillus; sewage streptococci and the spore-forming bacilli of sewage, all of these being pathogenic bacilli found in impure water. The method of test was to inoculate water at a temperature of 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit with the germs, maintaining it at that temperature for twelve hours. It was then frozen into blocks of ice which were kept in an insulated vessel in a brine-chilled ice-box under a temperature of 28 degrees.
 In the case of the intestinal germ the number of bacilli in a cubic centimetre of water, 88,400, decreased to 9,030 in ice four days old and to

78 after six weeks. After twelve weeks they disappeared entirely. With the typhoid bacillus the elimination of the germs was yet more rapid, the ice becoming sterile in from seven to nine weeks. The streptococci and the spore-forming bacilli of sewage vanished in twenty weeks.
 The effect of these conclusions, unless they are successfully controverted, is to give stored ice a relatively clean bill of health.

Editorial Notes.

President Roosevelt would do well to investigate this little press dispatch: "The Federal Grand Jury of Porto Rico indicted the editors of a Catholic paper in San Juan for publishing the decree on 'Marriage,' which was issued by the Holy See and becomes effective all over the world after Easter Sunday, the jury holding that the decree was unfit to be published."

"In these days of pernicious social activity," says the "Morning Star," "it is well for our Catholic young girls and young men not to forget that the force of companionship often brings on religious indifference, and that it is an easy thing to drift away with those who have no faith."

The following unobtrusive item shows the way in which Catholic charity is dispensed, minus the expensive office staff and other costly adjuncts maintained by "organized charities": "About 400 poor and unemployed men have been fed daily at St. Mary's Hospital, Cincinnati, by the Sisters of St. Francis. This charity the Sisters began in November and will continue it as long as necessary. Nor has there been any parsimony about the quantity distributed."

Says the "Catholic Record": "Philosophy, as we have said, offers no saving allayance of pain. To tell the sorrow-stricken to be indifferent is to speak nonsense. To tell them to seek pleasure is to bid them to seek degradation. To bring him, however, into the presence of the Saviour, is not indeed to clear up all the problem of pain, but to give him peace and to prove the mercy and love of God in the mystery of sorrow."

Rev. Bishop Forest, D. D., of San Antonio, Tex., has written a strong pastoral letter on the subject of Mixed Marriages. The increase of mixed marriages in the diocese determined the Bishop to address his priests and people on the important subject.

"Church Progress" is not wide of the mark when it says: "With all our cumbersome Federal legislation pertaining to the privileges of second-class postal matter, it is somewhat surprising that there is no specific enactment touching anarchistic publications. Yet our legislators have often lashed themselves into a frenzy over the manufacture of useless red-tape."

"Critics of the 'man who talks' are, as a rule, people who never do anything themselves in furtherance of good movements," comments the Pittsburg Observer.

Secular educational institutions are not the only ones who put on pretentious dramatic productions. A few days ago students of Seton Hall College presented "Hamlet" in the Columbus Theater, Orange, N. J.

Severe, but just, is this paragraph in the Los Angeles "Tidings": "It should be the duty of a minister to promote morality and uphold the marriage state, rather than countenance free love. It came out in the local courts that a Methodist preacher advised an alleged convert to get a divorce from his lawful wife so that he might marry his mistress. Isn't this nice Christian advice from an alleged Christian minister?"

Truly says the "Catholic Register": "The best men have no price; they can be bought neither with the hope of reward nor fear of punishment; purchased neither with money nor place, nor with pleasure."

New Arrival of Large Rugs.

If you have not yet made your rug purchases, you will be glad of this opportunity to pick from our latest shipment which has been delayed at the mills owing to the heavy demand for certain choice patterns which were included in our order. We were never better able than now to supply our patrons with room-size rugs of unusual beauty and of the most serviceable quality. Howe & Rogers Co.

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| | Irish | Swedish | Prostrata |
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We are headquarters for the Dwarf Everblooming Baby Rambler. We introduced this variety to America several years ago. It is one of the best and on account of its continuous blooming qualities and extreme hardiness, it is steadily winning favor as a bedding and border plant. Order a hundred or so and put them along your walks and drives. They will be covered with bloom all summer and afford a very pretty effect.

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This is now coming in. Why not have a good bed of your own right in the back yard?

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Plums, Plums, Plums---We have all kinds.

We have these on the Mohican plan—so cheap they will have to be for cash and you will have to do your own delivering. Put your boy or your neighbor's boy on the car and give him a dime and his car fare and send him out for a fine, large plum tree. Then you can shake your own plum tree and pick up your own "plums."

Perennials

The old fashioned flowers our grandmothers loved so—Pinks, Poppies, Larkspur, Bleeding Hearts, Columbine, Asters, Hollyhocks, Phlox, Violets, Primroses, Sweet Williams and dozens of others you all know so well.

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