

The Catholic Journal

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Friday, May 29, 1908.

Vetoed.

Possibly, there are too many legal holidays now. Possibly, that is the only reason that impelled Governor Hughes to veto the bill of Assemblyman A. E. Smith making October 12th a legal holiday to be known as "Columbus Day" and intended to commemorate Columbus' discovery of America.

But one cannot help the reflection that if the bill had contemplated a commemoration of some one of the heroes of the Civil War who was of a different religious faith than Columbus—he was a Catholic, you know—the measure might have received somewhat different treatment.

This reflection is strengthened by the following extract from an editorial on the subject in the Rochester "Democrat and Chronicle."

"The necessity for taking a pronounced and firm attitude against the holiday abuse has become much greater on account of the large influx of Latin elements into our population. They, as a race, have always indulged intemperately in holidays. They have holidays for almost every alleged hero, patriot and saint in their annals. A population too much given to the holiday habit is likely to be fickle, frivolous and unreliable in the more serious affairs of life. They come to where they make a business of pleasure, and a people who have reached that stage in the process of degeneracy is not of much worth in the practical and earnest activity that are necessary in the development of a country."

The editor of the Democrat writes like a Methodist clergyman. These divines never have understood or appreciated the depth of the religious faith held by the immigrants who are of the Catholic communion. The Methodist is generally a thrifty individual who makes even his religion pay as witness the Methodist Book Concern which is understood to be a fine dividend payer. The Book Concern believes in long hours and little recreation. If you do not believe this, ask any officer of the International Typographical Union which has labored earnestly and with little result to have the eight-hour day inaugurated there. Naturally, the Methodists hate to see any devotion to any person not an American patriot. Yet, these same Methodists were leaders in the movement which resulted in making a legal holiday in the city of Brooklyn to be known as "Sunday School Day!"

We have holidays now commemorative of Washington, Lincoln, the heroes of the Civil War and Labor Day. And yet we have no day to commemorate the discoverer of the continent, or the discovery itself. To remedy this oversight the Knights of Columbus have been working for "Columbus Day!" The legislature passed the bill by majority vote. Naturally, there was reason to expect that the Governor would interpret such a bill as a reflection of popular sentiment and affix his

signature. He thought otherwise and we must say his reasons therefor do not strike us as particularly strong. Well, the Knights of Columbus know what to do! They are 50,000 strong in New York state, and they are American citizens, not Italian immigrants!

Catholic Reading.

It is encouraging to the Catholic editor and writer to see his efforts meet with recognition by the priests and bishops. There is no doubt that the intelligently conducted and directed Catholic press supplements the work of the priest in pulpit and confessional and this is generally acknowledged the country, yes Fe. N. M., and camped for one month and three days on the shores of Utah lake among the Indians. They explored the Lucas county country in its entirety, and on their return wrote a complete report of their explorations, in which he paid a high tribute to the Catholic press. In the course of his remarks he said:

"Since the secular press is, in many cases, of a low moral standard, biased and corrupt, it behooves us to counteract its influence by encouraging a sound up-to-date Catholic press. Let each member of the 'Lucas County Federation' be of the Knight of Columbus. A subscriber of one or another Catholic paper. Let Catholic business men use them as a channel to bring their goods before the public. Catholic magazines too, should receive generous support: and, after Catholic periodicals to which you subscribe have been read, they should not be consigned to the waste basket. Every member of this Federation is strongly urged to take an active interest in the dissemination of good literature, and herein, we cannot do better than study and adopt the method of campaign carried on by a kindred society in Germany. During the short space of three weeks, in January, 1907, the 'Volksverein' distributed 7,000,000 leaflets. Such work is bound to tell."

"In this country, the Catholic Truth Society is doing good work along these lines. It is time that the Federation enter this field of doing good."

In this connection, Father Houck was urgent in his recommendation of a Catholic library, and advised the greatest care in the use of the public library.

"The public library, though filling a want, is ill-suited to educate," he said. "All books are by no means for all. As our public libraries are usually conducted, they are unable to cure the ills from which modern society suffers. The poison must be carefully labeled as such in drug stores, and the patron is not permitted to help himself. As public libraries are conducted they can as little cure intellectual and moral diseases, as that drug store in which the customer would be allowed to help himself could cure the diseases to which human flesh is heir."

"Since we have no Catholic library, if at all possible, let there be a library in every Catholic family. It need not consist of many volumes, but see to it that each volume, be a literary gem, and contain naught but the best that you can procure on the subject."

"Do not permit a bad book or paper to be brought into your homes. Bad literature ought to be promptly destroyed, and the publishers thereof prosecuted to the full extent of the law. The truth is not to be sought in such reading matter. Bad literature is full of intellectual and moral poison, which, in time, is bound to check or kill the higher life of the soul."

Good Work.

The Catholic laity in general and the Knights of Columbus in particular in the state of Utah must be up and doing, if the

following extract from a recent editorial in the Salt Lake City "Herald" be any criterion:

The Salt Lake council of the Knights of Columbus, with the co-operation of the other councils of the same order in Utah, will shortly undertake the compiling and publishing of a volume of the Catholic history of Utah. The Very Rev. Dean Harris, who will be the author of the proposed work, outlined briefly last evening at a banquet of the Knights of Columbus of Utah the scope of the project. It was stated last evening that much of the earliest history of Utah had never been published.

In 1776 three Franciscan fathers made their way north from Santa Fe, N. M., and camped for one month and three days on the shores of Utah lake among the Indians. They explored the Lucas county country in its entirety, and on their return wrote a complete report of their explorations, in which he paid a high tribute to the Catholic press. In the course of his remarks he said:

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Changing One's Point of View.

Just a Sunday or two ago the writer attended High mass in St. Bridget's church, Rochester. It was his first time there for he was stranger in the city. The stranger was much impressed with the Reverend Preacher who ascended the pulpit. He read the epistle and gospel with singular charm and power. It was evident that the speaker was an eloquent and learned divine. His thoughts and language were above the ordinary. He spoke from the heart to the heart. He awakened thought. He carried conviction, and he forced home the moral of a well prepared sermon, so simple in style, thought and diction that a Sunday School class could grasp it. The writer learned afterwards that the Reverend gentleman in the pulpit was none other than the distinguished Dr. Hanna of St. Bernard's Seminary, whose name has been deservedly mentioned for the vacant coadjutorship of San Francisco.

Dr. Hanna spoke on the reason why conversion from sin is not always permanent. The reason, he said, was because, we do not "change our point of view." This is the whole truth in a nutshell. In other words, real genuine heartfelt conversion means a change of thought, a change of heart, a change of habits, a change of language, and a change of action. Sincere conversion implies an absolute change from our former position. God's point of view is different from ours. Poor distorted, false estimation of life and its meaning. The Catholic who is sincerely converted, will be clean of thought, his language will not be defiled with so much of the dirty talk, and nasty words so much in use in every day life, today, and his habits and actions will be so much above reproach that he will be a credit to the grand old faith to which he belongs, the faith of the martyrs, the faith of the saints, and the faith which has captured and won the greatest intellects the world has ever seen. But unfortunately few people change their point of view, and therefore as the learned Dr. Hanna declared, "they soon fall away again, and break the resolutions which they made with such good intentions."

"A change of one's point of view" is good not only in religion. It is a good wholesome truth to put in practice in the every day of life, in business, in the home, and in the school. The more the great stern lessons of life are brought home to us the more we will realize our personal point of view is not the only point of view.

This thought of Dr. Hanna is well worth pondering over. Its practical application to some of the anxious problems of our personal lives, might prove a solution and a help.

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Washington Letter.

Methodist Bishop Attacks Catholic Church.

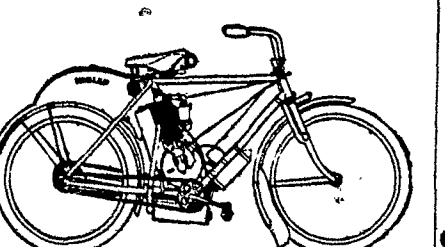
At the Methodist Conference held recently in Baltimore one of the bishops present—I did not care to encumber my memory with his name—made a vicious onslaught on the Catholic Church, accusing her specifically of persistently engaging in politics. Now, this charge comes with a very bad grace from the Methodist bishop, for it is a notorious fact that his church, of all others, is doing more political wire-pulling than all the rest put together. Especially is this the case when any legislation of Catholic interest is before Congress or the State legislatures. The Congressional Record is filled with their protests and declamations against the Catholic Church, and at many sessions the desks of representatives have been loaded down with remonstrances against Catholic legislation, and with threats of defeat at the polls if such legislation were enacted. This is so well known here that the Methodist bishop's tirade is looked upon as a bluff probably for the purpose of throwing sand in somebody's eyes, and diverting attention from some prospective move of their own.

E. L. Scharf, Ph. D.

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The devotion of the "Forty Hours" will be held in the churches of the diocese of Rochester as follows:
May 31—Blessed Sacrament Church, Rochester; Nunda; Clifton Springs; West Bloomfield; Trumansburg; St. Mary's, Elmira; Moravia; Naples.
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