

The Catholic Journal

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ROCHESTER TELEPHONE 2353

Friday, June 12, 1908.

First.

Several years ago, in April 1904 to be exact, the Knights of Columbus endowed a chair of American History in the Catholic University in Washington.

Catholics were leaders in the discovery and settlement of the territory now comprised in the United States and they are interested in seeing that historical matters are accurately stated and presented and in these days when it is seriously proposed to emasculate the National Anthem and in other ways to avoid offense to the importations from England for American colleges, pulpits and Art Museums it is well that history be accurate even if offense be given to those with whom we fought and whom we worshiped.

Little has been heard from the new department in Washington. Therefore, it is with pleasure that the Catholic Journal gives place to the following extract from a recent letter from the head of the new department, Charles H. McCarthy, anent the first graduate, Mathew J. Walsh, of Holy Cross college, Boston.

The succeeding summer he spent at Columbia University, New York, in attendance on courses not offered by the Catholic University, and during the autumn was engaged in similar studies at Johns Hopkins University. Early in January of the present year, 1908, he was ordained to the priesthood and was immediately honored by an appointment as instructor in history and economics in the University of Notre Dame, Indiana.

Those Knights of Columbus who have considered most profoundly the functions of the Department of American History regard its most important work as the training of teachers in a knowledge of our history and institutions. But while this may be the primary purpose in the enjoyment of this Chair, there is another work, scarcely inferior in importance, which it is compelled to undertake.

colonial Maryland. This is a splendid summary of an important subject, and, it is hoped, will soon be ready for publication.

Under the regulations of the Catholic University no student entering in 1904, and who had not previously done graduate work, could have received his doctor's degree earlier than June, 1907.

This explanation will account for the silence of the department for a church of their own country of American History. The attendance, meagre during the first by which the coral insect builds lectures, has continued constantly to increase, until at the present time this department is directing the reading and researches of the twenty-six men, many of them of much promise.

Bigots.

While we often spoke fun at Edward Bok, editor of the Ladies Home Journal, still we must confess that he is not as bigoted as many editors of secular publications and also that he is a keen student of American human nature or, shall we say, of Canadian and English human nature as expressed by transient citizens of those countries sojourning in the United States.

In a recent issue of his magazine, Mr. Bok writes:

"This expression of both points of view takes on a curious study of human nature when one sits in an editorial chair and watches the effects. We may publish, for example, a pictorial article describing the life of Pope Pius X, at the Vatican. Immediately there issues a stream of letters from readers of all shades of Protestant beliefs protesting against what they call our 'in-dorsement of Roman Catholicism.' 'Yours is a Protestant magazine' (mind you, we have never said that it was!), says the writer, 'and you have no right to enter our homes and advocate a religion in which we do not believe.'"

"But suppose we turn the matter around, and how about the scores of articles voicing Protestant beliefs entering the homes of our Roman Catholic subscribers? Yet it is a significant fact never a word of protest comes to us from the thousands of our Roman Catholic readers with regard to a single article that we have ever published voicing Protestant beliefs."

Ponder.

There are many non-Catholics and, for that matter, many Catholics also who cannot talk enough about what is done with the money received by the priests. It matters not that they see the church well kept, that the altars are correctly draped and decorated, that the sacred edifice is heated in winter and ventilated in summer, that all demands for attendance are met. These persons seem to have an innate notion that the priest is getting rich too fast even if he dies poor.

Then there are those who prate glibly about the soft snap the priest has and about the grand church property the various Catholic parishes have. These do not stop to think that there are sections of the country where the Catholic population is small and poor at that and where it is a life and death struggle to maintain a parish.

Then, again, there are places in Europe where even the meager comfort enjoyed in some of the rural Catholic parishes in the United States is wanting. Just read this extract from a recent letter in the "Catholic Citizen" of Milwaukee, from Dr. Maurice Francis Egan, United States minister to Denmark:

The Order has been wise, prudent and conservative in its policies and affairs. It avoids antagonisms. It is submissive to the Church. It stands always as her defender. So long as it continues to do this, so long as its work and practices are submitted to and approved by the Church, just so long will it live as a factor in the life of the Church.

So much depends here as elsewhere, on the self-sacrifice of the good sisters. How they perform such miracles, how they produce something out of nothing, and always with amazing cheerfulness and gaiety of heart, seems to one used to the ways of the world, marvelous. In our country where to ask for any religious or charitable purpose is to receive the results achieved by the sisters, under very different circumstances, here are truly amazing. I should like to give instances, but that might seem to be somewhat impertinent.

The good work of the sisters is highly valued by all the classes of the population. They do not attempt to make conversions. They simply devote themselves to the relief of God's poor and leave the result to Him. The consequence is that in this intensely Protestant country every body is very much interested in the hospital conducted by the sisters, and he would be a bold man indeed who would criticize in any way their work.

If it were not for benevolent agencies like theirs it would be very difficult at times to provide for the stranded Americans who are not sailors and therefore have no claims on the funds of the United States; they occasionally turn up in European ports. If some of our young men who leave fairly good homes and circles of friends to wander in pursuit of fortune could see the wrecks of humanity that are dropped into continental seaport towns, friendless and homeless, they would pause before they attempt impulsively to test the welcome which an unknown world seems to offer them.

Well Stated.

In a recent issue of the "Columbiad", State Deputy James Reddin, of Colorado, well states the mission and status of the Order of the Knights of Columbus:

The Order is in no sense a Church society, as some suppose but is, nevertheless, a society within the Church; that is, it is composed of practical Catholics only. It is independent in action and government, but its ritual, practices and teachings are submitted to and approved by the Church. These are revealed to no others but its own membership.

The Order appeals to the highest there is in human intelligence and human nature, and attracts to its folds high-class men of all professions and occupations, except one, the liquor business, persons connected with which are ineligible for membership. Poverty is no bar to membership; neither is wealth an aid to its acquisition. Intelligence and Catholicity are the standards.

The principles of Columbianism have taken a strong hold upon the hearts of Catholic men of this country. Founded a quarter of a century ago, in a small New England town, by men who foresaw the immeasurable good flowing from Catholic unity, the Order has grown to wonderful proportions. It now has over twelve hundred Councils or lodges, and approximately two hundred thousand members. The countries to the north and south of us have asked to imbibe the spirit of Columbianism. The Order now flourishes there. Other foreign nations are demanding like privilege.

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Weekly Church Calendar

Sunday June 14 - Gospel, St. Matt. xxviii, 18-20 - St. Basil the Great, archbishop, confessor and doctor. Monday 15 - SS. Vitus and Modestus, martyrs. Tuesday 16 - St. John Francis Regis, confessor. Wednesday 17 - SS. Nicander & Martian, martyrs. Thursday 18 - Corpus Christi. Friday 19 - St. Juliana Falconieri, virgin. Saturday 20 - St. Silverius, pope and martyr.

Five Minute Sermon

The Disciples are Commissioned to Preach.

After having commanded His disciples, and in their person us also, to be as perfect as the Heavenly Father, He makes known to them that the first step to take to be so is to be charitable toward our neighbor, as God is full of charity toward us. The object of the whole discourse is to commend the principal works of mercy, and to censure that pride and false piety which causes us to see the faults of our neighbor but not our own, and thus to have no mercy for our neighbor.

The principal works of mercy commanded in this Gospel are first not to judge others rashly, the second is not to condemn him who has fallen; the third is to pardon him who has offended us; and the fourth is to give alms, or in other ways help those who need our help.

We are to learn that we should not assume charge of others if we have not sufficient knowledge to properly discharge our duty; besides, we should trust only those who, on account of their probity and knowledge, deserve our confidence. An ignorant, immoral, and worldly counsellor can but drag our soul after him into the abyss.

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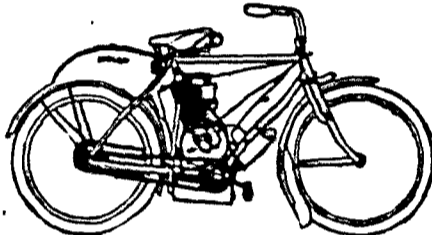
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