

The Catholic Journal

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY AT
33 Cortland Street, Rochester, N. Y.
BY THE
CATHOLIC JOURNAL PUBLISHING
COMPANY

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES
For Year, in Advance \$1.00
Entered at second class mail matter
ROCHESTER TELEPHONE 6205
Friday, April 2, 1909.

Help Out Now!

Governor Hughes has signed the bill of Senator Sullivan and Assemblyman Smith making October 1st a legal holiday under the title of Columbus Day. Last year he vetoed a similar bill because it did not make the day a legal holiday. This year's bill corrects this defect and was passed by the Legislature despite the protest of a few small, souled bigots. In the debate, Assemblyman John J. McInerney, a prominent member of Rochester Council, Knights of Columbus, took a leading part.

We notice that a number of bigots and a few newspapers, possibly from ignorance of the facts in the case, are abusing Governor Hughes for his action and allege that it was done as a bid for the Italian vote.

This begs the question. Doubtless, the Italians are glad that honor has been done to a distinguished fellow-countryman, but "Columbus day" stands for far more. It means according to the discoverer of this country similar honor to Washington, its first President, and Lincoln, the savior of the Union, and to other events and occasions.

Why should objection be made? Can any other reason be urged than bigotry?

It will not do to plead that there are too many holidays now. Would any one dare to suggest abolishing Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year, Labor Day, Decoration Day, Lincoln's birthday or Washington's birthday?

We throw out. Then let the several councils of the Knights of Columbus adopt resolutions commending Governor Hughes as an offset to the protest of cranks and bigots.

Should Not Forget.

It should not be necessary to refer to the subject we are about to speak about but good may come of it.

It is a fact however, that many men not easily embarrassed in other things, find themselves bashful and backward when they are in church, especially when they go to confession.

Probably, this should not be so, but it appears to be a fact that men are easily scared off from confession and nothing should be put in their way, so when they see a woman go in the confessional out of her turn they are apt to be miffed and possibly go away.

As a matter of fact, the same rules of courtesy and politeness should prevail in going to confession as in other walks of life. It does not tend to faith in one's profession of faith to see a person go into confession out of his or her turn.

Women, as a rule are the principal offenders in this respect and they should not be. Generally speaking, women are more regular in their attendance upon religious duties than the men and hence they do not need the attention of the priest so much. When men are wanting to go to confession and there is a side of

the confessional set aside for men, women would do better not to go in that side so long as there is a man in waiting.

This may appear a small matter but we assure our readers that we know from talks had with men, that there is a great deal more in it than appears on the surface.

Grand Sight.

If the Protestant clergymen and laymen who bewail the lack of attendance upon their church services, despite the accessory of concerts, brass bands and lectures of all sorts, could have looked in to St. Mary's Church last Sunday at the 7.30 o'clock mass and seen nearly 400 men receive holy communion they might have learned something as to the reason for their own failure.

While it was true that the occasion was the first religious service of the newly organized branch of the Holy Name Society nevertheless in other parishes where the society is an older institution 600 and 700 men go to communion every three months and fill their parish churches in the evenings when a sermon is announced or any other purely religious service, no brass band adjunct being needed.

Why is it? Because there is something back of all this. There is something tangible in the Catholic faith. Something is left to faith. Respect for tradition is preserved. There is a regard to Truth, not a disposition to cavil at it. There is belief in a God. There is reverence for law and order. There is reverence for the marriage ceremony. There is something which appeals to the intellect, to the reason, to the heart, to the soul.

A non-Catholic service is meaningless, is cold, means nothing. A religion which seeks to discredit Holy Scripture, that sneers at tradition, that denies miracles, that flouts the incarnation, that seeks to substitute a hazy sort of Utopian belief for a real religion, a real God, a real faith, never can hold men of red blood or women who live, breathe and think.

Quite Right.

With a great deal of truth, the "Catholic Standard and Times" remarks:

In the daily press we find this interesting piece of religious news:

Russ, Mo., March 23. In a street duel Rev. Martin D. Johnson shot and killed Rev. Solomon Odell last night, Johnson then fled. To-day, however, he returned and gave himself up. He is the Baptist minister of the neighborhood. Odell was a Presbyterian preacher. The men quarreled over business matters. Odell was removing his coat when Johnson fired the fatal shot.

We have a good right to accept this incident as an illustration of the standard of morality among Presbyterian and Baptist ministers as Henry C. Lea and G. G. Coulton have the individual lapses of monks like Martin Luther as the criterion of the general ideal in the Middle Ages.

"The pace that kills" appears to be responsible for the suicide of one of Washington and New York's acknowledged society belles. Is "society" worth while?

If William Howard Taft waited all these years without membership in Freemasonry why did he not keep on? Or, why did he not go through like any other candidate?

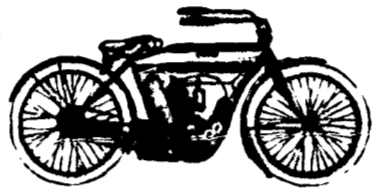
Rev. Joseph Gras, S.J., has been "received" into the tribe of the Caughnawaga Indians in Quebec, near Montreal, where their reservation is situated. The Indian name given to Father Gras is Tekaronhiokan, which means "He leads us to heaven."



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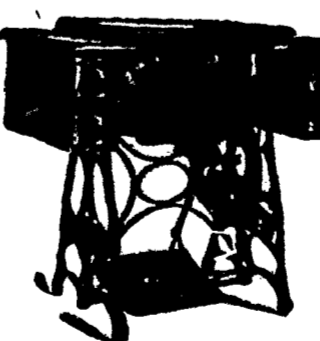
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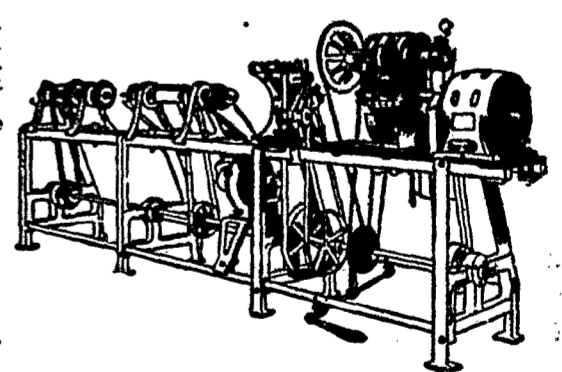
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