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Christian.

The Catholic Journal has many times alluded to the splendid articles in defense of the Catholic faith and church by Professor Starbuck who is one of the Editorial contributors to the Sacred Heart Review.

In a recent article Professor Starbuck makes this stirring defense of the proposition that the United States is a Christian country.

"A Jewish journal declares that it is contrary to the Constitution to maintain that the United States is a Christian country

"On the other hand, the Supreme Court of the United States has no doubt that ours is a Christian country. It has justified the prohibition of polygamy in the Territories, although it is a part of the Mormon religion, on the ground that although Congress is bound to respect religious freedom, it is not bound to suffer religious practices in Federal territory which violate Christian morality.

"This decision threw certain highbred English unbelievers into a paroxysm of rage. But even if we should be invaded by an army of English infidels, assisted by a flying squadron of French atheists under the command of M. Viviani, according to the Anglo-French" entente cordiale," there is no doubt that the decision of the Supreme Court will stand.

"Soalsothe court has contemptuously rejected the endeavor of Lansing and his disciples to drag in clergymen under the harrow of the contract labor law, remarking that "it is an insult to the Congress of a Christian people" to suppose that it can have meant to be guilty of such an affront to the rights of Christian congregations. Indeed Congress was so horrified to learn of such an indecency that it has expressly forbidden such an interpretation in future. See the "Tribune Almanac" for 1908.

"So also when Daniel Webster pleaded before the Supreme Court that Stephen Girard's will ought to be avoided which forbids clergymen even to visit Girard College, the judges, without disputing Mr. Webster's contention that an anti-Christian testament ought not to be carried out, nevertheless sustained the will, on the ground that there are many non-clerical Christians-the Friends, for instance, and the Plymouth Brethren—and that Christian instruction may easily be given in the college by laymen as indeed it is, and as Girard knew it would be when he gave over the charge of the college to the city government of Philadelphia.

"In short, our court of highest instance rests immovably on the judicial decision—rendered, I believe, by Chancellor Kent—that "Christianity is a part of the law of the land."

"A Sweet Miracle."

Who has read Henry Harland's "Cardinal's Snuff Box" and has not been captivated by its deftly planned plot, its sprightly passages at arms, its dainty phrasing? The young person who reads Henry Harland cannot but be improved in style and cannot help feeling a liking for such fine literature.

Since Mr. Harland's death his widow has completed and published another novel "The Royal End" in which the "Ave Maria" calls attention to the many tributes the dead author pays to the Catholic Church in which he was received late in life. For instance, he makes his American heroine soliloquize thus:

"So many religions, but no faith! Where every man, in disobedience to Cnrist, chooses to be his own Pope! Yet the Holy Father has dedicated America to Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception. But the very elements in America, so violent and so ferocious the burning summers the cruel winters, the appalling cataclysms of nature if these are reproduced in the violent characters of the people, inclined to rape and rapine on a big or little scale, at what end, left to its devices, will the American character issue? Will it become inflated with power, the great Master Robber of the World? Or will it perish utterly, hoist by its own petard? No Man at the Helm shall save us for more than his few years of tenure. The race cries for direction, a sane outlet to its emotions The sole influence which holds anarchy at bay is Holy Mother Church wise men tell us. Yes, the Divine authority! The sweet miracle of the Catholic faith may save our people from ending as a nation of brutes; may open to us the gates of humility and show to us the road to the greater glory of God."

Change?

In view of that decision of a St. Louis court that ante-nuptial pledges made by the non-Catholic party to a mixed marriage are not binding in law. Father Phelan in the "Western Watchman" suggests that our plan be changed, in substance as follows:

"The policy of exacting the promise in the presence of the Catholic party and its acceptance by the latter, or, better still the formal demand made by the Catholic party during the ceremony and acquiesced in by the Protestant party is a binding covenant and enforcible in law. If the Catholic lady who figured in the late divorce proceedings had, when they both stood before the clergyman to be united, formally put the question to the gentleman whom she was to marry "Do you consent that the children that may be born of this marriage shall be brought up in the Catholic faith?" his assent would have bound him in law, and there would have been little for the lawyers to wrangle about. We must get it out of our head that the Church has anything to say in the covenants made in marriage in this country. She is in no sense a party to any contract entered into between the parties. We must bind the Protestant party to a mixed marriage to bring up the children in the Catholic religion, but we can so bind him or her only to the Catholic party. And that obligation will be enforcible in law."

Says the "Catholic Union and Times"

"We were obliged to rub our eyes and look again when we noticed the published statement that Toronto has a Catholic mayor. It is a fact, however, that J. J. Ward has been temporarily elected to fill the mayorality in the absence of Mayor Oliver, who has gone on three months' vacation. Mr. Ward's election comes from the hands of his non-Catholic confreres in the city council, which makes it all the more remarkable, for Toronto is sadly given over to worship of Billy of Orange. No Catholic heretofore has occupied the chair of the Queen City's chief executive."

FATHER KOENIG'S NERVE TONIC

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Afton, Ia., March 14th, 1908.

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M. MESKY.

Ladysmith, Wis., February 20th, 1908.

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THOMAS HAYES.

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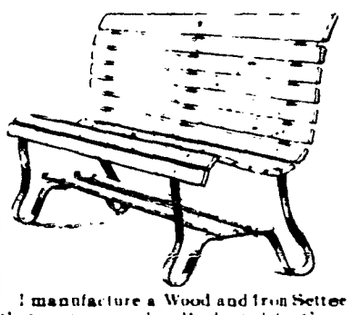

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