

The Catholic Journal

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Friday, May 28, 1909

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.

So many religions, but no faith! Where every man, in disobedience to Christ, chooses to be his own Pope! Yet the Holy Father has dedicated America to Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception.

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 the M. Viviani, according to the Anglo-French entente cordiale, there is no doubt that the decision of the Supreme Court will stand.

"So also the 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 resists 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?

"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.

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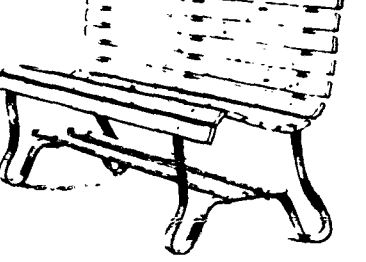
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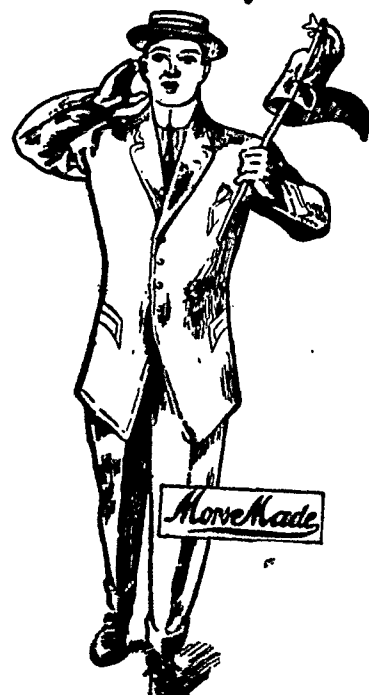
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