The Catholic Journal

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Friday, Dec. 31, 1909.

Happy New Year

Another twelvemonth has passen into eternity with all its deeds of good and ill, its joys and sorrows, its friends and foes, its sins and graces. What is written in the Book of Life remains there it cannot be erased, altered or corrected.

A New Year is beginning and it rests with ourselves whether it be better or worse with us than the year which is gone. God will help us to do better if we ask His aid but He has endowed us with free wills and we must work out or reject our own salvation.

Jokesmiths may sneer at "New Year's resolutions but they are not blamable for half charged against them. If the drunkard "swears off" on New Year's day and keeps his pledge only for a month who can say that that has not done good both for the family, the individual and the community?

If you have not lived the last year as well as you might have; if you have not attended Mass, and made your Easter duty; if you have not been as good a father or child as you should have been, now is the time to try it again.

In conclusion, the Catholic Journal wishes all its readers a Happy New Year and the other blessings of the season.

Real Facts.

A short time ago the Catholic Journal discussed the resignation of C. Walter Smith from the directorate of the University of Pennsylvania because of the views held by his colleagues that divorce was a blessing rather than an evil. Here are a few specimen sentences from the address of a profession objected to by Mr. Smith and approved by his colleagues.

"We might as well seek to stop suicide by prohibitive legislation as divorce.

"Marriage . . . is the legal sanction of the social custom of the family.

"It is dependent upon law neither for its institution nor for its perpetuation.

"The time-honored landmarks of religious authority have been obliterated and the new basis has not yet been fully established. The case is not different in the sphere of ethics. With the changed point of view have come new ethical valuations. The stern morality or Puritianism on theoretical standards is being replaced by a practical morality arising out of our changed social conditions.

"As a combined result virtue no longer consists in literal obedience to arbitrary standards set by community or church, but rather in conduct consistent with the demands of a growing personality.

"Whereas piety in marriage once consisted in loyality to the institution, and any suffering which might arise was to be endured rather than to bring reproach upon any institution vested with peculiar divine sanction today our ethical and religious ideas cause us to feel that marriage was made for man and not man for marriage, and that the moral value of marriage lies in the mutual happiness of those who enter into it.

"Popular moral sentiment . . . has come not only to approve but to encourage the breaking of the conventional marriage tie to the crushing of the human spirit."

Mr. Smith was the only Catholic on the Board of Trustees. He is an active member of the State Bar Association and is prominent in Catholic societies. He is a graduate of the university, having received his degree in 1876, and he was admitted to the bar the following year.

Charities

Just as an interesting exhibit at this time when the various charitable organizations are discussing the question of "federation" for mutual help and information the following account of what is happening in Catholic Philadelphia may be of interest:

"The archdiocese of Philadelphia has followed the example of Boston in establishing a permanent Bureau of Catholic Charities for the purpose of unifying and systematizing the charitable activities of the diocese. For many years the work of the large and ever-increasing number of charitable organizations and private relief societies has made increasing number of charitable organizations and private relief societies has made increasingly necessary the institution of a general bureau, where the task of properly looking after individual interests and of making just and adequate appropriations could be carried on.

"The bureau will be controlled by a Board of Directors, chosen from among the representative Catholic laymen of the city. Msgr Nevin F. Fisher has been appointed president of the bureau.

"It is the intention of Msgr. Fisher to establish, in connection with the bureau, a house of detention, where children and adults who are dependent can be harbored temporarily until they can be given room in the institution to which they have been assigned, or until they can be procured suitable employment. A similar house has been established in Boston and has been productive of excellent results.

"An additional motive in establishing the new bureau is the desire of Archbishop Ryan and a number of the clergy to place orphan children in the Catholic families instead of overcrowding the various homes, which are already taxed beyond their income. At a recent meeting of the St. Vincent de Paul Societies in the Catnedral chapel Archbishop Ryan strongly recommended the placing of orphans in families, where he said they would be much happier because raised under normal conditions as a member of the household."

Catechism.

Bishop McDonell has directed that in future regular sermons shall be preached only at the high masses in the diocese of Brooklyn and that at the low masses instructions shall be given on the Catechism. Msgr. John I. Barret, diocesan chancellor, discussing the innovation, said:

"The idea is one which will help grown people through these plain instructions to get a deep and fine conception of all that the Church has to offer. The priests will take up and unfold in most careful, plain way the Commandings of the sacraments, the Commandments, the Apostles Creed, the Hail Mary, the Lord's Prayer and the acts of contrition of faith, of hope and charity. It is quite probable that an entire year will be spent in instructions in the Apostles' Creed alone, and by the time the last leaf in the book of instructions has been turned ten years will have elasped."

Why Not?

Why did the Rochester Railway Company not provide extra cars to convey to their homes the worshippers of midnight mass on Christmas?

Is it because its management is not posted on religious matters or has no care for church-goers?

Would such an omission have been noticed if the Turners had an athletic meet at Seneca Park? Or if the Maennerchor had a songfest? Or if the local "pugs" had been "pulling off a few rounds" at one of the athletic clubs?

In the older days when car service stopped at 11:30 P. M., extra cars were always sent out for midnight mass. Now, with a supposed "all night service" cars run about every 45 minutes after 1 a.m. If the midnight mass attendants are unable to crowd into the one car at 1:45 a. m. after a half hour wait for the car they may wait for the next even when conductors notify the street railway office that more cars are needed.

Here is a question for Mr. Cook of Cleveland, to answer.

This, from the True Voice is a high compliment for the Knights of Columbus: The Western Federation of Miners is a Socialist organization that has a record of making trouble Recently its vice-president, one Mahoney, a man who should be a Catholic, came to Lead, S D, to conduct a strike of the miners. He publicly attacked and insulted in the vilest manner Father J A Chasse of Spearfish, S. D The Lead Knights of Columbus took up the matter and Mr. Mahoney found it convenient to emigrate to a milder clime. The Black Hills knights have proved themselves worthy of their name.

Says the Church Progress: Archbishop Messmer, D. D., is quoted as saying in a lecture at Milwaukee that to put down the poorer classes as the only breeders of criminals is a lie; a foolish statement, made by foolish people, as the greatest of crimes are committed by the rich. The statement, whether made by His Grace of Milwaukee or not, is absolutely true. Unfortunately, too, the evidence to support it is too strong and too general to admit of denial.

"Now, in selling his great collection of paintings and giving the proceeds, $1 500,000, to the poor Catholic schools of England, the Duke of Norfolk proves that he believes in Catholic education says the Chicago New World.

The Boston Pilot reads a deserved lecture to preachers and editors who should know better in this paragraph:

One can understand why the anarchist should say prayers to the wraith of Ferrer and proclaim him a martyr. "Such things do the heathens." But when ministers who call themselves Christians indulge in that kind of talk they betray the fact that their religion is going to smash and they must since God has abondoned them, cry out for help to the evil one himself.

A good way to begin the New Year is to receive the sacraments of Holy Mother Church.

Automatic Telephone Exchange.

According to the head of Austria's telegraphs, the automatic telephone exchange system can be made to compete seriously with the manual system. He says that in New York it takes on the average 16 seconds from the time the subscriber removes his telephone receiver to the time the ringing signal is set, whereas in the automatic system installed in Vienna for 100,000 subscribers this work is done in but 10 seconds. Three seconds after the subscriber hangs up the receiver the line is clear. Owing to this saving in time a larger number of messages can be delivered through the automatic exchange than through the manual exchange.—Chicago News

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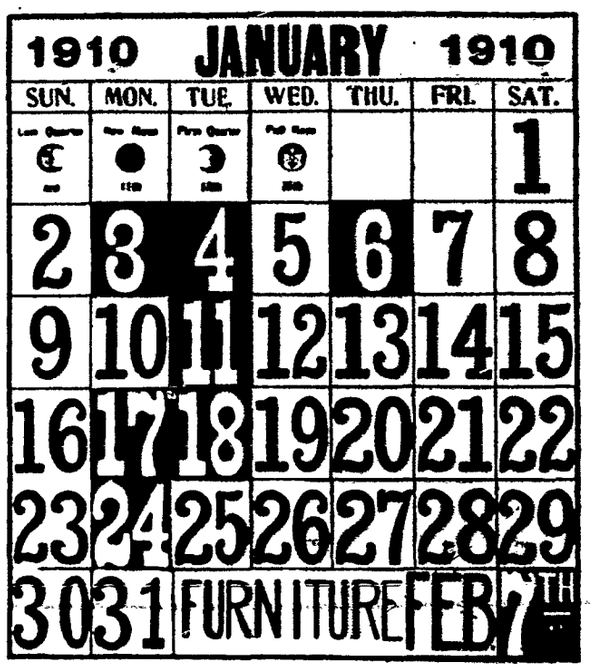
Accompanying calendar gives you the opening dates for these important sales.



Muslin Underwear	Monday, January 3, 1910
Men's Tailoring	Tuesday, January 4, 1910
Embroideries	Thursday, January 6, 1910
Linens	Tuesday, January 11, 1910
Cottons	Monday, January 17, 1910
Shoes	Tuesday, January 18, 1910
House Furnishing Goods	Monday, January 24, 1910
Furniture	Monday, February 7, 1910

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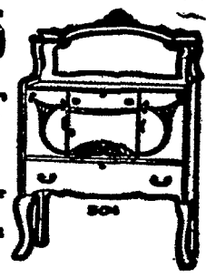

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