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Secular Proof

Even the great secular dailies of America are coming to realize that the "French plan" not only aimed at the destruction of Catholicism in France but at the absolute elimination of God and Religion. In a recent issue the Chicago "Record Herald" tells its readers of a text-book in use in the schools in France for years which the present infidel administration has "revised" by eliminating every reference to God, Church or religion. The Record Herald goes on:

"The author, in noticing the famous man of Burgandy, mentioned St. Bernard, Bossuet, Baudouin and Buffon, among others. The revised version omits St. Bernard and Bossuet."

"In speaking of what the children saw at Laval, the author mentioned the statue there to the great surgeon Ambroise Pare and told the story of how he replied, when congratulated on the marvelous recovery of a patient: 'I dressed his wound; God cured him.' That sentence was carved by the sculptor David d'Angers on the base of the statue, though the 'revised' version omits it, and so omits that for which Pare is better remembered than for being the physician of four kings."

"And a picture in the original book of the Cathedral of Rheims is suppressed, and replaced by a map of Champagne, though the change involves the suppression of the story of the coronation of Charles VII, and of Joan of Arc."

"It does not seem necessary to give more illustrations. A French school book which suppresses Joan of Arc, the great heroine of France and foremost among the world's illustrious women, is not merely 'secularized.' It is decadent in the worst sense of the word."

"If this be the kind of teaching that the French public schools are now giving we cannot be surprised that crime, especially among the young, is increasing in France by leaps and bounds, and that a French regiment was recently guilty of the crowning military infamy of defiling and trampling on its own colors."

We Differ

While the underlying principal in the following paragraph from the Catholic Universe, we cannot agree entirely:

The proposal of the Catholics of Sacramento, Cal., to establish a Catholic Library in that city reflects more credit upon their zeal than upon their wisdom. Catholics have a right to a representative Catholic library in every public library in the country. They form a large part of the public for whose benefit the library is maintained, and by whom it is supported. A "Catholic Public Library" ought not to be a necessity in any city in the United States. To establish one is to assume another of those heavy double burdens which Catholics are constantly carrying through a certain lack of courage of their citizenship. So long as we impose on ourselves, we cannot

complain of the imposition of others.

If we stand upon the principle that Catholics should participate in all public benefits in proportion to their taxpaying part of the population there would be many places where we would fare badly because of fewness of numbers. Take the library example. In many places, the Catholic end of it, proportioned on population would not contain many books. Moreover, unless the library board contained a proportion of Catholic trustees, or the Catholic publishers force a representation in the "Book Trust" the quality of the "Catholic books" selected might not be to our liking.

We must confess to a liking for an independent "Catholic library" in every large Catholic center for several reasons. First, because all our public works are modeled; second, it would be solely under our own control; and that counts a great deal. The situation in France should be a warning to Catholics in America to resist to the limit any semblance of public or municipal control of our institutions. So long as we build, equip and maintain our churches, asylums, hospitals, schools, we can resist successfully any socialistic plea or demand for public use of them.

Mission Work

Who can estimate the good accomplished by the missions of non-Catholics or missions in general, which are in progress all over the country?

While Rev. E. M. Cullinane was pastor of Niles, Mich., he was called one night to the bedside of a commercial traveler, who was taken sick suddenly at one of the hotels. "I am a Protestant," said the sick man, "but I sent for you, Father, to receive me into the Catholic Church. I know the importance of the step I am about to take, for non-Catholics, given by Father Kress in Ohio, where I live and I had intended to ask to be received on my return to my home after this trip. However, I feel that I shall not reach Ohio."

It required little in the way of instruction, reports Father Cullinane, for the man seemed to have made a thorough study of the books given him at the same night with Holy Communion. "By all means," was the ready response. "I want to receive my divine Lord." On the morrow the convert's soul passed to its reward and his body was claimed by his Protestant friends.

Accuracy.
 It is quite the fashion in these days of haphazard education and lack of accurate training, to deal in generalities and avoid being specifically accurate.

A Protestant preacher in Altoona recently took a hand in reforming his community and among other things, he condemned dancing. He quoted "Archbishop Spaulding of New York" as saying "recently that nineteen out of twenty fallen women trace their lapse from virtue to the round dance".

Rev. Morgan M. Sheedy disputes the accuracy of these assertions. Admitting that the dance is not dancing per se—has been a source of danger, Father Sheedy goes on to say:

"This is truly provoking. There is no Catholic Archbishop Spaulding, of New York—never was; obviously, then, he could not say 'recently' and I am quite certain that he never said 'nineteen out of every twenty' lapses of female virtue are due to the dance. There was, it may be well to state, a noted Catholic Archbishop Spaulding, not Spaulding, of Baltimore, but since he died February 7, 1872, he could hardly be speaking recently."

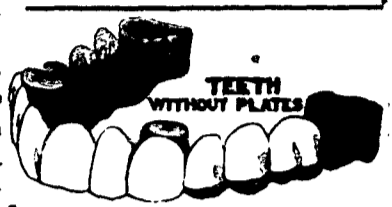
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