

The Catholic Journal

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY AT
60 North St., Rochester N. Y.

BY THE
CATHOLIC JOURNAL PUBLISHING
COMPANY

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Per Year, In Advance \$1.00
Entered at second class mail matter.
ROCHESTER TELEPHONE 4-1111

Friday, April 8 1910

High Standard.

It is evident that a high standard of public conduct and public virtue is coming into vogue. Ten years ago the public viewed with complacency complaints against conduct for which Jonathan P. Allis has just been forced out of the State Senate. It is plain that while some misguided persons, with warped ideas as to the fitness of things are trying to hold in the Senate the accuser of Senator Allis and a self-confessed participant in his moral turpitude, that public sentiment will not tolerate any such inconsistent performance but will insist that bribe-givers are no more to be tolerated in public service than are the bribe-takers. This is a splendid sign. When the standard of public and business morality will no longer tolerate shady practices at home, things will be better in State and National Legislatures. When bribe money is not sent to Albany and Washington, then corrupt legislators will not be known. It may as well be understood that the standard of legislative honor is no higher than the standard in the legislators home community.

Special Election

Governor Hughes has called a special election for April 19th to fill the vacancy in this Congressional district caused by the death of the late Hon. James Breck Perkins. Both political parties have made their nominations. The republicans have named their party leader while the democrats have named a straight party man. It is announced that the national leaders of both parties, have decided to send their "big gun orators" here and that the result will be hailed as a test vote in an off election - on the way the people feel toward their respective political parties.

It is evident from signs already seen that the campaign is to be unusually bitter and that Monroe is to be a storm center. Voters should weigh the issues and vote as their conscience dictates and as they deem for the best interests of the County.

Good Work.

Already the suggestion of the Catholic Journal that a Holy Name Society be organized in every parish in Rochester is bearing fruit. Societies have been organized in Corpus Christi and St. Bridget's parishes and we are informed more are in prospect. This week St. Mary's society held its annual banquet and listened, to inspiring addresses by Rev. William Dougherty, of Syracuse and Hon. William V. Cooke, of Albany and one of the representatives of the Catholic laymen of New York State. These gatherings are of benefit in that they call attention to the quality of Catholic citizenship in Rochester and the fact that we are setting our faces against profanity and obscenity, two of the most senseless and disgusting practices with which America is cursed. Let the good work continue.

Reason Why. Shortly after John Fitzgerald's election as mayor of Boston the Boston Republic thus commented on a circumstance in which the length and breadth of the land are exclaiming in the matter of Mr. Fitzgerald's election:

"How in the world did he succeed without help of a single daily paper?" Then someone speaks up and puts the result down to his personal following, not forgetting the immense compliment implied. The truth is, that many newspapers take too much for granted. The common people are primary object is the protection of widows and orphans. When death removes the bread winner, the life policy keeps the home read, it is true, and on for the family, provides the daily bread and enables the children to be educated. These aids are given, moreover, not in the form of charity, which demoralizes the recipients, but in such a way as to even increase their self-respect.

We incline to the opinion that in the older days the newspapers sought to reflect all shades of public opinion and to portray faithfully the varying stages of a political campaign. Nowadays the papers chronicle things in the hue and view of the editors and proprietors. It will be recalled that Mayor McCallan was elected in New York without the aid of a single newspaper and that in 1906, every paper in Rochester was for Hughes yet Hearst carried the city. Many other instances of similar nature could be mentioned, notably the recent election in San Francisco. It must be conceded that newspapers follow along with public opinion, the public will pay no attention to the papers. The America public is just as intelligent and shrewd as the average newspaper editor.

After Death.

There is an appreciable increase, in certain quarters, in belief of a world beyond the grave, noticeable in written and spoken evidence. In a recent article in the "North American Review" by Borden Parker Bowne, written from the secular standpoint, the author unhesitatingly declares that the belief in life after death is better founded today than it ever was in the past "so far as science and reasoning go". and has his finger at the argument against such belief as "level to the lowest intellect," and seems "conclusive to the uncritical."

He quotes notable scientists, like Sir Oliver Lodge, Bergson, and we might add, Professor James of Harvard, who came through the scientific research to firm belief in the immortality of the soul. And here it is that Christianity has done a great service. It has made the idea of immortality and belief in it a common possession, and by its continual testimony to the life immortal has made it credible to the great mass of men who could reach it in no other way. And it is something to see that science and reflection, so far as they go, support this faith. They do not, indeed, compel it, but they make it rationally possible and show the emptiness of pretended disproofs of the doctrine. And then the individual has to decide for himself whether to take the higher view that leads to life and hope or the lower view that leads to despair and death. And probably this is all that is desirable for us under our present circumstances. The supposed proofs of spiritual existence that come from spiritrappings and such things are not of much use to us. They cannot be declared to be impossible, though I myself have never seen anything that makes them credible. But their contents are of such a character as to depress rather than encourage us. It is further clear that for the sake of our mental, moral and religious sanity it would not do for us to have much commerce with the intellectual nor morals nor religion could go on in any wholesome manner if we had much more knowledge than we now possess.

Why not raise the Maine? Do we want it there forever as "a horrible example?"

Why should a "political neutral" seek to poll the clergy of Rochester as to their preference for Congress? Is not that a violation of the principal of a secret ballot?

Social centers appear to be doomed. Even the news writers' Roastfest burlesqued "the social centers."

Purification of the Senate will not be accomplished by ousting Allis and keeping Conger.

Where there is no bribe-givers there will be found no bribe-takers.

What a beautiful standard of civic virtue prevailed in Pittsburgh, to be sure!

Formula to arouse interest for non-Catholic foreign missions: Abuse everybody, especially the Pope and the Catholic missionaries.

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