The Catholic Journal

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Friday, June 3, 1910.

No Abuse On Our Part

The Catholic Journal has received this communication from one of its subscribers:

Editor Catholic Journal:—

You see it is quite possible that Our Holy Father made a mistake in the Roosevelt affair. It does not require a bad Catholic to say this much. On the other hand did Mr. O'Laughlin say that Roosevelt was or is the greatest thing in this world?

I think the Catholic side has a duty of "noblesse oblige" in this matter which cannot be ignored.

I think, for instance, too, that the Catholic Journal might be more throughly Catholic and less Irish, for you see you have a few German subscribers too, have you not?

Do I appear highly critical? Every editor must be ready for criticism and be ready and willing to profit by criticism if he wishes to make a success of his editorial page.

We are not winning Catholics by absolute public abuse of our own Faith or any other Faith unless we have absolute undisputed knowledge of the actual facts.

P.S.—Permit me to say that I should revise the last statement therein to state, that abuse never does any one any good, unless the abused are real followers of Christ. It is likely to be cowardice however, or the part of the abused in the majority of cases.

A frank statement of actual facts even when militating against an individual as a class may do some good service if performed in the right way and in the right spirit.

Miss J. M——

Several statements in the letter cannot go unanswered. In the first place, is it not as fair for us as loyal Catholics to suppose that Mr. Roosevelt made a mistake, to put it charitably, rather than that the Holy Father should be blamed. Mr. Roosevelt has admitted that Pope Pius X was within his rights. Later information as we have shown leads to the conclusion that the American Ambassador in Italy, either intentionally or through ignorance muddled up the situation. Speaking for ourselves we say frankly that we cannot see how the Holy Father could have acted differently and maintained either self-respect or the respect of his followers.

Respecting Mr. O'Laughlin, the Catholic Journal has not indulged in the abuse but has relied on the testimony and criticism of such representative Catholic prelates as Archbishop O'Connell, of Boston, who is not likely to be ill-informed. In a Western Catholic paper this week we came across a letter from an eminent Catholic priest in the course of which he intimates very bravely that Mr. O'Laughlin is not what may be called a practical Catholic but that he rather is the sort of "professional Catholic," they who stand in the corners and loudly proclaim their Catholicity while they never are known to approach the sacraments.

We hope that is not true but we cannot refrain from stating it as our belief that the Catholic who thinks Theodore Roosevelt's personal comfort and gratification is of more importance than those of the Holy Father is not apt to contribute much toward the upbuilding of Catholic citizenship.

Our correspondent surely does not mean to intimate that the Catholic Journal is an Irish paper. Because of the requests of a number of subscribers we publish a column of news from Ireland but this paper is published for all Catholics in the diocese of Rochester. The very fact that we criticised Mr. O'Laughlin's action should disprove the charge that the Journal is an Irish paper. One word more. The most severe criticism of Mr. O'Laughlin that we have read came from the Federation of Catholic societies in which the Germans predominated.

We trust we have convinced our correspondent of our sincerity. We have no desire to criticise unduly or to indulge in mere carping. Neither do we believe that it is the part of wisdom or justice to withhold criticism when criticism is needed. We are sure our correspondent would not have us laud Theodore Roosevelt and berate the Holy Father? Our conception of the Roosevelt episode is not gleaned from the infidel press correspondents but from the letters of veracious well-informed and accurate Catholic correspondents of whom there are many in Rome but the sensation-mongering press associations will have none of these.

The Legislature.

The regular session of the Legislature of 1910 came to an end last Friday but it did not meet the wishes of Governor Hughes on the primary question.

Aside from the primary bills the legislature of 1910 has much of good to its credit. It has passed more stringent laws against race-track gambling. It has put telegraph and telephone companies under control of the Public service commission; it has taken steps toward an inter-state palisades park; made the first move toward another new Charter for New York City; adopted a plan whereby, all departmental budgets will be in the hands of the Comptroller and Legislature before the latter convenes; passed for the first time a Consitutional amendment which will permit the development of the water storage resources in the state Forest Preserve under proper regulations and made needed amendments to the general educational law.

Aside from direct primaries which is a disputed question upon which many well-informed citizens differ widely, the Legislature of 1910 has made a good record.

Sacrifices For Faith

Let those Catholics in Rochester who think themselves called upon to make sacrifices for the faith read and ponder well this typical tale related of hardships on the frontier by Bishop Keane, of Wyoming:

Another interesting incident related by the Bishop was in connection with a mission that he once gave in an out-of-the-way place of his diocese. One Sunday morning, before mass, he was standing outside the primitive little chapel, when he saw a woman with four or five children driving up in a stout farm wagon and going out to help her with the hitching of her team, and to assist her and the children out of the wagon, he asked her if she had come from much of a distance. "Sixty-four miles, Bishop" was her reply. "Why, when did you start?" he asked. "At two o'clock yesterday morning," she said, and then continued: "My children have all been baptized and I have done my best to instruct them in the faith; I believe that they know the catechism well enough to make their first communion, and I was in hopes Bishop, that we might all receive holy communion this morning, as we still are fasting!" The Bishop assured her that her wish would be granted, and then remarked that she must be very tired from her long trip. The tears coursed down her cheeks as she replied: "I don't mind the weariness, it's the happiest day of my life, for my children will receive their first communion and I can take them home to their father happy in that knowledge."

Such are some of the trials to which our holy faith is subjected in the West, and it seems superfluous to add that that brave and devoted woman was Irish.

The Poor Were Not There

Our old friend, Rev. George Chalmers Richmond, continues to "make copy" for the newspaper boys in his new Philadelphia charge:

"What an awful sight that was at the Gould-Drexel wedding in New York where crowds fought and tore one another's hats simply to see a very ordinary sight.

"The bride was a girl unknown in our world of moral upbuilding and reform, a girl who inherits wealth largely made by a grandfather whose methods would not be countenanced in these days; a girl who has nothing to boast of except this money.

"She was married to a youth who has never helped any social, religious or moral movement in his city in any exceptional degree. The pageantry of the affair was sensational and vulgar.

"In the end the pair will probably land in the divorce court; a bad and sensational beginning means a bad ending."

Dr Richmond is not overstating the situation but we are not so sure that he is right in his assumption that such episodes stir up envy in the hearts of the wageworkers—unless by the newspaper accounts—because they have no time to witness such pageants. However, how much more refined was the recent quiet wedding of Miss Mary Harriman to the man of her choice!

He Is Different

Bishop John W. Hamilton evidently is cast in different mold from the usual run of Methodist Episcopal Bishops. Here is what he said in a recent address to his fellow Methodists of Worcester, Mass.

"If you send your boys to schools where the bible is not allowed and not a word of religion spoken, schools that turn out boys that smoke cigarettes, swear and speak language they would not dare to utter in the presence of their mothers and sisters, look to it.

"I thank God for that sister Church of ours that has come over here and is setting us the example of Christian education in her parochial schools. She is doing a great work for religious education, and we should do the same."

Will we have direct primaries this year?

Governor Hughes proposes to go down with flying colors.

How many persons have read or studied the Hinman-Green bill?

Telephone and telegraph companies will be subject to supervision and regulation ere long.

Thank fortune for even three weeks respite from the State Legislature.

Uncle John Raines died at the proper time to avoid trouble for himself. But his death certainly stirred up a deal of trouble for the Republican party.

No one will regret bidding farewell to Halley's comet if it is responsible for the recent weather.

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Women's Ankle Strap Pumps

Patent colt and dull calfskin, plain and perforated tip toes, welt soles, one eyelet, all sizes, AA to E widths, at $3.00.

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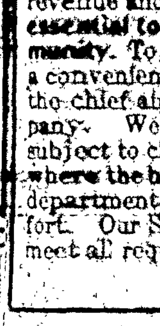

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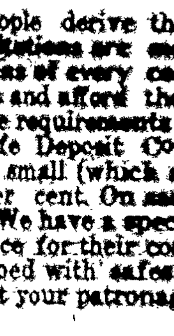

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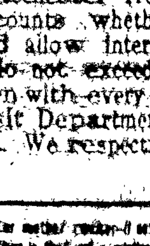

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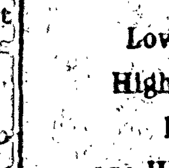

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