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Peculiar Provision

In a proposed charter for the city of New Rochelle submitted to the Legislature of 1910 but not enacted into law, we find this peculiarly worded section.
365. Religious tenets and dogmatic books excluded; Bible retained. No school shall be entitled to or receive any portion of the school moneys in which the religious doctrines, tenets, or usages of any particular church or religious sect shall be taught, included or practised, or in which any book which contains opinions favorable or prejudicial to the doctrines or tenets of any particular church or religious sect shall be used. But nothing herein contained shall authorize the board of education to exclude the Holy Scriptures without note or comment, or any version thereof, or any selection therefrom, from the schools provided for issue of the Catholic Journal by this chapter; but the board of education shall not have the power to decide what version, if any, of the Holy Scriptures, without note or comment, shall be used in any of the schools; provided that nothing herein contained shall be construed as to violate the rights of conscience as secured by the constitution of this state and of the United States.
Can you beat that for ambiguity of expression?

Catholic Activity

An exchange gives these specifications to prove that the Catholic Church is abreast of the times in scientific research, philanthropy and material works as well as in theology.
Father Cortie, S. J., the distinguished astronomer of Storyhurst College, near Liverpool, Eng., will soon visit to the South Sea Islands, commissioned by the British Government. Some, perhaps, will remember that Father Perry, also a famous Jesuit astronomer, observed the transit of Venus, perhaps a score of years ago, on behalf of the same government.
Mother Katherine Draxel, foundress of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, has built the school church - St. Anne's in Cincinnati - the only Catholic Church for the colored people in the State of Ohio. She is also the foundress of the Institute of St. Francis de Sales for colored girls at Rock Castle, Va., which is conducted by the Sisters of her community, and in which not only Catholic girls, but all other colored girls, regardless of religious affiliations, are received and trained, if their parents or guardians desire it. Another of her foundations is St. Katherine's Hall, Carlisle, Pa., for Indians, and Negroes. It is in charge of her Sisterhood.
A notable Chinese Jesuit died recently in the Vicariate of Nanking. He was eighty years old, fifty years a priest, and forty years Secretary of the Apostolic Vicariate just mentioned, conducting the communications with the mandarins on all legal business concerning the Catholic missions.

He was a prolific author, his books being both in the Chinese and Latin languages.

A Catholic Church for the deaf-mutes, probably the first church in the world especially for this afflicted class, is about to be built in New York. It will accommodate 1,000 persons. The announcement is made by the Rev. Francis T. McCarthy, S. J., so it will probably be in charge of the Jesuits. Some magnificent institutes for deaf-mutes are in New York, Philadelphia, Buffalo, Chicago, St. Louis, etc., under Catholic direction. Archbishop Glennon of St. Louis has accepted the invitation of Missouri to head a Commission of fifteen men and women to make a thorough investigation of tuberculosis in that State.

Bishop Keane, of Cheyenne, Wyo., recently addressed District No. 22, United Mine Workers of America, the assembly representing an organization of 8,000, and we find 2,500 policemen gathered at one time in the New York Cathedral for an address by Father Sullivan. To these might be added our own Bishop McQuaid's service in behalf of parks and other improvements which he continued by his successor and the great tuberculosis sanitarium to be erected in New Jersey through the efforts of Bishop O'Connor. These instances multiplied indefinitely but those cited are sufficient to prove the assertions made. Did you read the specifications of the activity of individual Catholics in science, in combat of disease, in philanthropy of every kind, or any version thereof, or any selection therefrom, from the schools provided for issue of the Catholic Journal by this chapter; but the board of education shall not have the power to decide what version, if any, of the Holy Scriptures, without note or comment, shall be used in any of the schools; provided that nothing herein contained shall be construed as to violate the rights of conscience as secured by the constitution of this state and of the United States.
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Signs of the Times

The autocratic stand of Kaiser Wilhelm has been criticised but it will be noticed that he gives credit and allegiance to Almighty God whose instrument he deems himself to be. On the other hand Theodore Roosevelt invites himself to be the sole arbiter of the destinies of the American Republic and its people although holding no office, and so far as his public utterances may be judged, does not deign to give credit to any Divine agency. He would breakdown dogma and have the "country church" a social center.

It is refreshing to turn to a public official who pays strict attention to his duties and is trying to promote the material prosperity and to encourage faith in our institutions. We refer to State Treasurer Thomas B. Dunn, of whom this city and State may justly be proud. In a recent speech, free from bombast and self-puffery, he told his hearers that, rated as to commercial prosperity, New York State is the fourth Empire, not among the States of the Union but among the nations of the world. England, France and Germany alone outrank New York State. Treasurer Dunn also told his hearers what New York State has done for the insane, the charitable institutions, roads and canals, all with a view to aiding the material and social happiness of its citizens. Very pertinently, he asked which of these advantages they would forego and also as to how or where or when those who decried State officers would do better? Incidentally, Treasurer Dunn put in a plea for fairer treatment of public officers and suggested that the people should be "from Missouri" when insinuations are made against the honor and honesty of their public officials and should demand that facts, figures and proof be submitted before taking any stock whatever in such charges. There's a safe and sane man for you.

We are Gaining Ground

Several times in the last few months the Catholic Journal has alluded to the gains made by the Church in England and expressed the opinion that the country would yet return to the faith of ancient days. That opinion is strengthened by the following Leeds despatch to the Catholic Standard and Times: "The year 1910 will be memorable to Catholics by reason of two events of the greatest importance - the removal from the statute book of the accession oath and the holding for the first time of a great national Catholic congress. That these two events should occur almost simultaneously is not only a happy coincidence, but an indication of a new era for Catholics in this country." According to the correspondent of the European Congress while the New York Cathedral for presented as well. The correspondent continues: "The dominant note of the congress was its Catholicity. Problems affecting the position of the Church will be regarded to science and philosophy, the charitable and philanthropic work of the Catholic Church, the work and the status of Catholic women in public life, the organization of the Catholic Federation, and last but by no means least in importance, the attitude of Catholics to trade unionism and socialism were among the many subjects that engaged the attention of the congress. Does this not portend well?"

We Are Glad of This

The Catholic Journal and thinking persons in general will commend the following expression from the Boston "Republic": "There are persons disposed to condemn Catholics as 'prudish' for their steady maintenance of reserve in dealing with the young on some subjects on which for a long time, all decent folk were not less reserved. Thoughtful men are coming back to the safe old ways. We quote this from the Christian Register (Unitarian) current number: 'The writer can testify that the most debasing literature that came under his observation in boyhood was sent out by a Moral Reform Society with the best intentions. No beauty in youth, surpasses the beauty of innocence, and through the Providence of God it is its own best safeguard.'

Why A Catholic Paper?

Is a Catholic paper needed? Do you need a Catholic paper in your home? Just glance over the Editorial page of today's issue of the Catholic Journal. Did you read of the English Catholic Congress in any secular paper published in Rochester? Drunkenness and divorce are practically unknown in Spain and it has the fewest suicides of any country in the world, asserts a correspondent of the New York "Herald". Is that the cause for the recent "liberal movement"?

May the soul of Rt. Rev. Edward J. Dunne, late bishop of Dallas, Texas, rest in peace. He was 39 years a priest and in 1893 was made bishop of Dallas, which covers a territory of 118,000 square miles.
The literary critic of the North American Review, says this of a well-known Catholic writer, Miss Louise Imogen Guiney that she "undoubtedly holds the palm as the most finished craftsman among living American poets."
The Catholic Journal congratulates Archbishop Blenk upon the silver jubilee of his ordination.

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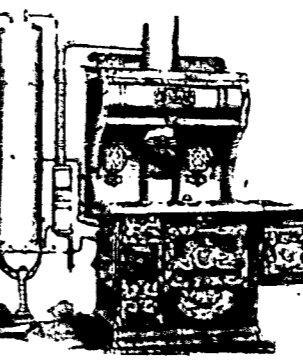
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