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Friday, Mar 3 1911

Lent.

Once more the holy season of
Lent is upon us and for forty
days Holy Mother Church or-
dains that we do penance and
mortify ourselves. As an eccles-
iastical regulation it is good. As
a hygienic measure, in this rush-
ing, bustling age in America it is
well for body and mind if we ob-
serve the Lenten fast literally
and rigorously. We shall be re-
freshed and better able to bear
the strain of another year.

Americans eat too much, play
too hard and fast, drive at too
swift a pace. For the sake of
both soul and body it is well
that we rest between races. For
our souls sake it is meet that we
indulge in self-study, take inven-
tory as it were. Too often we find
the spiritual corporation drifting
dangerously near the reefs of
bankruptcy. It is fitting that we
balance our books to see if we
have a credit or debt with our
Maker.

If we but observe the Lenten
fast right; if we spend a little
time before the Altar night and
morning; if we read books of
devotion instead of the stock re-
ports, books of fiction and the
latest society gabble; if we fore-
sweat poker and bridge for the
Beads and if we substitute church
for the theater we shall accum-
ulate a reserve of spiritual
strength which will aid us for the
rest of the year.

The Catholic Journal wishes
that the Lenten season of 1911
will bring lasting benefits to all
its readers.

Mr. Roosevelt's Mistake.

Our former president, on more
than one occasion, has been led
into regrettable mistakes because
of lack of knowledge concerning
the subject under discussion or
because he had not inquired into
the motives behind the contro-
versy. Mr. Roosevelt is, in the
highest sense of the word, an op-
portunistic.

Perhaps, this may explain Mr.
Roosevelt's sudden interest in
"progressive Christianity." He
has a perfect right to espouse
Buddhism or the doctrines of
Mahomet but he has no right
even to endeavor to superimpose
his dogmas upon those of his fel-
low-men who differ with him.

In the same spirit Mr. Flana-
gan, of Texas, has a perfect right
to subscribe to the Y. M. C. A.
"boosters fund" but Mr. Roose-
velt displays poor taste or igno-
rance when he hails this fact as a
proof of the delights of "progres-
sive Christianity." Perhaps, Mr.
Flanagan is a practical Catholic
but if he be he displays precious
little judgment in boosting an
organization so narrow and so
hypocritical that it solicits and
accepts Catholic dollars, but, in
express terms its constitution
debars Catholics from holding
any office in its gift.

And so Colonel Roosevelt's
specious plea falls to the ground
of its own weight as the Catho-
lic Standard and Times points
out: "When Mr. Roosevelt speaks
of bigotry (on both sides) we
honestly believe that were he to

read a pamphlet by the Rev.
Lucian Johnson, a convert from
Protestantism, on that very sub-
ject, he would hesitate to use
such a phrase again in connection
with present conditions in the
religious field in the United
States. We do not deem it fitting
to go into the matter at the pres-
ent time, but probably later on
we may find it necessary to do
so."

Justice At Last.

We feel very sure that the
great majority of the taxpayers
of Rochester, the solid citizen-
ship of the community will ap-
prove the action taken by the
Board of Estimate in refusing
any special appropriation for
social centers.

If social centers are a needed
complement to the public schools
the money needed for their main-
tenance should come out of the
general educational fund and the
generous appropriation of \$1,029,
800 is sufficient to permit contin-
uance of social centers. We doubt
the efficacy of social centers, in
fact are convinced, that they are
productive of no great amount of
good but whatever benefit they
are the cost should be borne by
their staunch advocates and not
taken from the general tax levy
by special appropriation and then
added to the educational fund and
spent by the Board of Education.

As we said, we doubt the bene-
fit of social centers but if they
are to be maintained by special
appropriation they should be
made a separate and distinct de-
partment of city government,
whose officers should be appoint-
ed by the Mayor, not by the
Board of Education.

Fault is found by the noisy, ar-
rogant alien advocates of social
centers that the Catholics ob-
ject to public support of these
discontent-breeders. Have we
not good cause? Has there not
been for years a social center
maintained in every Catholic
parish in Rochester? And are
these not maintained out of our
own pockets and has the public
treasury been called upon for-
ever in Ohio a Miss Merry mar-
ried a Mr. Laffin and she has
the social centers were inaugu-
rated by jealousy? And is it not a
fact that the social centers
would be a flat failure if those
who benefit thereby were called
upon to contribute toward their
support financially? Is it not simple
justice that the leeches upon the
body politic be compelled to re-
linquish their hold?

Men on the List, Too

Says a contemporary:—
"We heard a school principal
discussing the subject of high
school luncheons the other day,
and the evil effects of hurried
eating. He gave this as the aver-
age lunch of the girl: "A small
sandwich, a large piece of cake
and a lordly pickle." Is it to be
wondered at that the average
female stomach is a wreck?"
Girls may be peculiar in their
lunch tastes but are they any
worse than the man who gob-
bles a sandwich and a piece of
pie and gulps down a glass of
beer? Or the chap who calls for
a charlotte russe and coffee and
tops off with a cigarette? For
queer tastes, women have noth-
ing on the men!

Social centers are not to be dis-
posed of as a political issue but
upon the broad question of jus-
tice and fair play. They are not
open to all citizens, hence should
not be maintained at public ex-
pense. Even municipal amuse-
ment parlors should not be re-
stricted to a favored class.

Poor exile McBride! His death
removes a picturesque figure from
American life. He was truly na-
tional in his acquaintance.

Governor Dix should learn to
hold to one position at least twen-
ty-four hours at a time.

Catholics need not hang their
heads when Lieutenant Governor
Conway is mentioned. His speech-
es in Rochester during the last
two weeks show him a man of
culture, breadth and wide re-
search.

Are the social centers open to
every citizen of Rochester, or
only to the aliens and place-hold-
ers.

Archbishop Ireland's sermon
at the consecration of Rev. E. D.
Kelly as auxiliary bishop of De-
troit and Cardinal Gibbons re-
joinder to Thomas A. Edison con-
stitute a striking defense of the
immortality of the soul which
should be in the hands of every
professing Christian.

This is the amended oath recit-
ed by King George of England
at the first session of the House
of Lords since he ascended the
throne:—

"I do solemnly and sincerely,
in the presence of God, profess,
testify and declare that I am a
faithful Protestant, and I will ac-
cording to the true intent of the
enactments which, secures the
Protestant succession to the
throne of my realm, uphold and
maintain the said enactments to
the best of my powers according
to law.

Rev. Fidelis Kent Stone, for-
merly Rev. James Kent Stone of
the Protestant Episcopal church
and a member of the faculty of
Hobart College of Geneva, has
been appointed provincial of the
Passionist order in South Amer-
ica with headquarters in Rio
Janeiro.

Rt. Rev. E. E. Prendergast,
auxiliary bishop, is now adminis-
trator of the see of Philadelphia.
The deadlock over the United
States senatorship is costing the
people of New York State up-
wards of \$2,500 a day.

Says the Chicago "New World,"
for over in Ohio a Miss Merry
married a Mr. Laffin and she has
been Laffin ever since.

According to "Le Gaulois,"
France has nearly a million pub-
lic officials. The exact figure
is 968,121, and the salaries
paid amount to 687,000,000 francs.
This means one official for every
forty men, women and children.
Eliminating the women and
children, who are three-fourths
of the population. France has at
least one official for every ten
voters—probably one for ever
eight, which means that to en-
sure the Government's succe-
ss at the polls and to hold his "job
each officeholder is required to
"influence" not more than five
voters. He is a poor politician
who cannot do that.

Abbot Stanislaus White, who
died recently, was well known by
many in Ireland and this coun-
try. Previous to entering the
Trappist Order he was engaged
in extensive business in Derry.
About thirty years ago he was
called from Mount-Melleray, Ire-
land to become consultant of the
General in Rome. He held this
position for several years. He
was afterward elected Abbot of
the Trappist Monastery at Valvis-
ciolo, which position he held un-
til his death.

A good way to observe Lent is
to assist at mass every day.

What self-sacrifice shall you
make for Lent?

Blackbird Days.
Jan. 30 and 31 and Feb. 1 are famous
at Constantinople, Breacla and along
the Danube and the Rhine as the
"blackbird days." A curious legend
says that originally all species of rack-
les (blackbirds), were white and that
they became black because during one
year in the middle ages the three days
mentioned above were so cold that all
the birds in Europe took refuge in the
chimneys. At Breacla the three days
are celebrated with a feast called "I
gloral della merla," or "the feast of
the transformation of the bird."



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Up in the Air
Mrs. Rosa Anna Wells, Washington,
Texas, writes March 10, 1910: "I could
not sleep for two months, was weak,
nervous, had pains in the heart, my
blood was cold and I always felt as
if I could not do anything
without taking medicine. Now I tes-
tify that Pastor Koenig's Nerve Tonic
is the only remedy which cured me
in a short time."
Hamburg, Iowa, March 10, 1910.
My nine-year-old son was afflicted
with Epileptic Fits, treated by the
best doctors here and in Omaha, but
without success. Rev. Cook in Coun-
cil Bluffs recommended that Pastor
Koenig's Nerve Tonic. Since taking this
remedy he has just one attack of fits
in the last four months and I have
faith that it will cure him entirely.
I recommend it to all who are troubled
with epileptic spells.

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freely availing themselves of their services.

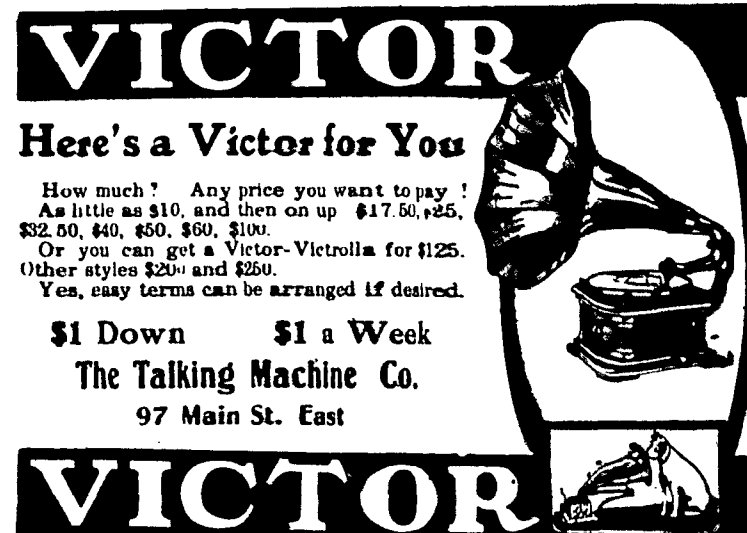
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