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Haskins Refuted.

There is a secular paper in Rochester that publishes the "Haskins' syndicate letters." These letters are often entertaining. The author, evidently, classes himself as versatile in every subject under the sun. Doubtless, many persons are taken in by his evident superior knowledge. However, an instance of Haskins' ill-knowledge or bigotry which casts a shadow of suspicion on all his facts and figures, is at hand.

In July, Haskins sent out one of his syndicate letters in which he made the statement that "the education prevails in Spain." James M. Dohan replied to this in a letter to the Philadelphia "Bulletin" but the latter refused to publish it. The Catholic Standard and Times did. "Prevalent," Mr. Dohan points out means "widespread" so the Haskins statement analyzed would mean the same as "little sunshine widespread" on a cloudy day, which would be manifestly absurd as well as slovenly English.

Haskins asserts that "seventy-five per cent of the Spanish population is illiterate" but gives no figures to substantiate this statement because "statistics in Spain are unreliable." Well, the Encyclopaedia Britannica is not noted for friendliness to Catholics people, but it tells how Spain, with 18,600,000 people have nine universities, how its young women take up higher education and often take their B. A. In 1907 there were 16,500 university students in Spain. The census figures for 1900 gave 25,340 public schools in Spain with 1,617,314 pupils and 6,181 private schools, with 844,380 pupils, a total of 31,521 schools with 1,961,294 pupils in attendance. One-ninth of the population in school is not a bad showing. In 1900 the illiterate persons or about thirty per cent of the total population in Spain amounted to 5,290,000 persons or about thirty per cent of the total population in Spain. The census figures were taken from the 1860 census. In 1900 the central government of Spain appropriated for its public schools nearly twice as much as did the State of New York, and sent twice as many pupils to its schools and yet the population of Spain was only twice and a half as great as New York in 1900.

While Haskins does not admit it directly, there is ground for suspecting that in his comparisons he counted as illiterates in Spain, not only the illiterate above ten years, which is the usual rule, but also all the population under ten years which is manifestly unfair. To apply the same rule in the United States would raise our percentage of illiterates to a point where the educators would shriek out in horror. But that is the way Haskins produced his "seventy-five per cent" for Spain.

We have said enough to prove the utter unreliability of Haskins' figures from a source decidedly unfriendly to anything

Catholic. If Catholics would apply a similar test to any other statistical attack, we would confound others of our slanderers.

Holy Days of Obligation

We are indebted to a Catholic exchange for the following explanations of the Holy Father's recent "Motu Proprio" on holy days of obligation:—

Some confusion has arisen concerning the Holy Father's "Motu Proprio" of July 2, due on the one hand to an incomplete translation of the document and on the other to careless reading of the text.

Some of the translations published and summaries cabled to the daily press failed to include the feast of the Immaculate Conception among the days on which the ecclesiastical precept of hearing Mass and of abstaining from servile work remains in force.

And in the list of feasts which continue to be days of obligation, in addition to all the days now of precept in this country, there are two which are not so observed, namely, the Epiphany and SS. Peter and Paul. The list follows: The Nativity, the Circumcision, the Epiphany, the Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ, of the Immaculate Conception and of the Assumption of Our Blessed Lady, of the SS. Apostles Peter and Paul and finally of All Saints. At first glance this gives the impression that the "Motu Proprio," instead of reducing the number of holy days, which is its effect for the Church at large, actually increases the number in this country.

Reading on, however, it is found that the fourth rule of the "Motu Proprio" prescribes that "if in any place any one of the feasts indicated has been legitimately abolished or transferred no innovation is to be made without consulting the Holy See." In this country, therefore, the days of obligation are left undisturbed. Moreover, the feasts of St. Joseph, of St. John the Baptist and of Corpus Christi are no longer fixed, but movable feasts to be observed, respectively, on the Sunday following of coinciding with March 19, the Sunday following Trinity Sunday. The solemnity of these feasts is to be enhanced by attaching to each one the privilege of an octave.

Curious

"It is a curious illustration," remarks the "Catholic Standard and Times," "of the inability of inspiring subjects in art to awaken high emotions in some great pupils and artists that the late Edwin E. Abbey had given orders to have 31,521 schools with 1,961,294 pupils in attendance. One-ninth of the population in school is not a bad showing. In 1900 the illiterate persons or about thirty per cent of the total population in Spain amounted to 5,290,000 persons or about thirty per cent of the total population in Spain. The census figures were taken from the 1860 census. In 1900 the central government of Spain appropriated for its public schools nearly twice as much as did the State of New York, and sent twice as many pupils to its schools and yet the population of Spain was only twice and a half as great as New York in 1900.

Will Ireland receive Home Rule, at last?

So American money powers now dictate terms to Germany?

Recent events tend to make one feel that even the spectator at an aviation meet or a motor boat race is not in a safe position.

Colonel Astor now says he wants the marriage (and divorce) laws made less flexible. Strikes us the doughty colonel talks just a trifle too much.

Our old friend, George Chalmers Richmond, will have to find another publicity vehicle. He'll do it, all right.

Speaking English.
Almost any one who speaks English might be put down successively in half a dozen places where English is supposed to be the mother tongue and hear as many dialects spoken, not one of which he would understand until it was interpreted. An old Lancashire worthy and a London lady were one day occupants of a railway carriage. The train had been waiting long at a certain station, and there was no appearance of it starting when the worthy remarked:
"They're a gly, tanglesome lot here. I beg your pardon," said the lady.
"I'm sayin' they're a gly daddlin' lot here."
"I really beg your pardon, sir."
"I'm observin' they are a vera drelch lot here the night."
"Really I must again beg your pardon. I don't comprehend you."
"I was just tryin' to say that the train was late."

"Indeed, sir, it is very late," agreed the lady and then collapsed. London Tit-Bits

Orderliness is Big Asset.
To teach children habits of neatness, system and order is to insure some degree, at least, of success. Yet they are often brought up amid disorder and confusion, allowed to throw things down just where they use them and to form slovenly and slipshod habits. They are not taught to put things where they belong, and consequently they grow up shackled with handi caps which they can rarely throw off.
If there is any delusion in the world it is that doing "things just for now" dropping things wherever one may happen to be temporarily, saves time. On the contrary, this is a great time waster and a great demoralizer of character. A bad habit not only tends to repeat itself, but to increase the tendency in that direction.
If you were not taught the beautiful lesson of orderliness in your youth teach it to yourself now.—Success Magazine

Needed a Sea Turn.
Captain Lane had retired from active pursuit of his beloved calling and had turned his attention to town affairs. Having succeeded in rousing the citizens to the need of a drinking fountain, and also to the need of two coats of paint on the town hall, Captain Lane felt himself a gained and important person.

One day he was asked by a sojourner in the town to give his opinion of the present administration.
"It's pretty fair," said the captain slowly. "Of course there's things that could be different and would be better so, but on the whole 'tis pretty fair. But now I'll tell ye—I'm speaking from experience, you understand—things at the seat of government won't be run as they could be run till the people of this country make up their minds to stop conning their gates to landlubbers!"—Youth's Companion.

A Correction.
In a town of such size that every one knows every one else it is often customary to speak of people by their first names, even when one would not do so to their faces. The latter is known as Joe Smith, the grocer as Frank Parsons, the lawyer as Will Andrews, and no offense is meant or taken. One day a friend, while acting a teacher of the industrial school to put hats and coats on forty little members of the kindergarten class. Two little tow headed girls attracted her attention, and as she tied their hoods she asked:
"Are you Charlie Porter's little girls?" Two serious little blue eyes looked up as the elder replied:
"His name was Charlie when he was a little boy. He's Mr. Porter now." Exchange.

The Moral.
"The persistence with which children see in a fable some other moral than the one which it is intended that they shall see is often distressing," remarks a Philadelphia instructor of the young.
"I had recited to one little boy the story of the wolf and the lamb and had followed it up with the remark:
"And now you see, Tommy, that the lamb would not have been eaten by the wolf if he had been good and sensible."
"Yes, I understand," said Tommy. "If the lamb had been good and sensible we should have had him to eat!"—Lippincott's.

A Hotel Experience.
"There are two classes of arrivals who ask you to register for them," said a hotel clerk yesterday. "One is the woman with tight gloves who really cannot write. The other is the man who arrives after 11 p. m. and who says: 'Just register (hic), old man, will you?' Been carrying this grip and m' hands so nervous I couldn't hold a pen."—New York Sun.

Lost Days.
"You used to say," she complained, "that you counted that day lost when you did not hear the sound of my voice."
"Yes, I know," he replied, "and I shall never cease to long for those dear lost days."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Can Aid.
The farmer viewed the battlefield by cannon ripped and torn.
"Them soldiers is a help," he said. "They've went and shelled my corn."—Dallas News.

In the Point of View.
Her Husband—You spend altogether too much money. Mrs. Whooper-Rupp—Not at all. The trouble is you don't make enough.—Exchange.

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has done for me. It has completely
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that I was afraid to comb it. My wife's
was evenly so. In fact after one applica-
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Mrs. Dresser—But, George, you surely don't consider yourself a financier?
Mr. Dresser—Certainly I do. How do you suppose I've kept from paying your milliner's bill for so long if I'm not a financier?—Catholic Standard and Times.

Matrimonial Note.
"This thing of getting married," said the girl who was busy with her trousseau, "is certainly a trial."
"A trial, yes," agreed the cynical becheor, "but it isn't half so bad as working out the sentence."—Town Topics.

The habit of being critical about small things is not a good one to establish in one's life.

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Last Big Day
Saturday, at Exhibition Park
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