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Friday, Jan 26, 1912

Priest and Paper

This is splendid testimony from the "Western Catholic"—

A priest can do a great amount of good in this world. Every one knows this, but few people realize the great good a live Catholic paper can do, for it goes into all kinds of homes, is read by people of different ideas and character and is a great factor in forming the latter. To speak to a thousand from a pulpit is a worthy ambition—to speak to 50,000 through printer's ink is an ambition realized and appreciated by few—because a good paper can reach people whom a priest may never meet. If you want to help God's cause, subscribe for some live Catholic paper, if not ours, any other that suits your taste. It's the cause of God we want to advance, not our own paper alone.

Non-Catholic Reply

This is the way the secular Chicago "Record-Herald" raps the editor who said to Cardinal Gibbons that "an aristocracy of intellect is as abhorrent in a republic as an aristocracy of wealth":—

There were long centuries when the Catholic Church was the one open road over which the youth of "low" birth and without wealth might advance to high station. The Catholic Church has ever offered a career to talents. It has always made its own "aristocracy," and the qualifications for admission thereto have never been of birth or wealth, but always of ability and devotion—of moral force and intellectual power.

In conferring its rewards and dispensing its honors the Catholic Church has not asked what was the aspirant's birth or social station or wealth. It has asked only what have been his merits in the service of the Church and what is his ability to serve it in a higher station. The Catholic hierarchy is pre-eminently an "aristocracy of intellect.

Every educated Protestant knows this. Whatever his dissent from it on doctrinal grounds, every educated Protestant honors the Catholic Church for the fidelity with which through nineteen centuries it has kept open the door of opportunity for men to be in it all that their personal merits might deserve and win, without regard to the social or financial status of the man."

Vicious Press

One notable cause of increase in crime and vice, in our opinion, is the sensational press of today. As the "Catholic Advance", of Wichita, Kansas, well says:—

Public taste has been vitiated by the disgusting details of human infamy gathered from every quarter of the globe, that is spread before the habitual readers of money-making papers devoid of conscience and culpably ignorant of Christian principles. Having corrupted the taste of the people, such degrading papers tell us they give only what the people look for and pay for, truly in a vicious circle.

Good deeds go unchronicled by the sensational press or receive a scant proportion of space and headline in comparison with the columns upon columns accorded to divorce, scandals, murder trials, prize fights and the doings of the lazy but new sensation-mad among the "rich sassiety folks."

Except in rare instances, the sensational daily press is unfit to be in the hands of the young and innocent in your family.

But reading is a second nature these days, so you should provide respectable papers and magazines for your children. Do not neglect to subscribe for a Catholic paper. You know that is safe and you cannot estimate how much good it may do in stimulating faith and also interest in things Catholic.

Good Reading Matter

In line with the advice so often given by in this Journal, is this word of warning by the Jesuit weekly, "America"—

No Catholic should start reading any book without first being sure that the story is clean. That a novel "has reached the three hundred thousand mark," be it remembered, is itself suspicious nowadays, for the public's literary taste is perverted and its conscience blunted. Nor can the book reviews of many secular magazines and journals be trusted either, for novels are being highly praised that no pure-minded person would touch, even with a pair of tongs

There is no more insidious poison to morals and character than bad reading matter and we venture the assertion that never in the history of the world has there been such a veritable flood of perniciously bad books as can be found at the present day. These books are written and printed in all the languages of the globe. While many of them are immoral in tone, many more are thoroughly immoral in their trend and others are insidious in their poisonous insinuations against revealed religion. Faith is jeered at and morality is sneered at.

Good books are the only antidote to bad books.

Infidels?

Rev. Dr. S. T. Willis, president of the Virginian Christian College, says:-

"The American public is doomed to destruction because the majority of its college professors are infidels. Unless the college professors of the present day lay more stress upon teachings of Christianity instead of sending out into the world students and graduates with a great store of book learning and little or no conception of what an upright life should be, this republic will go the way of the French republic, the Roman republic and all others where lack of morals, un-Christian living, and improper understanding of a man's obligations to his neighbors and similar deteriorating elements have held sway."

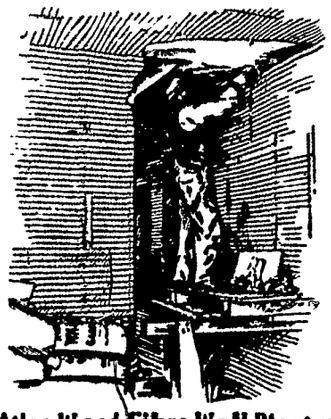
Dr. Willis' testimony is corroborated by many of the leading writers and investigators of today. Close students of economics know full well that nine-tenths of the professors in the non-Catholic colleges are either "theoretical Anarchists" or Socialists.

How much connection this condition has with the growth of religious unbelief we are unable to speak authoritatively. We have our own idea, however. We believe the two are closely related, also that Andrew Carnegie's pension fund tends to break down religious belief in the teaching profession.

Republicans will find Rochester as hospitable a convention city as did the Democrats.

Henry Labouchere might have been called "the Brann of England."

It Works Like Butter What?



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Drunkenness in China.

As regards the sobriety of the Chinese there seems to be a difference of opinion, and it is a question upon which writers disagree, but it seems to be the general opinion that very few intoxicated men or women are seen upon the streets. What drinking is done—and from all accounts there must be considerable—is carried on within doors. Habitual drunkenness is punished by banishment and servitude, but occasional intoxication is only a matter of comment, and the result is the notifying a person on the street in which he lives that so and so is drunk, and if the subject is not boisterous the affair is let drop. But, on the other hand, if he is noisy and shows a disposition to quarrel and fight he is at once taken to his rooms and compelled to remain there until the effect of the liquor has worn away.—New York Sun

Concerning Freshmen.

James, aged five, and Sarah aged seven, were the children of a professor and took a great interest at the beginning of the college year in the class collisions which they daily witnessed on the campus. They discussed the merits of the case from every side. James usually preferred the freshmen, while Sarah always sided with their enemies.

One afternoon James was trotting across the campus, holding tightly to his father's hand. His little face was quite serious, and he kept looking behind him more or less fearfully. His father, deep in meditation, was not noticing until finally a small voice said:

"Father, they wouldn't mistake a little boy for a freshman, would they?"—Woman's Home Companion.

Antimilitarism in Germany.

At Strassburg I saw a general leave barracks. The sentries stood at attention, then when he had passed on they both at the same instant mimicked his gait, which was peculiar, behind his back—sentries, mind you! I have also seen street boys in Germany mock the paradeschritt of troopers when an officer passed by, and the troopers grinned broadly and the officer saw, but said naught. Such antimilitarism is unthinkable in France.—London Globe.

He Made the Sale.

"Yes, the property is cheap enough. Why do you want to sell it?"

"You won't give me away?"

"No."

"Well, sir, it's because I'm the only man in this neighborhood that doesn't move in high society, and I'm lonesome."—Chicago Tribune.

Naval Salutes.

Originally a town or a warship fired off its guns on the approach of friendly strangers to show that they had such faith in the visitors' peaceful intentions they didn't think it necessary to keep their guns loaded. Hence the naval salute

Old Fashioned.

"What's the trouble with you and your fiance? Is he jealous?"

"Well, he isn't exactly jealous, but he's what you might call old fashioned. He doesn't want me to be engaged to anybody else."—Washington Herald.

Marked Resemblance.

"Grace, is that sweetheart of yours an auctioneer?" "No, father. Why?" "Because he keeps on saying he's going—going—going, but he hasn't gone yet?"

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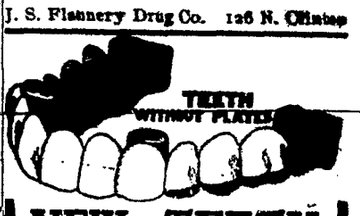

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