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Our Own Fault

Rudyard Kipling is fast qualifying for admission to the "Guardians of Liberty" and for association with Thomas E. Watson and General Miles. Of late years he has not missed many opportunities to caricature individual Catholics and to ridicule Catholic faith and practice.

The Brooklyn "Tablet" asks: "Why did the magazine editor pay good American money for such an article and why should the Catholic readers be insulted in their reading?"

There is another pertinent question: Why do Catholics permit such insults? If we were up and doing, if we resented attacks as we should by refusing to purchase, read or advertise in offending publications, these editors would not buy anti-Catholic contributions or permit them.

We have the remedy for such matters in our own hands and it is our own fault if they continue.

"For Revenue Only"

Those who have followed the discussions on the tariff question will recognize the quotation at the head of this article.

We propose to apply it to the agitation now in progress against the Catholic Church. We have said quite often since the present anti-Catholic crusade was begun that its chief object was not so much to promote the spread of the Gospel, even as its promoters look upon it, as for the personal revenue of the aforesaid promoters. They think to capitalize the bigotry and ignorance of the unthinking non-Catholic portion of the community and so they are printing papers, magazines, and sending forth hired talkers to further inflame this feeling of bigotry.

We are the more impelled to this opinion by perusal of a so-called "Protestant magazine" sent to our desk, evidently in the hope that we will notice it sufficiently to procure a valuable bit of free advertising. This magazine is filled with a queer hodge-podge of fairly intelligent defense of Protestantism and of carelessly written attacks upon the Catholic Church, its Popes, Bishops and individual members. Where it cannot successfully attack, it contents itself with "wonder that intelligent men will believe such stuff."

The African in the wood-pile stands revealed when one turns to the advertising pages. There is found the familiar appeal for agents and the gullible ones are told that no "get-rich schemes" ever promised such enormous returns as may be derived from selling the magazine and its kindred and allied publications.

There you have the real animus of the crusade of bigotry!

Strong Devotion

Here is another proof that thinking non-Catholic's find much to commend in the purely human side of the Catholic Church:—

It must be said of the Roman Catholic Church that it always was able to inspire a considerable number of its priests with the spirit of self-sacrifice in mission service. We are reminded of this by the report of the death of the Jesuit priest, Isador Dupuy, who succumbed to leprosy in Madagascar, after having served as missionary in that country for seventeen years. He is the tenth priest stricken with that terrible malady within fifty years. Surely there can be no stronger proof of devotion to a cause than the fact that the devotee is willing to face a danger or, one might say, almost the certainty of death, and what is more, of a slow death, resulting from the most terrible malady in the catalogue of afflictions of the human race.

"No Liberals"

Catholic's would do well not to act in such manner that their non-Catholic friends will enter them in the "liberal Catholic class."

To be classed as a "liberal Catholic" by non-Catholic's implies that you are lukewarm in your faith that you sit silent when the Catholic Church is assailed, that you do not resent insinuations against the virtue of priests and nuns, that you do not object to "broad stories," that you assent to the doctrine that "all religions are alike" if one lives up to them, in short that you are not enough of a Catholic to count at least when you are in the company of non-Catholic's.

It is not necessary to be a Catholic bigot. Neither it is necessary or desirable to be a "liberal Catholic."

Rt. Rev. P. A. Ludden

In the death of the Rt. Rev. Patrick Ludden, Bishop of Syracuse, the Province of New York loses the last of the line of bishops consecrated when the dioceses were first formed. As Bishop McQuaid was the first bishop of Rochester, Bishop Wadhams the first bishop of Ogdensburg, Bishop Wigger the first bishop of Newark, so Bishop Ludden was the first bishop of Syracuse.

Bishop Ludden was a sturdy, uncompromising Churchman of the old school. He was a militant Christian. He hated shams and detested hypocrites. When he thought best to defend the church against unjust attack no motive of policy restrained him as witness his open speech in the United States senatorial contest of 1911. Bishop Ludden's memory will long be green in the annals of the Church in America. May his soul rest in peace!

A leading British newspaper, which has no love for Catholics, informs its readers that the average annual number of converts to the Catholic Church in England during the last ten years has been somewhere like 6,000 persons.

Sister Isabella, of the Little Sisters of the Poor, recently celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of her entrance into the religious life at Louisville. The venerable nun is now 86 years old and is blind.

The fifty-ninth Congress of German Catholics, that was opened last week, is to commemorate the centenary of Windthorst, the great German Catholic leader.

The death is announced from Paris of M. l'Abbe Delpy at the age of eighty years, inventor of the ingenious system of stenography which bears his name.

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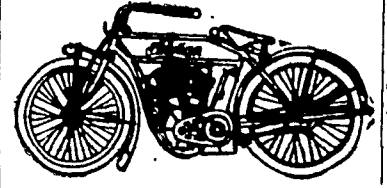
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