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Hard Road to Rome

Bishop John Vaughan, writing in the London Catholic Universe and Weekly, gives those who talk so glibly about Catholicism going over to Protestantism something to think over. In opening, he makes the significant assertion that in his thirty years' priesthood he has known of thousands of non-Catholic's coming into the Catholic Church but he has yet to know of a single practical Catholic going to Protestantism. Weak-kneed and careless Catholic's might turn their backs upon the faith of their fathers, temporarily, for the sake of worldly advantage but even these usually sneaked back to Mother Church in the end.

Another telling point made by Bishop Vaughan is that when the non-Catholic embraces the true faith he does so at a great sacrifice, he has to forswear inherited prejudice, early teachings, very often is disowned by his family and ostracised by social friends.

He has also to take on abstinence and fasting, confession and penance, submission to authority whereas in his olden state he did as he pleased and private judgment reigned supreme.

Notwithstanding all this Bishop Vaughan has known non-Catholics, when confronted with death, refuse the ministrations of clergymen of their own kind and send for a Catholic priest. The other side of the picture he paints in this wise:—

A Catholic, like any one else, may and does show human weakness. He may yield to temptation and in the day of prosperity forget his allegiance and his loyalty to God and be drawn away by pride or worldliness or ambition or lust or cowardice. But place him on a bed of suffering. Make him realize that eternity is at hand and that there is nothing more to hope for in this world. Let him hear the voice of the Supreme Judge summoning him to judgment, and he will not waver in his faith. No. The last thing he wishes to do then is to change his religion. On the contrary, he will cling to it and trust in it more intensely than ever.

And as St. Bernard says: "O mors, bonum judicium tuum." (O! Death, thy judgment is sound!)

Venerable

The year of 1913 will bring in several anniversaries of venerable members of the American Catholic hierarchy. According to the Milwaukee Catholic Citizen:

Along in the course of the present year the Nestor of our hierarchy, Bishop Hogan, of Kansas City, will be eighty-four on May 10. Bishop Foley, of Detroit will be eighty on November 5. Cardinal Gibbons will be seventy-nine on July 13. Bishop Richter, of Grand Rapids, Mich., will be seventy-five on April 9. Archbishop Ireland will be seventy-five on September 11. Bishop Gabriels, of Ordensburg, will be seventy-five on October 16. Archbishop

Keane (retired) will be seventy-four on September 12. Bishop Burke, of Albany, was seventy-three on January 10. Archbishop Spalding will be seventy-three on June 2. Bishop Grace, of Sacramento, will be seventy-two on August 2. Archbishop Riordan will be seventy-two on August 27.

Supports Rome

The Catholic Standard and Times Roman correspondent discusses intelligently the very material question whether "Rome does not live by the Pope" and goes far to prove his case. He points out that Rome has no industries which yield support to a large number of inhabitants. Neither is Rome an agricultural center.

Hence, this correspondent argues, Rome lives and has lived for centuries because of the pilgrims who come to pay homage to the Sovereign Pontiff of the Christian world. To these must be added the 5,000 or more students preparing for the priesthood. They represent all nations. For each of them everything, from his cassock to his morning coffee, is purchased from the Roman merchants.

Another huge item that swells the receipts of the people of Rome comes from the two thousand priests and prelates of the city, who are engaged in managing all the posts incidental to the seat of the most universal government the world has ever seen. To this category must be added the houses representing the various religious orders, congregations and societies, where priests, lay brothers and sisters have to be supported.

And were the Pope not living on the banks of the Tiber few of this great body should be found within the walls. All that Rome should have of all these categories would be a Bishop and a few hundred priests to look to the spiritual needs of the population. Even this number would dwindle day by day, for Rome could not long count her inhabitants 600,000.

Refutes "Red Orator"

An unostentatious Catholic priest routed a "red orator" in Portland, Oregon, a few nights since.

"If all I say ain't true" shouted the soap box orator, "Why don't some person get up here and answer me. I'll let him have a say" and the orator supposed nobody would take him to task for the sedition and blasphemy he had been putting forth. He reckoned without his host. There stepped out from the crowd a Catholic priest, Father E. V. O'Hara.

"I will answer your questions," said he, quietly but with effect. Instantly the crowd made way for him and he mounted the soap box. Right from the start he blamed them for attacking religion. "Why don't you quit that and confine yourselves to social improvements and laws for the amelioration of working class?" Such a law, for instance, as the minimum wage bill?

"But you won't have it. You say you want revolution. (This in answer to a cry of the deposed orator.) No wonder you are opposed to the Church if you are opposed to the government. Our Church, the Catholic Church, believes in obedience to one's country and the officials that are in power, even if we think them mistaken." And for twenty minutes Father O'Hara held forth on that soap box until he had the undivided attention of his hearers, and at the close received cordial applause.

"Educational and instructive addresses" seem to be the order during the Lenten season of 1913.

ROUND THE WORLD

Hungary has completely motorized its postal service. Spain is now building diminutive Dreadnoughts. Pennsylvania saving banks hold \$377,025,116 in deposits. The average yearly profit at the casino, Monte Carlo, is \$5,000,000. Chicago fortune tellers are said to have a secret union and scale of prices. Illinois in 1912 produced 28,000,000 barrels of oil of forty-two gallons each. Philadelphia is giving service badges to all policemen serving five years or more.

It costs \$1,000,000 a year to maintain the national pure food bureau in Washington. Sierra Madre, Cal., now has one story apartment houses. Spanish mission style. Brand Whitlock of Toledo says he thinks Glasgow the best governed city in Europe. Dr. G. F. Sammis of Brooklyn has discovered that ether may be successfully used hypodermically. Not only will the house of the future be made of glass, but the pipes, conduits and sanitary fixtures.

Five francs (0.5 cents) is more than the average laborer gets for a day's work in the Lyon district of France. The cleaning of the bottom of an ocean going vessel is now accomplished by a machine without leaving the water. The Astronomical Society of Mexico will present a medal and diploma to every astronomer who discovers a comet. England and Wales together have 40 special schools for the blind 51 for the deaf and 245 for otherwise defective children.

A strong magnifying glass to be fastened to the thumb with a clip, has been patented in England to help a person thread a needle. Black opals, for several years extensively mined in New South Wales, have become exceedingly rare, hardly any having been found for nearly a year.

With the exception of local food supplies of fish, fruit and vegetables most of the food consumed in the British Isles comes from the United States, chiefly in the form of canned goods. Nearly three times as many British as American workmen are employed in the construction of the Panama canal. Of 42,810 in the canal zone proper Great Britain claims 39,850 as citizens, while the United States claims 11,850.

Prince Louis Alexander of Battenberg, who has become first sea lord of the British admiralty, Admiral Sir Francis Bridgeman, having resigned, owing to ill health, is a naturalized British subject, having been born at Graz, Austria, in 1854. He was naturalized and entered the British navy in 1868.

The last of the horse omnibuses of Paris disappeared from the streets Jan. 11. A long procession of motor cars and taxicabs filled with flowers solemnly accompanied it on its last journey, while immediately behind it was a motorcar covered with a pall and decorated with funeral wreaths and crosses.

A large number of time clocks have been placed on the various tramway lines of Leeds. The conductor registers each time he passes a clock, which records the time. This has done away with timekeepers and has assured more regular running of the cars. Similar clocks have been in use in Liverpool and Manchester for some time. One of the few funds, if not the only one, left for charity by a president of the United States is used in Lancaster, Pa., for the purchase of coal for the poor at Christmas and for other good uses. The fund was left by President Buchanan, who was a resident of Lancaster and the income now amounts to about \$2,000 a year.

If it is found possible the United States navy department will recover the cannon, bronze ornaments and other relics of the old American frigate Philadelphia, the hull of which has rested and rotted in the mud of the harbor of Tripoli since 1804 when she was set on fire and sunk by Lieutenant Decatur to prevent her use by the pirates who had captured her.

A novelty in the way of a textbook for teaching English to foreign laborers is, it is stated, to be used by the Chicago Young Men's Christian Association. It will be called "Safety First For Foreigners" and each lesson will consist of a picture showing the best way of avoiding danger. It is hoped in this way to reduce the large number of accidents to foreigners in Chicago.

In 1813 the king of Prussia sent out from Breslau the famous "Call to my people" (Aufruf an mein Volk) that filled the city with his subjects and began the war for independence. Beginning May 1 and ending Oct. 31, 1913 Breslau will celebrate the event with an imposing historical exhibition, for which rulers, castles, museums and numerous citizens have lent their treasures of that period.

Captain Roald Amundsen the Norwegian explorer, has just been formally recognized for the first time in the United States. The National Geographic Society, at its annual banquet in Washington, at which he was the guest of honor, presented him with a medal in recognition of his attainment of the south pole. When he goes north next year in an effort to reach the north pole he intends to carry a wireless equipment which will enable him to keep in touch with civilization.

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