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An Object Lesson

Not at all infrequently is the question asked by apparently well informed and intelligent persons: "Of what use is a Catholic paper? The daily press is so well-equipped, it is so comprehensive in its treatment of all matters that it covers all needs. Even in Catholic topics, the daily press leads the Catholic weekly."

Those of us who have expert knowledge of the way the daily press is made can very well dispute this statement. To be sure, the dailies, with their limited time for preparation are to be commended for the comparative few mistakes they make. Nevertheless, the big New York dailies are not infallible. Last Saturday, the New York Herald printed an apparently carefully prepared sketch of the life and labors of the late Governor Frank S. Black. In the sketch these statements appeared:--

"At the beginning of his term as Governor Mr. Black began war on the State Civil Service Commission, declaring that while that body obeyed the letter of the law, the spirit of the law was wanting entirely. He declared that while a man of ordinary learning, with a little special preparation, could pass by rote the civil service examination, many men of more experience in public affairs and possessing general knowledge which would be valuable in the public service were delinquent concerning the letter of the civil service examination. In his fight to regulate this Mr. Black was defeated, and it was not until ten years later, in the last administration of Governor Hughes, that the State Civil Service Commission accepted Mr. Black's views."

"Mr. Black refused to sign a bill which was introduced in the Legislature at the instance of Thomas C. Platt which prohibited the publishing of cartoons by the newspapers. Mr. Platt frequently had been lampooned and was chafing under the criticism. Mr. Black declared it to be a curtailment on the liberties of the press and would not sign it. That was the beginning of the breach between Mr. Black and Mr. Platt, which resulted to the selection of Mr. Roosevelt as nominee for Governor at the next election."

As a matter of fact, Governor Black was not defeated in his efforts to place a "starchless civil service law" upon the New York state statute books. Such a law was enacted and signed by Governor Black. Theodore Roosevelt, however, when he became Governor, led a successful campaign for the repeal of the Black law. It is no wise true that Governor Hughes changed civil service conditions. Civil service examinations are just as farcical as ever in respect to practical tests.

Governor Black never refused to sign an anti-cartoon bill because none was passed by the legislature. James M. E. O'Grady of this city, had more to do with its defeat in the legislature than did Frank S. Black.

Now, do you still contend that a Catholic paper cannot point out the daily's infallibility even in matters secular?

Needed Reform

Unless signs fail, the administration of President Wilson is to be one of more work and less "social form," than those of his immediate predecessors. And we judge this is to be manifest in more ways than one. The new President seems to consider himself commissioned by the American people to look after their interests rather than to be a social lion or an after dinner speaker. He seems disposed, too, to seek out worth, education and native refinement, rather than wealth and a disposition to display and spend it, in selection of our diplomatic representatives abroad. This is a consummation devoutly to be wished. Too much stress of ceremonial and philosophical aesthetics has been laid upon wealth as a qualification for ambassadorial foreign countries every year. If the official stipend allowed to American diplomats is not sufficient, by all means increase it to what it should be. But let us cease sending purse-proud millionaires as our representatives abroad.

An unofficial, but apparently authentic, report from Washington leads us to believe that a lady of the Cabinet Circle are not disposed to observe all the petty restrictions of an arbitrary Mrs. Grundy in their social affairs. These Cabinet ladies mean to return hospitality by hospitalizing, not by the silly custom of sending their cards by a liveried flunky. This means, practically, that the card is sent as a concession to custom not that the sender feels any real regard for the one to whom it is sent.

A return to the old-time "salon" of wit, wisdom and hospitality is infinitely preferable to the "crushes" and vulgar display of wealth to which the rag-tail and bobtail of official Washington and also those outside the fringe of polite society were permitted to obtain cards of invitation.

President Wilson's administration starts off well. May it continue as it has begun so auspiciously!

New Get Busy!

The free text book bill advocated by Governor Sulzer, has been introduced in Senate and Assembly. It is in even more undesirable form than at first reported. If enacted into law, not only text books but also "all school supplies" must be furnished free to all public school authorities. This opens an avenue to unlimited increased expenditure by school authorities. While we would not, in advance, charge any school official with graft we feel free to say that the bill under discussion, if enacted into law, would afford a fine opportunity for graft.

There is no provision in the Governor's bill that school books and supplies shall be uniform all over the state. If there is a real determination to make the bill a law, it should be amended in two respects: first, there should be a state body to pass upon text books and supplies, and all school districts should be compelled to use only the books and supplies so approved and authorized. Second - the bill should provide that each municipality should have the right, by referendum vote, to accept or reject the free text book plan.

However, the best thing to do is to reject the bill altogether. We trust every Senator and assemblyman from Monroe will be recorded in the negative.

James Conwell, a Chicago newspaper man, has been named as editor of the Chicago New World to succeed Dr. O'Hagan.

About the last time President Taft appeared in public as an official was with the Knights of Columbus in Washington, D. C.

It takes more than resolutions, no matter how well framed, to support the Catholic press as it should be.

Socialists are great talkers, but win one-down to a fixed opinion and you will find him like the flea not there but elsewhere.

It is well to be set in one's way if one is right, but one should not be afraid to apologize and take a back track if one discovers oneself to be on the wrong road.

Some congressmen and senators want to exclude illiterate immigrants, but they might better seek a way to exclude quite a lot of the educated fools and who find their way here from foreign countries every year. These persons do far more harm than illiterate immigrants who, as a rule, only demoralize their own type.

Let's see. Was it not an Indiana lieutenant-governor who stopped a preacher from making a political harangue in the guise of a prayer for the legislature and for which said official is coming in for a wiggling at the hands of the sensational preachers? Well, let us inform you all that this same Indiana legislature, by a vote of 35 to 5, has refused to permit Sunday theaters in Indiana.

The Pennsylvania state assembly has passed a bill for compulsory Bible reading in the public schools.

Suppose free text books and school supplies become the vogue and then suppose the Catholic parochial schools should all be closed one day? What would it cost the taxpayers to provide new school buildings and provide teachers and all school supplies for the 14,000 odd new pupils? It would mean at least \$200,000 more annually for teachers, etc. to say nothing of the million dollars or so it would cost for new buildings.

A new vicariate Apostolic has been erected in Central Africa, that of Kiva, with Mgr. Huth of the White Fathers as its first Vicar. Africa has now 15 dioceses, 1 Prelature "nullius," 42 Vicariates and 25 Prefectures.

In Ireland last year, the number of centenarians who died was five over the year 1911. In 1910 the number was 48. Among last year's male centenarians in Ireland, the greatest age recorded was 117; the next 116; the third 114.

Blamed it on the horse. "Burt" said little Johnnie, "tell me now you charged with your war horse on the San Juan hill at the head of your troops."

"Well," said the battle scarred veteran, "I mounted the heavy animal, drew my sword from its scabbard, rose in my stirrups, crept forward and sunk the spurs deep in the quivering flanks of my gallant steed."

He Knew. A recent medical publication, particularly intended for undergraduates, contained various chapters on ethics, legal forms, economics, etc. That the book should be attractive several pictures were set on and a photographer was called in. In the course of the discussion as to subjects and titles, many suggestions were made until they came to the chapter "The Mistakes in Medical Practice."

"That's dead easy," the camera artist said promptly. "I'll just go out and photograph a passing funeral." - Lip萍cott's

Rotterdam and Antwerp are close rivals for the position of second largest port in Europe as far as tonnage is concerned, Hamburg being the first. A monument will be erected in France to the memory of Hubert Latham, who was the first aviator to consider the idea of crossing the English channel.

ROUND THE WORLD

Chicagoans may soon build a \$5,000,000 grand opera house.

There are 250,015 children in Chicago under five years of age.

The first playground in Detroit was started by clubwomen twelve years ago.

The new British Dreadnought Iron Duke is especially armored against attack by submarines.

American steel piling has been used in the great irrigation works at Hilla, near Bagdad.

In several provinces of China men are being shot to death by the government for smoking opium in secret.

Last year there were 275,000,000 acres of land plowed in the United States at an estimated cost of \$450,000,000.

Ninety tons of fresh water mussels recently were taken from a London water main supplied by the river Thames.

Four times as much wood was manufactured into paper in the United States last year as there was fifteen years ago.

After twenty years of experimenting a Philadelphia scientist has succeeded in hatching eggs of diamond backed terrapin in an incubator.

Great Britain carries on more trade with Germany than any other country with France and the United States ranking second and third.

A San Francisco dog has been provided with a silver hinge for one of his hind legs by a surgeon who operated for removal of diseased bone.

The odor of the fir tree disgusts the cotton boll weevil. The southern cotton fields are being cleared of the pests by planting these trees about them.

Sweden and Norway together manufacture more carriages of caliche than any other single nation, but use less, exporting almost their entire product.

Clove trees in the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba, in East Africa, have been officially estimated to number 5,500,000, says the American consul at Zanzibar.

Prior to 1900 Morocco had practically no public improvements, but the international conference of Algiers has forced them upon it. Now it is to have harbors, lighthouses and roads.

The oldest agricultural society in England is the Royal. It was founded in 1838. It will hold its annual show at Bristol this year in July. Among the prizes offered are some for milking machines.

A course in penal studies was recently instituted by the university of Montpellier, France. Physicians, publicists, lawyers, police and court officials were among those who enrolled for the course.

The new stamp marking the tercentenary of the Romanoff rule of Russia is to be withdrawn. It bears a picture of the czar and postmarkers do not dare cancel them by stamping the czar's face.

Leon Carr, who has just been named as chess champion of the world, is a native of Spain, and the arrangement of exchanging his mother-in-law for the winner's and taking the latter to live with him.

In the past calendar year losses by fire in the United States averaged \$570,000 a day and aggregated \$207,648,000. The loss was nearly \$10,000,000 less than that of 1911 and about \$7,000,000 less than that of 1910.

Six large spiders are working for Uncle Sam as part of the Panama canal force. From their cocoons the instrument makers will take threads for use in all the engineers' transits on the canal work. The threads take the place of platinum.

Frederick C. Hill, a young aviator, up 2,000 feet at Mineola, N. Y., saw a tall tower, "dead ahead," shut off his motor and collapsed to the ground. Then he learned he had seen in a mirage the tower of the waterworks, a mile and a half away.

The man who is fond of honey, but who has hitherto hesitated to establish an apiary in his back yard through a very natural fear of the stinging tendencies of the honeybee, may now take heart. The production of the stingless bee is announced from London.

Li Hung Chang, the statesman whose name once filled the world, is honored at Shanghai by the first statue erected in the Chinese empire to a celestial in the manner of the sculptor's art. The style of monument preferred by the Chinese has hitherto taken the form of a temple.

Detaille, the French military painter, desired, like the English artist Turner, that his country should possess its paintings and such of his pictures as he possessed at the time of his death are to become public property. His house, containing his collection of uniforms, weapons, etc., is to be devoted to the purposes of a museum.

Justice Gott of New York deserves the thanks of the United States navy for his remarks in sentencing a young ward youth who pleaded that if left off he would join the navy. "The navy," the judge said, "does not want men of your class. The time has gone by when we can use the navy for reformatory purposes. Our navy is composed of self-respecting young men."

Two of the great railway enterprises of London are about to carry out an important electrification scheme involving over 150 miles of track in the metropolis. Direct current of 600 volts will be employed, with third and fourth rails, the train being operated by the multiple unit system. The scheme includes connection with the entire underground railway system of London.

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An Old Tale and a New One. The ancient story (or was it a fable?) about the poor boy who... (text continues)

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