

The Catholic Journal

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY AT 80 North St., Rochester, N.Y. BY THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL PUBLISHING COMPANY

If paper is not received Saturday notify the publisher. Report without any delay change of address. This paper is not for sale by the publisher.

Subscription Rates: For Year, in Advance, \$1.00. Entered at second class mail matter. ROCHESTER TELEPHONE 4303. BELL TELEPHONE MAIN 1507. Friday Sept. 19, 1913.

The Catholic Press

It is that our friends may read and understand and act that we reprint the following pungent editorial on the needs of the Catholic Press taken from the Milwaukee "Catholic Citizen":

The chief need of the Catholic press is circulation. The friendship and help that the Catholic press requires is: Systematized Aid in Behalf of Circulation.

All Catholic papers are meritorious. Even the most insignificant is doing some good. Wider circulation will give them more power, and at the same time improve their service.

It is the wider circulation of The Menace that gives it what importance it possesses. The Menace is a four-paged sheet, printed on poor paper, written in bad English, a hodge-podge of news matter selected by the clipping bureaus, and plate matter lifted from the fabrication columns of dead A. P. A. papers. But it has been given circulation—and thus we hear of it.

The Catholic press should be welcomed into Catholic school rooms as supplementary reading; it should be circulated by reading guilds in all our Catholic societies, and it should be made the subject of pulpit commendation on one special Sunday each year, preferably in October, when the reading habit is again asserting itself in our homes.

The Catholic clergy are friendly, in a general way, to the Catholic press, but rarely in a specific or systematic way. They do not begin to do for the Catholic paper what the Methodist ministers do for Methodist publications. A Methodist paper at Chicago recently acknowledged the receipt, during 1913, of 16,000 new subscribers as a result of the work of the Methodist pastors of Illinois.

Sex Hygiene

The latest fad among the friended "uplifters" is the teaching of sex hygiene in the schools. This is a delicate subject and the faddists are making such a point of it that unthinking persons, even among Catholics, are carried away by illogical reasoning. Moreover, the uplifters make such savage attacks upon those who dare to differ with their proposed methods; even if they do so with perfectly honest motives, that many are led to keep silent when they should speak out plainly.

Archbishop Glennon, of St. Louis, expresses the Catholic position so well that we reproduce a brief interview from him given during the recent convention of the Federation of Catholic Societies. It follows:—

"Morbidity, crudity and animality are the results of education of young people in sex hygiene, and the aim of advocates of teaching this subject is not reached.

"You cannot cure a mental disease by physical methods. Impurity of the mind is not skin-deep and cannot be remedied by the surgeon's lancet nor can im-

purity be grafted onto a child. The Catholic Church tries to accomplish this through its appeal to the soul, and for this reason I do not believe in teaching sex hygiene.

"Following the same idea the Catholic Church tries to lead its people away from temptations of the scarlet district by reaching the individual, instead of trying to legislate the immoral class of people out of existence. However, we are not against a moderate amount of legislation and the enforcement of laws now on the statute books."

"Big Tim" Sullivan

No matter what faults he may have had, Timothy D. Sullivan, familiarly known as "Big Tim," possessed in a rare degree the virtue of charity. He was ever ready to help the down and out class. The hungry man never wanted a meal when "Tim" was around. He detested shams and hypocrites, too, he never posed for better than he was and he had a hearty contempt for the man who posed as "holier-than-thou."

In his untimely death the poor and needy of the New York East Side will mourn with sincere grief. Let us all drop a tear at his bier and pray God to be merciful to him.

An Apology

John R. McLean, proprietor of the Washington "Post" does not wish to be classed with the bigots. A few weeks ago his paper published a sensational story of how a girl committed by the courts to the Convent of the Good Shepherd for reformation had met her death while trying to escape from the institution. An effort was made to convey the impression that the girl was a novice in the order and had sought to escape but was prevented by force. The fact is that she was one of those unfortunate derelicts who was sent to the Sisters in hope she might be reclaimed from the error of her ways. Frenzied by drugs or drink, she sought freedom to return to her olden companions and death resulted from the effort and exposure.

As soon as the pulpit and press of Washington, regardless of creed, took up cudgels for the Sisters, Mr. McLean pleaded ignorance of the articles and directed the editor of the "Post" to make full and ample apology. This has been done. But it were better that the offense had not been committed. A little prudence, careful investigation, ascertainment of all the facts, may spoil a sensational story but they make for higher, better journalism.

Not Official, Yet

In his address before the Catholic editors in Milwaukee, Archbishop Messmer made the point that there are many subjects upon which the Church has not laid down rules and upon these each Catholic, including the Catholic editors, are permitted to hold their own opinions and the opinion of one carries as much weight as that of another, no more and no less.

For instance, his Grace said it is all right for the Catholic press to state personal opinions on the labor question but until the Church had handed down a decision such opinions advanced were not authoritative.

The same is true of suffrage. The Church has not declared for or against. Hence one Catholic editor may declaim against women voting and be entirely within his province in so doing. Another may declare in favor of woman suffrage and have a right so to do.

Bishop Burke, of Albany, is soon to celebrate the golden jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood. Ad multos annos.

ROUND THE WORLD

Berlin has 82,845 women without husbands.

Last fiscal year 250,000,000 cigars were made in Illinois.

Philadelphia has 125 millionaires, many of them women.

Japan annually pays \$70,877,000 in interest on its public debt.

Shillan farm laborers are paid an average of 7 cents a day.

Vigo, Spain, has 43,000 inhabitants, who depend largely on fisheries.

Judge Sullivan of Chicago the other day sentenced a dog to death for biting a little girl.

Philadelphia's noted old cyclorama building, Ninth and Sanson, is soon to be demolished.

Electromagnets are being installed by treasure hunting ships to recover submerged metals.

New York has 147,184 one family houses, 39,908 tenements and a total of 306,010 buildings.

Meat costs so much in Bavaria that freight rates have been reduced and customs duties lowered.

A congress of university students, representing forty-six nations, is to be held in San Francisco in 1915.

In China women carry their children in baskets that hang from a bar that crosses the mother's shoulders.

The world's highest death rate, 75 per thousand—is the unenviable distinction of the Bolivian city of Cochabamba.

Missouri's coal supply will last 8,000 years, it is estimated, if mining goes on at the present rate of 4,000,000 tons yearly.

In order to reduce food prices Munich has built market halls, but encountered great opposition from the merchants.

Ceylon has long been famed for its precious stones and is better known today for its beautiful gems than for any other product.

New York wants to change its probation bureau on the ground that as now constituted it is inadequate for dealing with paroled prisoners.

A French inscription of phonograph records on a prepared cloth, which may be mailed like a letter, threatens seriously rival stenographers.

New York is to have an auto speed way on a tract of 650 acres on the Jersey meadows, provided with a grand stand to seat 75,000 persons.

The cello used by the late August Van Blene in his performances of "The Broken Melody" was recently sold at auction in London for the sum of \$425.

To a congregation seated on newly mown hay in the churchyard the vicar of Selston, England, recently preached from the church tower, the choir leading the singing from the roof.

A solar physics laboratory is to be erected in New Zealand, at Nelson. The site will probably be on a summit known as the Fringe, which has an elevation of 2,500 feet above sea level.

There are at least two Julius Caesars in London—one a chemist in Paddington and the other a Holborn Vindicator pearl merchant. There was once a famous Surrey cricketer of the same name.

Chinamen are at present showing a strong sentiment in favor of using Chinese products instead of those of foreign origin. This tendency is especially noteworthy in the case of tobacco.

In parts of Europe the roads are successfully cleaned by means of a vacuum machine. It consists of a suction mechanism containing a stiff brush, which revolves at great speed close to the ground.

Monterey is the metropolis and principal distributing point of northern Mexico, supplying a vast territory from its wholesale and jobbing houses. The nearest competing towns are Tula, San Luis Potosi and Torreón.

A new light visible thirteen miles, light four seconds, dark one second, commencing July 18, 1913, will hereafter be displayed at the west point of the island of Curacao, West Indies. It will be of great service to shipping.

Alain Redou of Havre, France, has invented a life preserver based on somewhat the same principle as that adopted in the water wings that children use. It consists of a garment of strong material of the same shape as an ordinary vest, but equipped with inflatable rubber tubes.

Portugal is essentially an agricultural country, and its prosperity depends in a large measure on the success or failure of its harvest. Its continental area is about 35,490 square miles, of which 56.87 per cent is under cultivation. Of a total population of 5,423,132 the rural inhabitants number 3,388,782.

The Duke of Abruzzi, who has been appointed to the supreme command of the Italian fleet, until recently held the rank of captain. He is known as an explorer and mountain climber. In 1896 he made the ascent of Mount St. Elias. His polar expedition took him nearer to the north pole than had been accomplished up to that time. On this trip the venturesome young Italian reached a latitude of 86 degrees 58 minutes.

Professor Charles H. Marvin, recently appointed chief of the government weather bureau, is fifty-five years old, and has been in the service of the weather bureau since 1884. He has invented a number of instruments in use at weather stations, including apparatus for measuring and automatically recording rainfall, snowfall, sunshine, atmospheric pressure and evaporation. Until his recent promotion he was professor of meteorology in the United States weather bureau.

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First Actress in London. It was a warm reception that was given to the first French players to appear in London in 1623. Their visit was an utter failure. It was notable, however, for the important innovation which was the chief cause of their unpopularity.

The luckless troupe introduced actresses for the first time on the English stage—"thereby giving just offence to all virtuous and well-disposed persons in this town," wrote Thomas Brande, reflecting the spirit of the playgoer of that time, who was used to seeing boys take the female characters.

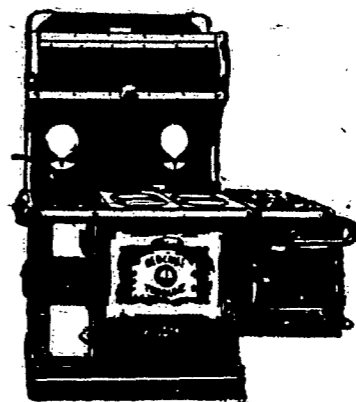
These "French women, or monsters rather," were "hissed, hooted and pipped out from the stage." The first move against this prejudice was not long delayed, however. Five years later another French company came to London with women players, under royal patronage, and were received "with good approbation" at the Cockpit in Whitehall.—London Graphic.

Roaring Wags. The Red Lion club was composed of great Englishmen, and Huxley was one of the members. The club used to meet during the session of the British association. To a certain meeting at Ipswich, England, which Huxley described in his "Letters," some foreigners were invited, the Prince of Cantino, Bonaparte's nephew, among them, and greatly astonished they were at the exceedingly human behavior of the learned professors. The Red Lion men had a custom of roaring instead of cheering and of wagging one coat-tail the lion's tail—when applauding. The prince was much impressed by these proceedings, and when he stood up to respond to the toast of his health in stead of making a speech he gave three mighty roars and three wags.

Brevity in Legislation. Old time Scotchmen realized that brevity is the soul of legislation. For instance, King James I's parliament passed an act which said simply: "N. man shall enter any place where there is hay with a candle unless it be in a lantern." This is probably the shortest statute ever passed. In fact, our small volume is enough to hold more than two centuries of Scotch legislation.

Diet For Elderly Persons. An English scientist in his book on "Diet in Relation to Age and Activity" urges less meat, little or no milk and no highly concentrated foods for men and women past fifty. He pleads with wives not to urge elderly husbands to eat more than their natural appetite demand.

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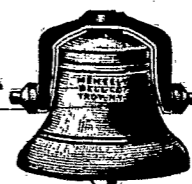
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