

The Catholic Journal

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

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Per Year, In Advance.....\$1.00
Entered at second class mail matter
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Friday July 31, 1914.

Point Well Taken.

Quite often we hear those who do least for the Catholic press criticize it the most vigorously. "No style," "not up-to-date," "Typographically defective" are a few of the terms applied to a Catholic paper, not unfrequently by those Catholic's who do not subscribe to it or advertise in it. Our shrewd contemporary, the "Catholic Tribune" reads these critics a needed lesson in the following editorial:—
"Among the critics of the Catholic press are priests and persons who ride the style hobby to death. With Cardinal Newman we believe that the best literary form is required to adequately convey ideas worth while. But we also believe in being practical. If lack of literary merit accounts for the backwardness of the Catholic press in this country, why are Hearst's "yellow" and similar dailies so prosperous? No one would charge the editors of these publications with using the style of Addison or Newman or Benson or Ayscough. The chief task of the Catholic press is to get the truths of Christianity to our people—not to make them fond of excellent style. Unfortunately our weeklies especially are hampered for lack of writers as well as want of money. If these style cranks had to go through the grind of hard working scribes for a couple of years with little respite, they would probably sing a different song. But we fear they would not stay long enough to learn differently.

A Specimen

Just for your scrap book we reprint the following information furnished by the Catholic Federation of New York concerning "Ex-Priest" Hatfield, as a specimen of his ilk:—
This individual signs himself Dr. Hatfield, ex-priest, Greenville, Ill. Upon inquiry we find that Hatfield's history in Greenville dates back some eight weeks. Hatfield is not his real name. His name is Bybyaux or Robeaux. He was born in Dunkirk, N. Y., but his baptismal record can't be found. He sold a patent medicine in Vandalia before he came to Greenville. Lowry was giving a series of lectures, and was introduced at one of her lectures as ex-priest Hatfield. No doubt his purpose in coming to Greenville was to sell medicine, but seeing that there was a good chance to make some money by "mud-slinging," he took on the role of the ex-priest. He said in a lecture at Highland that he was no priest, but went as far as the "third degree to the priesthood."
In Vandalia, a week later, he asserted he was a priest, and a Protestant gentleman at the latter place showed him up before the audience by asking him: "Are you a priest?" "Yes," was the answer. "At what seminary did you study?" Hatfield could not reply. "Who was the Bishop

who ordained you?" No reply. He asked some more questions, but there was no response, and the questioner concluded by calling him before the whole audience "a low, vile, slippery liar." This practically broke up the meeting."
He said in Highland, Ill., in one of his lectures that the K. of C. was founded in the fifteenth century. He named a Catholic home in New Jersey where he was brought up and lived for twenty-five years. The house he mentioned is a mother house and novitiate for Sisters. The latter report is that the fellow is an Anarchist. He dishes out the old rot that "he got \$5 for every confession he heard when he was a priest."

Not Satisfying.

The secular "Fort Wayne Daily News," in the following editorial points out why so few libel suits are brought in these days of big money:—
The verdict rendered in the case of the Rev. J. F. Delaney against the Rev. A. R. Evans is illuminating as attesting the difficulty of securing a verdict in a libel case in Indiana. It was acknowledged that the defendant had written the ugly letter and that the plaintiff was wholly innocent of the charges made, yet because the plaintiff could not prove that this letter had injured his reputation the defendant scored his victory, clearly legal, no doubt, but a rather unsatisfactory one at that for him. For it is of record that what he said was cruelly untrue and that he escaped being mulcted simply because the Rev. Mr. Delaney was not injured.

And while the plaintiff lost the suit, it must be conceded that he at least scores a victory in proving to the world that the vicious slanders circulated against him were absolutely groundless and merely the idle vapors of prurient minds.
It is all very well to say that no one believed them, but this is not at all true. To be sure those persons acquainted with the life of Father Delaney recognized their wickedness and cruelty, but we must remember that Fort Wayne is no longer a country town, but a large city. The majority of our citizens to-day know a minister or a lawyer or a doctor or any other man simply by what they hear about him, and, when we bear in mind the eager avidity with which any salacious story concerning a churchman is seized by a large element, we must acknowledge that the slander of Father Delaney could be successfully refuted only by such methods as that which he adopted. While he secured no verdict, it is probable that hereafter men will be less inclined to make a football of good name honestly earned by many years of hard and faithful work.

We are glad to learn that Rev. William McMahon is to continue as editor of the Cleveland Catholic record. He is a facile, powerful pen and may it be wielded by him for many years to come!
The new direct primary law, so far, has not developed any candidate who has possessed of light pocket-books.

Do not miss Mass because on vacation. It is easy to locate within access of a Catholic Church.

Three big baseball leagues do not appear to have killed off the industry.
—It is in a certain degree to be a sharer in noble deeds to praise them with all our heart.—La Rochefoucauld.
Subscribers who have not received our beautiful historical-pictorial issue should call and get one before they are all gone.

Fastidious should begin with oneself.
Even the best excuse is rather a poor thing.
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EDWARD J. RYAN,
Administrator, of the Estate of the late William Ryan, deceased.
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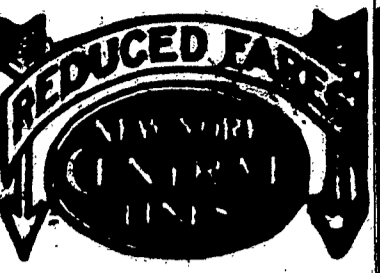
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