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The Debt We Owe.
 "Removed as we are from the war zone, we can view dispassionately some of the reasons underlying it, but in doing so we ought to realize what a debt of gratitude we owe to Columbus." is a sentence which occurs in a timely leading editorial in the November "Columbiad." Its author is Hon. Joseph Scott, one of the leading Knights in California, whose voice and pen ever have been freely given in praise and defense of Holy Mother Church. Mr. Scott argues that to Columbus we owe not only a new country but that "he has earned the way by which the races of the earth can mingle their bloods without inheriting the bitterness and racial strife that still, for the most part, mark the geographical lines of European countries. "Here in the United States dwell side by side in peace and harmony, the Englishman, the German, the Frenchman, the Italian, the Turk, the Greek, and the Austrian. In their home continent all are at each other's throats. The story of Columbus in America is the story of the advent and progress of the Catholic Church as well. May that be a reason for our state of peace?"

The Real Cause.
 Commenting upon the disquisition of W. H. Lamar, solicitor of Post Office Department, that the Canadian law against disseminating indecency or obscenity through the mails is different from that of the United States, the St. Louis Church Progress pertinently says:—
 "However much as we may commend the Canadian law and Canadian officials for its enforcement, the matter of present moment is our own law and our own officials. What we need is a clear, bold and definite declaration by the latter of obscenity and indecency under the former.
 "All Americans know that indecency of some degree is indictable and punishable under the existing Federal statute, for they have read of the cases in the secular press. But they do not know whether the indictable indecency is 40 degrees Fahrenheit—as represented by the lewd postcard and the non-indictable, 100 degrees as represented by the Maniac and similar publications. From previous interpretations of the statute, however, heretofore had, they are inclined to believe this is the distinction that prevails. If this be the case, then the trouble arises not so much from a misconception of the law as from an unfamiliarity with the English dictionary."

Can Be Too Free.
 This is from a secular publication, the "Times-Tribune" of Alexandria, Indiana:—
 There are two so-called newspapers, The Menace and The Yellow Jacket, that for common decency's sake ought to be suppressed and thrown on the junk pile. Such slush as they print isn't fit to be read by any one who pretends to culture and refinement.

Their attacks on the Catholic Church and all those affiliated with Catholicism, are not only vicious, false and unreasonable, but inflammatory, dangerous and subversive of the moral interests of the country. A free press is one of the institutions vouchsafed to the people of the United States by the Federal Constitution. But when the press gets "too free" and encroaches on common truth and decency, it is high time such press be throttled, muzzled or put out of business.

Education.

Bishop Shahan, rector of the Catholic University, stated the position of the Catholic Church regarding education quite clearly when he said at the recent dedication of a new parochial school in Baltimore:—
 "We Catholics in the matter of education pay double taxation without murmuring, and at our own expense we decorate our towns and cities with edifices which compel the admiration of all, if only for the brave, uncompromising spirit out of which they arise.
 "We Catholics contribute our full quota to the greatest private wealth of the country, and as citizens we sustain the civil order which protects its vast bulk. Yet we see with patience its holders spend almost countless millions upon institutions whose benefits, because of our Christian faith, we cannot logically share. Similarly our loyalty to the principles, truths and spirit of the religion of Jesus Christ prevents us from sharing freely the advantages of great public institutions of higher learning, of important institutes and foundations, to which, nevertheless, Catholics contribute no small part of the means by which they live. Yet we do not complain in any serious way and go about our self-imposed task as best we can.
 "In the last decade we note with satisfaction a growing movement in favor of a more religious training of all children, nor is it necessary for me to emphasize the patent reason for this growing change in American feeling. Suffice it to say that a great many influential men and women are now admitting that the Catholic Church is right in her fundamental contention that religion should be taught in the schools if we are to escape an oncoming generation of citizens who will give the American men and women of the old order something new to think and talk about."

A Poor Asset.
 While there is no doubt that there are no more Catholics who go wrong than of any other class still there should be less because we have been vouchsafed greater graces and our religion teaches us a stricter conception of morals than are inculcated in our neighbors.
 When a poor or a bad Catholic is advanced politically, socially or financially, we acquire thereby not only a negative asset, we have a positive liability. If we repeat too often we are in danger of social bankruptcy. The Chicago New World is right when it says:—
 "A Catholic in public life who is recreant to his duty as a citizen brings disgrace to us all. We are far from admitting that proportionately we have more than our share of scapegraces, but we should have less. A bad Catholic is the poorest asset of the Church. He is the only one who may do us real harm."
 Just as might be expected, after the Paris and London reports had the Germans bottled up and defeated, the Kaiser's army's capture another city.
 That is a pretty circumstantial indictment the Catholic Federation brings against Carranza and Villa.

Father Conrardy, the successor to Father Damien as "the leper priest," is dead. Wonder what way the Menace will twist this self-sacrifice to the discredit of the Catholic Church?

Well, the crafty politicians may say that hard times, not religious bigotry, defeated Governor Glynn but we notice they were not saying so before election day.

A contemporary aptly calls attention to the fact that "at this particular time St. Paul's admonition to do good to all men, but especially to those who are of the household of the faith should be prominent in the mind of all Catholics."

We wonder if Senator-elect Wadsworth is not as much elated over that new heir as he was to win Senator Root's toga.

Basing their action on the ground that the publication was unfit for children to read, the Board of Directors of the Oregon City Public Library has voted to remove the Menace from the tables of the library.

We have not, as yet, seen any answer from Post-master General Burleson to the letter of Attorney Paul Bakewell setting forth legal reasons why the Menace should be barred from the mails.

Let us all give thanks.

Weekly Church Calendar

- Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost.
- Gospel, St. Matthew xxiv., 15-35
- S 22 St. Cecilia, V. M.
- M 23 St. Clement, P. M.
- T 24 St. John of the Cross, C.
- W 25 St. Catharine of Alexandria, V. M.
- Th 26 St. Leonard of Port Maurice, C.
- F 27 Our Lady of the Miraculous al.
- S 28 St. Gregory III., P. C.
- Mexico, says a writer, needs a middle class. But who cares to volunteer?
- Procrastination is a virtue—when put off until tomorrow.
- Men dislike details, but women want the full particulars.
- Many a broken heart comes from biliousness and nothing else.
- Cheer up! Sunshine will eventually puncture the thickest cloud.
- It is quite evident that polo is no game for effeminate ponies.
- Lots of people attract attention who are not in other ways attractive.
- The best fish stories are told far away from the water's edge.

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