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"Next"

"Cleanliness is next to Godliness," runs the proverbial Rev. Walter Dwight, S. J., has made a sort of text for a clever week-day sermon in "America" in which wonder is expressed as to whether American fastidiousness may not be carrying us to the point where we place "cleanliness or aestheticism not next to, but above godliness.

Says Father Dwight:— If Mildred's sensitiveness to stuffy odors were a little weaker than her love for purity of heart, perhaps she would not shrink in confession. If Gerald's concern for his body's well-being were but a trifle less than that he feels for his soul's health, perhaps he would be found more often at Mass. If Muriel better realized what a wondrous gift she receives at Holy Communion, she would little note the royal envoy who brings it. If Sebastian, when he hears his shepherd preaching, behaves more like a man that listens to the reading of a will, in which a legacy for him may be mentioned, he would doubtless mind less the manner and more the matter of the sermon. And if Mrs. Bullion's ambition to see her children "moving in the best society" were only higher and more lasting, in all probability she would bring up, educate and marry off her boys and girls in such a way that their hopes of being admitted, and that forevermore, into positively the best society there is, the society of the saints and angels, would be somewhat brighter than at present. Cleanliness, after all is only "next."

History Recalled.

Selection of Father Ledochowsky as general of the Jesuits in succession to the late Father Wernz, a nephew of the famous German Polish Cardinal who defied the great Bismarck, moves the Boston Republic to the following historical reminiscences:— It is impossible at this moment not to recall the courageous stand of his uncle, Cardinal Ledochowsky, against Bismarck and the German Kulturkampf of the '70's of the last century. The people of Posen—German Poland—suffered severely; and Archbishop Ledochowsky, by command of the cabinet in Berlin, was ordered to resign his See, because he would not countenance the taking over of the things of God by Caesar. This was on November 24, 1873. Archbishop Ledochowsky in a letter to the President-in-Chief of Posen, who was entrusted with the mandate of deposition, refused to abandon his flock. He wrote: "The President-in-Chief makes a great mistake when he thinks that the invincible constancy of my clergy and people in upholding the principles of Catholic truth, and their perseverance in duty amid the horrors of persecution, are my work. No, sir; they are the fruit of divine mercy and grace." Early in 1874, Archbishop Ledochowsky was confined in the prison of Ostrows and treated

with rigor. The following year Pope Pius IX. raised him to the Cardinalate. A little later he was dismissed from prison, but exiled from the German Empire. He took up his residence in Cracow (Austrian Poland), but the Austrian Poles were very demonstrative in the new Cardinal's honor, and Austria, anxious to please Prussia, requested him to leave. Pope Pius IX. gave the courageous exile a home in the Vatican; and during the Pontificate of Pope Leo XIII. he resigned his diocese. In 1892 he was made Prefect of the Propaganda.

That the condition of Catholics in Germany is so much better today is due, under God, to men like this heroic Cardinal. The war is opening the eyes of the various secular Governments to the right and changeless ideals for which the Catholic Church stands. Whatever else happens we believe that the Jesuits and other religious orders will be restored with the restoration of peace to the lands which had been blessed with their ministrations.

German Jesuits have shown their affectionate loyalty to their Fatherland. French Jesuits, cast out under infidel cabinets, are now soldier priests in France; English and Irish Jesuits are models of devotion to their countries. The bogey of "anti-clericalism" is dispelled. A priest is a patriot.

Alien Labor

It will be very easy now to ascertain whether the cry that has been raised that contractors will not employ citizen workmen as unskilled laborers: first, because they will not accept such an occupation deeming it beneath their dignity; secondly, because they prefer not to accept the prevailing rate of remuneration for such unskilled labor, is justifiable or not.

For years it has been the law that none but citizens be employed on municipal, county or state contracts. This law, however, up to a few months ago was regarded as a dead letter until some citizen in New York city entered suit to compel its enforcement and the United States Supreme court upheld the constitutionality of the law. Under the circumstances, the contractors for the New York city subways declared they would have to surrender their contracts because it was impossible to secure sufficient unskilled citizen labor. The Legislature was asked to repeal the alien labor law. It did not comply with the request in its entirety but it did not modify the law to this extent; citizen labor must be given preference on all municipal, county or state work but where citizen labor is unavailable then alien labor may be utilized.

If there are citizens who desire labor or municipal, county or state contracts, they must be given preference. If no citizen labor presents itself, then alien labor may be employed.

The amended or modified law is explicit in its terms. It protects and prefers the citizen who really wishes to avail himself of the sort of work presented on municipal, state or county contracts. If he wants to work he can. If he does not want to perform such tasks, he must, perforce, hold his peace.

Have we reached the aesthetic age or stage where godliness must yield precedence to cleanliness? Or, as Father Dwight, of the Jesuits, says: "The world's saints are the men and the women who bathe frequently, dress neatly, speak grammatically, behave politely, and pay their bills promptly?"

Is there any way the United States can turn to avoid intervention in Mexico?

Assemblyman Thorn has a bill to close grocery stores on Sunday's. But Greater New York is exempted from the provisions of the law. Surely, what is good for

the rest of the State should be equally good for New York city.

Now let everybody get back of Congressman Fitzgerald's bill to provide machinery to bar obscene publications from the mails.

Bishop Burt, of the Methodist Church, either is misquoted or raving mad. Press reports say he said recently in Detroit: "More than 1000,000 of Catholic children in parochial schools are isolated from all that makes for good citizenship."

Do the Methodists of Rochester believe that the 10,000 or so children in the parochial schools of Rochester who are able to pass the Regents' examinations—regular state tests—have been denied instruction in what goes to make up good citizenship?

Arkansas must be the ideal abiding place of the bigots. The lower house of the Legislature has passed a bill providing for state inspection of convents.

Catholic News Notes

The late venerable Irish nun, Mother Teresa, who founded the Sisters of Mercy in Mafeking, South Africa, was, in her time, decorated by Queen Victoria, of England.

The Parliament, of Nicaragua, S. America, after thirty years, has repealed the law forbidding the Jesuits laboring in that country.

Interiorly, Westminster Cathedral, London, is becoming one of the most imposing in the world, its tall arches, high roof, and deep shadows, have a cloistral aestheticism giving it the unwarranted atmosphere of age. Yet it is only of yesterday.

The earthquake damage to property in Italy is conservatively estimated as upwards of \$100,000,000.

The effects of the war are now being keenly felt the world over. Missionaries in mission lands cry out: "We are receiving no help! What will become of us?"

The health of Cardinal Merry del Val is not of the best, for which reason he does not now take an active part in the affairs of the Holy See.

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