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The Bible In The Public Schools.

VIGOROUS CAMPAIGN BEING CARRIED ON.

An Example of the Methods Used.

A vigorous campaign to place the Bible in the public schools as a part of the regular curriculum is being carried on at the present time. All over the country through ministerial associations and church federations the effort is being made to have the custom established which would mean in reality the sanction of the Protestant doctrine of private interpretation and of the non-reliability of Catholic Tradition as a means of faith. Catholics cannot allow this program of the Protestant sects to be carried to a successful completion because it will entail nothing more nor less than the introduction of Protestant teachings in the schools which Catholics support and will further handicap our people in their efforts to preserve their own ideals, for which they have made so many sacrifices. As much as we deplore the woeful deficiency in moral and religious instruction in the public schools, a deficiency which has already begun to reap its inevitable results, the remedy of the evil cannot be accomplished in this way.

Various methods of prosecuting this campaign are pursued in the different parts of the country. In these places where opposition will be mild, the introduction of the Bible into the regular school classes is openly championed. In other communities, where more stubborn difficulties are anticipated, it is merely a portion of literature or in some other obscure way that Biblical study is to be initiated. The effort which is being made in the city of Indianapolis is an example of the latter. The Ministerial Association of that city and the church federation of the same place are indorsing a movement which would grant credits to high school students throughout the state of Indiana for work which they had done in Bible study outside of school hours—in their Sunday schools and the like.

The committee which has the affair in charge issued a statement on the subject which was published in full in the Indianapolis News of May 23rd. "The committee wishes it to be understood," the statement says, "that neither this plan nor any person connected with it petitions for the Bible to be taught in the schools."

"The plan proposes that examinations and authorization of credit shall rest in the hands of a 'board of control', consisting of one school representative from each of the cities of the state using this course of study. The 'outline', or syllabus, covers the Bible in four sections, two upon the Old Testament and two upon the New Testament. The passing of the examination upon any two of these four divisions will entitle a pupil to a high school credit. The plan, which is in present and satisfactory use in North Dakota, seems an admirable one in every way."

A further proposal is made as to the manner of organization of the various classes. "Classes could, and upon approval we are assured will be, organized in various Sunday schools desiring to pursue the outline of Bible study and to prepare for the examination. The Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations have indicated their willingness to organize such classes, if there is a demand for them. Pupils should carry through such a course at home without other instruction than many homes afford in the parents and the Biblical helps there available."

As can easily be seen, this is merely an entering wedge to the complete institution of Bible study as a part of the public school schedule of study. This is the inevitable next step, no matter how much its champions may protest their desire to prevent this. Catholic organizations all over the country should be wide awake to

this campaign and its possibilities and should vigorously protest against any plan of this kind. If the Protestant denominations wish Bible instruction given along with the other studies required in life, let them build their own schools and not seek to have their doctrinal ideas supported out of the public funds. They have long enough sanctioned a course which has led to the deplorable educational conditions which we find in this country today and which mean practically the establishment of a near atheism as the religion of the State.

C. E. of C. V.

How Canada's Educational Needs Are Supplied.

There are at present in Canada, for three millions of Catholics, thirty-five colleges wherein young men can acquire a classical education. These and the preparatory schools in which French is taught are confided to the clergy with a few lay assistants.

The French Province of Quebec has twenty colleges, one of which is English. More than eight thousand pupils are enrolled.

On the Atlantic coast there are three English and three bi-lingual colleges. Ontario supports three English and three bi-lingual colleges; Manitoba and Alberta one each.

Immigrants of all nationalities are now invading the Dominion in large numbers. Like sheep without shepherds, it is not easy to care for the spiritual and educational needs of this motley flock. Even when given the advantages of education in Catholic schools, vocations among these aliens are rare. So, in spite of the numerous recruits which the French-Canadian families furnish to the Church, the native clergy are unable to care for the Polish, German, Armenian and other Catholics that swell the parishes, and they have been obliged to send for European priests.

Wenchow Asks The Sisters of Charity to Help Orphans.

Before beginning their humane work among the neglected children of Wenchow, China, the Sisters of Charity were allowed to visit a pagan orphan asylum. The condition there was beyond description. Half-clothed and starving, the little ones were thrust into dark hovels not fit for animals. Many were blind and deformed; some in the last stages of consumption; one very sick child called vainly for a drink, which was refused, as the sick are considered better dead. The orphans of seven and eight who bring a price are sold, the others left to drag out a miserable existence.

Fortunately the officials are to permit the nuns to minister to the orphans of this pagan institution, they having learned that for some strange reason the Catholic women are anxious to minister to orphans and keep them alive. The officials will not furnish the means to this end, however, and Sister Mary, who tells the story of this new work, says:

"The foreign missions, especially in China, turn instinctively to the zeal and charity of American Catholics during this difficult time. Europe has been obliged to put us aside, and the blow is great to all the works. We are both spiritually and temporally in real poverty. If any help can be given to the stupendous task of caring for China's unloved little ones, it will be another act of mercy which will receive its just reward."

Bishop Berlioz, of Hakodate, Japan writes: "We are suffering privations unknown to me since I came to this country in 1879. We must now be very sparing of altar wine and candles for celebrating Holy Mass. Let us hope that peace will be restored before we reach the end of our supplies."

Another Archbishop Champions the Cause Of The Missions.

Another Archbishop has added his voice to those that have already proclaimed the great need of the missions, and the duty devolving upon American Catholics to see that the religious progress made in pagan lands shall not be retarded. This time it is Archbishop James J. Keane, of Dubuque, who in a pastoral addressed to his people urges most strenuously a little extra self-denial in order that there may be extra contributions to the propagation of the faith during the present year. The letter is most eloquent; here are a few passages:

"Reflect brethren, that there are nine hundred millions of souls who know not of Jesus Christ, who have never heard the name of Him Who died for their salvation, to whom their knowledge and beauty of His life have never been made known. How terrible is their condition, how few their helps to live well, how abundant their incitements to evil amid the corruption and vice inherent in heathendom, and forming almost part of their religion. Think of children of unnumbered generations born into such conditions, living in such environments, dying in such misery.

"Our Blessed Lord surprised, shocked, perhaps scandalized, the narrow Jews when He showed interest in the salvation of the Samaritan or Gentile. Saints Peter and Paul were stoutly opposed when they interpreted Christ's will as laying a necessity upon them to preach the Gospel of salvation to the Gentiles.

"The Catholic who does not cooperate in some way in the work of these heroic souls, mistakes the meaning of the great love so fundamental in the New Dispensation. Not only does he neglect a very sacred duty, but he misses an abundant source of divine blessings and an influence which tends to enlarge and elevate the mind and the sympathies and to secure to life a truly Catholic character.

"If increased help is not forthcoming from prosperous America, many a promising mission center must go under in the ruin that is threatening so many Catholic charities. Mission churches, in their way as influential, perhaps, for religious progress as glorious Rheims; educational foundations planted in the blood of martyrs and brought to distinguished efficiency by the sacrifice of great and heroically devoted souls,—must decay if we do not come to the rescue.

"Unhappily we are not prepared to fill the posts in foreign fields made vacant by the call of many devoted heroes. But we can help the work in many ways, especially by our prayers and our contributions of material aid."

Foreign Mission News

The St. Peter Claver Society, an organization having for its purpose the assistance of missionaries working in Africa, and founded in 1894 by the Countess Marie Ledochowski, in Rome, has established American headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri.

The Franciscan Missionaries of Mary have eight hundred lepers under their charge in different parts of the East.

The Gilbert Islands are ministered to by twenty-two priests, fourteen Brothers and eighteen Sisters. Since 1888 nearly 20,000 people have been baptized. The deaths of four priests from hardships and fever on the scattered islands are bearing fruit in the rapidly growing Catholic communities. The average conversions are about 300 a year.

Four hundred members of the Catholic Foresters of Cincinnati presented Rev. James B. O'Regan, assistant of the Church of the Assumption, with an automobile recently.

News From Ireland

W. G. Boyd, principal of the Ravenscroft National school, Belfast, was presented by the teachers, pupils and a number of other friends with a handsome dining suit on the occasion of his appointment to the magistracy.

The Antrim Grand Lodge has decided that the coming July celebration be entirely of a religious character.

John Hoppe, Hill street, has been co-opted a member of Lurgan Town Council in room of the late Dr. J. M. Moore, vice-chairman.

The Most Rev. Dr. Foley, of the Collegiate Church of St. Patrick, Carlow, ordained to priesthood on Ascension Thursday Rev. T. Gardiner, Kildare and Leighlin; Rev. C. J. Moylan, Salford, and Rev. P. Flynn, Auckland, County.

At the Mercy Convent, Drogheda, on May 12, the solemn profession took place of Miss Margaret McCabe, Mullagh, County Cavan (in religion, Sister Mary Bernard).

Rev. John Bray, P. P., Belturbet, celebrated his golden jubilee of the priesthood recently.

At Putraghan, near Belturbet, a centenarian named Thomas Lynch, has died at the age of 103 years. He was strong and vigorous up to a few weeks ago, and assisted at putting down this seasons crops.

The impressive ceremony of profession of three young ladies and the reception of a fourth has taken place at the Convent of Mercy, Ennis. The lady who received the habit was Miss Lena Rogers (Sister M. Dymphna), daughter of Batt Rogers, Caher, Feakle.

The death took place on May 19, in Cork, of Robert Ringrose White, of Kincora, Kildare.

The death is announced of Jas. Barrett, of Wilton.

In connection with the completion of the parochial church at Midleton, the Most Rev. Dr. Browne, on the occasion of his triennial visitation, paid an eloquent tribute to the congregation who had helped to build a church costing \$33,000, the debt on which had been reduced to \$248.

The governing body of University College, Cork, has elected Prof. David F. Barry, M. D., a member of the Senate of the National University.

The death is announced of Thomas Cooper, well known in Derry as a mechanical engineer of considerable skill and inventiveness.

An enthusiastic Crann Eithne meeting was held in Dunfanaghy Sunday, May 16, at which Rev. Father McAteer was the principal speaker.

The tenth session of the Irish Training College of the Fourth Masters at Letterkenny will commence on Monday, August 16.

The Newcastle Petty Sessions court has passed a resolution of sympathy with the relatives of the late Mr. Greenaway, J. P.

The annual average death rate last week in the Dublin registration area and the principal provincial Irish towns was 18.8 per 1,000 of the population.

Rev. Father Fitzgerald, C. C. Oughterard, has been appointed parish priest of Killeacanty, Kilkenny.

The Right Rev. Dr. Casarelli, Bishop of Salford, has ordained to the priesthood at Salford the Rev. J. E. McEnery, eldest son of John McEnery, Ballyhale, Knocktopher, County Kilkenny.

The Catholic Educational Convention

To Catholic educators and those interested in the work which they are doing the coming convention at St. Paul of the Catholic Educational Association holds a paramount place in their plans. Men prominent in educational circles from all over the country, past and present, have signified their interest in being present, and papers and discussions bid fair to attract wide attention.

The convention will take place in the last week of June, opening on Monday, the 28th, and closing on Thursday, July 1st. This year the public mass meeting, which is always a feature of the evening night, will be held on Wednesday night, in order that all delegates may be present. The mass meeting will be held in the St. Paul auditorium, and a general discussion has been arranged to be held at large to be present, especially non-Catholics who may desire to familiarize themselves with Catholic ideals in education.

Speakers of national-wide prominence will speak on the following subjects: "Our Schools and What They Have Accomplished," "The Ideals of Catholic Colleges," "The Catholic Citizen and Catholic Education." In addition to this, a musical program of exceptional merit will be given.

The local arrangements have been perfected by competent committees of priests from St. Paul and Minneapolis, and nothing will be wanting to make this twelfth annual meeting fruitful in good work.

The teaching sisterhoods will be largely represented at the convention this year, and some valuable papers will be presented by them for discussion. Many of the Sisters will stay at the convents of their respective orders in the twin cities. For those communities which have no local representatives special arrangements have been made. The new residence building at the College of St. Thomas will be placed at their disposal, under the direction of the Sisters of St. Joseph, who have charge of the domestic arrangements at the institution.

The Sisters of the Visitation of St. Paul are prepared to offer hospitality to a number of visiting Sisters at their academy, corner of Fairmont avenue and Groves street.

A solemn pontifical Mass in the new Cathedral of St. Paul will mark the opening of the convention on Monday morning, June 28, when Most Rev. Archbishop Ireland will preach the sermon. As all the pastors of the twin cities have taken an earnest and active interest in promoting the plans for the convention, it is expected that a very large crowd from these cities and their environs will be present at the opening service.

Two papers in the college department of more than usual interest will be that on "The Life and Work of Gregory Mandel," by Rev. John Selickar, of the St. Paul Seminary, and "European Influences on American Universities," by Frederick Siedenburg, S. J., of Loyola University, Chicago. Much interest also centers in the paper on "Education and the Social Question," by Rev. Edwin V. O'Hara, chairman of the Industrial Welfare Commission of Oregon, and all those familiar with the writings of Rev. James J. Daly, S. J., of Campion college, Fraire du Chien, are anticipating with pleasure his paper on "A Taste for Reading—Its Cultivation and Function in Character Development."

Many other papers of equal interest and importance will be presented and fully discussed.

Popular Vacation School. Enrollments are now being made for the term of half-day sessions that will open in the L. L. Williams Rochester Commercial School next Monday, June 28th.

The daily sessions will be from 9 to 12:30 and the tuition fee will be \$20 for ten weeks.

The regular two sessions daily will be resumed Tuesday, September 7th, 27 Church Street. Both telephones 4363.—Adv.

YOUNG MEN'S SOCIETY

Rev. William H. ...

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