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The Decay of Protestantism.

Prof. Carver Points To This Fact And Suggests a Remedy.

The Error of His Views and the True Solution.

Of late the Protestant sects have begun to realize their utter inefficiency as powers for good. The cry for Church Unity of some kind among the disorganized and conflicting factions has gone up on innumerable occasions in their various organs; and some steps have been taken in that direction, leading to a conglomeration of ideas and doctrines difficult to define. The hopelessness of this task of regenerating their dying religion, by a peculiar irony has at the same time unconsciously been pointed out by some of their most brilliant leaders, who have shown how far Protestantism has gone into decay, in itself but a logical outcome of the principles of the Reformation.

The Harvard Theological Review (Vol. VIII, No. 3) contains an article entitled "What Ails the Church?" from the pen of Prof. Thomas N. Carver, formerly of that institution and now about to become affiliated with it once more, in which, both in speaking of the present condition of the Protestant churches and in suggesting a remedy, it is shown how far that decay has gone. He describes the Protestant country church of 10 years ago and of today; and comments on the retrogression which such a survey reveals. "I think," he continues, "that there are few persons who will deny that there has been a general decline in vigor, though exceptional neighborhoods may be found which show the opposite tendency. The investigations of Mr. C. O. Gill prove conclusively that, in certain areas, this decadence has taken place." (p. 381)

The cause for this, the professor believes, lies in two facts; the loss of faith in spiritual damnation and salvation and, what he regards as more important, the consequent loss of a definite, soul compelling purpose or program. "Formerly," he tells us, "the Church knew exactly what it was for; now it does not seem quite certain. There was no wavering; now those churches which are not merely drifting are running around in a circle, looking for some 'cause' to espouse, or something vaguely called 'social service' to perform. Then the church preached a clear and definite gospel of salvation, with damnation as the unattractive, though varyingly emphasized alternative; now it is not considered quite polite in the best religious circles to mention damnation, and since there is nothing very definite to be saved from, salvation has lost its meaning. His indictment of the Protestant churches on this point is strong, particularly since he is himself a victim of this evil: "The simple fact is that the Church does not, and really and in its heart believe in the old doctrines of salvation and damnation. In other words, Protestantism has in great measure ceased to be Christian."

It is a most pitiful spectacle, in the professor's opinion, to see the sects as a result thus running hither and thither, posing as the friends of "labor" and seeking something to do. "A constructive program they must have, and he accordingly comes forward with a suggestion as to what this program should be, or rather on what it should be based. As belief in the supernatural has been overthrown and will not be accepted, the professor's remedy is purely materialistic. It consists in what he terms "workbench philosophy," the joy and merit of "productive work and enterprise." A new kind of salvation is needed to put the old fervor back into the dying churches: the moral standard of all moral materialistic philosophies, getting port the most out of life and thus giving the most to the community. "A thing may be said to be saved when it is prevented from going to waste. When a man's energy is being wasted, the man is to that extent going to waste, his life is to that extent lost, and he stands in need of salvation. Perhaps it would be better to say that the community needs his salvation."

"A community in which every scrap of human energy was saved and applied to useful work would be the kingdom of God. It would have the power within itself to become the chosen community and would need no supernatural aid. A gospel of salvation which saves men from going to waste must be a vital factor in the creation of such a community. The church which preaches such a gospel effectively must become the true Church. It will need neither historical claims, miracles, or any other advertising devices to establish its title." (p. 399)

How far from satisfying the idea of salvation imbedded within the soul of man is this materialistic creed! And necessarily, too, it must defeat itself, as has been so often proved. For the individual, bound only by the altruistic law to work for the community will soon forget the community in seeking his own selfish interests. A higher motive is needed, the motive planted in the heart of man by the Creator, the love and attainment of God Himself in a life hereafter. That alone will satisfy man's longings and lead, too, to social peace insofar as it can be established in human society. Protestantism, weakened and decayed, should turn away from the destructive doctrine of materialism to the light of the Church which has preserved the true ideas of salvation and happiness. In that Church alone will be found spiritual well-being and the fundamental principles making at the same time for justice and stability on earth.

Two Missionaries Become Victims Of Leprosy.

Joys and sorrows succeed one another in the mission life. Bishop Benziger, of Quilon, India, gives an example of these contrasts in his latest letter. First, he announces that a Jacobite priest of the Syrian rite has just objected his former belief and become a Catholic. Although married and the father of a family, Bishop Benziger is going to ask permission for him to say Mass. There are in Quilon not less than 100,000 Jacobite Schismatics, and this man's influence cannot fail to be of value. Then, too, the Bishop has the five new priests just ordained and eager for apostolic service.

But there is also a dark side to the picture. A young nun, only twenty-nine years old, and doing valuable work among the sick, has just died of typhus fever. And saddest of all, words has just come to Bishop Benziger that a zealous and experienced missionary priest has become a victim of leprosy. The slow and painful death that awaits this poor apostle is sad to contemplate.

C. B. of C. V.

News From Ireland

Cavan. Cootehill Urban Council has approved a report of P. H. McCarthy, C. E. Dublin, on a water supply for the town at a cost of £3,000, the water to be taken from Coragh Lough.

Died. August 16, at her residence, The Square, Bailieboro', Rose, relict of the late Patrick Clarke.

At the Durrys (near Bantry) Petty Sessions J. J. Hurley, R. D. C. was unanimously appointed clerk of Petty Sessions for that district in room of G. T. Nicholson, resigned. Mr. Gilhooly, M. F., presided, and there was an unusually large attendance of magistrates. Mr. Collins, solicitor, attended on behalf of the candidate.

Widespread regret is felt at the death of Dr. Joseph Cotter, a well known Cork surgeon. The sad event took place unexpectedly at Clonakilty, where he had a summer residence.

While bathing at the pier at Falcarragh, James Logue, eldest son of John Logue, J. P., of Waterside, Derry, got into difficulties, and was drowned.

A laborer named John Hayes, of Ballymoney, has died as the result of injuries sustained by being kicked in the stomach by a horse.

The death has taken place at his residence, Inch Island, County Donegal, of Surgeon Joseph Fleming, M. D., F. R. C. E., J. P. Colonel Fleming was about seventy years of age.

The death has occurred suddenly of Archdeacon Molloy, rector of St. Johnston, County Donegal. He had preached on Sunday when he appeared to be in his usual health.

John Morgan, of Newry, an itinerant ballad-singer, and known far and wide being quite a character, was found dead in bed in a "Castlewella" lodging-house.

Wexford District Council have appointed Mr. Donnelly (of the firm of Messrs. Donnelly & Moore, Dublin) as engineer in connection with the new cottage scheme.

It was announced at a meeting of the County Fermanagh agricultural committee that the Department had reduced the grant from £1,299 to £872.

The Enniskillen Urban Council and the Board of Guardians have passed resolutions of deep regret at the death of the late Mr. Elliott, borough surveyor.

Deep regret has been felt with the relatives on the death of Dominic Browne, Carnane House, Tuam, who was an extensive farmer, and largely connected with the stock-raising industry.

P. Lyman, D. C., was an applicant for a laborer's cottage to the Celbridge No. 1 Rural Council, but he got only four votes to six cast for a laborer named Kearney.

Thomas Shaw, D. C., Barbers-town, Straffan, has been appointed a magistrate.

Leitrim. John J. McDermott, Cornacloy, and James F. McTiernan, Heath House, Downra, have applied for scholarships to the Leitrim County Council.

Longford. The Rev. E. Mahon, P. P., Drumard, County Longford, has recovered from his recent illness, for which he had been under treatment in Dublin.

At a meeting of the Mayo County Council, M. J. Hanley, Knockmore, was appointed rate collector in room of ex-Collector Igoe.

At the Ballinrobe Petty Sessions court, Patrick Glynn, of Blake Hill, Cong., was sworn in as a magistrate for the County of Mayo.

Flowers for Blessing of the Graves. Cheapest and best at Henry P. Neaume's, 9 North-St., Mercantile Bldg. Both phones.—Adv.

Catholic News Notes.

The feast of the Holy Rosary according to the new law of the Roman Calendar falls this year on Thursday, October 7th. The solemnity of the feast is observed on the first Sunday of October. Rubrics for the observance of the solemnity are fully explained in an article contained in the January 1914 number of the American Ecclesiastical Review.

According to a decree of the S. C. R. under Pius IX, August 9th, 1852, whenever the solemnity of a feast is transferred, the indulgence of the feast can be transferred to the day of solemnity. The faithful, therefore, after having complied with the usual conditions of Confession and Communion can, as usual gain the great indulgence of the Rosary in any church where the Rosary Confraternity is established, by visiting the Rosary Altar and praying for the intention of the Holy Father and the welfare of the Church. This great privilege enables them to gain a plenary indulgence for each and every visit made from noon of Saturday until midnight of Rosary Sunday.

Ladies' Auxiliary, A. O. H. A mock marriage was held on last Thursday evening, by the Ladies' Auxiliary and was a great success. A very large attendance of the members and their friends were present. The Auxiliary are planning a masquerade dance on the evening of Thursday, October 21st at their hall, 198 Main street West. The tickets are in the hands of the ladies' committee and a good time is promised all who attend.

New Bishop Consecrated. Denver, Colo., Sept. 21.—Fifteen bishops and archbishops participated in the consecration of the Rev. A. J. Schuler as bishop of El Paso on Tuesday. The services were held in the Immaculate Conception Cathedral.

Bless Graves in Lima. Lima, Sept. 20.—Last Sunday afternoon between seven and eight hundred members of St. Rose Church marched from the church to St. Rose Cemetery where the annual ceremony of blessing the graves was observed. Rev. William P. Ryan, of Clifton Springs, officiated, assisted by Rev. John F. Farrell, of the local church.

K. of C. Officers Elected. At a meeting of Rochester Fourth Degree Assembly, Knights of Columbus, held at the Knights of Columbus rooms the following officers were elected: F. N. Thomas F. Sharkey; F. C. Joseph P. Doyle; F. A. John M. Foley; F. P. George T. Boucher; F. Comp. Henry K. Wheaton; F. I. S. Cyril J. Statt; F. O. S. Frank H. Biel.

Do You Know English well enough to trust your own dictation or composition, or does someone else have to correct your work before it goes to your correspondent or printer? Do you know that the Evening Course in "English for Business Men" commencing in the Rochester Business Institute, Thursday Evening, October 7, at 7:30, will help you to overcome your difficulties in this respect? If you join this class you will be sure to meet others having the same kind of trouble, and you will enjoy working with them. The course continues for ten weeks and the cost is moderate. Remember the opening date, October 7.—Adv.

Cemetery Bouquets and clusters ready to place on the graves. We give particular attention to the arrangement of the flowers and put in plenty of Ferns without extra charge. Rochester Floral Co., 255 East Main street.—Adv.

Catholic News Notes.

The Archbishop of Philadelphia, Mgr. Prendergast, ordained to the Priesthood in his Cathedral 29 deacons, of which number 24 are diocesan priests and 5 Augustinians.

At Millbank, in S. D., Bishop O'Gorman has dedicated St. Lawrence's Church and school.

Cardinal Gibbons' confirmation and visitation tour lasted two weeks. He confirmed 1,372 persons, of whom 132 were converts.

The corner-stone blessing of the new addition to the Denver College of the Xaverian Brothers was attended by fully 8,000 people.

In Boston, the Home for Destitute Catholic Children has cared for over 30,000 children in the last fifty years.

At Gloucester, Mass., Bishop da Silva, blessed the corner-stone for a Portuguese Church of Our Lady of Good Voyage.

The Catholic Church Extension Society, Chicago, pleads for gifts of \$500 to erect chapels in poor missions.

The Catholic Societies of Evansville, Ind., are considering the erection of a general building for the use of Catholic societies; to cost about \$100,000.

In Salt Lake City, Utah, Catholics rank numerically next after Mormons. The late Bishop Seaton did wondrous work there.

In the United States the Tertiaries of the Franciscan Order number about 50,000.

Rev. George W. Corrigan, brother of the late Archbishop Corrigan, died at St. Joseph's Rectory, Newark, N. J., at the age of 62 years.

In Peking, China, the Church has had normal schools for the training of the catechism teachers and recently one has been established for the education of Christian teachers.

Abbot Don Salazar, of Spain, died recently in his 104th year. Ordained in 1835, he was priest 80 years.

Once a year, Cardinal Ferrari, Archbishop of Milan, visits the prison of Milan and celebrates Mass for the prisoners.

At Moukden in Manchuria, took place recently the first procession of the Blessed Sacrament.

A Rome correspondent warns against readily accepting cablegrams from "Rome via Paris" or Amsterdam and London, saying they are absolutely unreliable and inspired by the enemies of the Church.

From 1902 to 1908, the Holy Father Benedict V. was the Prefect of the Roman fraternity of Franciscan Tertiary priests.

A publishing house in Dublin has, by this time, 10,000 copies of the new Breviary on sale, it is said at a little more than half the ordinary price.

A large number of Italian priests are in the Army as chaplains, or as aids in hospitals, or in other auxiliary services.

At Merton, England, the Surrey Archaeological Society has discovered the remains of the famous Abbey of Merton, founded by Gilbert Norman in 1092. This Augustinian Abbey, in its time, had 30 Priors under its jurisdiction. Thomas a Becket was educated at it.