

THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL

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Where Votes Are Not Needed.

In a thoughtful article in "America" on "Spread of Social Disorder", Martha Moore Avery, educator well-known in Rochester...

"No votes are needed for the women to set their half of the world in order. Besides, the most fatal disorders are seen in the home, where even the votes of men are powerless, for men have not in their keeping the chastity of motherhood. It was to our Blessed Mother that God gave the custody of the Redeemer who was to appear. It is the woman who commits that abomination of desolation, murder of the unborn child, the most ruthless crime ever devised by the ingenuity of wickedness. Votes are not wanted to prevent another vile practice, which leading suffragists advocate."

"Votes are not wanted to give good care to helpless infants in squalid homes, but rather, the early conviction of the mother that a child is a gracious gift from God, and a drill in the best practices known in the care of babes. Votes are not wanted to cure the incorrigible children who crowd our juvenile courts, but, rather, good government at home, where parents are commissioned by the Judge of judges."

"Votes are not wanted to clear our streets of hoodlums, but mothers who do not harken to evil counsels."

"Votes are not wanted to solve the servant-girl problem which is left all untouched while a multitude of illogical women pester men for votes that women need as much as the moon and are as well equipped to use as the baby is to handle the carving-knife."

"Votes are not wanted to protect the housemaids to whom the wages of sin make a most successful appeal, but rather a training of the young men in the family in Christian chivalry which guards defenseless girls even against their own desires."

"Votes are not wanted for the prudent spending of the husband's wages in the market place, but rather a sober sense of the fitness of things, which adjusts one's expenditure to one's income."

"Votes are not wanted to shame the rich bargain-hunter, but rather a sense of fair-play, demanding measure for measure in economic value. Votes are not wanted to better conditions and raise wages for girls working in shops and factories, but a right public opinion."

Football has taken rank with baseball, tennis and golf.

To Be Regretted.

It is to be regretted that the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association should have been compelled to again revise, readjust and increase its rates, when such action was taken only in 1904. It was announced then that the increase was regrettable but absolutely necessary, and that the increase then made in rates was ample to insure the association's future, without any further increase, at least not to speak of.

Inside of a decade the supreme officers are back again with the announcement that they were mistaken in 1904 or that their advising and consulting actuaries were. It matters not so much as to who was mistaken in 1904. The sad fact is that somebody was mistaken and badly mistaken at that. Because of that mistake, to be very charitable, hundreds of the bone and sinew of the C. M. B. A. either will have to go without any protection in the way of insurance, because they are now too old to secure any old life insurance or they will be compelled to fork over a ruinous fate in order to remain in their own Catholic fraternal order and continue to benefit by its insurance protection.

And this treatment is meted out after one increase in rates, when it was understood all errors in early calculations, actuarial tabulations and tables, had been adjusted to a nicety and that hereafter the C. M. B. A. would be as securely and accurately adjusted as any old-line insurance corporation that pays out annual large sums of money for expert assistance!

And we believed it, swallowed the guarantee hook, line and sinker? Well, we of us who are along in years and have been paying in our good money in entire good faith, we must either put up at once in cash from \$200 to \$300 per \$1,000 of our insurance coverage for estimated deficit since 1904, or else hand over to the association interest each year at the rate of four per cent, in addition to paying a monthly assessment for the remainder of our natural lives, more than double what we have paid since 1904, which were solemnly and sacredly assured would be the last increase to be spoken of!

Evidently, supreme and grand officers, who possess the latter-day faculty of securing and holding new members are sadly needed in the C. M. B. A. Not lack of funds, not lack of economy in what ails the C. M. B. A. It is not taking in enough new members. It has started to die of stagnation, attrition and inertia. An up-to-date, wide-awake, alert and responsive supreme and state organization department, upon salaries of commission basis, is what is absolutely needed in the C. M. B. A. With that, the organization might thrive; without it, it is doomed.

Columbus Day.

It is right and proper that all American citizens should pay tribute and honor to Christopher Columbus, the intrepid navigator and patriot, who at great personal sacrifice made known to the world this Western Hemisphere. It is especially fitting that we as Catholics should pay homage to the memory of Columbus, as he was of our faith and his entrance into this western world brought forth the greatest refuge of the world's history of those who strove; and will ever strive for liberty to worship each in his chosen way. Non-Catholics, as well as Catholics, profit by this condition in free America. For this reason, we have reason to congratulate ourselves that we persevered until Columbus Day is a recognized legal holiday in nearly all the States of the Union. And this year we note with pleasure that under Catholic auspices, almost entirely, Columbus Day

was observed this year in a nation-wide manner. Governors of States, former presidents of the United States, United States senators, members of Congress, state legislators, mayors of cities, all vied to pay their meed of tribute to Columbus. His life and labors, his rugged perseverance in the face of almost untold difficulties, his work in other directions, were dwelt upon in detail and, inevitably, the fact of his Catholic faith was born in upon those who participated, whether Catholics or non-Catholics.

Such celebrations cannot help but minimize the trend toward bigoted prejudice if such existed in the community where these celebrations were held. And their influence will percolate far beyond the immediate vicinity until, in God's own good time, all the inhabitants of this Republic will come to see that Catholics who are practical professors of the Faith are the very best citizens the country has or can produce. And this is what we want to do. Our example must impress, else flood of oratory and assertion of our patriotism and civic virtues will not avail one whit.

Watch It.

Now that the proposed new Constitution, with its future prohibition of assistance to charitable, educational and religious enterprises in the way of exemption from taxation, has been defeated, a renewed effort is likely to induce the coming Legislature to amend our statute laws and Constitution indirectly so as to write into the laws sectarian and bigoted provisions.

We should be on the alert to strangle such un-American exhibitions in their inception, not wait until they develop into full fruition and then be powerless to intervene or prevent. The old adage that prevention is better than cure should be ever in our minds. Let committees of Catholic lay societies be named to scan every proposition that comes before the Legislature of 1916. This is not an impossible or difficult task. A few, clear-headed, right-minded men, not easily swayed by personal prejudice can do the task assigned to them. Let us be up and doing bright and early!

Carranza.

Cardinal Gibbons has exceptional facilities to obtain reliable information regarding the character, capacity and general make-up of Carranza, the man proposed by the Administration in Washington to recognize as the dominant factor in Mexico. A recent Washington despatch reads as follows:

Cardinal Gibbons views the situation in Mexico with great apprehension, and is not ready to believe that the problem is settled in the most satisfactory manner. For the first time since the recognition of Carranza by the administration at Washington, the Cardinal in an interview gave his estimate of the man who is to control the destinies of the republic.

"Poor Mexico," he said, "things are in bad shape there. I have read much in the papers about the final solution of the Mexican situation. I have heard all kinds of promises; but how are we to believe that the problem is solved? Can we place any faith in these promises?"

Referring to Carranza, the Cardinal said: "A man of promises. That is Carranza. He can promise many things, but where are the assurances that these promises will be fulfilled? I am hoping and trusting that the troubles in Mexico are at an end, but I am not sure that Carranza is the man who will bring about these desired conditions."

Pretty soon, wedding bells will ring for the President of the United States.

There are three American Cardinals of the Catholic Church—perhaps, it were more accurate to say there are three Cardinals in the United States—Cardinal Gibbons, of Baltimore; Cardinal Farley, of New York; and Cardinal O'Connell, of Boston.

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