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The Cry For Religious Education

Growing Recognition of the Necessity of Soul Training

But What Does Religious Education Mean?

"The necessity of religious education" is a phrase which has become a singularly familiar sound, reminiscent of the attitude of Catholics in this country in the matter of the training of the young. But now it is not alone from Catholic sources that this iteration comes. Others have learnt that there must be a training of the whole man, that there must be a strengthening of his spiritual as well as his physical and intellectual life. And so we hear from many places at the present day this demand for a religious education of the nations youth.

The New Church Review, "A Quarterly Journal of the Christian Thought and Life Set Forth From the Scriptures by Emanuel Swedenborg", as it describes itself, is another recruit to the ranks of those who are asking that our education give some thought to the spiritual. In its January issue there appears an article on "Religious Education in the Public Schools" which is a most interesting contribution on this subject, as much by reason of what it incorrectly as well as what it correctly says. It emphasizes the necessity of "a training of head and hand". "To complete the trinity of activities it remains to find means for right training of the heart—for that kind of training which results in character based on principle, motivated by love of right. Without such character the individual is but a piece of machinery out of gear, and society made up of such individuals suffers consequent disorders and discords."

To all of which hearty assent can certainly be given. The spiritual faculty of man does need, indeed, need training and development. "When all of the faculties of the human being", we are further informed, "are in their right adjustment, the life of the individual runs smoothly; and society approaches the ideal in proportion as this adjustment in the individual lives prevails. It is by the centralizing of all the motives of conduct in obedience to the Divine Commandments that this adjustment is accomplished, even as it is by the operation of the immutable law of gravitation that all more than 800 Chicago clergy-members are held in equilibrium." "It is much to be desired", we learn, "that our public schools be made effective in the development of character, as well as in the training of the intellect that character-building takes the place in the school curriculum which its importance demands."

It is here that the stumbling in the argument begins. Our religious education is not to be an education that we generally understand to be in the use of that term. It is to be that "deep conception of a personal religion which in the past has produced so many saintly characters. . . . plus an education that has reference to the whole human race, in its entire range of interrelated necessities and obligations, and that looks upon each individual as vitally related to the whole." It is much to be desired that there be prepared a book of selections from the Scriptures, acceptable to Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Jew, as suitable for reading in the schools, and that the daily reading of portions of it without comment, be prescribed. It is impossible to estimate the benefits that would follow from such a daily exercise, especially if the teacher were in sympathy with it. The singing of hymns expressive of love, gratitude, and worship may be a powerful factor in the development of that religious susceptibility without which religious instruction is inefficient. (Vol. XXIII, pp. 92-101.)

Unhappily for all, this form of effort is not religious training. It is but a poor, weak imitation of that education which will really produce the great benefits desired.

and which have been prognosticated. Mere reading from the Scriptures and the singing of hymns will not develop the spiritual fiber of the growing child. It will not give to his will that impress which will powerfully assist it in keeping in the way of right and proper action. The teachings of Marcus Aurelius and Epictetus failed to produce a vital effect upon the lives of the people because of this lack of a compelling supernatural force. For proper religious training we must mold the will of the individual, give to him that strengthening vital power that will enable him to carry into practice the "thou shalt not's" of the commandments. To accomplish this both instructor and instructed must ever vividly realize that such commands are of a Divine origin, the essence of a moral law God-ordained. Only in training carried on in the light of such realization can the individual be said to be truly "religious" educated.

C.B. of C. V.

Becomes Third Archbishop of Chicago At 43

Chicago, Feb. 9.—The Most Rev. George W. Mundelein, D.D., was installed as the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Chicago and metropolitan of the province of Illinois here Wednesday with elaborate ceremonies in Holy Name Cathedral. He is the third holder of the office, his predecessors having been Patrick A. Feehan, who died late in 1902 and James E. Quigley, whose death occurred last summer.

The Most Rev. John Bonzano, apostolic delegate to Washington, officiated at the service, assisted by the Right Rev. Charles E. McDonnell, bishop of Brooklyn, by whom Archbishop Mundelein was ordained into the priesthood, and scores of other clergymen. Archbishop Mundelein arrived in Chicago Tuesday from Brooklyn, escorted from that city by a delegation of seventy officials of the Chicago diocese. Wednesday morning church social dignitaries in full regalia escorted him from his residence to the Right Rev. M. J. Fitzsimmons, trizing of all the motives of conduct in obedience to the Divine Commandments that this adjustment is accomplished, even as it is by the operation of the immutable law of gravitation that all more than 800 Chicago clergy-members are held in equilibrium. "It is much to be desired", we learn, "that our public schools be made effective in the development of character, as well as in the training of the intellect that character-building takes the place in the school curriculum which its importance demands."

Addresses by the apostolic delegate and others were followed by the reading of the papal bulls proclaiming the appointment of Father Mundelein as archbishop. The eight hundred clergymen present then proceeded, in that order, to the throne of Archbishop Mundelein, in which in the past has produced so many saintly characters. . . . plus an education that has reference to the whole human race, in its entire range of interrelated necessities and obligations, and that looks upon each individual as vitally related to the whole." It is much to be desired that there be prepared a book of selections from the Scriptures, acceptable to Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Jew, as suitable for reading in the schools, and that the daily reading of portions of it without comment, be prescribed. It is impossible to estimate the benefits that would follow from such a daily exercise, especially if the teacher were in sympathy with it. The singing of hymns expressive of love, gratitude, and worship may be a powerful factor in the development of that religious susceptibility without which religious instruction is inefficient. (Vol. XXIII, pp. 92-101.)

Mgr. Ahern, vice-rector of the American College, at Rome, brought the Pallium for the Archbishop elect of Chicago.

The Florida State arsenal, formerly a monastery of the Spanish Franciscans at St. Augustine, Fla., was burned recently. The actual property loss was small.

Mgr. John D. Biden has been appointed rector of Annunciation Church, Buffalo, and Chancellor of Rev. Thomas J. Walsh, rector of that education which will really produce the great benefits desired.

Irish Men and Women To Hold Convention

A call has been issued to the various organizations of Men and Women of the Irish Race in America, asking that delegates be appointed to attend a National Convention, to be held at the Hotel Astor, Forty-fourth street and Broadway, New York City, on March 4 and 5.

The circular calling the convention states that for many months past appeals have come from Ireland and from all parts of the United States asking that a national gathering of Americans of Irish blood should be held to consider the following problems and to take effective steps towards their solution:

- (1) How best to Irish race should act in America, so that the teaching and practices of Washington and Jefferson, of Jackson and of Lincoln may continue to prevail in this country.
- (2) How best to preserve for Ireland the remnant of her manhood.
- (3) How best to combat the influences which misrepresent America to Ireland and Ireland to America.
- (4) How best to act so that the Congress of the Nation to be held at the end of the war, the legitimate claims of Ireland may receive the fullest measure of consideration, so that after her long sufferings Ireland may again take her place among the nations of the world.

Attached to the call for the convention are the names of 500 representative Irish-Americans, including Dr. Thomas Addis Emmet, the kinsman of the great Irish patriots, Robert Emmet and Thomas Addis Emmet; Hon. John W. Goff, Justice-Supreme Court, New York; Justice Edward J. Gavegan, Supreme Court, New York; Justice Daniel F. Cahalan, Supreme Court, Victor Herbert, President Friendly Sons of St. Patrick; Joseph McLaughlin, National President Ancient Order of Hibernians; Ellen Ryan Jolly, National President Ladies Auxiliary; A. O. H.—Rev. Msgr. Brann, New York; Rev. John Cavanaugh, President Notre Dame University; Rev. P. C. Dalrymple, San Francisco; Rev. John Talbot Smith, Rev. Timothy Demsey, St. Louis; Joseph Smith, Lowell, Mass.; Hon. John Jerome Rooney, New York; E. J. Ryan, Sec'y. Catholic Benevolent League; James K. McGuire, former Mayor of Syracuse; Dr. Carroll of Philadelphia, and A. L. Morrison, of Santa Fe, New Mexico, who were very prominent in the Irish Land League under Parnell and Davitt; Humphrey O'Sullivan, Lowell, Mass.; John T. Ryan, Buffalo; Judge Jeremiah J. Lynch, Butte, Montana; P. J. Rowan and N. J. Deveraux, Rochester, N. Y.

The Catholic population of the diocese of Indianapolis numbers 128,741. It has 226 churches and chapels; 250 clergy and 2484 religious.

Rev. Francis J. Sheehan, of the Seminary of St. Charles Borromeo, has been appointed rector of the Church of St. Thomas Aquinas, Philadelphia, succeeding the late Very Rev. Mgr. James F. Trainor, V. G.

The Catholic Free Library in Kansas City was opened Feb. 1. Miss Agnes Rieke will be in charge.

One rash bigot recently declared that "80 per cent of the convicts in Sing Sing prison are graduates of parochial schools." A very careful record of the inmates is kept at that prison and the fact is that of the 1597 prisoners only 52 had ever attended a parochial school. Only 32 of these 52 graduated from a parish school, which brings the percentage to two per cent of the entire population of Sing Sing prison.

The Potal College of Church Music, Rome, has conferred upon Prof. Gibbs, choirmaster at Washington, Ohio, the Degree of Doctor of Music.

News From Ireland

Clare.
Died—January 2, at Green Lawn, Ennis County Clare, Lelia Ellen, fifth daughter of the late Thomas Greene.

Clark.
An esteemed priest of the diocese of Cloyne, Rev. Michael R. Rea, C. C., has passed away at his residence at Ballycotton, after an illness of some six months' duration.

While in the act of taking some timber wreckage from the cliffs at Dounree, Roscarbery, Patrick Hayes, laborer, aged 30, was washed out to sea. The heavy sea running at the time rendered all attempts at rescue impossible.

Tim O'Regan of Glandore has secured a first class certificate of proficiency in wireless telegraphy within the minimum time.

Died.—At Drishanberg, County Cork, Jeremiah Geany. —At Drishane, Mrs. Catherine Murphy, aged 86 years.

Dublin.
Hugh O'Neill, aged 10, of 107 Capel, street accidentally fell out of one of Messrs. McMaster & Hodgson's vans in Stephen's Green, one of the wheels passing over his body. He was conveyed to Mercer's hospital, where he died inside of two hours.

Married.—At St. Laurence O'Toole's, James, second son of the late Joseph Morris, late of Dalkey, to Elizabeth, daughter of the late Patrick Lacey, of Thorndale, Drumcondra.

Died.—In Scotland, Patrick Fitzpatrick, formerly of Kevagh, County Fermanagh.

The Rev. Father Coquavin and the Rev. Father Larkin were recently ordained to the priesthood by the Most Rev. Dr. Gilmartin in St. Michael's church, Ballinasloe.

Died.—Patrick Mullins, Ballytraana, Tuam.

The Killarney Guardians passed a resolution regretting the death, and conveying sympathy with the relatives of John Lawlor, Droumadest, a former member of the board.

A public meeting was held in the Town Hall, Limerick, for the purpose of taking steps to hold a flag day in the aid of the poor of the city, as a good deal of destitution is known to exist among families that are depending on casual employment.

Dr. Michael Burke, son of Peter Burke, U. D. C., one of the most popular of Longford traders, has successfully passed through his final examination in medicine.

A young man named Joseph Martin, a laborer, who formerly resided at Tallanstown, near Ardee, was discovered drowned in a river, some miles distant.

The death of R. Steenson, ex-National teacher, has occurred at his residence, Latton, Ballybay.

Sligo Harbor Board has passed a resolution of condolence with the family of the late Alderman J. Connolly, J. P., and T. Flanagan, High street, has been accepted as his successor in membership of that body.

Archbishop Harty has made the following clerical changes in the Cashel diocese. Rev. D. O'Brien, C. C., Knockaine, to be C. C. Thurles; Rev. L. Hayes, C. C., Kilmannon, to be C. C. Knockaine; Rev. J. Cleary, recalled from England, to be C. C., Kilmannon; Rev. M. Donoghue to be C. C., Upperchurch.

A woman named Anne Sheehan, residing at Wexford road, was knocked down by a horse and cart in Upper Main street, Wexford, and her leg severely crushed.

Died.—January 3, at his residence, Garryandrew, Edgeworthstown, Patrick Langan.

Foreign Mission News

Special correspondence by The Propagation of the Faith Society, 310 Lexington Ave., New York City.

The annual calendar of missions in the Far East shows that native priests have increased in number during the past fifty years from less than two hundred to 847. Even Tibet is credited with two, while Che-li, the province most richly provided, possesses 157 native apostles. The work of preparing a native priesthood is one of the chief aims of missionary bishops, and that they have met with a fair measure of success is shown by this year's report.

Fr. Koesters, S. V. D., writes from Shantung: "One dollar can do a great deal of good in China. For instance it will mean a month's salary to the virgin catechist who is teaching catechism in one of my little villages. Catechists, as you all know, are the missionary's right hand in spreading the Faith. The more of them we can employ, the more can be done toward winning this great empire from Satan."

A Word From Kwang Si

Bishop Ducoeur, P. F. M., of Kwang Si, says that he has had some uneasy moments during the past year—moments when he trembled for the fate of his mission. But thanks to Divine Providence, it still survives, though some of the new centres have had to be abandoned.

In one of these localities the missionary has had to sell his horse and discharge the catechist. He has now only twenty dollars with which to face the coming year, and will no doubt soon have to leave his post, although he has been there seven or eight years and was beginning to acquire a good sized flock.

Kwang Si has met with many disasters in the past, and it is owing to the timely assistance sent by us to the faithful Bishop that he has been able to sustain his Christians through floods and famine. There is no need to dwell on the trials of the present, for they are too well known to need repeating.

Seizing An Opportunity

Fr. J. L. Guinard, S. M., is trying to build a church at his Namoi station. The natives are his only assistants, and they work after their own fashion. The necessary timber is procured by cutting down the huge trees that abound and sawing them into logs.

A lifting jack, one of the valuable possessions of the mission, was being used one day to raise a heavy log, when it bent and was rendered temporarily useless. The natives saw in this event a propitious opportunity for taking a holiday. They said: "Our dear jack is dead; it will not work any more; we will not either. We are so sorry. Let us bury our friend with due honors!"

Very sorrowfully a big fellow put it on his shoulder and walked off. Two others fell in in Indian file behind him, and started crying most pitifully, thinking they were to have a funeral. To their great astonishment the jack was set right again; it worked so well that the tree went to its proper place, and they were obliged to resume their labor.

Baptized At Eighty Years of Age.

A White Father of Karsma, Africa, relates this story, which is one of the cheering experiences which go to brighten the routine of missionary life:

"Two months ago I had the consolation of baptizing Namizi, a negro woman eighty years of age."

"She lived two hours' journey from the station, and feeling her end approaching she said to herself: 'I have doubtless not long to

live, and I do not want to die without baptism. I have been so unhappy here—below not to try to be happy in another world"

"Therefore the next morning, fighting her pipe, and taking a basket of potatoes on her arm, the aged creature set out for the mission. The road was a bad one, her limbs were weak, every few moments she had to stop and rest. So slow and painful was her progress that nightfall found her still far from the station."

"There was nothing to do but spend the night under a tree, and this she did, trusting God to preserve her from lions, leopards and hyenas, which infested the district in great numbers."

"In the morning she dragged herself to the convent of the White Sisters, grasping that she wished to become a Christian. She was welcomed, and for two months given catechism instruction, but her old head found it hard to hold the great truths of the Faith."

"I believe with all my heart," she used to say, "Why do you wait any longer? Give me baptism."

"At length, seeing that her health was rapidly failing, Namizi was made a Christian, receiving the name of Anna. At the moment of baptism the poor creature was so happy that she wished to plunge her head into the baptismal font."

"Now Namizi awaits the call to Paradise, happy in having renounced the demon and his ways."

Catholic News Notes

The Denver Cathedral debt was reduced \$13,500 last year. The debt remaining is \$215,000.

The exterior of St. Rose's church, Meriden, Conn., presents the appearance of one of the finest religious edifices in the state. The interior is undergoing a wonderful change.

The centenary of the laying of the foundation stone of the pro-cathedral, Dublin, Ireland, has just been celebrated. There was a sermon by Rev. T. Murphy, S. J.

The Bishops, Austrian seventeen in number, held a meeting recently under the presidency of the Archbishop of Prague, Cardinal Skrbensky.

The new Archbishop of Winnipeg, Manitoba, is Mgr. A. A. Sinnott.

Rev. Dr. P. Hugh Lamy has been elected Abbot of Tongerlo, Belgium.

Catholic Poland is described as a land of graves and trenches, of ruin and destruction, on a scale wrought nowhere else by the war.

At Sienna, in Italy, 3600 children of tender age gathered in the Church of St. Francis and implored the Child Jesus before the Blessed Sacrament to grant peace.

Many thousand priests are doing duty on the battlefields of Europe, and many Sisters are the Angels of the battlefields.

Mgr. Stephen Novak, Greek Catholic Bishop of Eperjes, was decorated by the Emperor of Austria for distinguished war services.

Change in Insurance Firm.

Announcement has been made of a change in one of the pioneer fire insurance firms of this city by which the surviving member Lewis W. Wehn, takes into partnership Henry W. Wedel, president of the Rochester & Manitoa Beach Railway. Originally the firm was Vay & Wehn, the senior member, Rudolph Vay, being one of the pioneer Germans of this city. Some years ago Mr. Vay died and Mr. Wehn continued the firm at 209 Powers Building.