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Friday, February 18, 1916.

Charity.

Truly, has it been said that charity is the greatest of all virtues.

While scores of sermons are preached by the clergy and while hundreds and thousands of laymen and women think they practice charity it is to be doubted that many of us absolutely lose sight of the real, the cardinal principle of Charity?

Do we always repress sharply the temptation to tell "tales out of school" about your less fortunate neighbor when he lapses from the straight and narrow path?

You, Madame Society Queen, have you never held aside your silken skirts lest an unfortunate sister might just touch the hem of your garment? Have you never asserted your native superiority over those of lower station? Have you forgotten the days, perchance, when you were not so wealthy in money, raiment or social position?

You, raised in atmosphere of kindness and good cheer with naught to mar the even tenor of your way, have you never looked with partial scorn on the poor derelicts, possibly by their own fault, possibly by the misdeeds of others?

Answers to these self-searching queries will reveal to your inner conscience whether you really possess the virtue of charity in any degree.

Preparedness.

It is plainly evident that the elections of 1916 are quite likely to turn on the question of "preparedness." And of this there are several phases, conditions and ideas.

In all probability, the majority of the people of the United States favor some sort of an army and navy. Very few, in our opinion, are for absolute disarmament. Pacifists in theory admit when argued with that they are not at fence. His idea is that the Catholic all agreed as to whether this country could get along without any armed defenses.

But there exists a wide difference of opinion as to the extent and limitation of "preparedness." Some would have us build up the strongest navy and the most formidable coast fortifications in the world. Others would hold our navy down to a minimum and make our army a mighty fighting army of offensive and defensive. Others again maintain that we should hold up a huge standing army of regular Federal soldiers. Others would maintain a Federal or continental army but little larger than the present force, but build up the volunteer militia of the several states to maximum force and train them to be a reserve section of the Federal Army subject to instant draft in case of invasion or threatened danger.

It is a large and complex problem is "preparedness."

"Vanity."

Under the above heading the Rochester Herald has the following well-put editorial observation:

The professional photographer for publicity services catches all sorts of people in all sorts of poses, and men and women in high station seem to enter into this sport with zest. That is, it is easy to observe from the pose that they have allowed themselves to be arranged by the camera man. We observe men high in office shaking hands as though they were delighted to meet, but they are not eyeing one another. On the contrary, each optic is fastened upon the camera.

Thus we see in a Philadelphia paper of recent issue a picture of a ticket seller and a woman passenger. It is to illustrate a mechanical change machine installed in a transit company's ticket booth. The pretty female is eyeing the camera, but the ticket agent has his eyes steady in the direction of the pretty girl's countenance.

"Every man at his best state is altogether vanity, saith the psalmist.

Who has not smiled when he sees the inordinate vanity displayed in photographs? Has Madame a pretty hand, a rounded forearm, a pronounced dimple, a noticeable forehead or dainty curls? Is she photographed? The artist must, perforce, pose her so that these attractions are displayed most prominently. Mister Smith must turn his head and pose his face so as to produce the best impression possible.

We are all more or less vain and we do not hesitate to show it.

Common Sense.

Our compliments to S. A. Baldus, the alert editor of "Extension" on his courage to tell the Catholic editors how to run their papers.

Dr. Baldus well says that the person who, without editorial experience or training assumes to tell men who have given their lives to the work, how to perform it. But that is the trend of the age. Mr. Brandeis, who never did a day's railroading in his life, who scarcely knows the difference between narrow and standard gauge has the assurance to tell railroaders that if he were put in charge of a transcontinental system he could operate it far better than they ever have or ever could. Theorists, who solve problems on paper to their own satisfaction, take the center of the stage and tell men who have made striking successes of state institutions that they are failures and know naught of their work.

And so we say that the criticism referred to by Dr. Baldus, unjust though it may be, of Catholic editors and their work is only a sample of the trend of the times. However, the Catholic editorial fraternity owe debt of gratitude to Dr. Baldus for his splendidly argued with that they are not at fence. His idea is that the Catholic all agreed as to whether this country could get along without any armed defenses.

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Notwithstanding the Missouri verdict, the menace is still a real menace to American institutions.

Needed Reform.

Governor Whitman and the State Industrial Commission have taken a splendid step in the direction of reducing "dual inspection" to a minimum.

At present in Greater New York manufacturers and proprietors of mercantile establishments are subject to inspection, supervision or regulation by the building, fire and health departments of the Greater New York; by the inspection, fire hazards and explosives bureau, the industrial hygiene and other departments of the State Industrial Commission; the State Health Department and in some cases, of the Federal Bureau of Labor and Health.

While it must be conceded that inspection, regulation and supervision is needed, there is no gain-saying the contention that much of this is dual in nature and could be eliminated. In the matter of construction, there is needless delay and vexation.

The Governor proposes a plan whereby much of this dual inspection in Greater New York may be done away with. If so much could be accomplished in 1916, another year may see a beginning toward relief in the up-state districts.

Dr. Baldus is right when he says that the day of the editorial page as conducted by McMaster, Dava, Godkin, Purcell, O'Connor, David Gray, Samuel Bowles and Horace Greely has passed. It may return but we doubt it.

The small boy may yet have a whirl at sled and skates before 1916 goes for good.

Who shall say that Richard T. Ford, with his bachelor hotel, may not yet prove to be one of Rochester's greatest benefactors?

Archbishop Mundelein is now installed in his see of Chicago.

"A very hard worker. A fine, straightforward, big-hearted Irish-American-American first." So writes H. O'Leary, a contractor in the Philippines of Bishop Dougherty, the new head of the Buffalo diocese.

We are all more or less dependent upon our fellows.

Nearly all the papers in the country, have turned yellow - that is in color due to the scarcity - because of the war - of sulphite, the substance used in bleaching the print paper.

Every Sunday is a day to church Sunday for Catholics.

Why not cut out banquets in Lent.

Rt. Rev. J. L. O'Connell has been promoted from auxiliary Bishop of St. Paul to be Bishop of Lead, S. D. His new diocese covers 41,750 square miles and has a population of 15,000, of which 6,500 are Indians.

Governor Dunne, of Illinois, came to Buffalo last week. This reminds us that Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Illinois seem to find no difficulty with Catholic Governors. But New York has not had a Catholic governor since Dougan, who was an appointed executive.

If Colonel Roosevelt should happen to be nominated for president by the regular Republican national convention what will become of our old friend, Charles H. Betts, of the Lyons "Republican?"

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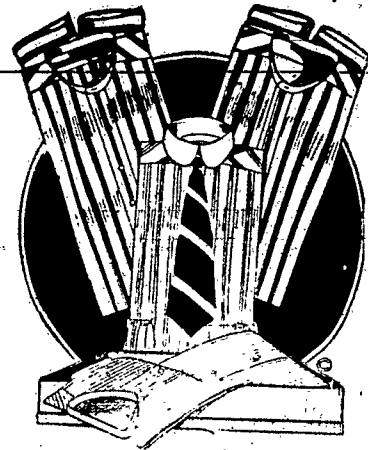
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