

THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL

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Impudence!

The more that the so-called "Strong Investigation" is studied, the more apparent it becomes that a deliberate attempt to prejudice the public mind by absolutely false testimony and manufactured evidence against the privately-conducted Christian charities of the New York State was made by those behind this effort to discredit all private charities and to substitute therefor an infidel and worse system supervised and operated by big gamesters with whom the average "Guardian of Liberty" would seem an angel.

Early in the progress of the inquiry, we took the position that it were not well to shout off the bat, so to speak, that all Catholic institutions were faultless and especially, since we were compelled to practise many economies inasmuch as we were not blessed with unlimited facility to tap the millions of the Rockefeller Foundation, the Russell Sage Foundation or the Carnegie Fund.

However, the animus of the whole inquiry is now so apparent that we are forced to the conclusion that had our institutions been equipped never so handsomely they would have been condemned, nevertheless, because we teach religion and do not see fit to tell the orphans about birth control and the other nastinesses which the propagandists of the expulsion of God from the orphan asylums and other charities which are not under the secular control of the faddists alluded to are so fond of exploiting.

Where our Catholic Sisters have attempted to install "vocational guidance" they are accused of making drudges out of the girls. And when called to task because they had mis-stated facts, the Hotchkiss-Doherty-Bernstein witnesses before Commissioner Strong had the impudence to say that the Sisters had modified conditions because of the interference of Charities Commissioner Kingsbury, of New York City. (Conditions which never existed at all mind you.)

But this is not all. The Kingsbury crowd have resorted to wild and malicious falsehood. They testified that there was no playground at St. Joseph's Home in New York City. A writer in the New York Herald refutes this and describes the playground with its fine trees, its swings, recreation benches and other usual paraphernalia for playing. This writer also describes "a superb assembly hall, commodious and airy. At one end it has a little stage with scenery, curtain and flies. Most unusual of all, I found a first-class moving picture apparatus in a fireproof inclosure, and a good selection of films, some of them educational, but many others amusing rather than strictly instructive."

Mr. Doherty, Commissioner

Kingsbury's deputy and me too, testified that the quality of the teaching and the needlework of the pupils in St. Joseph's Home was distinctly below the average.

This is refuted in "America" by Rev. Paul Blakely, who tells about the curriculum and the teachers who are all lay women with diplomas from the College of the City of New York and other non-Catholic educational institutions. It is also stated that although several hundred specimens of needlework were on exhibition when Mr. Doherty visited St. Joseph's, he never even looked at one, yet testified as quoted.

But Dr. Doherty finds fault that "Morality clubs" are not organized in St. Joseph's, although the children are instructed in their religion. What would he have? Does he want Religion eliminated altogether? Does he want our orphan asylums and homes closed and State institutions, where God cannot be mentioned except as the infidels want Lodge rule substituted for God and the Church desire in an impersonal way.

There is far more to all this than appears on the surface. We Catholics must be up and doing. To be sure, it may not touch us now with our homes intact and our children around us. Of course, the bigots we have been talking about would not dare to touch those who are protected or whose parents are in the social and financial law. But suppose we are taken away and it becomes necessary that our children are put in an institution? Would we want them deprived of religious training? And we should fight to the bitter end to protect our homes and asylums from the impudent intrusion of non-official meddlers from these self-constituted guardians of morality, society and what not.

Let us be on our guard because these harpies are planted in every walk of life to spy and twist and turn things to their own advantage.

Charity Guilds.

It is not amiss to call attention again to the splendid work being done by the Catholic Charity Guild and the Catholic Men's Charity League.

These organizations are working hard to take care of our Catholic charitable work. As is known, it is the intention of our Right Reverend Bishop that we shall take care of our own. We are not blessed, as yet, with the large endowments of the non-Catholic societies which are organized to carry on the same work. But it must be remembered, that our overhead expenses are not so large and that practically all money contributed goes toward relief. Hence those who contribute can rest assured that their donations are spent in carrying out the ends for which they are contributed.

But because our expenses are smaller, it must not be concluded that money and assistance are not needed. They are. And money and supplies are always gratefully accepted and put to the very best possible use. Clothing, discarded beds, furniture, all are acceptable and can be utilized at all times.

Let those of us who are blessed with a fairly bountiful supply of this world's goods for ourselves and our families not forget those who are not so fortunate. They may not be in fault themselves that they are not so well supplied. In any event, those in charge of the practical side of the Guild and League's work, will see to it that aid is not bestowed upon unworthy applicants.

Let us hold up our Bishop's hands in this and in all the other good or works he has undertaken.

Dancing.

Even from the standpoint of the non-thinking layman, no fault could be found with the ban understood to have been laid by Pope Benedict XV upon dancing when carried on in connection with entertainments given by purely parochial societies organized for purely religious purposes. In these days, when dancing has degenerated from the innocent amusement it was intended into grotesque and often indecent posturings, it is not seemly, judged strictly from the viewpoint of a layman interested in promotion of consistency, that religious societies primarily organized for the greater glory of God, should encourage anything which might lead us into temptation.

If fraternal societies, not under the protection and auspices of the Church directly, choose to have dancing as a part of their social entertainments, probably not so much scandal might result. But, if the pastoral letters of Cardinal Farley, of New York and Bishop Cusack, of Albany, are to be understood as reported in the press, dancing will not be permitted at any entertainment or function in these Dioceses the advertised purpose of which is to raise funds for Church purposes.

Vacation Plans.

Catholics who are planning their vacations should heed this advice by the Rev. Bernard X. O'Reilly:—

Vacation time will soon be with us. Our people are already planning where they will go. The relative advantages of country and seashore, of valley and mountain, are being measured. In our planning let us not forget there can be no vacation from our duty to God.

In selecting a place to spend his holiday the Catholic should first satisfy himself that there is a church at the seaside resort or mountain village. One who does not think of his duties as a Catholic in figuring on his vacation can not excuse himself from mortal sin when he finds there is no Sunday mass at the summer resort. If we forget God in our plans to make life happy we must expect that God will not think of us in His plans for happiness in eternity.

If there is any more unpopular individual in this community than the official meteorologist, or what ever you call the chap in the Federal Building who fixes up the weather, we surely do not know his name.

The Catholic Journal extends hearty congratulations to Bishop Dougherty upon assuming the episcopal purple in the Diocese of Buffalo. The Diocese is also to be congratulated on receiving so distinguished a son of the Church as successor to the saintly Bishop Colton.

Martin H. Glynn made a remarkable speech at the Democratic national convention in St. Louis. Brother Glynn may never be elected Governor or President, but he will enjoy an enviable distinction as orator and editor.

Many a Catholic reader will hear with regret of the death of Sister M. Antonio, of the Sisters of Mercy, who wrote so many beautiful stories and poems under the nom de plume of "Rev. Richard W. Alexander." May her soul rest in peace!

Mother Gained 30 Pounds

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