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Friday, July 7, 1916

Facts Shown.

Last week we stated that when the roster of the State troops now being mustered into the United States service for the Mexican frontier were made up, it would be demonstrated it would be that men of the Catholic faith would be found in proportion, if not in excess, of the population of the cities or other localities where they were recruited.

This fact is being shown more and more conclusively wherever troops are being equipped. Names alone are not proof, but names show how the wind blows.

But there are other evidences at hand. The Tenth Battalion of Albany's chaplain is a Catholic priest and it is certain that he will be found wherever his services are needed, either in camp, or in the forefront of battle, should the battalion go into action.

Scarcely a Catholic Church in Albany and elsewhere, in which troops were sent to Camp Whittier on the Mexican border, for the last three weeks, but saw from ten to a hundred soldiers, more boys, in uniform, at early Mass, than two million divorcees have receiving Holy Communion, very best preparation for their work ahead.

Indeed, the Catholics of the United States will not be found lacking in true patriotism or love of country in this crisis.

Let us hope that all will be spared to return to home and loved ones.

Stamp It Out!

The Catholic Journal has thought that many of the rumors of bigotry in high places were exaggerated. We still hold to that opinion.

But there are persistent rumors to the contrary of our opinion. Hence we take this opportunity to warn those in high places, whether in active official life, now, or who entertain hopes of official high place as a result of the campaign of 1916, that they must repress and frown upon any attempt to convey the idea that a religion, or lack of religion, has any bearing whatever in the campaign now on.

It is reported that several gentlemen who have either been placed in nomination or will be placed in nomination, have given assurances to the infamous "Guardians" that they will see to it, if elected, that no Catholics are appointed to high office, no matter what their qualifications, or support. In fact, the affair is said to have proceeded so far, that the backers of the "Strong inquiry" are boasting that the event of certain turns of the political wheel the Catholic church are, to use the vernacular, "put out of business."

We beg to assure the gentlemen, who talk this way, if they are correctly quoted, that the American people, non-Catholics

as well as Catholics, will bitterly resent any such tactics and that they are in the mood to relegate to political oblivion anybody who stands for such a contemptible programme.

Beam and Mote.

Frequently, the Catholic Journal has attempted to hint to those who are so anxious to reform foreign lands, that it would help if they would take a glimpse at conditions right at home. The Jesuit weekly, "America", has an editorial in point in commenting upon the recent "Protestant Missionary Conference of Panama". It says:

For the last few weeks, non-Catholic clergymen of a certain type have been basing their courses upon the iniquities of South America, as discovered and exploited by this unique Missionary Congress. We have been told that there is not in all South America "a single influence to check vice," that "the priests and prelates of the Romish Church are ignorant, careless, or immoral," that "infidelity mainly is spreading over the entire country," and that "morality, as understood in the United States, is practically unknown." The only remedy against these evils is the introduction of Protestant and American ideals.

Without pausing to consider the efficacy of this remedy, which has been in use at home for some years, it may be profitable to extend, somewhat further, the suggested contrast between South America and the United States.

Speaking, on April 12, before a House Committee, appointed to discuss a resolution prescribing uniform divorce laws throughout the United States, the Rev. Lloyd Tompkins, of Holy Trinity Church, (Episcopal), Philadelphia, said:

Our condition has become almost bestial. The rich divorce men and women far more frequently marry divorced women; I have known many cases of the kind here in Philadelphia. It is nothing less than swinish. More than two million divorcees have been granted in the United States during the last fifty years. Only one nation, Japan, has exceeded this number.

Again we say: "Cast the beam out of thine own eye!"

The Reason Why!

Possibly, one of the reasons, if not the real reason, why non-Catholics are deploring the lack of interest in their religious exercises, and also their complaint that the Catholics seem able to beguile converts to their church, may be found in the following: A non-Catholic clergyman who was asked recently to resign his charge:

Not long ago I was deeply distressed by having a member of the vestry say, in a serious, friendly conversation, that his idea of running a church was that it should be run, just as a grocery store is run, to please the patrons. No one could run a successful grocery store, he told me, who let his private convictions interfere with his selling his patrons what they wanted, liquor or anything else. About the same time I was told by another member of the vestry that the plain indication on my part that I thought there were sinners in Trinity would give offense, and I was asked to strike out of a sermon that was to be, or support. In fact, the affair has reference occurred. Somewhat later the same member, the dominant in the vestry, said to me as there were probably nine sinners to one saint in the church he thought that I ought to preach to please the sinners, to make them uncomfortable when they came to the church, not to irritate them.

It is quite possible that the clergyman in question may have had other faults than those he acknowledges, rather, pleads in extenuation, nevertheless he has touched upon one point where the Catholic Church appeals to the average fair minded man. In the Catholic Church he will not hear political harangues in the pulpit, he will not witness vaudeville or hear the latest operatic grotesque or listen to Billy Sunday, either personally or by proxy.

When a sermon or instruction is given it will be upon the Gospel of the Day and the Gospel only. Christ and Him crucified has not been banished from the Catholic Church or pulpit and hypocrisy is not at a premium.

ANCIENT POSTAL SERVICE.

The Old Persian and Roman System of Couriers on Horseback.
 While the Roman postal service of ancient days was of course, a crude system, yet the mails were forwarded with considerable speed. The system of couriers on horseback was borrowed from the Persians, who, according to Xenophon, had established it under Cyrus. The Roman adaptation of this was the last system of transmission letters among the ancients.

Along the great Roman roads stations were erected at distances of five or six miles from one another. At each of these stations forty horses were constantly maintained, and in the help of relay it was easy to travel 100 miles in a day.

These services were intended for the state only, it being imperative to secure the rapid interchange of official communications. In the time of Julius Caesar the system was so well organized that of two letters the great soldier wrote from Britain to Caeser at Rome the one reached its destination in twenty-six and the other in twenty-four days.

Private citizens were obliged to resort to the services of slaves, and it was not until the end of the third century that there was an establishment of a postal system for private persons by the Emperor Diocletian. But how long this system endured history does not inform us.

The supply of horses and their maintenance was compulsory, and only the emperor had great exemption from it.



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 Seated in Front: Margaret Johnson.

The New Bell Book is Out

The summer edition of the Bell Book is now being distributed to subscribers in Rochester.

The new directory contains, in addition to Rochester listings, subscribers' listings for outside exchanges frequently called from Rochester.

The publication of these out-of-town exchanges in the Rochester directory enables you to send toll calls by the rapid "two-number" method.

You may have occasion, however, to call exchanges which do not appear in the new Bell Book. In such case you may obtain the telephone number of the party you wish to reach by calling "Toll-Operator."

We will be pleased to send you a directory containing Bell listings for any section of the Western Division, if you feel that you can use the book to advantage in sending your toll calls. Just call the Chief Operator.

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