

THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY AT
 4 North Street, Rochester, N. Y.
 BY THE
 CATHOLIC JOURNAL PUBLISHING
 COMPANY

If paper is not received Saturday notify the office.
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SUBSCRIPTION RATES
 Per Year, in Advance, \$1.00
 Entered at second class mail matter.
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Friday, August 11, 1916.

Misinformed.

In a recent issue of the Union and Advertiser, appears a letter from "A. Stanley Copeland" which protests against any relief being sent to Ireland because the Irish are well off and unlike the starving Belgians. Mr. Copeland makes these assertions:
 "War industries in the cities and towns, and intensive agriculture in the country offer the chance to work to every one capable of doing any work. Those who have been widowed and orphaned as a result of the Sinn Féin rebellion will not be permitted to starve in a country where such a degree of prosperity exists and where hearts are ever open to any human need."
 "There is no analogy between the industrial situation in Ireland and in Belgium. Millions of Belgians were beggared by the war owing to the destruction of their commerce and industries by the German invasion. Ireland survived the Casement invasion without being reduced to that state of destitution requiring American charity; and the British government refuses to permit Mr. Kelly to carry out his mission. Perhaps there is a reason, after all."
 "We hope that Mr. Copeland is merely misinformed and not acting as the English censor who refused to permit this paragraph to appear in an Irish monthly in its report of the address of the rector of the Irish College in Rome:—

There was, indeed, a famine; but it was a famine in the midst of plenty. It came not from the penuriousness of nature, but from the legalized injustice of man. It was a famine made by man, but they threw the blame of it on God. Those who were most responsible for it allude to it as a visitation of divine Providence; and that would have been a truly pious reflection if it were a fact. But in the light of religion it was hypocrisy; in the light of economics it was untrue. As much corn was grown in Ireland during these years of famine as would maintain half of the population; but it was taken out of the country under the protection of the law and was devoted to other purposes than to the support of those who grew it."
 Persons who are uninformed as to facts, or who glean their information from the censored English reports should not rush into print haphazard. They are very apt to run against some one who does know the facts and then they are sure to be discomfited.

Well Spent Life.

Hon. John M. Murphy presented to this community the splendid example of a well-spent life. His was a life filled with hard work and devotion to high ideals. By nature a student and let us say it reverently because the world needs more of them, a

dreamer. Some of his intimate friends have regretted that he was forced to turn his attention to the material things of life, in order to win a livelihood for himself and those of his family. Because his labors might have profited his fellow; far more if turned entirely toward literary pursuits and philosophical research.

On the other hand, this material work may and undoubtedly did tend to balance the practical with the dreamland and the net result was a hard worker in civic life, a profound student in the library and on the bench, a charming companion in private life and, all ways, a courteous, kindly, loyal Catholic gentleman.

Rochester is better for the existence among its citizenship of men of the type of John M. Murphy. While he was versed in political science, even of the practical sort, never did he permit himself to be a mere time-server. He did not sacrifice principle to attain place. Had he been more of the time-serving sycophant, he might have attained higher place but that was not in John Murphy's makeup. He valued his own self-respect far higher than material wealth or position.

To his sorrowing family the Catholic Journal extends sincere sympathy in their crushing bereavement. And may God, in His infinite goodness, grant eternal rest to his soul.

Already Working.

Writing in "America", a convert newspaper man makes this caustic comment upon the demand of Mrs. Frank Harris for the establishment of a "Department of Morals and Ethics in the Public Schools":—
 "Do I bore you?—I know a convert is apt to wax excited where Catholics of birth and tradition and training calmly see and accept things that are matters of course to them. But don't you become just a bit too matter-of-fact and unemotional and unexcited? Don't you sometimes forget what you are doing for your country with your Catholic schools? Believe an old newspaperman when he says that his experience proves to him that the great trouble of the times is hunger and thirst, a slow starvation, a malnutrition of the soul. Men and women are good at bottom, for at bottom they are immortal spirits. God made them, and they must be good, and only that which is good will be useful to them and satisfy them and make them joyous and at peace. But they are mostly cut off from the source of their true food by ignorance and error and the fog of banks fuming from the seas of evil where the spirit of darkness dwells. But we who are Catholics know that the source of the food and light which they crave is the Church of Christ; and that His religion is not merely going to church on Sundays; it is life itself; life sanctified by Him; and we know our schools are part of His work."

"In fact, my boy, is Mrs. Frank Harris only knew it the Department of Morals and Ethics which she so correctly desires to see established, is already working in the Catholic school. But I see you are smiling again at the convert. Let's talk about the Conventions."

All Should Go.

While it is quite true that there is much suffering, if reports are to be believed, in the countries where the war is raging and that the Americans are sympathetic whenever they hear of distress, nevertheless, it is patent that for contributions to help out this or that alleged war distress should be scrutinized carefully lest we hand over money to persons or committees which are not all they would have us believe they are.

It is a pleasure to record that each year the number of Catholic pleasure-seekers who refuse to go to a summer resort inaccessible to a Catholic church is on the increase. That the attendants upon the "week-end retreat for Catholic men" established two years ago in Rochester is increasing is a splendid sign of the times. If all the gossips and scandal-mongers could only be deported

It is reported on fairly good authority that professional solicitors and organizers have put together on paper organizations with high-sounding titles and headed by well-known citizens, and then proceeded to haul in large amounts of money very little of which ever will reach its ostensible destination.

There is little doubt that quite a few of these organizations exist for the sole purpose of paying fat commissions to professional solicitors and big salaries to the officers and promoters.

Here in Rochester, we have a Chamber of Commerce one of whose aims is to weed out shams and fakes in the way of charity work and also in the way of bogus advertising schemes. If approached for contributions for either a war charity or any other unknown relief work, it would be a wise move to telephone the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce who will at once inform you whether that particular relief work is listed in the Chamber as a worthy institution. If not listed there, it is safe to assume your contribution would do far more good if kept right within your own pocket.

Of course, this admonition does not apply to appeals sent out by our Bishops for the war sufferers. They know conditions and they also forward the funds collected to the proper channels, where we have full assurances they are distributed. We also have full knowledge that no paid salaried or commissioned solicitors draw down the funds before relief work is started. Every cent paid into the Catholic charity fund is devoted to the end for which it was given. Quite often the professionals criticize the Catholic plan because it "hurts their business." However, we cannot help that phase of uplift work. Most of our "settlement work" is done by voluntary workers, whereas on the other side, very often public funds are used to pay "trained workers", whose great work is to spread "non-sectarian propaganda" which means in plain English "non-Catholicity." All things Catholic are sectarian, everything Protestant is "non-sectarian."

He who thinks himself indispensable makes a great mistake. There is none so valuable his place cannot be filled.
 A non-Catholic editor—in Florida, whose publication has been boycotted by the "Guardians" because he refused to join in a non-Catholic propaganda, declines to be worried. "We prefer," says he, "to be a dead lion than a live hyena." And he rubs it in by saying all Guardians are of the hyena type.

So Justice Hughes is, personally, a suffragist, while as a tried and true Republican, he subscribes to the plank declaring for statehood decision as to whether women should vote.

Well, this year the presidential battle will be between intellectual giants. And may the best man win!

Protestant, Jew, Gentile and all others who knew him united in paying tribute to the broad-minded American citizenship of the late Thomas M. Mulry. May his soul rest in peace!

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