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Friday, November 24, 1916.

Thanksgiving.

What a deal the American people have to be thankful for, in 1916, to be sure?

While prices of foodstuffs are soaring high, the United States has not been drawn into war, as is the case in Europe. Homes have not been disrupted and fathers, brothers and sweethearts are not huddled in the trenches or sleeping their last sleep in soldiers' graves. Our cities are intact and our rural portions have not been devastated by shot and shell.

Therefore, President Wilson has done well in adding to his Thanksgiving proclamation for 1916, after appointing a day for the American people to render thanks for the peace and prosperity they enjoy the admonition to give heed to the warring nations of Europe from which these blessings have been withheld "to think in deep sympathy of the peoples of the world upon whom the curse and the terror of the war have so pitilessly fallen, and to contribute out of our abundant means to the relief of their sufferings."

And so, while next Thursday we eat our Thanksgiving dinner of 1916 let us not forget those who are not so fortunate, both here and abroad.

Depew and David

Under the above caption the New York "World" has an apt editorial lament ex-Senator Chauncey M. Depew's sage reflection upon his recent birthday that "Many when they reach seventy years think they ought to die, and they die."

Our New York contemporary goes on to say:

It is all a misinterpretation. There is no "Scriptural term." When David sang that "the days of our years are threescore years and ten" he did not draw a limit, but stated an average. Insurance men do this when they say that John Smith at forty-five has an expectation of twenty-five years. But when he reaches the end of them he need not die; he has still an expectation of nearly ten years.

We had an example of the same error when Dr. Osler joked about the forty-year dead-line for active life. He was past forty, and undertaking new labors; he lived and worked nearly to the seventies. Yet many persisted in taking him seriously. Gladstone, leading at eighty-four a political party; Lyndhurst, making a fine speech at eighty-nine; Michael Angelo, carrying on vast architectural work at eighty-nine; Titian, painting nearly ten years longer; Chevreul, in our own times, clicking glasses with a seventy-three-year old son at his one-hundredth birthday dinner and still a professor, are examples of men who treated King David's remark as Scriptural but not a "term."

Keeping young in spite of years is like other branches of the difficult art of living. Each is entitled to all the youth he can get away with, since all profit by it.

Why Not Be Sure?

The Catholic Journal has frequently called attention to the mistakes made by secular non-Catholic writers in describing Catholic ceremonies and in speaking about Catholic matters in general. Many of these mistakes are donethrough ignorance and not intentionally. They are not in the class with the malicious falsehoods in the "Menace" and the publications of that ilk.

In a recent issue "America" writes so intelligently on this same subject that we cannot refrain from quoting in full as follows:

Sir Gilbert Parker in his latest novel makes a gentle, unoffending, white-haired priest walk about the streets of Manitou, in a scarlet cassock, a white chasuble and a black biretta, carrying in a sacred vessel "the elements of the Mass."

Mr. A. H. Fitch in his recent story, just from the press, makes another priest say, "I baptize you in the name of the Father and the Son and the Spirit, Amen." The current number of one of the fashionable monthlies depicts the magic process by which a staunch Scotch Presbyterian is inducted into the Faith. The man, a drunkard, has a fatal fall, the priest appears, and while you wait, the Protestant is turned into a Catholic. The writer is sure that the man could not speak; he "guesses" that he was conscious, but he is certain that he died in the Faith. This last statement he insists on three times in almost as many sentences.

Mistakes that proceed from ignorance or indifference are to be deplored, but for these there is hope of amendment. Non-Catholic writers are beginning to see that it is worth their while not to speak at random but to verify impressions about the Church.

But with the malicious misrepresentation of which the third case is an example, it is quite different. The sketch referred to would never have been printed if it had not catered to religious animosity. It has no literary excellence; no wit, no humor, no pathos, no redeeming quality of style or expression. Its one point is its deliberate travesty of Catholicism. It has not even the quality of straightforward statement. It has recourse to double indirectness and to contemptible suggestion. The wonder of it is that the owner of the magazine which published the story is a Catholic. Evidently he allows his editor-in-chief a great deal of latitude.

Keep Politics Out!

Let there be no injection of religion into political campaigns from now on, no matter from what source it comes? "Professional Catholic or Protestant politicians have sternly rebuked once and for all by the voters of the United States. The presidential contest of 1916 was decided on the merits of the respective party platforms and candidates to a great extent.

Religious prejudice has no place in this Republic, either in or between presidential campaigns.

What a number of automobile fatalities there are reported these days in all sections of the country.

The Catholic Theater League is doing good work for the purification of the American stage.

If the fraternal orders all over the country would set their faces against bigotry and religious prejudice much good would result.

"Watchful waiting" fits Charles Evans H. as well as Woodrow W.

The Drug Habit.

There is, unfortunately, no doubt whatever that the abnormal use of drugs and the number of drug-users in the United States is on the increase constantly and that its devotees runs up into the million users.

This is a sad state of affairs. And those who use drugs are not confined to the lower classes, by any means. Professional persons, educated men and women are included in the list just as well as the criminals and the lower classes. It is a sad state of affairs.

Let us give hearty support to our Catholic press, both the weekly Catholic papers and the monthly magazines.

Juvenile clubs are being organized with good results by many local councils of the Knights of Columbus.

Catholic amateurs are winning deserved encomiums these days by reason of the fine histrionic talent they are displaying these days in Rochester.

Archbishop Harty of Manila, will be installed as Bishop of Omaha on November 30th.

November, the month set aside by Holy Mother Church for special devotions in aid of the souls in Purgatory will soon be over and we should not forget the personal obligation implied thereby.

"Politics, politics, politics" is the all-one read for months in the daily press. It is with a sigh of relief that the average reader turned to his favorite Catholic weekly.

Christmas will be here anon. Do your Christmas shopping early!

The Deutschland in America has its troubles as well as its namesake in Europe.

This is no time for Capital and Labor to make faces at each other. The public may take it into its head to give both a sound trouncing.

Every cloud has a silver lining. Report has it that the high cost of paper may result in the retirement of that bane of the veteran smoker - the gaudy cigar band.

That Mexican-American conference does not seem to be getting anywhere.

Query: - When will a Federal investigation into the reason for the high price of foodstuffs produce lower prices?

How will Colonel Roosevelt get to Fiji Islands without passing through California?

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