

THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL

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Friday, March 9, 1917.

Made and Unmade.

Under date of November 16, 1916, the Methodist "Northern Christian Advocate" published an article stating that graduates of Catholic schools, upon examination for state teachers certificates, had proven themselves grossly ignorant of even the minor educational qualifications.

Father Tierney, the scholarly editor of "America" started out to run this astonishing story to earth and an astonishing sequel followed. Assistant State Commissioner of Education A. S. Downing stated positively that no distinction was made by the New York state department between applicants from Catholic schools and otherwise, consequently it would be impossible to distinguish in answers as the "Advocate" had alleged.

Next the city editor of the New York American wrote that the article published in the American was a humorous skit on the peculiar mental drift displayed in answers to a recent examination test and that no mention whatever had been made as to the schools from which the applicants had been previously graduated.

And now mark the climax, the New York "American" wrote to the "Christian Advocate" direct and received this self-explanatory letter and apology:— New York American, Gentlemen:

Your letter of the 15th to hand, We thank you for the explanation contained therein and will print it in the next issue of the Northern and send you a marked copy. The article in question was a clipping from another paper (probably the Menace) and we were requested to publish it. It was printed verbatim. The introduction is not ours. In fact not one word of it was written by us. Inadvertently the fact that it was a selected article was noted at the foot. However, whoever was responsible for the misconstruction of your article has very little sense of honor. It was a mean trick. Let me say that the cutting is in my desk here for scarcely knowing why, I saved it. We generally wastepaper the copy the week after issue, but I reserved this. Of course, the suggestion stated above that it might be from the Menace is only my assumption from the quality of the paper and the general makeup. I have seen a few copies of the Missouri sheet. Again thanking you for your explanation and humbly apologizing for any hurt you may have suffered, I remain Sincerely yours, S. Ainsworth Lumb.

Which is Better?

Which is for the best interests of the State?

- 1. Statewide prohibition of the manufacture and sale of intoxicants? 2. Extension of the local option referendum from townships as the unit to counties and cities, either voting collectively or separately as the unit of choice? 3. A large increase in the liquor license fee, discretion in the officials charged with the responsibility of granting liquor licenses as to who shall receive a license, a tax upon the gross receipts of licensed places over a certain amount and the consequent reduction of the number of drinking places?

These are the three propositions now before the New York State Legislature of 1917 and each is claimed by its sponsors and advocates as a simon pure temperance measure and the very best legislative enactment designed to further temperance among the residents of New York state.

To be sure, the voter is not permitted, as a rule, to weigh the relative merits and demerits of the three propositions, fairly and impartially. He is bombarded either verbally or by epistolary means with arguments more or less lucid but generally lurid in tone and argument, for one or the other by itself. So far as the attacking party is concerned the voter never hears of the other two sections of the tripartite exercise proposition. There's a reason. The attacking party draws his retainer from the friends of the proposition he is championing and if either of the other two are written into the statutes his usefulness is impaired, his retainer is cut or shut off altogether.

Yet there are sound arguments in favor of all three propositions and they should be all embodied in one referendum and submitted to the voters next fall for a choice, the Legislature to put in vogue the proposition receiving the affirmative vote of the most voters in the State of New York.

No matter how the Legislature decides there will be vigorous objection from the friends of the other two propositions.

But if the people have their chance to express their opinion and register their choice the paid advocates of the propositions defeated will have scant opportunity to air their grievances after the referendum has been taken. The dear public will simply say: "Go to".

More Than Half Right.

Our friend Betts hits it off pretty well when he writes in the Lyons "Republican", under the caption "Fake Reform":—

It is too bad that the members of the legislature cannot think of some more reasons why we should have more state inspectors, state supervisors and state agents. We have one now at each elbow and a procession marching behind us and another procession marching in front of us. We cannot turn around without running into a state inspector who is obsessed with the idea that we are incompetent to take care of ourselves. Of course the people are paying the price. They endorse the theory that the state is composed largely of moral and intellectual imbeciles—that personal liberty is a dangerous thing, that a man's right to live his own life, so long as he injures nobody else, is an exploded doctrine, and that personal liberty means personal inspection, supervision and control. If the people like this sort of thing they should have it and of course they are paying a high price for it in ever increasing taxation. The people must continue to have taxes in the same proportion that they have fake reform.

When will the Legislature of 1917 adjourn, asks a valued correspondent. Nobody knows, not even Governor Whitman.

Plain Evidence

President Wilson has been supported in his programme with reference to the belligerent nations by the Senate and House of Representatives.

Naturally, the disclosure of the amazing effort of Germany to induce Mexico to form an alliance with Japan to attack the United States while the Germans kept the other nations engaged by their ruthless submarine warfare surprised many.

This plot was aided and abetted by the ex-German Ambassador, Von Bernstorff, while he was still in this country and protesting undying friendship to this country and touching love for the American people. After all the aid and assistance this country really has been Germany in her hour of trouble, her Foreign Minister was willing to egg on our Mexican neighbors to commit national harikiri for that is what the Zimmerman proposal means. Japan is not at all likely to forswear her treaties with England, France and Russia and ally herself with Germany even to win her cherished goal of the Philippines. She has not yet recovered from the Russo-Japanese war of some years ago. Moreover, Japan is not likely to ally herself with a losing cause and how can Germany be expected to win with practically the world arrayed against her? Nevertheless, in desperation, Germany's governing bodies were willing to wheedle Mexico into worrying the United States so as to keep us away from Germany.

It is a sorry exhibition of foreign diplomacy. And, unfortunately, there appears to be a small coterie of our public men who, in such a crisis, appear willing to lower our national honor and to announce to the world that the Stars and Stripes may be flouted with impunity.

It is not necessary to go to war or to declare war in order to compel respect for the flag by foreign nations. All that is needed is a firm resolution to enforce our rights at all times—by force if need be—and proclaim such readiness to the world at large. That is sufficient.

To Be Feared

United States senators and ex-Cabinet officers who would tie the hands of the President of the United States, either to gratify personal prejudices and opinions or to gain partisan advantage, are men to be shunned, distrusted and despised by honest men.

A shrewd business man once remarked to the writer: "I prefer a clever crook to an over honest and over-zealous crank. The crook we can locate and suppress where the over-zealous crank is going to spill the beans."

We would not charge that the handful of filibusterers in the United States Senate who tried in every way in the closing days of Congress to hamper and thwart the clearly expressed will of the people of the United States were clever crooks or animated by dishonest motives. Not at all. But surely they proved themselves, over-zealous and misguided cranks and in that capacity did as much damage as if they had been traitorous allies in the pay of foreign countries.

Every one of these men should be retired to private life if he is now holding public office of any capacity. Those who are in private life should be so ostracised that even the managers of Chautauquas or lyceum lecture bureaus would find it peculiarly unprofitable to give them an engagement.

Monroe County judicial circles lost a shining light while the State gains a valuable public servant when John A. Barhite was transferred by Governor Charles Whitman from the special county judgeship of Monroe County to

the public service commissioner-ship of the second district of the State of New York.

Catholic reading matter is a valuable home adjunct during the Lenten season. And, of course, a Catholic weekly paper should always be included in "Catholic reading matter."

John McCormack of Athlone, Ireland, and a vocalist by occupation "has made application to be naturalized as an American citizen."

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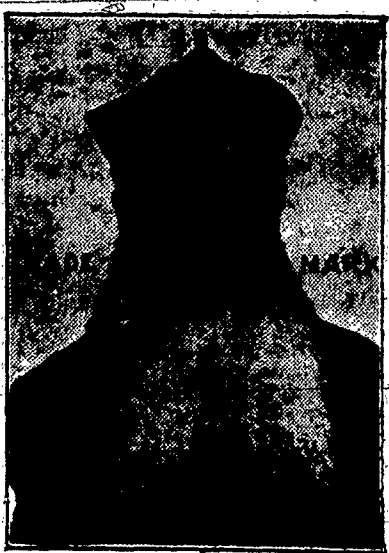
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