

A VICTIM OF SPIRITISM

A True Story.

Many years ago I was director of a boys' sodality. There was among its members an interesting lad, about sixteen years of age, son of a highly respected family. I used to notice his thoughtful mien, as he stood in the college yard during recreation hours, never joining in the games of his fellow-students. On questioning him about the amusements that interested him I learned that he spent hours every day at his home practicing sleight-of-hand, in which he had become remarkably skilful. So I induced him one day to give an entertainment of this kind to his fellow-students; and, young as he was, he really amused them for an hour or two with brilliant success.

It was certainly in itself a harmless accomplishment, yet it became for him an occasion of serious danger. For after leaving college, he was so enraptured with this amusement that he undertook to travel to distant cities and there give exhibitions of his skill upon the public stage. This brought him into contact with other showmen who enticed him to exchange his white magic for black and become a real spiritist. Of course under these circumstances he could not practice his holy religion, which absolutely forbids all dealings with the powers of darkness. But he was ill at ease; for, besides his own qualms of conscience, his pious mother, when he returned home, was quick to discover the sad change that had come over her son, who was then no longer the pious youth he had formerly been. Probably she did not suspect to what depths he had fallen, but she knew he no longer went to confession, and she did not desist from her lectures to him on that subject. He was not fully convinced himself that spiritism was devilry; it was the spirits of the dead he meant to conjure up and not the demons of hell. True, Holy Writ forbids all such practices; for the Lord told the Jews through His servant, Moses: "Neither let there be among you any one... that consulteth soothsayers or observeth dreams or omens; neither let there be any wizard or charmer, nor any one that consulteth pythonic spirits or fortune-tellers, nor that seeketh the truth from the dead. For the Lord abhorreth all these things, and for these abominations He will destroy them at this coming."—Deut. xviii, 10-12.)

Meanwhile Mr. Mum, for I will call him so hereafter, had made the acquaintance of a number of spiritists, men and women, and of the witchcraft persecutions lit up the vicious path of the religious emancipation.

I was away from that city for some years, and when I returned on a brief visit, I learned, through his good mother, that her boy had had totally abandoned the Catholic faith, so I determined to look control over the motary powers him up, and see what I could do to bring him back. I had gone alone a couple of squares when I met him, as he was coming to pay me a visit, probably urged to do so by his mother's susien. Our meeting was very cordial. He told me everything that I have so far narrated, and added that, after understanding the devilish character of spiritist friends to a tainment of life's purpose. This meeting one afternoon in his mother's capacious parlor, had bid was still an experiment; it told them there of his thorough conviction of the disolical nature of their practices, so that all of them left the place in a high dudgeon.

I easily induced him to go with me to a religious house, where he made a devout retreat of five days, and thence returned home a reformed and a happy man. He felt so grateful that he was eager to render me some service. For this purpose he came to the distant college where I was then residing, and gave an entertainment to the students on two successive nights, performing at the first a great variety of tricks of sleight-of-hand, and at the second explaining how each of them had been managed. Then he made a feeling address to the boys, cautioning them against the dangers attending spiritism, of which he said he had had a sad experience. To be continued.

THE FOUNDER OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS SEEN IN A NEW LIGHT.

Interesting Deductions of A Non-Catholic Scholar.

In a recent publication entitled "Psychic Epidemics" Dr. Hellpach, a scholar of eminence in the field of psychological research, combats the widely spread notion that "psychic epidemics" are the result of suggestion. In his opinion they are chiefly hysterical origin. We are not here concerned with the correctness of his views but wish rather to draw attention to his somewhat unusual interpretation of the high pitched tension which had seized upon life at the close of the Middle Ages, and while intensifying by the Reformation was combated by Ignatius of Loyola as it manifested itself in the spiritual life of the times.

Dr. Hellpach considers himself justified in speaking of a hysteria of the late Middle Ages. This, to him, is a social pathological phenomenon, "a genesis en masse of a diseased vision affecting the entire historical complexion of the times and made up of colorless morbid changes (exhaustion, exaltation, excitement) due to the spirit of the times and affecting the historical complexion of entire life."

Then came the Reformation which not only did not eradicate these epidemics, but rather furthered them. "For," says our author, "as is inevitably the case with every religious upheaval, it (the Reformation) brought in its train chaos, instability, unbounded confusion into the minds of thousands; unleashed unbridled religious strife not only in the life of the peoples as such, but also in the very soul-life of the individual." The pillars of the ancient faith had tottered and in utter helplessness men, placed in a new spiritual environment, so to speak, had grasped the straws which the new faith offered—spirits and demons." The stakes had become a frequent attendant at their seances, where his refined manners made him a general favorite. But he became more and more convinced that the spirits conjured up by himself and others were depraved and lying beings, and began to suspect that they might well be very demons. One night, as he afterwards told me with a shudder, he conjured up before himself alone, the soul of his departed father, but the spirit that answered the call showed himself to be so depraved that Mr. Mum was perfectly convinced this could not be his father's soul, but verily an imp of Satan.

Loyola accomplished what was possible; he kept his Order from hysterical degeneracy." Dr. Hellpach concludes with the query: "Does not this master of the psychic disease of his time join hands across the centuries with Charkot the Grand-master of research in the field of hysteria?" While not subscribing to some of his views we must concede that our eminent authority gives his readers quite a different idea of Loyola from that which they afford who see in him a mere arch-Jesuit and pass over, with but a few scant phrases, so important a character.

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C. B. of C. V. CATHOLIC CHURCH IN RUSSIA

Long Persecution Ends With Abdication

Intellectual Russia Trends Romeward.

One of the changes brought about by the revolution in Russia will be liberty of conscience, something totally unknown before in that bigoted country, where Catholics and Jews have suffered bitter persecution for years.

From the time of Peter the Great, Catholics have been persecuted almost continuously, and laws passed to hamper Catholic action and reduce it to impotence. Nobles were forbidden to abandon Orthodoxy, to have Catholic teachers, or to marry Catholics. Catholic priests were forbidden to enter provinces or to do religious work in them. Bishops have been exiled. Sees kept vacant.

The Concordat of 1882 was rendered nugatory by new laws. It was only in 1905, after the war with Japan, that Czar Nicholas promulgated an edict of religious toleration and freedom of conscience. At that time 600,000 persons, including 300,000 Uniates, forcibly "converted" to the State Church, became Catholics. Alarmed the Holy Synod called for fresh laws to arrest Catholic progress. The law granting freedom of conscience was practically abolished; Catholic societies were dissolved; the Catholic press muzzled; chapels were closed, and the Government refused to recognize the conversions as legitimate. As recently as 1911 one Catholic Bishop was deposed and another compelled to resign. (From Canon Glancey's "Orbis Catholicus.")

According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, there are in the Russian Empire more than 13,000,000 Catholics, of whom more than 5,000,000 are in Russia proper. The Church in Russia is ruled by one Metropolitan and six Suffragan Bishops, for the Latin Rite, besides Bishops for the Russo-Ruthenian and Armenian Rites. There are 2,900 parishes, 3,300 churches, 2,000 chapels and 4,600 priests. In Petrograd is the chief center of Catholic study in Russia, the Ecclesiastical Academy of the Empire.

The Russian Government is represented at the Vatican by an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary: His Excellency Dimitri Nelidow. There is a decided movement toward Rome among the intellectuals and the nobility of Russia. Vladimir Soloveff, who is styled "the Russian Newman," and the greatest of Russian Orthodox philosophers, heads this movement, and has written and lectured on Reunion with the Holy See.—Ex.

Church Events for April, 1917

April is designated the Month of the Holy Ghost. Holy days of Obligation: None. Days of Abstinence, (besides Fridays), Wednesday and Saturday, April 4 and 7 (in Holy Week). Note Well:—April 1, Palm Sunday, 5, Holy Thursday, 6, Good Friday, 8, Easter Sunday, 23, Saturday, St. Paul of the Cross, 30, Monday, St. Catherine of Sienna. Bring us your Job Printing.

Foreign Mission News

Special correspondence by The Propagation of the Faith Society 348 Lexington Ave., New York City.

The following reasons should urge us to do all in our power to aid the work of converting the heathen: Love of God, gratitude for the great gift of Faith, love of our fellow men and the threatening danger that the heathen shall fall a prey to unbelief or false doctrines.

While tempests have ravaged West India, the bubonic plague has been raging in Mysore, South India, for months. Rain always fosters the pest and of late, although it is not the rainy season, veritable torrents have poured down upon the unfortunate district. "People are dying by hundreds all around us," writes Mother St. Ignatius, "but, thanks be to God, the innocent prayers of our little orphans must have been heard, for as yet our house and all its inmates have been miraculously spared."

Tonkin must still be kept in the foreground as a country needing alms. The famine for which our assistance was asked has not yet wholly abated. It is true the rice crop was this year harvested, but it almost all went to re-pay those who had given assistance during the hard times. If weather conditions permit the planting and raising of potatoes, then the people may have something to keep soul and body together. Until then Bishop Eloy requests offerings for his afflicted people.

"Providence still watches over the missionaries and furnishes us with the necessities of life, and we are sure it will continue to protect us. So far we have not been obliged to close any of our stations."—Mgr. Vidal, S. M., Bishop of Fiji.

Fr. J. Tour says the barriers of Buddhism in Siam are high and thick, but through the agency of the Catholic schools, the weapon of the apostle, the future promises numerous conversions. In point of a native clergy, Siam has already done very well considering her great poverty and lack of European priests.

MODERN NORWAY

Rt. Rev. J. B. Fallize, Apostolic Vicar of Norway and Spitzbergen, reports gratifying progress, for the Catholic church in what was until recently a stronghold of Protestantism. In spite of the hardships and suffering occasioned by the war among the middle and lower classes, many conversions are registered, while a large percentage of the non-Catholic population looks more favorable on the Church. Services in the Protestant churches contain many Catholic features. A few years ago the Lutheran churches were closed to Catholic church music; to-day their many concerts include compositions of Catholic masters. Historians and philologists diligently search the history and literature of Norway, not as formerly, to find weak spots in the Church of the Middle Ages, but to prove that it has been very beneficial to Norway.

Thirty years ago Catholics in Norway were tempted to be ashamed of their religion. Now their priests and nuns, mostly women from Germany, enjoy the esteem of the entire population, and the old and frequently cruel legal fetters have vanished. Although the number of Catholics is comparatively small, in spite of rapid growth, the Church enjoys such liberty as is accorded her in few countries. Unfortunately, Bishop Fallize has been unable to obtain missionaries and to found a single religious community of men in Norway. There are, however, many prosperous communities of nuns.

The Gorgeous Rhododendron.

No Easter shrub excels the Rhododendron for magnificence. We have fine specimens in delicate lavender and rose tints. H. P. Neun, 9 North St.—Adv.



AMERICA.

God save America sang hearts so true, God save you and bless you and our President too. Your trials they are many, your pleasures are few, But you are a hero to the red, white and blue.

America is a Nation that don't care to fight, She only wants justice, she'll do what is right. Then stand by our country less she stumbles and falls, God protect young America, our president and all.

Some love the land of the Edelweiss best, Others love the land of the rose, But the land that is dearest to an American's heart, Is the land where the golden-rod grows.

We know many love the Fatherland, Why not love America too? America is now your Motherland, She's the land that's feeding you.

My words are simple, nevertheless they are true, I am also a foreigner too, I came from an island afar in the West, But America! America! I love you the best.

Then let us thank the Almighty Power, Who sent us a hero in our needy hour, Let us thank our brave President so noble and true, God bless and protect you and America too. K. F. B.

Bishop Made Knight On Spot.

The fourth or patriotic degree of the Knights of Columbus was conferred upon 250 candidates at an elaborate exemplification of the degree at the Hotel Astor, New York, recently. Following the exemplification there was a banquet at which the guest of honor was the Right Rev. Auxiliary Bishop Patrick J. Hayes, D.D. Over 600 knights were present.

Bishop Hayes was not a member of the Knights of Columbus when the banquet started, but before it ended he was a full-fledged fourth degree member. When the Bishop was about to begin his address he said:

"But, Mr. Toastmaster, I am not a knight, and feel a bit strange."

James A. Flaherty, Supreme Knight of the United States, immediately said he would create the speaker a knight of the fourth degree at once. This honor is seldom bestowed in such off-hand manner, and the action brought forth cheers from the 600 diners.

IN MEMORIAM.

At a regular meeting of Council No. 23, C.R. & B. A., the following resolutions were adopted: Whereas, It has pleased our Heavenly Father to call to his eternal reward, the father of our respected sister, Elizabeth Blassie, be it

Resolved, That this Council extend to our sister our sincere sympathy in her hour of affliction and we commend her to our Heavenly Father for consolation.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to our sister, published in The Catholic Journal and also be spread on the minutes. James Clancy

Mrs. Jane D. Saunders Mrs. Mary Duggan Committee.

Lillies for Easter.

We grow them in large quantities, also Azaleas, Rhododendrons, Hyacinths, etc., in all sizes. We have everything in Flowers and Plants. Get our prices. Rochester Floral Co., 255 Main Street East.—Adv.

WHEN you want printing, try Both Phones, Catholic Journal, 64 North street.

News From Ireland

Arrangh

Great interest was taken in the Child Welfare and Food Exhibition held recently in Portadown. Miss K. O'Sullivan, health lecturer was in charge.

Most of the Irish Bishops in their Lenten Pastorals deal forcibly with the urgency of increased tillage. Cardinal Logue says: "Soon we may find ourselves in the throes of a food crisis, having little to depend on except what is raised in the country. Hence more tillage becomes urgent, and if talk does not quickly give place to very energetic action, we may be prepared for something—little—short of famine."

Cavan. Aiden McCabe, son of the late Dr. J. McCabe, Farnham street, Cavan, took fourth place at the final examination for solicitors.

At the Catholic church, Ballinagh, with nuptial Mass, by Rev. Thomas Kelly, C.C., James, youngest son of the late James Brady, Corduff, Ballinagh, was married to Katie, second youngest daughter of the late Michael Connolly, Crenard House, Ballinagh. Clane.

A handsome presentation has been made to M. Collins, manager Messrs. O'Flynn's, The Market, Ennis, on the occasion of his marriage. Clane.

Richard Foley, Evergreen road, Cork, was recently knocked down by a jarvey car and killed. Kerry.

Neal Crossan presided at a representative Catholic meeting in Derry when over £500 was subscribed towards a fund to liquidate the debt due on Long Tower church as a tribute to Rev. W. O'Doherty, recently appointed P. P., Buncrana. Father O'Doherty had intimated that he would accept no personal gift in acknowledgment of his twenty-seven years' labor in the city. A co-operative flax mill has been established at Maghera. Donegal.

Letterkenny Petty Sessions Court gave a vote of condolence with E. Mahony, J. P., on the death of his sister, Mrs. Sharky, N.T. Gweedore. Dublin.

Rev. John F. Russell, C.M., has been appointed principal of St. Patrick's Training College, Drumcondra, in succession to the late Very Rev. J. E. Flynn, C.M. Father Russell was for several years vice-principal of St. Mary's Training College, Hammar Smith, and was for some time dean of St. Patrick's, Drumcondra. The Treasury has allowed £25,313 for the rebuilding of the Metropolitan Hotel, Dublin, destroyed in the Rebellion. Fermanagh.

Enniskillen Guardians have refused increase of salaries to officials. Kerry.

The "Elizer," which was washed ashore some months ago, was bought at public auction by Mr. Keefe of Waterville. Miss Norah Murphy, aged 10 years, died at the residence of her stepfather, Gerald Fitzgerald, Spa road, Tralee, from the effects of blood poisoning. Leitrim.

Rev. Thomas Durman, C. C., died recently at his residence, Drumreilly Upper. Leitrim.

Rev. T. J. Connolly, C.C., Glina, will be unable to resume duties for some time, owing to injuries sustained in a driving accident. A concert will be held in Kiltycreeva on Easter Sunday in aid of the revival of the Ballinamuck G.A. A. team. Mayo.

Rev. James Coyne, C. C., Beken, Ballyhaunis, has been appointed Adm. Kilconley. The late Sir B. Whitney, clerk of the crown and peace for Mayo left estate valued at £27,540. Leitrim.

The L. G. B. have sanctioned expenditure of £3,000 on Dundalk electric undertaking. Leitrim.