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Friday, July 27, 1917.

Clearing Up.

Day by day the good results from the work of the Knights of Columbus special committee to clear away religious prejudice are seen. Hardly a day passes that does not see some address made, some letter written, some pamphlet issued which conveys to unprejudiced, yes and prejudiced Catholics as well, knowledge they had not possessed regarding matters Catholic or clearing away some misunderstanding they had had regarding doctrines or practices of the Catholic Church.

One of the latest instances we note is the appearance before the Daughters of the American Revolution of Little Rock, Arkansas, of Rt. Rev. Monsignor Thomas V. Tobin. While his address was brief nevertheless he conveyed to the Daughters much information regarding the attitude of the Catholic Church on education and marriage—two of the mooted matters least understood by the average non-Catholic.

Monsignor Tobin, in opening sketched briefly the various anti-Catholic movements that have attained prominence in the United States. Born in Ireland, Monsignor Tobin became a naturalized American at the earliest possible moment but, as he remarked: "As a youth I had been taught to look upon America as the Providential refuge of the downtrodden of every land, and it was a little disenchanted to me when I landed on the shores of America, that even here religious liberty was more of a fiction than a fact." That, however, did not deter him from becoming naturalized and since attaining citizenship he has labored zealously to change the conditions deprecat.

The Daughters who did not know it before learned from Monsignor Tobin that the reason for Catholic schools is that we want to start our children off as Christians and ground them early in life in the principles of our Holy Faith, realizing that as the twig is bent so is the tree most likely to grow. Regarding marriage they learned that the much-de-nounced and much misunderstood by non-Catholic's decree of "No Tenere" concerns Catholic's only and passes no judgment upon non-Catholic marriages. In closing Monsignor Tobin said: "With the attitude of the Church on these two questions, education and marriage, which is an attitude based on principle, the prospect for pleasant relations between the Church and the various denominations would be considerably brightened. We feel confident that the non-Catholic's of Little Rock will not knowingly go on misunderstanding and misinterpreting the action of the Church, especially in matters which concern it alone. They have on several occasions given evidence of a friendly feeling which we thoroughly appreciate, and if this meeting of the D. A. R., will do

anything to increase that friendliness, it shall not have been held in vain."

Beam In Own Eye.

While it is commendable, perhaps, that we should rise in our wrath and denounce the reported atrocities of individuals in other lands, it were well that we looked about at home and ascertained whether we ourselves had nothing similar with which to be reproached.

While inexcusable, nevertheless men under arms are apt to become brutalized and to be guilty of excesses that they would not dream of were they at home and conducting themselves in conventional manner. But what shall be said of Americans at home who allow themselves to become possessed of mob frenzy and then deliberately set out to torture fellow-humans and follow that up by burning their victims at the stake?

Or how excuse the rioters in East St. Louis who burned a whole district knowing full well that fellow-humans were in those buildings, helpless and defenseless and that they could not help but be burned alive! And further: when these humans did try to escape they were shot down by the mob that fired their homes!

Worse than all, there were young American white women who are reported to have assaulted colored women and girls in East St. Louis. Could it have been imagined that white women could sink so low?

With our East St. Louis human holocaust, with our burnings at the stake, with our Ruth Cruger murders, with our white slave traffic, can it be said that we are so far superior to the European soldiers, whose atrocities fire our American blood to the extent that we well-nigh demand their extinction of an entire nation?

Let us first cast out the beam which is in our own eye before we proceed to cast out the mote from our brother's eye.

Prophetic?

May it not be that George Washington, in his famous farewell address, foresaw the present situation when he penned these lines?

"Observe good faith and justice toward all nations. Cultivate peace and harmony with all. Religion and morality enjoin this conduct. And can it be that good policy does not equally enjoin it? It will be worthy of a free, enlightened and at no distant period a great nation to give to mankind the magnanimous and too novel example of a people always guided by an exalted justice and benevolence.

"In the execution of such a plan nothing is more essential than that permanent, inveterate antipathies against particular nations and passionate attachments for others should be excluded, and that in place of them just and amicable feelings toward all should be cultivated. The nation which indulges toward another an habitual hatred or an habitual fondness is in some degree a slave. It is a slave to its animosity or its affection, either of which is sufficient to lead it astray from its duty and its interest. Antipathy in one nation against another disposes each more readily to offer insult and injury, to lay hold of slight causes of umbrage, and to be haughty and intractable when accidental or trifling occasions of dispute occur.

"Our detached and distant situation invites and enables us to pursue a different course. If we remain one people, under an efficient government, the period is not far off when we may defy material injury from external annoyance; when we may take such an attitude as will cause the neutrality we may at any time resolve upon to be scrupulously respected; when belligerent nations

under the impossibility of making acquisitions upon us, will not lightly hazard the giving us provocation; when we may choose peace or war, as our interest, guided by justice, shall counsel."

Honor Heroes

In designating the cantonments where the United States putative soldiers are to be trained, the War Department has honored a number of generals and other noted men of historic fame.

General Meade of Gettysburg; General Lee, the Confederate hero; ex-President Andrew Jackson; Lieutenant-General, John B. Gordon; General William Tecumseh Sherman; Major-General, Zachary Taylor; John A. Dix, the New York "War Governor"; Major-General George Custer; ex-president Ulysses S. Grant; Brigadier General Zebulon Pike, the explorer of the Southwest; Major-General Frederick Funston; Lieutenant Colonel, W. B. Travis, defender of the Alamo; General Winfield Scott Hancock; Brigadier General George B. McClellan; Lieutenant, General Joseph Wheeler, another hero of the Confederacy; Major-General John A. Logan; General Philip H. Sheridan; Generals Kearney and John C. Fremont are among those whose names will be enshrined in the hearts of the young soldiers.

This is as it should be and so is the proposed change in the method of awarding medals of Honor and distinguished service medals, with which to reward the American soldiers who perform deeds of valor, and no distinction is to be made as between officers or privates. It may easily happen that Rochester soldier boys may emulate Colonel O'Rourke and other heroes of the Civil War. Be that as it may, let us hope they return to wear their honors in person and not hand them on to admiring posterity.

Pernicious.

District Attorney Joseph C. Pelletier, of Suffolk County, Mass., has written an able article on "Birth Control" which he styles "A pernicious propaganda". Mr. Pelletier has given serious and searching study to his problem and unhesitatingly pronounces the practice injurious in physical, mental and moral sense. He instances Malthus' unsound and scientific theory that a lesser birth rate was necessary else the world would become over-populated but he points out that Malthus never dreamed of the modern practice of birth prevention. He advocated chaste celibacy, self-control instead of birth control which permits self-gratification without natural attendant results.

Mr. Pelletier adduces facts and figures to support his contention that the present propaganda is likely to produce a barren race, incapable of producing children even when the time arrives when the couple feel they can afford and would like an offspring.

Mr. Pelletier contends that at the present time children are necessary to the nation and then goes on to cite opposition to the birth prevention propaganda by eminent non-Catholic authority. That large families tend to produce under-mentality in the family he points out that George Washington was one of a family of 10; Lord Nelson one of 11; Wendell Phillips one of 9; Benjamin Franklin one of 17; General William Tecumseh Sherman one of 11; Washington Irving one of 11; James Fenimore Cooper one of 12; Alfred Tennyson one of 12. This rather disproves this argument.

There is no way in which this infamous propaganda can be justified and it should be sternly frowned upon by all, Catholics especially.

It were better for the Federal administration if its Southern advisers did not precedents.

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Take good care of your telephone instruments and cords, so that they will not become damaged. A broken instrument or a wet telephone cord may cause serious interruption to your service and require labor and costly materials to repair.

Take good care of your telephone switchboard. With the present scarcity of all materials required in the telephone business, conservation of telephone equipment is essential.

Avoid unnecessary calls and help keep the lines open for important messages.

Avoid especially "curiosity calls" in times of emergency—calls that may seriously interfere with important service.

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