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The Pope's Policy.

Cardinal Gibbons has an important article in the current issue of "America" on "Pope Benedict's Policy" in which he defends the attitude of the Holy Father toward the war especially against any insinuation of impartiality. "Benedict XV," says the Cardinal, "has striven nobly and generously for a just peace" and predicts that peace will finally be based on the general principles of the year of Christ has pointed out.

Says his Eminence: "My heart goes out to all the sufferers of the war, to my own countrymen first of all. "But one lone and majestic figure calls for all my sympathy and love. More perhaps than any other single individual our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XV., has suffered in this tragedy. Others have but their own individual sorrows. He bears the sorrows of all.

"It is not astonishing then that the Holy Father, lifted above the noise and the strife of the world, has constantly and consistently worked for a just and enduring peace. Reasonable men expect that from him. He is a priest. To millions of Catholics throughout the world he is the Supreme Pontiff commissioned by Christ to rule and guide His flock. Like his Master he rules not by the sword but by love. He is the universal pastor. As such he cannot become a participant in the strife. And though he should condemn and has actually condemned all violations of the laws of war yet as far as its consistent with morality and religion he must hold the balance of an equal judgment between the contending parties.

"Those who wish that he had done more misunderstand the nature of his office. He is not an ordinary neutral. His position has peculiar features that make it altogether unique. He is a co-sufferer with all the nations in the conflict.

"It must not be thought that his silence, when he thought it necessary, came from cowardice, worldly prudence or political and selfish motives.

The Cardinal goes on to tell all that the Holy Father did to bring about peace in the early days of the war, his several peace messages and pastorals, all culminating in the peace note of last August to all the nations at war as Cardinal Gibbons points out. This note was in no sense a judicial decision. It was a diplomatic effort. "It contained the broad outlines of a plan of settlement. Unless I am much mistaken when the peace congress assembles the final verdict of the nations will be based upon the general principles pointed out by the Holy Father." The Cardinal refutes absolutely the insinuation that

the Holy Father has forgotten Belgium which had been invaded before Benedict XV donned the triple tiara of St. Peter. Concluding the Cardinal asserts that American Catholics in common with all American citizens have not failed President Wilson "and will not do so in the future, but will continue to give him and his colleagues that loyal support which is an earnest and complete victory and of a return of the happy peace for which he and the Holy Father are laboring, each in his own sphere."

No Time For It!

This is no time for bigotry, no time for fanaticism. Not even under the color of patriotism, not even under the aegis of the flag, war needs, must the bigot be permitted to re-establish his foothold in this glorious Republic. We hear rumors of semi-religious, semi-political organizations of Lent cannot be disputed.

Cardinal Gibbons places the true facts of the Pope's war policy before the public in concise, understandable form.

Rochester evening papers have advanced their price to two cents. This was not unexpected owing to the enormous advance in price of paper, but especially in the great increase in the cost of cable news service of the war.

Well, there appears to be a determination to avoid a repetition in 1919 of the coal famine of 1918.

Do we want a repetition of the Bolshevik uprising in this country? Certainly not. The way to avoid it is to shoot down the spies and make short shrift of food profiteers.

The President has acted wisely in fixing an arbitrary price for wheat. The farmer will know what to expect while the speculator's greed will be checked. Now the next problem is to secure the necessary help for the farms, to plant, harvest and house the crops of 1918.

Wood's Lasting Qualities. Wood is almost an imperishable substance and if kept from attacks of organisms, both animal and vegetable will practically last forever. The heart wood in living trees is as thoroughly lifeless as the average fence post or timber lying in a lumber yard, but is usually protected by the outward bark. When insects and disease find entrance through holes or cracks, the decay process usually results and the heavy destruction is as rapid as though not inside living bark.

Prehistoric Skull Borings. The operation called "trepanning," by which a portion of skull is removed, is recorded in these modern days as very hazardous and to be attempted only as a last resort. But the ancient Peruvians, centuries before Columbus landed, practiced it very commonly. Of 1,000 of their skulls, recently obtained by the United States bureau of ethnology from prehistoric caves and cemeteries, nearly 2 per cent had been trepanned for some cause.

Strength Appeals to Women. Women are—or, should it be, have been—so bound by convention that I may be the strain of lawlessness that lies, more or less deep, in us all. It then manifests itself in admiration for the men who have chosen to be a law unto themselves.

Perhaps the real secret is woman's love for strength, which, despite emancipated protests, is the strongest instinct inherited from the cave woman still rampant within her. Most women's favorite character in history is Napoleon, not because he was great but because he was ruthless, and she will always have more admiration for a great soldier than a great poet unless his amours were specially notorious; but, unhappily, in any instance she mistakes lawlessness for strength, not being sufficiently experienced to realize that only the bound are free.—London Ideas.

Only He Didn't Show It. Edward got into a fight with Stanley one afternoon at school. The teacher had them sit before him and talked so feelingly of the wrong of fighting that Stanley cried good and hard, and the teacher said: "Stanley seems so repentant I won't keep him after school. But here is Edward; he don't know what to do with him, he seems so hardened." Edward said: "But if I can't cry, my conscience hurts me just the same."

Lent is a fine time to cultivate the reading habit. A Catholic paper makes the best kind of reading matter. What sacrifice are you making, what self-denial are you practicing this Lenten season?

No General Pershing is not a Catholic, whatever denomination he may be affiliated with.

Politics aside, everybody is glad that Colonel Roosevelt is getting better.

Vice-President Hamilton now has the weather on his side. Perhaps, the Rochester street car service will now improve a trifle.

Won't be long, though, before a flurry of snow would be welcome even under the guise of war.

That Catholics of the United States will be a factor in food conservation for the remainder of Lent cannot be disputed.

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Medical Explanation of Work Performed by Fluid Which Bathes Brain and Spinal Cord.

Until very recently the exact role played by the cerebro-spinal fluid—that watery substance which bathes the brain and spinal cord—was not understood. But nowadays it is a common practice among surgeons to squirt drugs into the tissues containing this fluid or to draw out a drop or two of it for examination.

The Journal of the American Medical Association, commenting on an address by Dr. W. D. Halliburton before the Royal Society of Medicine, says he describes the cerebro-spinal fluid as an ideal physiologic solution in which the exquisitely sensitive nervous system is always bathed.

This fluid does not, like the lymph, arise from the blood by exudation of serum through the walls of the capillaries, but is the product of the secreting cells of what are called the choroid plexuses in the ventricles of the brain. The pressure under which the fluid always exists is due to the secretory pressure of these cells and not to the blood. And there are scarcely any proteins found in it. Halliburton says that in order to keep out the harmful proteins, which would poison the nerves, the harmless ones also are almost completely excluded. The membranes that line the spaces in which the fluid is found seem to permit substances to pass from it to the blood, but to be impermeable (except for oxygen) in the direction from the blood to the fluid. The value of this arrangement is that when poisons enter the blood, as they do so easily, they are kept away from the delicate nerves.

EIGHTEEN YEARS ON ISLAND
Experience of Indian Woman Makes That of Robinson Crusoe Appear a Mere Incident.

It would appear that Alexander Selkirk's brief stay on Juan Fernandez island was trivial, either in the hardships endured or the difficulties overcome, compared with that of a woman on an island opposite the Californian peninsula.

It seems that the Catholic fathers at Santa Barbara were once transporting the natives of the island of St. Nicholas to the mainland. Among them was a mother who discovered that her babe had been left behind. She begged that the vessel might be put back, but the captain refused. She then leaped into the sea to swim ashore, but as a storm prevailed, all on board thought she was drowned. Eighteen years afterward a company landed on the island. They found traces of life and after a long search discovered the woman and took her with them. The poor woman never found her babe, but had managed to live in comparative comfort, though very lonely. After her long life in the open, she could not endure the confinement of a house, and soon sickened and died.

When Dog Sought His Master. There is a story in the American Magazine in which a writer says: "He had come many miles. He had many miles yet to go. From sleeping farmhouses—dog-bayed—him—as he passed, running like a big fox, alert and swift. The road turned and twisted among the hills and small mountains. Ahead in the sky was a glow of coming day. It grew brighter with the passing miles. It drew him on. The distance would have meant little to him, except for the tremendous speed at which he had been traveling. Now his chest was heaved with foam. His tail, carried usually so proudly followed the curve of his haunches. His overstrained muscles worked mechanically like pistons. His ears pointed his long, lean, red ribs. "Dizzy, almost fainted, he came at last to the top of a hill, and stopped, ears erect. Below him stretched rows of twinkling lights that, all together, made up the glow in the sky. That was the city with the strange building into which they had carried Tommy Earle!"

Work as Well as Play. Pray for what you want, but don't wear out the knees of your critics at it. If you don't get a quick answer rise up and go to work before you get too weak to rise.—Atlanta Constitution.

The Alternative. Mr. B.—Do you think you'll be able to keep up with your neighbors? Mrs. B.—If we can't, my dear, we'll move.—Pittsburgh Press.

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