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Friday, December 6, 1918.

Advent.

The Church has entered upon another ecclesiastical year. Once more the early penitential season heralding the near approach of the joyous feast of Christmas is upon us.

In preparation for the feast of Christmas, it is well to pause a bit and take inventory of self. "Am I worthy to step to the Babe of Bethlehem, to kneel at His Crib? Will Christmas bring peace to me and to my worthy and humble fellow-men of Christ? If not, then it is well to make the season of Advent to insure such worthiness."

Our Gains.

Rev. Dr. John O'Gorman sees great advantage to the Church in the Allied victory, not the least being that it means greater influence in the world of England and the United States, than where the Church has made no such strides or enjoyed so much liberty.

Crushing German Kultur will insure greater freedom for the Church in the German states. Freedom for Poland will insure religious liberty to about 2,000,000 loyal Catholics. Elimination of the Czar of Russia spells greater religious liberty for the Ukraine and Lithuanians who will rejoice thereat.

Freed from Prussian restraint, Catholic Belgium will flourish like the bay tree and the University of Louvain will once more take its place as the leading educational institution of Europe under Catholic professors. The Catholic Slavs of Austria will enjoy greater opportunity for religious activity now that they are no longer under Hapsburg domination.

The Catholic Maronite Syrians rejoice that the British have driven the detested and despicable Turk from the Holy Land.

Undoubtedly, there will be cordier relations between the Church in France and Italy and the Governments of these countries because of the bravery and devotion of the priests and nuns to their countries despite the persecution suffered at the hands of both.

There are two possible disadvantages, according to Dr. O'Gorman—that the French government will confiscate the churches and convents in Alsace-Lorraine and exile the priests and nuns, but Dr. O'Gorman thinks this unlikely. The other is that because it is apparent the Vatican will not be represented at the Peace Congress; adequate international

safeguards may not be given to secure complete religious liberty in all countries.

This can be averted if the hundreds of millions of Catholics begin a world-wide agitation for complete and adequate international guarantees of religious liberty in all the countries subscribing to the conditions agreed to in the Peace Congress. If this is not done, we have only ourselves to thank for any unfortunate condition that may arise in the future.

Southern Bigots.

It is peculiar that there should be so much bigotry in certain Southern States because of the boasted chivalry of the Southern gentlemen and ladies but it must be remembered that in certain Southern States there settled years ago descendants of what might be termed "the North of Ireland Puritans" of New England and New Jersey. These "Northern White Trash", as the Southerners dubbed them, were reckoned as if less account than the negro slaves so far as Southern society was concerned. It is a matter of record that these "Southern Crackers", as they were also known, are as illiterate a class as is found in the United States and when they do acquire a smattering of "book larnin" their early environments leave them still ignorant and narrow in the sense of culture and even of good breeding. It is understandable why these narrow creatures cannot understand how women enter upon a religious life or the relief that troubled souls find in the confessional or the peace which comes to the frequent reception of our Blessed Lord in the Sacrament of the Altar. And such is the perversity of their nature, that they cannot content themselves with minding their own business but must needs insist that because they cannot understand the mystery of Catholicity, therefore Catholics must not be allowed to practice their religion in their own way.

These Southern gentlemen are likely to prove a source of embarrassment to President Wilson. As the Scranton, Pa., "Daily Republican" said last September—and it is just as timely now—"At the present time thousands of office hunters of the South, in place of sowing seeds of harmony, patriotism and unity in the face of the great peril of the nation, are going up and down the southern states preaching the gospel of intolerance and pro-cription against some of their fellow-citizens instead of urging the southern people to rally tables around the government and the flag and tack the boys at the war front with their financial aid and service and his methods of enforcing his demands. The guests, inclined to agree with the hotel man. The woman waiter wants a tip, a reasonable tip, but at the same time she is asking it as a reward for her service. "It was considered that the real test of service would come with the beginning of the large public dinners of the winter season. So far the woman waiter has shown herself equal to the task."

"This is no time for religious intolerance when Catholics and Protestants, Jews and Gentiles, Greeks and Mohammedans are fighting to death, shoulder to shoulder, hand to hand and heart to heart in the human shambles of the war zones of Europe for the very existence of the nation, for human rights and the self-determination of little nations to form their own independent governments."

Is the George Washington a bone-dry boat?

Marshal Foch is a devout Catholic and we imagine the grizzled veteran may have something to say in future about French governmental control of Religion in France.

And Why Not?

It is suggested that friends of Irish freedom and Home Rule may show their interest and arouse sympathy by wearing in their button-hole the green flag of Erin and the Stars and Stripes entwined.

And why not? Americans wore the Belgian flag when the Huns were ravishing the little country and rightly so.

While, perhaps, no greater atrocities have been practised in the past toward Ireland by England than were perpetrated against the Belgians by the Huns, they were at least equal thereto. If it be fair and just and equitable as it is conceded it is, that Slavic states and Balkan nations should be free, there is equal merit in the contention that Ireland should, at least, have Home Rule as has Australia and Canada. Moreover, the Irish are nearer and dearer to the American heart, for obvious reasons than the peoples we have referred to and there is no earthly reason why we should not make manifest our friendship and sympathy now that the war is over. We owe no undying debt of gratitude to England, any more than to France and Italy for the way the war has ended. As a matter of fact these nations owe us as much as we owe them and there is no disparagement of either when we say this.

If Mr. Lloyd-George is a man of his word and not a mere politician, Ireland will have Home Rule without regard to what the Peace Congress says or does. But is he? Will he?

One Place For Them.

White women as waitresses have proven satisfactory in small restaurants, it has been contended that they never would do in the big hotels, especially the New York ones. It is quite possible that this opinion will be revised. The recent waters' strike in New York forced the employment of women waiters at a banquet of international importance which could not be postponed. Here is what the New York "Sun" says of the effect:—"The woman has unquestionably proved her ability as a waitress at hotel dining rooms. She has solved the tip question to the satisfaction of the guests, the hotel men say, and she has made it rather difficult for the old-time waiter, should he get back his job, to reach the high scale of perquisites that he had set up for himself and which he was attempting to levy on diners at his tables. If tips had really fallen off, as the striking waiter claims, the hotel men say that the reason for the inefficiency of his service and his methods of enforcing his demands. The guests, inclined to agree with the hotel man. The woman waiter wants a tip, a reasonable tip, but at the same time she is asking it as a reward for her service. "It was considered that the real test of service would come with the beginning of the large public dinners of the winter season. So far the woman waiter has shown herself equal to the task."

Right-thinking and level-headed citizens will regret the departure of William Gibbs McAdoo from official Washington.

Three Notre Dame journalists are on the staff of the Stars and Stripes, the official journal of the American Expeditionary Forces.

Chicago is reported as having 233 churches; New York 169; Brooklyn 117 but these two last should be counted together as Greater New York takes in Brooklyn or 286 in all; Philadelphia 111; Boston 64 and St. Louis 96.

Well, the beautiful snow arrived on December 1st.

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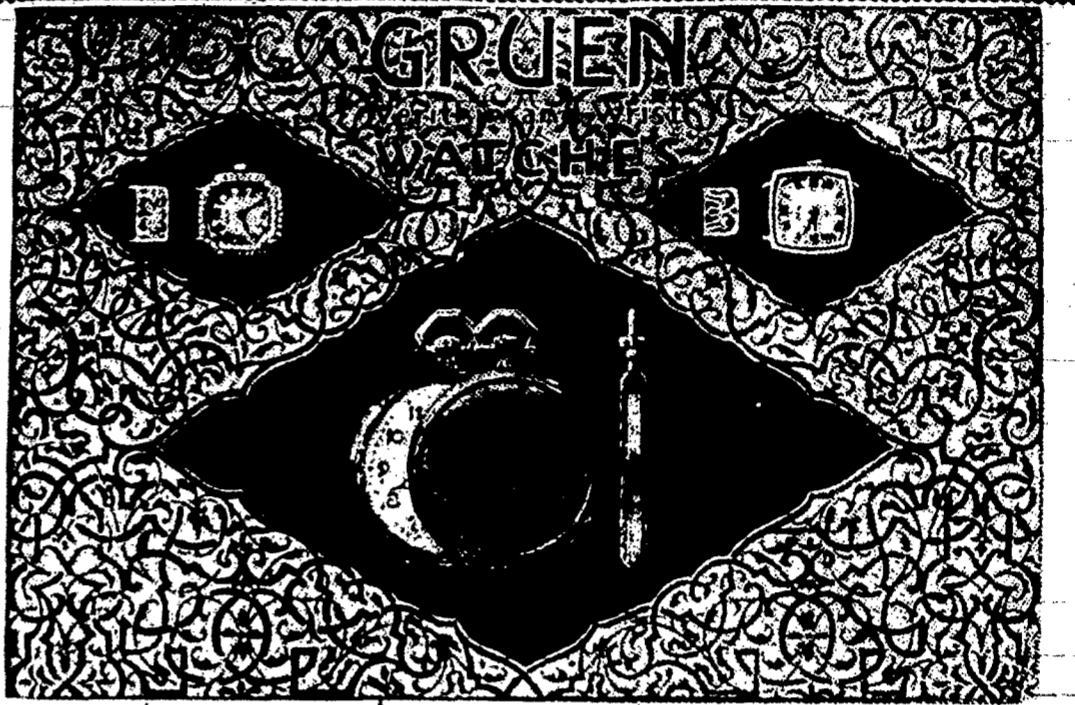
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