

THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL

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Where He Stands. Thinking men and papers are coming to realize that the position of the Vatican in discussing world peace counts for much.

How chimerical are the Austrian hopes of enlisting the Pope's aid in behalf of the ex-Kaiser who lingers anxiously over the border...

The Pope also said he hoped his work henceforth "might be an echo of the decisions of the Peace Conference." The whole tenor of what is reported of his words is that he intends to work for the erection of a permanent peace...

He recognizes, too, the economic questions brought up by the war, and the social issues, by saying that he would labor for "the protection and direction of workers and the counseling of the wealthy classes for the good use of their wealth and authority."

It is perfectly feasible and ever desirable that good will and good understanding shall prevail between the United States and all English speaking peoples.

Whether the outcome of the Peace Congress will be all that the President hopes it will be, or before the City Club, speaking as a not, there can be no doubt that the people of the world at large will appreciate what the United States and Americans stand for...

did before. And it is also undoubtedly true that we as Americans will be brought to know the other peoples of the world better than we did before.

In order that the fullest measure of good may come out of the President's visit abroad and his exchange of views with the foreign representatives, the critics of the President who are 3,000 miles away on this side of the Atlantic, should withhold both criticism and judgment until the President transmits to the Senate the completed draft of the peace treaty.

The question at issue is: Is the Senate on the level or is it an unmitigated scold?

Possibly True

There are those who fear that one result of the defeat of Germany's militaristic regime may be a revival of the French revolutionary excesses toward Religion and the Church. It is, indeed, reported in the press dispatches that the Bishops in Bavaria have been compelled to protest against intimations that the new Socialist rulers in that part of the former German Empire are to confiscate church property and declare it escheated to the State.

We well recall the solemn declaration of the late Bishop McQuaid after one of his European visits that the Church in France would be far stronger and Faith quickened were the clergy supported by the free will offerings of the people rather than by state paid salaries.

It may be that a similar period of stress and struggle are in store for the Catholics of Germany. Let us pray that this may not be so. But if it does come, we will have firm faith that out of the stress and struggle, better days than ever will come for Church and Religion.

More Than One.

It is perfectly feasible and ever desirable that good will and good understanding shall prevail between the United States and all English speaking peoples. Undoubtedly, the great bulk of the English people are now not only sorry but glad that the revolution of 1776 was an accomplished fact and would go far to prevent any grave misunderstanding with this country.

ple who never have wavered in their friendship for the Republic of West since the brave Lafayette came to the aid of Washington? Is that friendship to be sundered for the sole benefit of that country to free ourselves from the debt we were under when we fought the War of the Revolution?

We need alliance with no nation in the world. They may need our alliance and our support, moral and otherwise. Let us be friendly with all, not tied hardfast to any nation or people. Let us maintain this position: We will be friendly with all nations that maintain peace in the world but when any nation attempts to disturb the peace of the world, we shall withdraw our friendship moral, financial and social.

The Real Test.

Archbishop Hanna leads the American hierarchy in appealing for Irish freedom. In this he coincides with Cardinal O'Connell when he said in his great Madison Square speech: "Can any of us among the Church's leaders remain silent and inactive when there is at stake the welfare of the people to whom we owe our very daily bread and the roof that shelters us?"

The real secret of the successful opposition to Irish freedom, even to a Home Rule parliament, is succinctly stated as follows by a correspondent of the "Times-Union": "The writer does not intend to offend the members of any religious sect, because the question of religion should not enter into Ireland's policy, and would not but for a small minority in Ulster Ireland's greatest patriots have been Protestants, and they were always supported, even to the death, by the Catholics, and in the Catholic part of the country, which includes it all except a small section in the North, whenever a protestant is running for Parliament, religion is not considered, and he receives the votes of his Catholic constituents, while in the Northern part of Ulster the Orangeman absolutely refuses to vote for a Catholic. This plainly shows that the Catholic Irishman is not a bigot and ruled by his priests, as some writers tell us. But what can we say for the Orangeman who objects to Home Rule on the ground that if it is granted the whole country will be ruled by the Pope. This is the sort of ancient bigotry hardly known outside of the Orangeman's stronghold in the North of Ireland."

Why should not the Irish be free and permitted self-development just as well as the Jugoslavs or the Poles?

Here's a Happy New Year to Governor Smith and may he have a successful administration!

By this time a year hence, it is hoped our gallant soldier boys will all be home.

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