

THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY AT
470 Main St. E. cor. Windsor St.
4th Floor, Rochester, N. Y.

BY THE
CATHOLIC JOURNAL PUBLISHING
COMPANY

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Friday, January 31, 1919.

Had He Lived.

That the late Archbishop Ireland, had he lived a little longer, would have been another American Cardinal is proven by a recent speech of Archbishop Cerretti, Pope Benedict's representative at the golden jubilee of Cardinal Gibbons.

After paying warm tribute to President Wilson and the golden jubilee of Archbishop Cerretti spoke of the close friendship that existed between Cardinal Gibbons and Archbishop Ireland and then said:

"If the Archbishop of the West had been spared he would have rejoiced to be here today; and we also would rejoice were he with us today; especially would we all have rejoiced in the near future—this I may say without indiscretion—when the great Archbishop Ireland, whom the Holy Father esteemed so highly, would also have received the highest distinction within the power of the sovereign pontiff to bestow."

Continuing, Mgr. Cerretti said: "We are gathered together in a historic moment for America. The eyes of the world are turned with hope and confidence toward this great republic. Your great President Wilson has enunciated to the world the highest and the noblest principles of humanity; he has proclaimed in the most eloquent terms the spirit and nobility of American manhood."

"And we are indeed gratified to know that these great principles which the American people love, those principles which President Wilson has never ceased to expound, to develop, and to apply according as the events of the gigantic world's struggle have evolved, we are gratified to know, I say, are based upon the general outlines already traced by the holy father during the critical period of the war."

"It is well known, what the holy father proposed for the restoration to the world of a just and lasting peace, that peace for which he, together with the whole church, has prayed so fervently. It was in particular these four points: That the right of might should give way to the right of right, that the just aspirations of nationalities should be satisfied, that no nation should be subjugated by another because nations do not die, that there should be a general disarmament of nations and an international court of arbitration established."

Whoever else may feel justified in dabbling with so-called "social hygiene" we cannot see wherein the Catholic woman can do so.

We all hope that Victor Herbert is correct when he says: "By the result of the Irish election I cannot see how Ireland can be denied her place at the peace table."

Ex-Presidents.

That even supposedly well-posted historians may make mistakes is evidenced by the following editorial recently published in a secular exchange:

Col. Roosevelt's death has given currency to the report that if he had lived until 1921, the country would have had three living ex-presidents, for the first time in its history. Instead of the first, it would have been the fourteenth time.

When Cleveland became president in 1885, Grant, Hayes and Arthur were living. Three months later Grant died, and at no time in the subsequent thirty-four years have we had three contemporary ex-presidents. Roosevelt's death makes it impossible that this condition can exist before 1925. In the early days of the republic, however, it was far different.

From the accession of Monroe (1817) to and including Grant (1869), there were only two administrations in which fewer than three ex-presidents were living, those of Van Buren and Fillmore. When John Quincy Adams became president, John Adams, Jefferson, Madison and Monroe were alive. President Polk enjoyed the company of J. Q. Adams, Jackson, Van Buren and Tyler. Four ex-presidents were living in the Buchanan period.

It was when Lincoln came to the presidency, however, that former holders of that office were most numerous. Van Buren, Tyler, Fillmore, Pierce and Buchanan all were living. This was a period in which ex-presidents made up in numbers what they lacked in quality.

The multiplicity of former presidents in the civil war period was due to the fact that between the administration of Andrew Jackson and Lincoln, no president was elected to a second term. Their scarcity today is occasioned by the virtual continuity of the McKinley and Roosevelt administrations, which caused twelve years to pass with the addition of but one man to the list of living ex-presidents.

Hail!

Not all the papers of the United States are knocking Irish freedom. Here is a recent editorial in the St. Louis "Post Dispatch," founded by Joseph Pulitzer and continued by his sons:

Hail to the Republic of Ireland! The Irish republic is an infant as yet, somewhat helpless, with its life hanging by a thread. Comedy is blended with tragedy and pathos in the gathering of the 25 free Irish members of Parliament, speaking painfully in Gaelic and declaring the independence of Ireland. All but 29 of the Irish members of Parliament elected by the Sinn Feiners are in jail. Two of the delegates appointed to carry the Irish appeal for self-determination are in jail; only Sir Horace Plunkett is free to go.

The appeal of the little republic touches the heart of the world. Despite the surface comedy of the situation, there is a charming romanticism, a poetic and sacrificial devotion, in the movement. Frail as the political structure seems to be, it embodies a just protest against wrong and bitter oppression and the assertion of an undeniable right cherished through centuries of struggle. It embodies century-long aspirations. Ireland has never abandoned her nationality nor accepted British rule. She has always struggled to be free, and Irish blood has been generously offered on the altar of liberty.

England is ominously silent and inactive, doubtless awaiting the outcome of the movement. If the republic shows signs of vigor, will England strike? Will she dare, in the face of the war for human liberty and the self-determination of peoples, to use an

army of oppression and again turn Ireland into a shambles for freedom's martyrs?

Ireland ought to have complete freedom from British domination and British armies of occupation and oppression. Britain owes Ireland, at least, unqualified and unrestricted local self-government. If the interest of security requires a bond, it ought not to be a stronger bond than those which unite Canada and Australasia and South Africa to the British empire. Let the Irish fight out their own internal troubles. Let the Ulster rebels take care of themselves.

Generous recognition of Irish rights now may save Britain from untold troubles in the future. It may solve the Irish problem, which is inextricably bound up with the problem of liberty of the world over. Irish patriotism has kept alive the cause of liberty. It has kept the torch burning. It will not be extinguished, but may set the world ablaze again.

Human Touch.

It is the "side lights" that illumine the real character of great men who are popularly supposed to be so engrossed with grave problems that they have no time for the littler things of life. It is known that Cardinal Gibbons, the late Bishop Burke, of Albany and other prelates of America heard confessions just as did their parish priests. And now comes a similar story of Pope Benedict. Last summer he imparted his blessing to students of the Pontifical Roman Seminary before vacation and admonished them to read the Gospel of St. Mark and commit parts of it to memory.

In November the students visited the Holy Father again to ask his blessing on their studies. He asked those who wished to be examined on St. Mark to signify so. Fifteen young seminarians answered. They were not turned over to a professor, Not at all. The next day they passed part of an afternoon in informal social session with the Holy Father, who acted as catechizer "with patience, sweetness and singular dignity." At the end he imparted prizes to the three most proficient and medals to all ending with a visit to the facsimile of the Grotto of Lourdes, built by pious French Catholics for Pope Pius IX where all recited with the Pope the Litany of the Blessed Virgin, following which the Holy Father imparted the Papal blessing.

Those young seminarians, doubtless, never will forget the afternoon while the Pope also will cherish his social relaxation with his young students.

Let us hope that ere long we shall see a plan for real peace that will endure.

It is regrettable that cross-grained individuals with unfortunate personal equations have dimmed the prestige acquired by the Y. M. C. A., in the earlier days of the war.

"Profiteering", apparently has not ceased to be a Yankee trait.

The sincere sympathy of many Rochester friends goes out to Supreme President John J. Hynes, of the C. M. B. A., on the death of his estimable wife.

And now let's all boost together in the drive to lift the debt on St. Bernard's Seminary.

It is plain that there are profiteering women as well as men. The woman who took a soldier's place in factory or office in order to let that soldier go to war to preserve, save her home and, perchance, her honor, and now refuses to yield that place to the returned soldier is just as much a war profiteer as the man above draft age who yelled "Sit 'em Tige" in order that he might boost prices and profit by the necessities and exigencies of war.

Paulist Choristers Give Fine Concert

Delightful Audience Which Fills Convention Hall.

Choral singing is something of a stranger in a Rochester musical season, and even rarer is choral singing that satisfies every notion of just what that kind of music ought to be. The Paulist Choristers gave that sort of satisfaction when the remarkable organization of boys and men sang in Convention Hall on Wednesday evening before an audience that filled the auditorium long before the concert was scheduled to start.

Father William Joseph Finn, whose fame as a conductor has extended even to the Vatican, has given the youthful voices a substance that makes anything they sing abundant in quantity. To the natural purity and charm of boyish voices has been added a technique that prima donnas might envy, an ability to sing the most difficult kind of music after the manner of great art.

Perhaps the first emotion aroused by the Paulist Choristers is sheer amazement at the volume of tone that these lads have been trained to give forth—for the bulk of the chorus is made up of boys under 16 years, just enough men's voices being added to insure stability.

There is in the singing of this chorus a quality altogether apart from the ordinary. This peculiar charm seems to emanate partly from the white surplices, which supply a semi-churchy effect, and partly from the intimate companionship that exists between the leader and the singers. The effect is not that of a formal concert; it is that of a body of boys and a few men singing with the effortless beauty of perfect musical sympathy.

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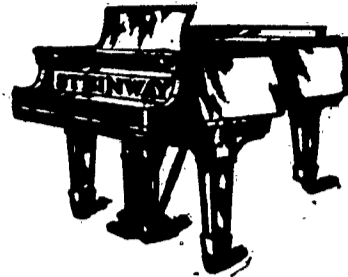
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